



Grammarians have a strong
sense of family and belonging.
You are a Grammarian for life.

Prospectus



The Rockhampton
Grammar School
Established 1881

Every opportunity. Every student. Every day.



Every opportunity. Every **student**. Every day.

Ranked among the Top Schools in Queensland and one of the Best Country Schools in Australia by The Australian newspaper, The Rockhampton Grammar School is Central Queensland's best performing School.

There are thousands of reasons why. The most important reason, though, is that parents, teachers, students and past students work together to provide every boy and girl every opportunity to do his or her best, every day.

Parents, teachers, students and past students... we are The Grammar Family and in every way, we are a learning community.

We are passionate about every individual student's education and character development in all aspects of their life, throughout life.

We are equally committed to providing outstanding teaching and learning opportunities to staff.

The Rockhampton Grammar School is the only school in the country that offers a Masters of Education to each and every teacher. Designed and delivered in partnership with Griffith University, our investment in our teachers' ongoing education is the single most important advantage we can provide to our students.

Rockhampton Grammar School students are active young women and men, inside and outside of School.

They take their education seriously, but through balanced academic, sporting, co-curricular and social activities, their learning is well-rounded, exciting, engaging and enlightening.

They participate proudly and contribute thousands of hours to causes and community organisations every year throughout Central Queensland, Australia and the world.

Their ideals, and the School's, are exemplified in our motto: **Macte Virtute Et Litteris** or **Grow in Character and Scholarship**.

The Rockhampton Grammar School

- Founded in 1881
- Non-denominational
- Co-educational, Prep to Year 12 plus Early Learning
- Boarding from Year 7

We are Queensland's largest boarding school. Approximately 1500 day and boarding students, from all ages and backgrounds, are nurtured, respected and supported here.

Set on 7.5 landscaped hectares, the School is well-appointed and features two large sporting ovals, tennis courts, a 50-metre swimming pool, a multipurpose gymnasium/hall, a modern health care facility, dance studios, a professional theatre and more.

Our beachfront education centre, *Ritamada*, is located at Emu Park on the Capricorn Coast. The School also maintains a small farm at nearby Port Curtis and The RGS Rowing Club on the Fitzroy River, in town. In addition, students enjoy exclusive access to *Belmont Station*, the former CSIRO cattle research facility at Etna Creek owned by AgForce Queensland.

Whilst we are large enough and resourced to support a diverse and rich curriculum, the four Schools within The Rockhampton Grammar School – The Early Learning Centre, Primary, Middle and Senior – are each small enough to provide individual care and attention to each boy and girl.

It is an environment in which 21st century learners thrive and emerge educated, well-rounded and confident; equipped to pursue their ambitions, secure in their sense of self and their capacity to make the most of opportunities and meet future challenges.

Our expectation is that every student will seek to do his or her personal best in all that they undertake.



Learning Framework and Education Technology

The Rockhampton Grammar School Learning Framework is tailored to the needs and goals of each child and is specific to our School.

Neither a course or syllabus, the Framework provides teachers and learners a structure which guides curriculum planning and delivery.

At its centre is **Dimensions of Learning**, which seeks to synthesise the latest research and cognition and the working of the human brain whilst focused on the student as a lifelong learner.

Dimensions of Learning places a strong emphasis upon the deliberate development and use of complex reasoning processes (or higher order thinking).

At RGS, Dimensions of Learning has been integrated into a body of work developed by researchers at the **Harvard Graduate School of Education's Teaching for Understanding Project** which focuses on developing a deep and rich understanding of knowledge that is then used in a flexible way.

The School's framework also focuses on **Literacy** and encompasses **Positive Education**, which promotes student well-being and specific skills that students can develop to strengthen their relationships, build positive emotions, enhance personal resilience, promote mindfulness, and encourage a healthy lifestyle.

Together, these four elements underpin our academic curriculum and empower students as independent scholars.

5 Dimensions of Learning at RGS

1. Positive attitudes and perceptions about learning
2. The acquisition and integration of knowledge
3. The extension and refinement of knowledge
4. The meaningful use of knowledge
5. Productive *Habits of Mind*

We work with students every day to help form their *Habits of Mind*. These are characteristics of effective, independent learners who have both the skills and internal motivation for life-long learning. These 'intelligent behaviours' are wide-ranging in their application and significant in their importance as human attributes.

