




# Blackheath & Thornburgh College



## College Prospectus







The decision on where to send your children for their schooling can be a challenging one with a range of emotions, personal experiences and environmental factors weighing heavily on your mind as a parent.

Where do we go? How do we know if we have made the right choice?  
What are we looking for? Rural or metropolitan?

These are all questions that can be difficult to answer when making your decision. Each school is unique and offers something slightly different that will engage and ignite your child as a learner. It may be the academic opportunities, the staff, school structures, subject offerings or sporting teams that create in any combination the perfect setting for your child to succeed. As a co-educational boarding school set proudly in Queensland's North for over 100 years, Blackheath & Thornburgh College provides opportunities for families to access high quality, comprehensive schooling in a strong regional education centre.

With a diverse student population, we aim to acknowledge each child's unique story, individual talents and interests to foster a sense of belonging and community for our day and boarding students. Our staff work closely with students and families to assist them to look beyond the classroom exploring the relevance of today's learning in tomorrow's world.

At the heart of our College are traditional values and expectations that form a strong foundation enabling us to be agile and innovative in a constantly evolving educational setting.

We welcome you to visit our College and experience the BTC difference.

**Mr Simon Murphy, Principal**











# Inspired by Tradition

Our vision is to provide high quality, equitable educational opportunities inspired by our history, moving boldly into the future.

Our mission is to provide students with the knowledge to explore, evolve and expand their talents in a student focused community. Blackheath & Thornburgh College students leave the College accountable, reliable and ready to contribute in an ever changing world.

This is realised in the development of partnerships with students and their families creating opportunities for each individual.





# GO IT BLUE

**G**ive where others will take

**O**wn your decisions, be accountable

**I**nvest in your own success

**T**alent does not substitute for character

**B**uild your skills by exploring the unknown

**L**ean into a challenge, as that is where you will grow

**U**nderstand and appreciate the beauty of diversity

**E**mbrace opportunities to lead (know the way, go the way, show the way)











# Discover BTC

As a growing rural independent school our strengths lie in our traditional community ties, outstanding student support, small class sizes, authentic experiences and opportunities for students to succeed in a diverse learning environment. With over 380 students including 140+ boarders the College team places a high value on knowing their students and how they learn. With a diverse student population coming from across Australia and the Pacific, students are encouraged to understand the beauty this diversity brings to their lives as young people preparing for an ever changing world.

We invite you to join our team for a tour of the College exploring the learning and boarding environments, meeting our staff and students and experiencing first hand what it means to GO IT BLUE!















# The Campus & the Town

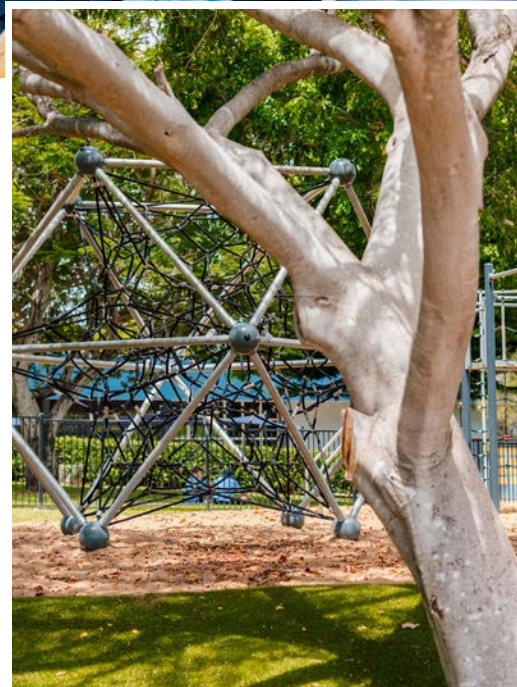
Blackheath & Thornburgh College's campus covers 10 hectares in Charters Towers, a town of 11,700 people which is renowned as an important centre for education in North Queensland.

With over 100 years of history and connection to the community, our central location with neighbouring parks and recreational facilities, only minutes from the town centre provides an ideal regional education setting. Away from the pressures and challenges of a larger city, students can grow and develop as part of the wider community, with opportunities to engage with local clubs and groups fostered to further explore their interests and talents.

The College boasts an excellent range of learning environments, including air-conditioned classrooms, innovative science laboratories, a modern library, senior student study space, specialised music, drama, visual arts, kitchen and manual arts facilities to promote active participation in learning. Outside the classroom the College offers a large dining hall, 25 metre swimming pool, tennis courts, a modern all-weather undercover sports facility, assembly hall, multiple sporting fields, adventure playground, fully functioning gym, a growing agriculture space and a boarding community catering for male and female students all located on the one campus in the heart of Charters Towers.











