Moorefield Girls High School

Prospectus

Inspiring Young Women to Succeed
Welcome to Moorefield Girls High School

Moorefield Girls has a proud reputation as a school that offers young women a caring environment, engaging curriculum and opportunities to become valued and active citizens within our community. As the new Principal of Moorefield Girls, I am proud to be leading a school that is so focused on student learning and engagement. Our teachers are experts in their field who create vibrant, focused learning environments to support our young women in their pursuit of excellence and development as lifelong learners.

I encourage each of you to visit the school to see the learning opportunities that contribute to the development of our outstanding young women as they learn, lead and succeed.

Julianne Beek - Principal

Quality Teaching and Learning

Moorefield Girls has a strong academic focus resulting in highly competitive HSC results. Our students demonstrate outstanding academic improvement in achievement during their time at Moorefield Girls in all areas of literacy and numeracy development and achievement in the HSC. Courses across all Key Learning Areas perform above state average in the HSC, with a strong proportion of students achieving in the top bands in the HSC.

Our challenging and engaging learning environments cater for each student’s individual needs and talents. We teach our girls using an approach which recognises gender differences, enabling our girls to achieve to their full potential in an environment where girls are free to participate in class without the teacher’s attention being dominated by boys. There is no gender stereotyping with subject selection. Girls are able and encouraged to explore a career or future in any area.

Girls in girls’ schools achieve significantly stronger academic results than any other group in Australia. Without competition from boys, girls are free to pursue academic excellence and each achievement is celebrated.

Gifted and Talented Program

Moorefield Girls High School creates an enriched environment that provides stimulating intellectual challenges and opportunities for our students to turn their gifts into talents. In years 7-10 we have an identified gifted and talented class and from 2015 we have also introduced an identified visual arts gifted class and our talented athletes program.

We run a number of specialist programs to cater to the needs of our gifted and talented students. An example of this is the year 9 Lawyers Encouraging and Assisting Promising Students (LEAPS) program. This provides mentoring to students from lawyers who encourage students to achieve and succeed. Talented high achievers in Science may also be accelerated in the study of Chemistry for the HSC.

Application forms for our gifted and talented program are available from our website or by contacting our school office.

Sporting Talent Identification Program

Moorefield Girls High School has established a talent identification program for talented sports people. Our head teacher PDHPE has represented Australia as an elite sportswoman. She is utilising her experiences and expertise to develop and nurture the talents of our students. Our young women represent the school at all levels and actively take part in grade sport and knockout competitions such as soccer, netball and volleyball.

Sport is valued at Moorefield Girls. Oztag, soccer, basketball, netball and lots more. There is great team work.

Amal (Year 9)
Technology and e-Learning Initiative

Our teachers have developed innovative teaching and learning programs to support the use of laptops and tablets in the classroom so that students enjoy and are engaged in their learning. Our girls develop as responsible digital citizens, learning how to keep themselves, their friends and the broader community safe.

Each student is involved in our e-Portfolio initiative. This allows all girls to upload work samples onto a wiki and involves them reflecting on their tasks and more generally on their learning. This is then shared online with their teachers and parents so that they develop the skills to manage and take responsibility for their learning.

This school is amazing! The school caters to all student needs. The buildings are always clean, well-kept and beautifully decorated. The teachers are kind and understanding and the students are happier and more well behaved.

Tess (Year 11)

Homework Centre

To support all of our students, Moorefield Girls High School runs a homework centre each Monday afternoon. Staffed by teachers from the school, this provides an opportunity for students to gain assistance with their homework and assessment tasks, and provide explanations of classwork. There is a particular focus on literacy and numeracy support.

I like the teachers because they help students to become confident and successful.

Mia (Year 10)

Leadership Opportunities

Attendance at a girl’s school provides additional opportunities for young women to undertake leadership roles: from the captain of the soccer team to both School Captains, our girls participate, influence and lead. Our younger students see these female leaders as role models and learn that girls can be leaders in all areas.

Moorefield Girls High School offers many leadership opportunities for our girls, building individual character and promoting social responsibility and respect for others within a safe and caring environment. Student leadership
groups, including the Prefects and Student Representative Council (SRC) provide representation at a number of significant school and broader community events.

Caring for Our Girls

At Moorefield Girls we provide a safe, secure and disciplined learning environment for girls. Our teachers recognise the importance of the social and emotional wellbeing of our young women and the impact that this has on their learning and development. Attending a single sex school allows girls to work through the challenges of adolescence without fear of embarrassment or harassment. We run specialised programs which counteract negative body imagery and ideals of how girls and women are portrayed in the media.

Our girls see strong female role models, and are encouraged to develop high expectations, achieving success through the skills learnt to improve their own resilience and connection to school.

There is a strong caring environment between students and staff. If something needs to be done it will be done to benefit learning.

Nicola (Year 12)

Extracurricular Activities

Our extracurricular activities provide opportunities for our students to develop their leadership, communication and teamwork skills. These include:

- Band and Glee
- Sporting Talent Identification Program
- Environment Team
- Leadership development programs
- SRC and Prefects
- Debating and Public Speaking
- Lawyers Encouraging and Assisting Promising Students (LEAPS) Program
Why Choose a Girls School?

Girls' schools are ideally positioned to educate, inspire and nurture the girls of today, who will be the leaders of tomorrow. While in coeducational schools, girls have to compete for attention and leadership positions with boys; in single-sex schools every girl has a voice. Curriculums are tailored for girls, who are given opportunities to develop and excel. Girls in single-sex schools can captain the debating team, choose to study physics or be part of a soccer team.

Key Learning Areas

**English**

*The English faculty is a progressive faculty that aims to develop each student to the best of her ability in:*

- Exploring literature and film texts and learning about why they are valued
- Being involved in debating tournaments and challenges where skills of persuasion can be developed
- Participating in writing and poetry competitions
- Learning to be analytical and independent thinkers
- Developing an appreciation of literature and love of lifelong learning

We encourage students to:

- Become more informed about the way composers use language to make their writing more effective
- Use techniques to improve their own compositions
- Develop literacy and communication skills
- Read a variety of different texts each year and immerse themselves in other worlds
- Develop their oral presentation skills and take the opportunity to represent their class in cross form and state-wide public speaking competitions with prizes to be won
- Enjoy the stages of their learning
- Engage with technology to enrich their English learning experience

We offer accelerated learning in our:

- Gifted & Talented Program
Mathematics

‘Mathematics is the key that opens the door of the Universe’

Moorefield Girls High School seeks to develop student’s mathematical thinking, understanding, competence and confidence in the application of Mathematics. We encourage their creativity, enjoyment and appreciation of the subject and their engagement in lifelong learning. We believe that mathematical skills will empower their professional lives.

Moorefield Girls High School has much to offer in Mathematics:

- Gifted & Talented Program
- Mathematics (2 unit)
- General Mathematics
- Mathematics Extension 1 & 2
- Interactive whiteboards
- Use of technology
- Video conferencing room
- Number crunchers
- Competitions
- Mathematics problem of the week competition

The junior syllabus covers six strands of Mathematics:

- Working Mathematically
- Number and Algebra
- Measurement and Geometry
- Statistics and Probability

At Moorefield Girls High School we believe that competency in Mathematics – both in numerical manipulation and in understanding its conceptual foundations – enhances a person’s ability to handle the more ambiguous and qualitative relationships that dominate our day to day decision making.

The maths problem of the week is a great way to have students think outside the box, and it is a great way to be rewarded for doing things outside the classroom. It is also different to in class exercises and is really interesting.

Aleena (Year 10)

Maths has definitely been my favourite subject in high school. With the help of my teachers I was able to develop a strong desire to achieve in maths, taking on extra units in my last two years.

Heba (Year 12)
Science

Girls actively engaging in Science for futures filled with effective problem-solving, analytical thinking and personal success. Our Science program will prepare students for futures we cannot even imagine!

Science provides learning experiences for students that will develop skills to:

- Interpret the world around us
- Make decisions about themselves, the environment & technology
- Appreciate the role of scientists past, present and future
- Develop positive attitudes about themselves, others, learning, science and the environment

Students will learn about:

- The history philosophy of science
- Scientists and their work
- Science and investigations
- Environmental implications
- Current issues
- Scientific models, theories and laws of science
- Scientific interactions with the world around us

We offer:

- Gifted & Talented Program
- Five fully equipped new laboratories
- Technology – individual laptops, data projectors in every lab
- Courses online with MGHS Moodle
- Exciting hands-on learning experiences
- Variety of stimulating learning experiences and experiments
- Model making, problem solving & critical thinking
- Environmental studies
- Opportunities to compete in a variety of state and national science competitions
- Opportunities to apply for science scholarships at universities in diverse areas eg. engineering

Excursions:

- Taronga Zoo
- Luna Park
- Museums
- Dubbo-Parkes-Jenolan Caves
- Imax
- Universities
- Questacon
- Botanical Gardens
- Aquarium

“Mistakes are the portals of discovery” - Joyce

“Everything is theoretically impossible until it is done” - Rob.Heinlein
Information Technology

Students’ IT skills are developed and refined to assist them to navigate a world of rapidly changing technology and information inundation. Students are taught how to locate information from a variety of online and digital sources that are available 24/7 and can be accessed from any location.

An online learning system, MOODLE, has been adopted to provide students with curriculum content in a dynamic and engaging manner. Faculties have created courses whereby students can access educational YouTube clips, PDF files, find links to websites, engage in online subject related forums and chat rooms as well online quizzes and extension resources.

MOODLE is available to students 24/7 and can be accessed from any location outside the school campus with internet connection. For students in Years 10 to 12 who have been issued DER laptops, the MOODLE has become an extremely beneficial resource. Furthermore, MOODLE is quite similar to online learning systems currently in place in Australian Universities providing them with a technological edge for future studies.

The student copier located in the library has a scan function that allows students to convert hard copy documents to electronic versions. Students are encouraged to use this facility to help manage their learning resources through their e-Learning Portfolio. This is more effective and environmentally friendly.

Ninety percent of classrooms are fitted either with digital projectors or smart boards to make lessons more engaging and interactive by increasing the use of technology in teaching and learning activities.

A range of technology subjects are offered to all scholastic years: Design and Technology (Yrs 7 & 8), IT Literacy in Years 7 and 8 and a Technology Elective for Years 9 & 10. Seniors can select from Software Design & Development, Information Processes & Technology, Information Technology and Industrial Technology.

Students are provided with an extensive range of hardware required to develop skills in all courses across the curriculum, including: 3 Windows computer labs, 3 mini computer labs, digital and still video cameras, video conferencing facilities, interactive whiteboards and a wireless network.

Access to up-to-date software including the Microsoft Office 2010 suite, Adobe CS5, iMovie, Scratch and Alice programming, Garage Band and Audacity for podcasting is offered school wide. These programs allow students to develop technology skills that are both creative and current.
**Human Society and Its Environment**

The Human Society and Its Environment faculty offers a broad range of subjects in the Humanities. They enable students to acquire knowledge, understanding and skills in each area of study. Our subjects prepare students for life and work whilst being engaging and interesting. We foster a commitment to informed and active citizenship as well as a life-long love of learning.

**We offer:**
- A history of outstanding HSC results
- Professional and highly skilled teaching staff
- Fully equipped computer classrooms and learning spaces
- Active student involvement and engagement in learning
- Site studies / field trips / excursions / overseas fieldtrips
- ASX, Geography, History & Financial Literacy Competitions
- Gifted & Talented programs for Years 7 & 8

**Subjects offered:**
- History Years 7 - 10
- Geography Years 7 - 10
- Commerce Years 9 - 10

**Senior courses:**
- Ancient History
- Business Services (VET)
- Business Studies
- Economics
- History Extension
- Legal Studies
- Modern History
- Retail Services (VET)
- Society and Culture
- Work Studies
- Extension History

The environment team is a great place where the students are able to focus on the environment and realise the impact it has on our world. The activities we do are fun and enjoyable while still being educational.

Hunter (Year 11)
Creative & Performing Arts

Creative & Performing Arts students are encouraged to explore a variety of techniques, skills, instruments and media. Students are given the opportunity to work with the latest technology to further develop their creative abilities. An appreciation of Drama, Music and Visual Arts is developed.

Drama
- Specialised Drama Room
- Drama Ensemble performance opportunities including end of year showcase
- Participation in performances for the Regional Drama Festival and Education Week
- Participation in the Multicultural Playwright’s Program
- Opportunities to work with our local community theatre, Shopfront

Music
- Well equipped, specialist music room with two practice rooms
- Class sets of keyboards and classical guitars for elective & non-elective lessons
- Band, choir and solo performance opportunities offered
- Digital technology available for recording, composition and performance

Photographic & Digital Media /
Photography / Video & Digital Imaging
- Specialist darkroom and dedicated computer lab for digital photography and movie editing

Visual Arts
- Ceramics studio, printmaking, painting, drawing, sculpture, photographic and digital media, video
- Students works may be selected for exhibition in the Moorefield Art Gallery
- Outstanding HSC results including representation in ‘Art Rulz’ 2012

CAPA Initiative
- ‘Moorefield’s Got Talent’ - annual talent quest

We offer:
Professional teachers who are specialists in their teaching areas. They are committed to developing the whole student and guiding them in their pursuit of excellence.
Technological and Applied Studies

The Technology and Applied Studies faculty seeks to develop student’s creativity, problem solving, research & literacy competence and practical application, through a range of specific projects.

Subjects offered:
- Technology (Years 7 & 8 - Mandatory)
- Design & Technology (Years 9 - 10)
- Food Technology (Years 9 - 10)
- Textiles & Design (Years 9 - 10)
- Textiles Technology (Years 11 - 12)
- Hospitality Operations (Years 11 & 12)
- Exploring Early Childhood (Years 11 & 12)
- Food Technology (Years 11 & 12)

Areas of learning:
- Fully established commercial kitchen
- Access to computers
- Latest technology sewing machines / overlockers
- Woodwork facilities

What students will experience:
- Activities and assignments encouraging problem solving and higher order thinking skills
- Extensive range of practical experiences
- Individual research and investigation tasks allowing students to progress at a rate that suits their ability
- Extension activities written into programs
- Encouragement to express creativity and design skills
- Opportunity to participate in competitions, demonstrations, excursions
- Group work and research tasks using technology and encouragement of cooperative decision making

Technology is more than just practical lessons. We can be creative and learn new skills.

Jascenta (Year 8)
Personal Development, Health & Physical Education

The Personal Development, Health & Physical Education faculty at Moorefield Girls High School provides opportunities for students to learn about and practice ways of adopting and maintaining a healthy, productive and active life. It involves students learning through movement experiences that are both challenging and enjoyable and aims to focus on issues which impact on the development of the whole person.

Senior Courses and elective classes in Years 9 to 12 are also offered. Students involved in these subjects complete studies in first aid and sports medicine and attend outdoor education programs.

Issues explored in Personal Development include:

- Personal identity
- The body
- Child protection
- Drug safety education
- Relationships
- First Aid
- Body image
- Sexuality
- Nutrition and fitness
- Anti-bullying

Practical aspects of PD/H/PE include:

- Dance
- Gymnastics
- Fitness
- Lifetime sports
- Team games
- Racquet sports
- Aquatics

Viewpoints:

Year 11 PDHPE has taught me many different skills that will assist me in making positive lifestyle choices.

Natalie (Year 11)

The Oztag Gala Day was a fun and enjoyable day which helped us to play as a team. We all cooperated together and had a lot of fun.

Tiarna (Year 9)
Special Education

In the Special Education faculty we have experienced and professional:

- Special Education Teachers (Sp. Ed) and
- Student Learning Support Officers (SLSO’s)

We offer:

- A cohesive and experienced staff of teachers and Student Learning Support Officers, willing to collaborate effectively and respond appropriately in assisting students with diverse educational needs.
- Co-ordination of Life Skills Courses across all subjects in all years.
- Support for students with special needs accessing mainstream curriculum, including VET courses.
- Small and cooperative classes where students access high levels of supportive instruction with 21st Century access to programs which use ICT.
- Assessment and education plans specifically designed to improve student’s individual social and academic learning preparing them for transition to work / further study.
- Leadership opportunities for students to assist in developing confidence and communication skills.
- Individual transition to employment programs for students with special educational needs commencing with school-based work experience in Years 9 to 10 and proceeding to a Work Enclave in Years 10 to 12.
- Travel training programs to assist students attending regional work experience programs.
- Individualised literacy and numeracy programs which incorporate ICT as a core element.
- A collaborative review process where students’ academic and social progress is discussed with parents, teachers, school counsellor and regional personnel (as required).
- Opportunities for parents and students to connect with support agencies and further educational institution/s in the planning of post-school pathways.
- Community access programs enhance mobility, communication, money and organizational skills.
- Provision of learning aids to assist students to access the curriculum within an inclusive school setting.
iLibrary Mission

MGHS iLibrary is a dynamic school facility staffed by highly skilled and dedicated professionals who are focused on developing an Information Literate School Community.

Our iLibrary is also designed to provide a welcoming environment with a variety of learning spaces to facilitate a wide range of learning experiences. These learning experiences include author visits, debating competitions, special events and presentations, workshops, art displays, senior study seminars and more.

Text Resources

We have a collection of over 23,000 text resources that cater to the following areas: fiction, non-fiction, periodicals, senior reference and professional collection. These resources are kept current and over 1,000 books are added to our collection each year.

Electronic Resources

We are able to catalogue curriculum specific television programmes through our library webcatalogue. Many of the programmes have been selected by faculty teachers for specific units of work and others have been selected by the Teacher Librarian to support teaching and learning across all curriculum areas. Professionally reviewed curriculum related websites are also catalogued and available through our webcatalogue.

Online Databases and Catalogues that include scholarly essays, journals and newspaper articles can be accessed from the iLibrary through Kogarah Library. (For access at home a Kogarah Library card is required. Application forms are available at our iLibrary).

Many Teacher Librarian reviewed Internet links, which support the development of Information Skills, have been uploaded to the school’s online learning management system MOODLE. Teacher Librarian designed PDF forms are also being added to the MOODLE to support students to develop their Information Search Process skills.

Promoting Literacy and Learning

Engaging displays, which include relevant reading materials, are assembled on a regular basis to promote global events, cultural events, national days, educational promotions and more.

Students in Year 7 to 9 are enrolled in the Premier’s Reading Challenge (PRC) during library lessons and other members of the student body are encouraged to participate in the PRC. PRC books have been made easily identifiable by a neon orange sticker on the spine. For extra incentive merit cards are given to students for each 5 books they complete.

To facilitate equitable access, important HSC texts have been catalogued as Not for Loan and are located in the Senior Study Area for use by seniors during study periods.

Popular fiction books are purchased throughout the year to encourage reading for enjoyment.

With the aim to promote reading to 21st Century learners the iLibrary blog BOOK
NOOK, available through the school website, contains book reviews and information about library resources.

Courses (Teacher-Librarians & IT Teachers)

1. **Year 7 Information Literacy Course**

   All Year 7 students complete an Information Literacy Course facilitated by the Teacher Librarian in conjunction with the ICT programme. The course is designed to assist students to develop ‘...the ability to know when there is a need for information, to be able to identify, locate, evaluate, and effectively use that information for the issue or problem at hand’ (*The United States National Forum on Information Literacy*).

   By assisting students to develop their Information Literacy skills the iLibrary provides a platform for both student learning across all curriculum and lifelong learning.

2. **MGHS Information Literacy**

   All staff and students have access to the MGHS Information Literacy course available on MOODLE. The course provides information, links and activities on topics related to accessing and utilising information. The course includes information and links regarding the ethical use of information, referencing, cyber safety, website evaluation, how to implement the Information Search Process to improve learning and much more.

3. **Year 7 - Information and Communication Technology (ICT)**

   Our Technology All students in Year 7 complete an ICT course which runs for the whole year. This course develops their skills in using a variety of software applications, particularly advanced features of Microsoft Office Suite and other applications related to multimedia such as, film-making, vodcasting and digital art media.

   Through this course, girls are also provided training about our school’s computer network, how to locate and access their files using various directories, the DEC portal and MOODLE.
Careers Education

Careers Education at Moorefield Girls High School aims to equip all students with the skills, information, understanding and confidence needed to make positive decisions concerning their post school options. This may include further study or employment.

The careers education program is a comprehensive one spanning Years 9 to 12 and includes:

- Careers lessons formally taught to all students in Years 9 and 10. The Year 9 program involves students learning about self-awareness, employment related skills, preparing a Resume and career choices. Students are introduced to the Australian Tax System and the process of applying for a Tax File Number and prepare a careers portfolio.
- In Year 10, lessons focus on career research and exploration, along with activities to support senior subject selection. All students receive the NSW Job Guide, Work Experience Handbook, Guide to Work Place Training.
- All Year 9, 10, 11 & 12 students receive a monthly Careers Newsletter via email.
- One week's mandatory Work Experience for all Year 10 students during Term 3 and attendance at Careers Markets. Participation in the Moore Prepared program to enhance interview skills.
- Year 11 students have the option to attend a variety of careers based excursions and seminars.
- Year 12 seminars to assist students with university course selection, application procedures, scholarships etc. This includes guest speakers from private colleges, defence force, universities etc. Attendance at University discovery days, careers markets and TAFE days. Year 12 also undergo individual career counselling and tracking sessions. All students receive a UAC guide, Year 12 'What Next' publication and monthly careers newsletters via email.

All students are encouraged to utilise the Careers Centre during recess and lunch breaks for; individual counselling with the Careers Advisor accessing a wide range of current careers and tertiary institutions publications, help with job applications, resume writing, interview and phone skills and assistance finding work placement.

Useful links:
- http://www.myfuture.gov.au
- http://www.sit.nsw.edu.au
- http://www.uac.edu.au
- http://www.jobguide.dest.gov.au
**Student Welfare**

‘Committed to the care and support of our students’ learning, growth and development’.

We are a highly experienced, dedicated and proactive team who regularly update our skills and knowledge base through professional development courses, conferences and network meetings.

**Members of our team are:**
Head Teacher Welfare, Senior Executive, School Counsellor, Student Advisers, Home School Liaison Officer, Co-ordinator of International Students, Learning Support Co-ordinator, Careers Co-ordinator, Anti-Racist Contact Officer.

**We offer:**

- **Moore Success** is a system of core values which underpins our welfare program. It is a clearly defined school-wide system that reinforces desirable behaviours to students while offering them support in developing the appropriate social skills and work ethics to succeed in life. It establishes a positive common language in the school and builds stronger teacher-student relationships.
- An intensive and thorough transition program for Year 7
- Peer support program for Year 7 that equips students with the ability to approach life optimistically, be pro-active in dealing with challenges and develop resilience in dealing with difficult experiences
- Leadership and resiliency building workshops for years 7-12
- Year 12 mentoring program - staff monitor students’ progress to support and motivate them to improve their HSC results
- A whole school reward system based on achievement, commitment and effort in the classroom, playground and community
- On-going development of study skills to ensure students maximise their learning outcomes
- Opportunity for community involvement projects to consolidate student leadership and self esteem
- Positive solution strategies to enable students to effectively self-manage learning

**The following programs support our students:**

- Cyber-citizenship workshops
- Peer Mediation
- Study Skills and Goal Setting with on-line resources
- Drug Education
- Anti Bullying and Harassment workshops
- Nutrition/Physical Activity Program
- Plus-Two - Year 12 Mentoring program
- Whole school welfare initiatives building leadership and resiliency in students through leadership opportunities, community events, year workshops, drama productions, guest speakers, student training etc.
- Dynamic interactive welfare based resources on Moodle to support student well-being and effective study skills
- Specific gender inclusive self-esteem and leadership programs for all years
Bayside Learning Community – A Connected Learning Partnership

Moorefield Girls High School is proud to be a member of the Bayside Learning Community. Moorefield Girls has joined with Arncliffe Public School, Brighton-Le-Sands Public School, Carlton South Public School, James Cook Boys High School, Ramsgate Public School and Rockdale Public School to form a community of schools to improve student success by working together to develop a strong transition program, support both literacy and numeracy learning outcomes for our students and to provide our teachers with ongoing opportunities to share professional dialogue regarding best practice in teaching and learning, assessment and curriculum initiatives.

Further Enquiries:

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