Characteristics of effective, independent learners:

- Persisting
- Managing impulsivity
- Listening with empathy
- Thinking flexibly
- Metacognition (thinking about thinking)
- Striving for accuracy
- Questioning and posing problems
- Applying past knowledge
- Clarity and precision
- Gathering data through all senses
- Creating, imagining, innovating
- Responding with wonderment and awe
- Taking responsible risks
- Finding humour
- Thinking independently
- Remaining open to continuous learning

(from Costa and Kallicks' *Habits of Mind* books)

Technological advancements and demand for additional skills are altering the way we work, live and learn. Ensuring students have the capacity and confidence to adapt to changing technology is crucial for their success here and after School.

The Rockhampton Grammar School's extensive facilities and staff are resourced and equipped to use the best technology to enhance our established teaching and learning principles.

Our Middle and Senior Schools TabletPC Programme provides a wireless, portable personal computer for each student from Year 7, enriching teaching and learning.

Whilst the technology and devices are important education tools, they are not the focus. They exist to assist students and teachers in achieving their goal or addressing the problem they are trying to solve.



Students develop into independent learners who have both the skills and internal motivation for life-long learning.



Caring for Students

From Early Learning through to Year 12, we understand how important it is for our children to feel a sense of belonging within a strong and warm-hearted School community.

It is because of this connectedness that our students are able to thrive intellectually, socially and emotionally and develop the good character, confidence and thoughtfulness required to realise their potential.

Childhood and adolescence are moments in time in which parents and educators seek to develop our children's sound values, good learning habits, self esteem and identity.

Through our age-appropriate personal development programme our students receive individualised care and attention supported by a family of teachers, other professionals and counsellors. Our hand-picked team works together to guide students through the process of self-discovery, encouraging strength and resilience and fostering pride and self-worth.

From this nurturing foundation, our students learn responsibility, strategies for perseverance and the value of supportive relationships. Positive and ethical behaviour among our students is the result and an appreciation of the importance of giving back to the community.

Reinforcing our student-centred programme, The Rockhampton Grammar School holds regular workshops and presentations with renowned guest speakers who share their specialist knowledge in a wide range of topics relevant to the personal development of our students. These programmes are designed to inspire and motivate so our children adopt increasing responsibilities and in doing so, earn respect and acquire self-belief.

We are committed to providing our students with a solid platform from which to make good choices, set clear goals and reap the rewards of determination and effort in their learning and in their lives.

School Values

Care and Compassion
Care for self and others.

Endeavour
Seek to perform at your best in everything you undertake individually and collectively.

Respect
Treat others with consideration and regard.

Honesty and Trustworthiness
Be honest, sincere and able to be trusted.

Responsibility
Be accountable for and in charge of your own actions.

Integrity
Act in accordance with principles of moral and ethical conduct, and ensure consistency between words and actions.

Democracy
Appreciate the rights and privileges of citizenship, commitment to the pursuit of the common good, and standing up and helping others.

Community
Be aware and welcoming of others, accept diversity, provide service, include others and display tolerance.



Our hand-picked team works together to guide students through the process of self-discovery.



Older children play a vital role in welcoming and caring for younger students. MRS DOROTHY SKILLING, DIRECTOR, GIRLS BOARDING



Boarding

Years 7 through 12

As Queensland's largest boarding school, The Rockhampton Grammar School is very much about the people who reside within it.

Boarders from Years 7 to 12 comprise more than a third of our Secondary School student enrolment and boarding has formed the core of our School since our founding in 1881.

Parents and children value the School's promise of a thorough education, committed teachers, strong academic and co-curricular programmes, high expectations and valuable personal interactions that come from being supported by close friends and staff.

From towns and properties throughout Central Queensland and beyond, each boarder brings his or her own experiences, backgrounds, talents and skills to the School. They learn from and with each other which prepares them well for life beyond School.

Our welcoming culture and individualised care mean new boarders settle-in quickly, establishing firm and lasting friendships.

We pride ourselves on offering our resident students a comfortable, safe and nurturing environment. Our original boarding facility, located on the upper level of School House, is still home to our younger boy boarders. Additional housing for girls and older boys is located throughout the campus.

Boarders share air-conditioned accommodation with live-in supervisors who are on hand 24 hours a day, seven days a week to make sure our students have everything they need and to support them through personal and academic challenges.

House parents are complemented by other crucial support staff including full-time nurses, a visiting doctor, counsellors and a chaplain. Transport to School activities off campus is provided by our fleet of buses and professional drivers.

Fresh and nutritious meals are provided in our dining hall by our own full time caterers and we can cater to children with special dietary requirements.

Parents and family members are always warmly received and through constant personal communication are kept up-to-date with what their children are doing.

The boarding experience is different for every child but what is common among the RGS boarding community is that living at School presents opportunities to learn real-life lessons from each other every day.

Boarder, **Andrew McArthur** (centre) of St Lawrence, and his family.



Rockhampton Grammar School students can undertake Certificates II and III in Agriculture Science as part of the School's close associations with AgForce Queensland, CQUniversity Australia and other education partners.



Living at School presents opportunities to learn real-life lessons from each other every day.



The Early Learning Years

Six weeks to five years at the Early Learning Centre

Learning commences long before a child takes the first tentative steps through our gates to Primary School.

It begins in the crucial early years, when girls and boys are developing important bonds with family and educators that will enable friendships to flourish and their trust in teachers and adults to establish.

Providing a safe and comfortable home away from home and an extended family environment is vital to the first stages in the education journey.

The Rockhampton Grammar School Early Learning Centre gives children (from 6 weeks to 5 years) a solid foundation and sense of belonging by ensuring consistency and continuity in teaching staff, and supporting not only the child but parents too.

At the Early Learning Centre we encourage each boy and girl to learn from everything they do. Our children are allowed the freedom to explore their natural environment and grow at their own pace. They develop age-appropriate skills through play and experiencing the world around them in a practical way.

Two-and-half year old children, for example, hatch chickens and collect eggs which are then made into omelettes flavoured by herbs from our kindy vegetable patch.

Such integrated and engaging life experiences teach valuable lessons and foster a sense of accomplishment.

By treating our children as capable and competent individuals we instil in them the confidence they need to feel safe in their surrounds, equipped to learn through experiment and exploration and to socialise well with other children.

Friendships developed by children and parents at the Early Learning Centre are carried through the schooling years.



Integrated and engaging life experiences teach valuable lessons.



The Primary Years

Prep through Year 6

The Grammar Primary years offer exciting and challenging growth, when early learning foundations are built upon and students' opportunities for learning are extended.

Standout facilities with modern classrooms, equipment and technology allow us to capitalise on this important period of a student's development.

At The Rockhampton Grammar School, students do not learn just from what they are taught, they learn by doing, at every opportunity.

Our remarkable teachers go above and beyond for our students – their dedication and commitment evidenced in all that they do: from the classroom to every School function.

A good balance between male and female teachers ensures our boys and girls have high calibre role models who guide them through this important phase of their lives.

Specialist teachers also provide in-depth knowledge in subject areas such as art, physical education, cooking, music and Japanese and help to prepare children for their transition to the Middle School.

It is in Primary that the educational building blocks are shaped and our student-focused learning framework is fully embraced.

This unique approach, based on researched teaching and learning theories, develops our students' ability to use knowledge in ways that are creative, flexible and meaningful.

The skills and processes taught present students with great academic outcomes and a blueprint for lifelong learning.

Educating children at the Primary School, however, goes beyond academics. Our students are taught to respect themselves and to respect and consider others.

It is through consistent and positive behaviour management that we nurture exemplary members of the community.

Our students are taught to respect themselves and to respect and consider others.



The Middle Years

Years 7, 8 & 9

At The Rockhampton Grammar School we recognise that the Middle School years are a critically important time for students' growth and personal development, as such our teaching strategies reflect this significant stage in their lives.

Our approach recognises that young adolescents need to experience a curriculum which takes into account age-specific intellectual, social, emotional, ethical and physical needs.

Participation and achievement is encouraged with a special emphasis on self-esteem and resilience which are so important for developing young men and women.

The Middle School years are characterised by a focus on activities and tasks which allow students every opportunity to succeed and to engage actively in the learning process.

School work is tailored to improving learning and motivation, and fostering confidence in their abilities to solve problems and make decisions.

Our curriculum builds on the foundations of our Primary years and fosters the development of young adolescents in positive ways.

We recognise and cater for a diverse group of students, taking into account their abilities, needs, interests and learning styles. In the co-curricular programme we provide a wide range of challenging and stimulating activities.

Pastoral care is an integral component of our Middle School. We provide a positive, happy and supportive environment which allows our young people to mature and prosper.



Self-esteem and resilience are so important for developing young men and women.



The Senior Years

Years 10, 11 & 12

Students transitioning into their final years of schooling are at the 'business end' of their studies – responsible young adults who are focused on achievement and their post-School future.

Pursuing academic excellence and attaining their personal best, our students have a commendable record of achievement and success.

More than a third of our Year 12 students typically receive OPs from 1 to 5. Students equally benefit from an extensive range of course options covering traditional and non-traditional areas.

The School's Vocational Education and Training (VET) is diverse. Subjects offer nationally recognised industry competencies and provide opportunities that lead to award winning traineeships and apprenticeships.

With increasing responsibilities, Rockhampton Grammar School Seniors are encouraged to take on leadership roles both within the School and in the wider community.

Fostered in a genuine and encouraging atmosphere, these skills prepare our students to be the leaders of tomorrow wherever they go, whatever they do.

Respect is both demonstrated and returned at The Rockhampton Grammar School. Our Seniors enjoy a dedicated library and a top floor outdoor terrace high above the School grounds which affords them opportunities for group interaction and individual reflection.

Drawing on unrivalled pastoral care and strong support from each other, their teachers, and expert career guidance counsellors students undertake a seamless and rewarding journey at the School on their way to post-School study and work.



Seniors are encouraged to take on leadership roles within School and in the wider community.



Co-curricular Sport

The Rockhampton Grammar School has a long and proud history of sporting glory with success across a wide range of competitive pursuits.

Our extensive facilities – an indoor gymnasium, two sporting ovals, an undercover arena, an outdoor Olympic size swimming pool and aquatic centre, tennis and volleyball courts as well as a beach-front campus and Fitzroy River rowing facilities – allow students to extend their talents, fulfil their potential in their chosen fields and strive for excellence in secure and rewarding environments.

Offering a progressive and varied sporting programme ensures every student has access to a comprehensive suite of activities.

Programmes stretch well beyond the traditional to include aerobics, Tae Kwon Do and triathlon.

We believe participation from everyone is central to a successful School. Our inclusive sporting philosophy encourages students across all year levels to embrace the benefits of ‘joining in’ and ‘having a go’.

Catering for students with all abilities, from social sport participants through to elite young sportswoman and men, the School encourages and supports a well-balanced, healthy lifestyle and sporting excellence.

All efforts are applauded in an atmosphere that prizes teamwork, sportsmanship and respect.

- Athletics
- Australian Rules
- Basketball
- Beach Volleyball
- Cricket
- Cross Country
- Equestrian
- Football
- Futsal
- Golf
- Netball
- Rowing
- Rugby Union
- Rugby League
- Sport Aerobics
- Swimming
- Tae Kwon Do
- Tennis
- Touch
- Triathlon
- Water Polo



We encourage students across all year levels to embrace the benefits of joining in.



Grammar has excellent instruction and provides children with high quality performance experiences. PARENT



There are boundless opportunities for students to showcase and master their unique talents and gifts.

Co-curricular Activities

A Rockhampton Grammar School education creates boundless opportunities for students, in which students showcase and master their unique talents and gifts.

Our Co-curricular programme is an important component in what the School offers, strengthening our community and maintaining School traditions.

We offer pursuits that enrich our young people through activities that creatively broaden hearts and minds.

The School encourages and nurtures an appreciation of music, drama and literature at professionally-staffed, purpose-built facilities and on study tours around Australia and overseas.

Our extensive Music programme, for example, starts in Prep. Under the guidance of expert staff, students' abilities develop and mature through our outstanding instrumental and vocal tuition programme. In Year 5 students are able to take an instrument home to play at their leisure.

Opportunities for performance and stretching creative wings are afforded through annual School musicals, at community forums and concerts, and through over 20 separate musical ensembles geared for all ages and ability levels.

Leadership roles assumed by students in many of these activities contribute to their academic success and significant personal development.

Established in 2015, **The Rockhampton Grammar School Dance & Musical Theatre Academy** provides boys and girls a unique opportunity to combine academic and dancing pursuits. Students can integrate their academic studies at The Rockhampton Grammar School with their dance, vocal and speech & drama instruction, at a level of detail that is not available anywhere else in Central Queensland.

- Art Club
- Cadets
- Chess
- Duke of Edinburgh
- Hospitality
- Maths Team Challenge
- Mooting
- Music
- Musical
- OptiMinds
- Photography
- Public Speaking
- SCUBA
- Show Cattle Teams





Outdoor Education and Ritamada

Ritamada, The Rockhampton Grammar School's beach-front education facility, takes students (in all Year levels) away from the routine of the classroom and extends the curriculum into nature and the great outdoors where they learn valuable life skills and grow in confidence in a safe and stimulating environment.

Located along the beautiful Capricorn Coast just outside Emu Park, the campus was bequeathed to the School by Robert Mackay Brown in 1971.