# Junior School

Our Junior School nurtures children from Kindy to Year 6, developing strong foundations in literacy, numeracy and social-emotional learning. Students are engaged in 21st century education, guided by outstanding teachers and support staff. Our early years students are immersed in high-quality instruction in reading, writing and mathematics, with a balance of play-based learning and formal instruction designed to prepare all students with the skills they need for success throughout their schooling journey. In the middle primary years, Junior School students consolidate these foundations and navigate the increases in curriculum expectations, whilst being guided and supported with their personal wellbeing and shaping of identity by our passionate and professional teaching staff. Our upper primary students are compassionate and connected leaders, reflecting the values and ethos of the College. They explore links between curriculum and community, and are intentionally readied for their transition to Secondary School by accessing specialist teachers for Health & Physical Education, Visual Arts, Manual Arts, Food & Nutrition and Drama. Our students have access to a range of co-curricular activities each term which include all seasonal sport, interschool activities, dance and instrumental music.

The Junior School is far more than just a place where students receive an excellent academic education; it is a kind, welcoming, family-orientated community where the College spirit and values are reflected in all that we do.



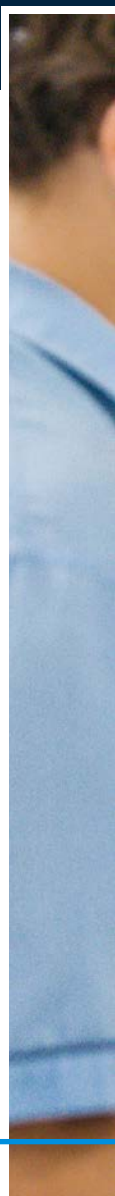




# Secondary School

The Secondary setting provides an opportunity for students in Year 7 to 12 to learn and experience the traditional values of what it means to GO IT BLUE as a member of the Blackheath & Thornburgh Community. These values support students to grow and develop into responsible, respectful and accountable young adults in a time of rapid social change. Our educators and boarding staff are supported by specialised a pastoral team including Year Coordinators, Student Support Officer, College Psychologist, Health Centre Team and our Community Education Officer to assist students in navigating the challenges through adolescence.

Secondary students are provided with stimulating learning environments promoting opportunities to explore all elements of the core and elective curriculum through traditional classroom learning programs, specialist learning opportunities, engagement with community, house based activities, an extensive co-curricular program and a wide range of school developed opportunities.







## BYOD @ BTC

Blackheath & Thornburgh College is a Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) School from Year 7 to 12. While there is a great deal of choice in today's market, our program refers to a laptop or similar approved device to enable students to access curriculum resources, learning experiences and collaborate with their peers. Our staff recognise the importance of authentic, relevant and rich learning tasks and as such utilise student devices to supplement and support learning across the school. In a dynamic and ever changing world our BYOD program enables our team of educators to be innovative and responsive to the needs of 21st Century learners.

In our Junior School setting, students develop the foundational skills required to explore, decipher and interact with modern stimulus through a range of learning experiences. Year 3-6 students have access to dedicated laptop trolleys, whilst our P-2 students engage with technology through interactive presentation tools and shared iPads.







...whilst opportunities to succeed in sporting or artistic pursuits are abundant, students are also encouraged to engage in self improvement and service programs.







# Co-Curricular

Blackheath & Thornburgh College has a long history of sporting pride, passion and success. We offer a wide range of sporting opportunities through House, Interschool, Community and Regional sporting competitions. During our House sporting challenges, students participate in a range of traditional sports synonymous with our region as well as recreational and international sports. Outside of the sporting scope, there is a wide range of cultural and intellectual offerings that students can take part in to explore themselves, learn self discipline and positively impact those around them.

Some of the many Co-Curricular opportunities offered at the College are:

- Army Cadets
- Athletics
- Biennial School Musicals
- BTC's Got Talent
- Cattle Club
- Charters Towers Eisteddfod
- Cricket
- Cross Country
- Drama
- Gym Programs
- Interhouse Drama Challenges
- Interschool Debating
- Instrumental Music Program
- Netball Program
- Rotary Interact Group
- Rugby 7s
- Rugby League Program
- Softball
- Student Art Exhibitions
- Swimming
- Tennis
- Visual Arts

As a boarding school we promote an active lifestyle for our students and work closely with families and community organisations to facilitate participation in local competitions and training to meet student interests. As a growing regional independent school, we are always looking for opportunities to expand our co-curricular offerings and embed these activities and the values they instill as a way of life for our students.







# Boarding

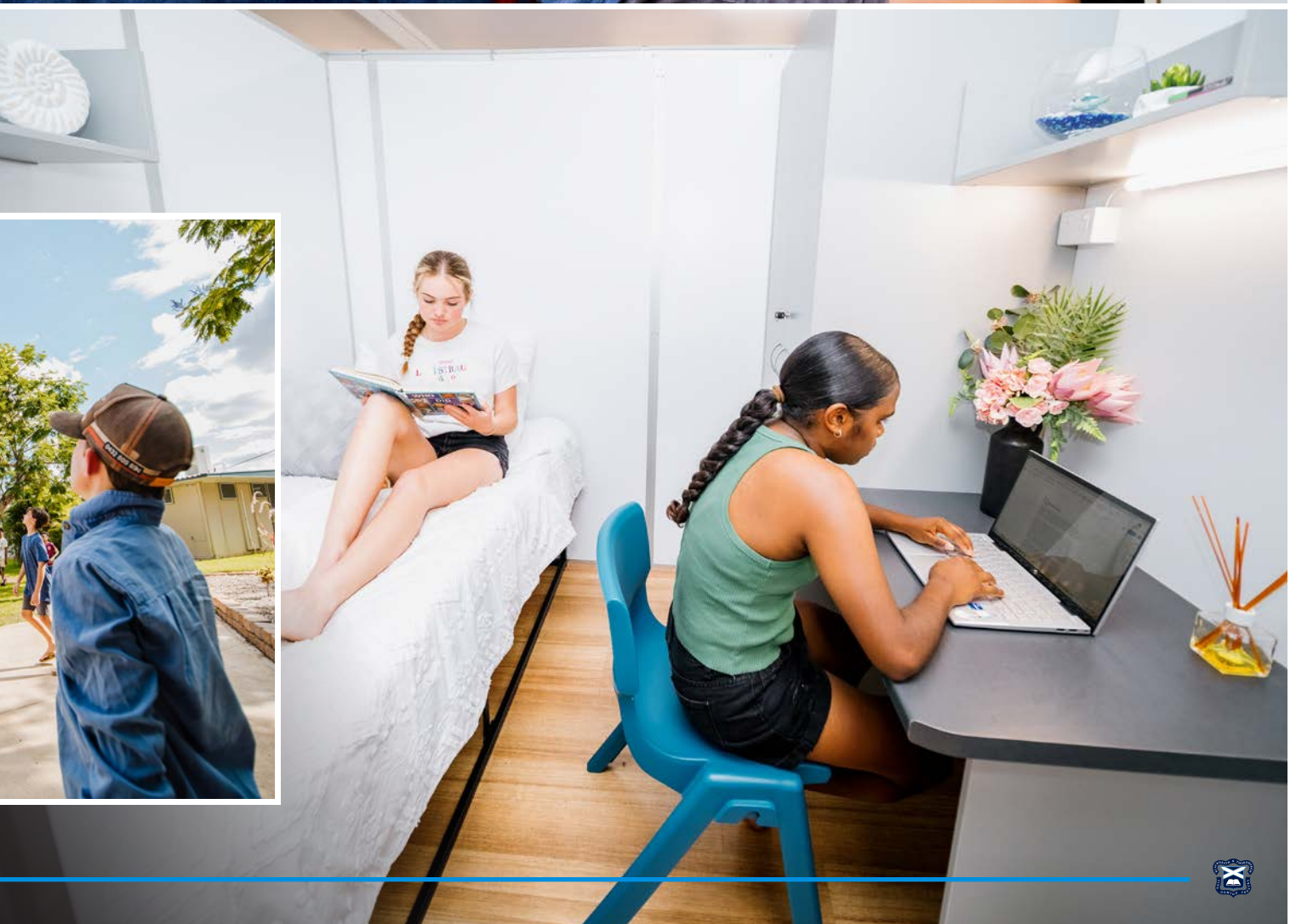
Blackheath & Thornburgh College staff understand the importance of providing boarders with a home away from home where students feel safe and secure and are challenged to do and be their best. They work hard to provide all students the best experience of living in a small community which is familiar and supportive.

Boarding is gender appropriate, with separate Girls and Boys Boarding campuses. With 60% of the secondary students at BTC being boarders, there is a strong focus on their residential, social, sporting and academic needs in the dormitories and the day school. Students come from around North Queensland, across the state and country and also from overseas, providing new boarders with a large support network of peers and mentors in the dormitories as well as a large number of other students from similar backgrounds who understand and support them.





BTC understands the importance of providing boarders with a home away from home where students feel safe and secure...







Blackheath & Thornburgh  
College

More information about Blackheath & Thornburgh College  
and our Boarding setting is available via our website.

For all enrolment enquiries, please contact:

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