

Letter to Students and Parents of the Illawarra currently Home-schooling

Hello there,

In recent years, Five Islands Secondary College has experienced an increase in the number of home-schooled students seeking to reengage with an education setting as senior students. We have achieved strong outcomes and received lots of positive feedback from the families of these students. In light of this, we wanted to reach out and extend an invitation to you and your family, if you are thinking of re-entering an education setting in 2020, to come and see what is on offer at FISC.

The College offers a great way for your child to experience an educational environment that enhances skills for work, vocational study or Uni. Our Year 10-12 campus is a place where every student is known, valued and cared for. Students relate to teachers on a first name basis and student management is solution and growth focused. Our values based expectations and more mature 'uniform-free' learning environment enables students to feel empowered and respected as individuals. We have teachers experienced in meeting the needs of very diverse students, with a highly committed wellbeing and learning support focus, and range of extra-curricular activities.

We offer a broad range of traditional HSC courses (that may be more difficult for delivery at home, as curriculum becomes more complex and specific for Stage 6). We are proud to offer subjects not commonly found in schools, including our unique 2 Unit Permaculture Design HSC Course, and also subjects like our Connected Learning personal development course and Marine Studies.

In 2020 we have introduced the *onsite delivery of exciting new VET Courses*, including 3D Animation; Animal Studies; Pre-apprentice Electrical; Fitness & Personal Training; and Nail & Beauty.

We also offer *alternate courses* to the HSC, such as our Big Picture Academy, where students can follow their passions through project based learning and portfolio development, and seek University entry through our exclusive agreement with Big Picture, UoW and the UoW College.

We have a 4 day week, Monday to Thursday and offer full-time and 'pathways' patterns of study. We cater for the full range of student diversity: from outgoing, extroverted leaders to very quiet and reserved young people; from highly academic students to students with a history of learning difficulties, we can work together to find a path to support all aspirations. We constantly receive positive feedback about the safe and welcoming environment here - class sizes tend to be smaller and calmer and students experiencing anxiety or school-reluctance, difficulty socialising, or other challenges can often reintegrate successfully despite their past experiences.

Importantly, Five Islands Secondary College is a public school, and course fees are in line with this, making us an accessible pathway for students seeking an education with a *genuine difference*.

We are proud to be a place of authentic learning, genuine diversity and inclusion.

If any of the above information is of interest to you, your family, or friends, please feel free to contact the College on the number listed below. You can also 'Google' us, or find us on Facebook.

We'd love to meet you!
Yours in education

Jenny Flowers
Principal

