

# Transition at Taylors Lakes Secondary College



**Taylors Lakes**  
SECONDARY COLLEGE

Every year, new Year 7 students commence their secondary education at Taylors Lakes Secondary College. Each year we accept students from a wide range of the local primary schools across the Brimbank area as well as from other schools. We, at the college, realise the importance of assisted transition into such a vibrant, diverse and new educational setting. Taylors Lakes Secondary pays close attention to running a meaningful transition program for students and parents joining our College Community.

Taylors Lakes Secondary College's transition program confidently and proudly ensures that new students are exposed to a safe and comfortable teaching and learning environment; teachers take time in getting to know the students and students getting to know other students. Features of the Taylors Lakes Secondary College Transition Program:

**College Expo, Year 7 Orientation Day, BYOD/Netbook Program, Learning Enhancement & Advancement (LEAP) Program, Soccer Academy Program, Literacy and Numeracy Programs and Parent Information Evening**

Information about Taylors Lakes Secondary College, its programs, curriculum and approaches to teaching and learning are supplied to both incoming students and parents at specifically designed events throughout the year. Each event is designed to allow parents and students to familiarise themselves with the college setting and to meet one another and key teachers and personnel within the college.

## Year Level Leaders and Homegroup Teachers

Taylors Lakes Secondary College places priority in ensuring that a caring team of teachers is allocated to Year 7 students to assist in their transition into the college. At least, two Year Level Leaders oversee each year level in the college. Student Health & Wellbeing and Student Sub School Leaders also support the Year Level Leaders. In addition, an Assistant Principal is also assigned to work with students in each year level. They all have the direct responsibility for all welfare and discipline issues. There is a strong culture of direct liaison with parents, pastoral care for students and meaningful follow up.

Homegroup Teachers are in daily contact with their students during homegroup every morning and are a 'resource person' for students with queries or concerns. The Homegroup Teacher teaches his/her class for one or more different subjects and usually accompanies students on the three day Year 7 Camp and Year 7 excursions and student activities. Homegroup teachers develop trust and meaningful relationships with students new to the college.

## Student Wellbeing and Welfare

Taylors Lakes Secondary College has a network of professionals who works specifically on student wellbeing and support. In addition to the Year Level Leaders and Homegroup Teachers, the Student Wellbeing Leader is a key person who helps students with transition and personal issues that may arise during their time at the college. She is assisted by a full time Nurse, Health Promotions Nurse, School Counsellors, Speech and Occupational Therapists and Psychologists, Students Pathways & Careers Leaders and other outside professionals and stakeholders.

## Year 7 Homegroup/Pastoral Care Program

Year 7 students will develop a close relationship with their Homegroup teacher through the daily contact in the homegroup sessions every morning and the specific subject which the homegroup teacher takes with them. This relationship is extended through a weekly Homegroup/Pastoral Care Period where students and homegroup teachers work together on issues such as induction, time management, study skills, relationships, coping with difficult situations, bullying and health/drug education. This time also provides a forum in a supportive environment for students to discuss any difficulties they may be experiencing. These sessions are conducted in the student's homegroup room where they have most of the classes in (except for specialist classes) as well as their lockers.

## Year 7 Programs

Students in Year 7 can participate in a wide range of programs outside of their normal classroom. Some of these programs include: Learning Enhancement & Advancement Program (LEAP), BYOD/Netbook Program, Soccer Academy Program, Literacy & Learning Support Program, Numeracy Program, Homework Club, Student Leadership, Student Representative Council, Year 7 Camp, Year 7 Homegroup Excursions, Co- Curricular Programs, Lunchtime Activities, Sport, Dance and Instrumental Music.

# Frequently Asked Questions about Transition



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## **Will my child be accepted into the college if they live outside of the DNA?**

Enrolment at TLSC runs in accordance with DET enrolment guidelines. All students living within the direct neighbourhood area (DNA) will be given first priority for enrolment. Students living outside of the DNA will be given an opportunity to enrol at the college should there be capacity for this to occur.

## **My child may not know anyone at TLSC, so feels nervous about starting there.**

TLSC runs an extensive Transition program to ensure Year 7 students settle quickly into their new school. Year 7 Homegroup Teachers provide specific pastoral support and also serve as a contact point for parents. Each Year 7 student will be involved in a range of activities and excursions in Term 1, including the HG excursion. Students will also be encouraged to participate in the Year 7 Camp early in their year, which enables students to form strong friendships.

## **How do most Year 7 students adapt to the college?**

We find that the vast majority of students quickly thrive and are delighted to be at TLSC where their educational needs are met and challenged. TLSC provides an effective teaching and learning environment, rich in thinking skills and ICT. Students also spend most of their classes (except specialist classes e.g. technology) in their Homegroup Rooms.

## **How big are the class sizes at TLSC?**

Class sizes at TLSC will run with a maximum number of 25 students.

## **Does the college have its own bus service to and from school each day?**

No – however many students access the college via the local bus routes. The Bus Routes 476 and 419 stop outside the college, while there are other bus routes, including the Bus Route 421, stop at the corner of the college. Two special chartered buses leave TLSC at the end of each day, one on the 476 Route to Plumpton and to the Watergardens Station to connect with trains and other bus routes. Both buses travel with only TLSC students.

## **Will my child have its own locker?**

Yes – All students are given an individual locker at the beginning of each year. Year 7 student lockers are located in or next to their Year 7 Homegroup Rooms. Students are required to provide a lock to put on their locker.

## **Does the college focus only upon academic studies?**

Taylors Lakes' students receive an education enabling them to explore a co-curricular program. This includes musical and drama productions, sport, community and leadership programs, a variety of camps, excursions and overseas cultural exchanges as well as a range of clubs and lunchtime activities.

## **Will my child study a language at TLSC?**

Languages is a core subject in Years 7 – 9 and two languages are offered directly at the college: Italian and Japanese. Students select one language in Year 7 and are expected to continue with the same language until Year 9. Many students continue Languages in Year 10, including the study of additional languages to VCE through Distance Education and Victorian Schools of Languages.

## **Does the college have an Accelerated Studies Program?**

TLSC provides a Learning Enhancement and Advancement Program (LEAP), challenging and engaging high ability students to compact, enhance and advance their learning. Curriculum enhancement is provided, including higher order & creative thinking, independent learning, research and problem solving skills, which will provide an excellent foundation for further studies. All studies will undertake acceleration in the senior years of their schooling.

## **What other support is offered to students with their studies?**

TLSC runs a Tutorial program every Wednesday after school where students can receive help and support with their homework. A Literacy and Learning Support Program (including Individual Literacy Support) runs for students identified with very low literacy levels. A Numeracy Program also runs for students identified with very low numeracy levels.

## **Will my child have to wear uniform?**

All students at TLSC wear the approved college uniform. It facilitates the quick and easy identification of our students and allows students to develop a sense of pride and belonging to the college.

## **Does the college provide scholarships to students?**

The college does offer a number of scholarships and awards at specific year levels. Information regarding these are available from the college.