



**STRATHMORE**  
SECONDARY COLLEGE

**PALLADEM ALITE**  
*nurture and cherish wisdom*



Strathmore SC students enjoy sunrise on day 12  
– Annapurna Trek in Nepal.



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## PALLADEM ALITE – nurture and cherish wisdom

The motto of the College 'Palladem Alite' or nurture and cherish wisdom suggests that wisdom has a deeper significance than learning or the mere acquisition of facts. It is knowledge applied to life and living. With this ideal, Strathmore Secondary College seeks to:

- foster the intellectual growth of students by developing their sense of worth and promote their sense of responsibility,
- nurture the shared values of its community: perseverance, respect, integrity, diversity and excellence.

## Message from the Principal

Welcome to Strathmore Secondary College - our college provides students with a learning environment that is both inspiring and nurturing. We foster the intellectual growth of students and reinforce the need for perseverance and effort. We seek to promote the virtues of honesty, fairness and cooperation, all important in an age where nearly all serious work involves effective collaboration. We are committed to high academic outcomes for all students and creating a learning environment that recognises and cares for students as individuals.

Students are always placed at the centre of all decision making and the College has a strong focus on the holistic development of each student through their involvement in the rich academic, co-curricular and student leadership programs. We provide a comprehensive, challenging, academic curriculum that encourages a strong work ethic as well as extensive co-curricular opportunities which include our acclaimed sporting program, instrumental music, choral and performing arts program.

I warmly welcome you to our College and encourage you to discover the many benefits of a Strathmore Secondary College education.

**Jillian English**  
Principal



## Caring for our Students

When students begin at Strathmore they are welcomed into one of our College teams – Argyll, Burnet, Chisholm, Dunlop, Napier or Stirling. Our experience tells us that effective relationships between students, teachers and parents is critical to student learning as well as personal and social growth. The Team Leaders and Student Coordinators foster the personal growth, oversee the learning of students and liaise with parents to promote effective communication between home and school.

Year 11 and 12 students continue in their team and are encouraged to become more independent with their studies. The Senior School strives for a healthy balance between academic and social opportunities and promotes the importance of student achievement.

Our team structure is particularly valuable in allowing Team Leaders and Student Coordinators to know students as individuals. The teams allow us to provide both academic and social support to our students and are an integral part of

the College's approach to student wellbeing. We believe that knowing our students and their families well helps us to identify and resolve issues quickly and to work more proactively.

We complement our student team structure with a comprehensive array of Student Services aimed at supporting students and families. Our Student Services team includes a Student Services Coordinator, Wellbeing Coordinator, Youth Counsellors, Coordinator for Students with Special Needs, Learning Support Coordinator, and two Careers and Pathways Teachers. The team provides specialist advice and proactive programs aimed at supporting student learning and ensuring each student achieves their best.

We emphasise values of mutual respect, co-operation and fair treatment in our student management. Classroom teachers and Student Coordinators provide the initial support and care for students, Team Leaders oversee and provide leadership within their Team.



*“Our focus is on learning and on building teacher capacity to enhance student learning.”*

## The Importance of Teachers

There is a strong body of international research that has identified characteristics of high performing schools. Central to these findings is the role of teachers.

At Strathmore we look to the best international practice to guide our work. We have a shared or common language describing good instruction. We recognise the centrality of evidence and the need for a research base to support the validity of proposed actions.

We value teachers and recognise the complexity of their work. Our focus is on learning and on building teacher capacity to enhance student learning. In our work we emphasise the importance of using research

based classroom strategies and encourage the use of common lesson formats. Our teachers understand the benefits of clearly articulated, well sequenced and appropriately assessed curriculum and the importance of feedback in the learning process.

A team of Learning Specialists is employed to support teachers in reflecting upon and further improving their classroom practices. Teachers collaboration and collegiality is facilitated through the use of professional learning communities. We also provide targeted intervention support for students who have not mastered essential content or concepts.

## Curriculum

Our students develop their understanding, knowledge and skills in each domain area. Every area identifies those skills that are most essential and builds our teaching program around these to ensure the curriculum is viable and guaranteed (Marzano, 2017).

The curriculum areas are:

- English
- Mathematics
- Science
- Humanities
- Health & Physical Education
- Visual Arts
- Performing Arts & Music
- Design and Technology Studies
- Languages Other Than English
- Sport for all students in Year 7-10

Students in Years 7-10 have access to a carefully structured program that provides breadth of study with the opportunity to be extended and challenged. In Year 10, students are largely free to choose their own programs. They also have the option of completing VCE subjects as a form of extension, or specialised Year 10 advanced subjects, across the domain areas. Year 11 and 12 students have a large range of VCE subjects from which to choose.



## 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills

The College provides learning opportunities to prepare students for the digital world. All students bring an iPad so that they have the 21st Century at their fingertips. They learn that these tools are useful to collaborate with others and enrich their understanding of essential concepts. The College has recently upgraded the media, IT and art computers so that VCE students have access to professional programs that are a staple of the respective industries.







## Student Leadership

The development of personal leadership skills is vital for a student's success in life and so at Strathmore, leadership is for all – not just a select few. In the junior/senior school teams there are leaders of the whole team and form captains. Across the college there are opportunities for students to be involved in the Student Council, the Youth Talks project, as coaches of sporting teams, peers mentors to support the transition of Year 7 students, leaders of music bands, orchestras, choirs and in performing arts as well as the Year 9 Leadership camp to Rubicon.

## International Student Program

Strathmore Secondary College has a highly regarded International Student Program. It fosters international links with students from countries such as China, Vietnam, Japan, Thailand, Malaysia, and Hong Kong and assists with engagement in the increasingly global society.

Students from Europe and South America also enrol at the college through the Study Abroad program offered by the Department's International Division. The college offers support and will arrange home stays for a smooth transition into the Australian schooling system.



## College Facilities

At Strathmore we think it is important that students have the opportunity to learn in a physically attractive environment. Over the last decade we have received five architectural awards for the quality of buildings designed for the College. Students have access to a wide range of facilities designed to support teaching in specific curriculum areas including our Arts and Technology Centre, Theatre, Library, Cafeteria, Gymnasium, Music and Performing Arts building, Science laboratories, Food Technology kitchens, the Victoria Space Science Education Centre and all weather sports fields.





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