

# 2018 Annual Report to The School Community



School Name: Box Hill High School (7635)



- All teachers at the school meet the registration requirements of the Victorian Institute of Teaching ([www.vit.vic.edu.au](http://www.vit.vic.edu.au)).
- The school meets prescribed minimum standards for registration as regulated by the Victorian Registration and Qualifications Authority (VRQA) in accordance with the Education and Training Reform (ETR) Act 2006. This includes schools granted an exemption by the VRQA until 31 December 2018 from the minimum standards for student enrolment numbers and/or curriculum framework for school language program.
- The school is compliant with the Child Safe Standards prescribed in Ministerial Order No. 870 – Child Safe Standards, Managing Risk of Child Abuse in School.

Attested on 26 April 2019 at 08:43 AM by Losh Pillay  
(Principal)

- All teachers employed or engaged by the school council meet the registration requirements of the Victorian Institute of Teaching.
- To the extent that the school council is responsible, the school meets prescribed minimum standards for registration as regulated by the Victorian Registration and Qualifications Authority (VRQA) in accordance with the Education and Training Reform (ETR) Act 2006. This includes schools granted an exemption by the VRQA until 31 December 2018 from the minimum standards for student enrolment numbers and/or curriculum framework for school language program.
- To the extent that the school council is responsible, the school is compliant with the Child Safe Standards prescribed in Ministerial Order No. 870 – Child Safe Standards, Managing Risk of Child Abuse in School.

Attested on 26 April 2019 at 02:43 PM by Brendan Smith  
(School Council President)

## About Our School

### School context

Box Hill High School is a single campus school situated in the inner eastern suburbs of Melbourne. The school aims to provide students with an engaging, enriching and enjoyable education; one that fosters the personal, academic and social development of the individual and allows access to fulfilling post school options. Students at Box Hill High School are strongly encouraged to live up to the school's motto "Ad Altiora Certamus" which means, "We strive for higher things." Students also have the opportunity to explore their interests through a variety of extra-curricular activities including sports, music, performing arts, solar cars and numerous clubs. An emphasis of the school is strong student support structures through our Junior and Senior schools and our Wellbeing team. All students are known and supported both academically and personally.

Box Hill High School is an accredited provider for gifted education, being one of a limited number of schools approved in Victoria to deliver a specially designed Select Entry Accelerated Learning program (SEAL). The school also has a strong emphasis on digital rich curriculum with all students using digital devices in their learning. Box Hill High School has a strong record of achievement in the Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE) with 2018 results indicating 97.7 % completion and a mean study score of 32.30 with 15% of students receiving study scores over 40.

The School also has a very active student leadership group, consisting of School Captain and Vice-Captain, Prefects, House Captains, Class Captains and various Program Ambassadors and Peer Leaders. Box Hill High School is proud to be an accredited provider of education for international students. Our reputation for academic excellence has attracted 50 students from overseas, predominantly from China, who are currently completing their secondary education with us. Our local and international parent communities are integral to the success of this program, and to the support provided to the students.

Box Hill High School prepares young learners to live and work in a globalised world. Year 9 students participate in The Victorian Young Leaders to China Program, a six-week in-country immersion program designed to prepare them to live and work as citizens and future leaders in an inter-connected global community. We are also the first school in Victoria and only the third school in Australia to be invited to join the network of PASCH Schools, promoting German Language Education in schools. There are also opportunities for students to participate in German exchange programs and the World Challenge.

The School's Strategic Plan reflects an emphasis on a guaranteed and viable curriculum, common assessment and pedagogical practices that support students to develop 21st Century skills, as well as Wellbeing and Engagement programs that build resilience and a positive mindset.

There is a significant demand for enrollment at the school. This is managed effectively through the DET criteria for enrollment based on the designated neighbourhood boundary. Ongoing upgrades to the School grounds and classrooms remains a continuing priority.

The school has equivalent full time staff: 3.0 Principal Class, 83.4 teachers and 16.2 Education Support staff

### Framework for Improving Student Outcomes (FISO)

The Annual Implementation Plan 2017 had a focus on :

- Building practice excellence
- Curriculum planning and assessment
- Empowering students and building school pride

Staff are engaged in regular and consistent collaboration practices to :

- Maximise student success at VCE through rigorous and high quality teaching practices
- Analyse data to inform practice and student interventions
- Maintain a strong focus on teaching key knowledge and skills based on the Victorian Curriculum standards and the VCE outcomes
- Develop challenging Common Learning Tasks and assessments

Students were provided several opportunities during the year to engage in focus group discussions to identify strengths and barriers to learning in the school.