Courses and activities ranging from challenge ropes to sea kayaking and adventure caving are conducted within a challenge-by-choice philosophy and an atmosphere of encouragement, support and fun.

All students spend time at Ritamada during the school year as part of our pastoral care programme which enables the development of positive relationships among students and provides opportunities for self-growth and discovery.

As the students progress in age, so too do the activities, allowing students to stretch their boundaries and gain confidence, independence and maturity.

Ritamada forms the backbone of the School's Outdoor Education programme, the geographical boundaries of which are far reaching. In Year 10 students and teachers travel widely inside Australia and overseas to learn about themselves and the world around them, often participating in environmental or community sustainability projects.

Students return from all of their experiences with lifelong memories, yet they bring back far more – improved communication, teamwork and leadership skills, along with strengthened relationships, resilience and self-confidence – all geared to preparing them for the next phase in their lives.

Ritamada provides a place to shine and a time to grow. Students stretch their boundaries, gaining confidence and maturity.





Global Education



Educating Global Students

The Rockhampton Grammar School's curriculum, programmes and activities enable our students to develop, over time, a deep understanding of global affairs: the whole of human society and the different environments in which we live around the world.

We are focused on the student's understanding of his or her relationship between how they learn and act as individuals and as social agents in shaping a better, shared future for the world.

Developing a sense of individual and social responsibility, students recognise their actions as informed, engaged citizens. They are knowledgeable of interdependence and independence, identity and diversity, rights and responsibilities, poverty and wealth, conflict and peace, the untenable and sustainable. Such knowledge enriches our community and expands our democratic way of life.

This is achieved by their participation in clearly defined programmes and activities that focus on cooperative learning, shared responsibility, critical thinking and communication, including:

- Global and intercultural components of the curriculum
- RGS language programmes
- Collaborative learning projects with sister schools in Japan, Singapore, USA, UK, and New Zealand
- Educational expeditions abroad that focus on life skills, service and community development
- International student exchanges; and
- Overseas study opportunities in sport, music and language, culture and academic pursuits.

Educating Global Teachers

Whilst critical literacy skills are at the core of 'global' education, our teachers nurture a global education culture at the School that is focused on the future, is respectful of diversity, honours past and present cultures and values individual experiences.

Our teachers are also able to develop deeper understanding among our students because they themselves are lifelong learners.

Rockhampton Grammar teachers are advancing their own critical skills and acquiring multiple perspectives on education through the School's unique masters of Education with Griffith University.

Available to all teachers, the programme enhances teacher effectiveness, student engagement and student performance. As co-learners whose world perspective is shaped through content, pedagogy and lived experiences our teachers are better prepared to equip students with the skills and resilience required to build a shared, pluralistic, globalised future.



The Rockhampton Grammar School is a proud member of Round Square, a world-wide association of schools promoting six ideals of learning: internationalism, democracy, environment, adventure, leadership and service. RGS teachers and students have numerous opportunities each year to participate in international community service projects and leadership programmes through Round Square.

RGS equips students with understandings, skills and values to operate effectively in a globalised society



One of the most selfless acts our students can do is donate their time and talents. DR PHILLIP MOULDS, HEADMASTER

Community Service

A culture that develops a responsible and happy student who is actively connected to the School and to the wider community is characteristic of The Rockhampton Grammar School.

Students take a proactive and hands-on approach to service under the guidance of teachers, earning respect through achievement.

Through initiatives such as our Grammar Gives Back programme, students learn to appreciate the value and importance of extending their support and assistance to others.

This call to service has been delivered to numerous charities and organisations in the Rockhampton region, throughout Central Queensland, around the country and internationally.

Whether it is raising funds through a sausage sizzle to support the Cancer Council, donating their time at the local retirement village or travelling to Nepal or Borneo to lend a helping hand in constructing a hospital or meeting hall, our young men and women are striving to make a difference in their community.

They are rewarded in return with a developing strength of character, initiative and leadership skills, courage and integrity.

*Student **Aaron Liosatos** was among RGS students and staff who worked with children and their families to rebuild a traditional village longhouse in Nanga Ukom, Sarawak, Malaysia.*

Children develop respect, resilience and leadership skills – inevitably they gain as much as they give.



Macte Virtute Et Litteris – Grow in Character and Scholarship

Front cover photograph: John Casey

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Non-denominational, Co-educational Boarding (Year 7–12) and Day School (Prep to Year 12); Early Learning Centre (6 weeks to 5 Years)
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