Our school has shown exceptional improvement across a number of areas and was deemed an 'Influence School' in 2018 by the Department of Education. This is the highest category that can be reached by a school. With our trajectory of exceptional results over time, we are now considered a leader in our system and are working to influence other schools to achieve best practice.

## Achievement

Box Hill High School continued to perform very well in terms of student learning outcomes, with results in each of the areas measured being similar to or higher than all Victorian government schools. In 2018, we once again achieved outstanding VCE results. Our VCE median study score was 34, compared to the state average of 28.79; and the percentage of study scores above 40 was 16.1%, significantly higher than the state figure of 6.6% and the VCE completion rate was 100%. Our matched cohort learning gain in NAPLAN testing for Reading, Spelling, Grammar and Punctuation and Numeracy tests shows that our students are improving at a significant rate. For example 40.8% of our students made high gains from year 7 to 9 in Reading and 37.2% made high gains from year 7 to 9 in Numeracy.

All students on the Program for Students with Disability made satisfactory progress in achieving their individual goals.

Our excellent results can be attributed to a range of improvement strategies in the 2018 school year. These include a professional learning program to further develop teachers' skills by consistently and effectively implementing the whole school teaching model, developing staff capacity to use a range of data to refine their practice and maximise student learning growth.

In 2019 we will:

- Continue to develop and implement a guaranteed and viable curriculum using the Box Hill High School Teaching & Learning Process
- Strengthen a consistent whole-school approach for teaching academic vocabulary
- Use an inquiry approach in teams to identify student learning needs and implement appropriate interventions.
- Continue to build instructional capacity to guide, support and direct improvement in teacher practice and student outcomes

## Engagement

Attendance is a key indicator of students' engagement with the school and with their learning. It is therefore pleasing to see that our attendance rates are well above all Victorian Government Secondary Schools. We have clear and robust processes in place to monitor student attendance and when necessary to work with families to support students to attend school regularly.

The proportion of Year 7 students who remain at the School through to Year 12 is excellent. Students who exit Box Hill High School after Year 12 continue to move into high quality pathways with the majority of students gaining 1st round offers at University or TAFE courses.

The school encourages the development of the “whole child” and offers a large range of clubs and extracurricular activities, including a Knitting, Chess, Debating, Model Solar Cars and Robotics clubs. Box Hill High School also offers an extensive camps program including year level camps and end of year cross-age camps. The School has developed a sister school relationship with a German school and students are able to experience life in Germany for one month in the year. Year 9 students can also participate in the Young Leaders to China experience.

The school offers many opportunities for students to develop public speaking and leadership skills through a broad range of leadership roles, including School Captains, Prefects, Class Captains, SRC and House leadership. A comprehensive Transition and Peer Support program ensures that Year 7 students are well settled into their first year of high school.

In 2019 we will:

- Continue to activate student voice, leadership and agency in their own learning
- Develop, implement and review a common student survey for teacher feedback
- Develop shared understanding of exemplary learner behaviours with students and staff
- Ensure that all students are known well and supported in their learning and wellbeing through a revised engagement team structure.

## Wellbeing

Box Hill High School provides a safe, positive and inclusive learning environment for all students. We believe that a student’s emotional and social wellbeing is fundamental to their success. The school has progressed its student wellbeing goals through a systematic and coherent approach to student support across all year levels.

The school employs a range of staff including Student Wellbeing Coordinators and a full-time Student Counselor. We also employ psychologists, social workers, youth workers and speech pathologists, who are available for student appointments at the school within school hours.

The Wellbeing team is available to meet with students or parents to provide support or referrals and additional services. The principles of restorative practices are incorporated into our discipline and wellbeing procedures to ensure that all students thrive in a positive climate for learning.

Overall attendance rates are stronger than similar schools and are a key measure of student engagement with the school. Students from Year 7-12 generally maintain an average of 90% + attendance through the year and only 21% of students at the school who have 10 days or more days absent, as compared to the state which has 30% of students with 10 or more days absent.

The Attitudes to School survey indicates that students feel safe at school and that 69% of students feel connected to the school as compared to 55% of students in the state. This is a result of the school-wide focus on ‘no tolerance’ of any discriminatory or anti-social behaviours as promoted through student assemblies and education programs.

The school has actively fostered a sense of connectedness and safety through a range of proactive programs such as the Positive Education Framework, and wellbeing theme weeks. Box Hill High School is a partner school in delivering the Education Department’s Respectful Relationships curriculum within the Victorian Curriculum in Health and Physical Education. This program focuses on challenging negative attitudes such as prejudice, discrimination and harassment, which can lead to violence, often against women.

In 2019, we will continue to develop happy, respectful and resilient students who display growth mindsets and behaviours that reflect school values.

We will: