Lynwood Senior High School

An Independent Public School
and a Centre for Environment and Life Sciences

Prospectus 2013/14
Lynwood Senior High School prides itself on providing a truly comprehensive education. It has a diverse demography representing more than 80 nationalities and aims to be the best possible local secondary school for every student who enrolls.

At approximately 1000 students, Lynwood is a significant and important contributor to quality public school education in our area. Lynwood Senior High School focuses on providing a wide selection of learning opportunities for all students whilst instilling a solid values system of ‘Respect’ for self, each other, the community and the environment. We achieve this with a quality pastoral care team and system based on positive reward and comprehensive support. Students in current society face a wide range of challenges and are in need of a range of quality support programs that our Student Services and Pastoral Care teams provide for each student. A dedicated Student Services team including School Psychologist, Chaplain, Nurse and Pastoral Care leaders who follow the development of our young people from Primary to Year 12, delivering on the priority that each student is an individual and requires that level of care. This care extends to academic mentoring and support that has achieved quality outcomes for all students on their learning pathway.

In 2011 Lynwood was recognised for its quality of performance, management and clarity of direction by being awarded Independent Public School status. The autonomy now given to Lynwood Senior High School allows the school to move forward better equipped to meet the changing needs of every student.

Responsive and Innovative Curriculum Provision

Lynwood Senior High School’s diverse population has required an equally diverse set of academic programs. This has been achieved in part through:

- Whole of School Literacy and Numeracy Programs – the staff work as a team and is achieving excellent improvements, especially in spelling, punctuation and grammar.
- English as a Second Language and English as a Language Dialect courses – these are bridging the gap for our non-English speaking students and are preparing them for success in Senior School.
- Senior School Engagement Programs - Year 11 and 12 students are focusing on practical literacy and numeracy skills through projects based in a wide variety of trades and certificates, including horticulture.
- Specialist Academic Program in Environment and Life Science commenced in 2012. Specially selected students engage in a cross-curricular program in English, Maths, Science and Society and Environment where they are accelerated and extended academically with a focus on personal and environmental sustainability.
- Specialist Program in Soccer – this academy is conducted by highly qualified teachers and coaches and reflects the common interests of our local community. The Academy has realised State and National representatives.
- Lower and Senior School Pathways – students are provided with the widest possible selection of courses in Years 8 to 10 that prepare them for a diverse set of Senior School pathways such as TAFE employment or University entry. This has been enhanced with the establishment of a partnership known as the South East Education Community (SEEIC) and now includes Thornlie SHS, Canning Vale College and Southern River College. Shared timetables and courses have allowed an even greater access to courses for our Senior School students.

An Innovative School Vision

A Centre For Environment And Life Sciences

The major unifying direction of Lynwood SHS curriculum has been the implementation of sustainability as a theme which is embedded across all learning areas. This focus is enhancing a positive school tone and culture as evidenced by improved behaviour, attendance and student attitudes, reported by teaching and Student Services staff. All staff have included learning activities that relate directly to the school, community or broader geographic environment, and clearly reflect the values of sustainability. Staff, students and parents have embraced this whole school theme, resulting in significant improvements in school culture.

Striving For Improvement, Building Leadership And Quality Teaching

This school has an experienced and stable leadership team, with well established planning and review cycles that are responsive and effective. There is a strong staff culture of self-assessment. Lynwood has invested significantly in developing quality teachers through a wide range of professional learning opportunities. Numbers of teachers are applying for and being recognised as Level 3 Classroom Teachers, a clear measure of their commitment to their profession.

In addition as an Independent Public School, Lynwood has been able to select new staff when vacancies occur. In 2011, some 250 applications were received for a hand full of positions. The school views this as an endorsement as a school of choice within the secondary teaching profession.

Lynwood SHS also has a rich history of producing excellent academic achievement. This includes a Beazley Medal winner (awarded to the top Tertiary Examinations candidate) and 86 students achieving 95+ in Australian Tertiary Admission Rank since 1999 with more than 20 achieving 99+. These are only a few of the successes that are a part of Lynwood’s academic history. National Testing consistently highlights sound results in literacy and numeracy when compared to similar schools.

The school was recognised as a Top Public school in 2010, 2011 and 2012 and has produced some outstanding performances in a number of subjects, with several exhibition winners as recently as 2008 in Discrete Mathematics. In 2010 and 2011 Lynwood achieved 100% graduation and in 2012 99.4% and is constantly enhancing Vocational Education and Training opportunities for students.
Successful Partnerships
Lynwood currently has numerous strong partnerships built around its primary school cluster (including shared professional learning opportunities), the South East Education Community (SEEC) and both Murdoch and Curtin Universities.

- Primary Cluster: Lynwood SHS has embarked on an innovative and shared governance model with its partner primary schools; Bannister Creek, Brookman and Parkwood. Lynwood’s School Board has representation from each of these Primary Schools. This has allowed each school community access to the secondary campus with an unprecedented transparency both in operation and importantly school performance. These representatives have become advocates for the school and its direction. Educational links with each primary school are maintained through a comprehensive transition program of class visits, sharing of facilities, specialist clinics in Soccer and a range of informal activities. The executive teams meet regularly to review and introduce new initiatives. Recently each cluster member agreed to pursue a K-12 strategy across our schools within the Roe Schools Education Network.

- South East Education Community: Lynwood has played a substantial role in supporting and resourcing the partnership with Thornlie SHS, Canning Vale College and Southern River Colleges since its inception in late 2009. This partnership has grown quickly and has a clear direction founded in a Memorandum of Understanding that guides the collaboration. The most recent accomplishment has been collaborative professional learning sessions across the campuses for all of our teachers. This has added the dimension of teacher development that will sustain and strengthen our partnership.

- Curtin University: This partnership links us with the Science and Mathematics Education Centre in a project that monitors classroom and school effectiveness. Initially data collected on the teaching and learning environment over the last 3 years has influenced planning and teacher development across the school. The second area has measured the school’s resilience and culture as it relates to the social interaction between all members of the school community. In both cases this data has allowed us to determine areas of strength and weakness in order to set positive and proactive strategies in place. This partnership has proved invaluable in monitoring the health and well being of our school’s environment. In addition selected academic students have been attending a very successful and innovative program in Engineering.

Quality Financial Management and Planning
Lynwood’s financial position is solid, having achieved consistent satisfactory audits over many years. The school has sound financial processes with Finance, Grounds and Maintenance and Information Technology Committees all playing key roles. The budget processes are transparent and reflect comprehensive planning and management. The financial overview is undertaken by the Finance Committee and endorsed by the School Board. Indicators of this effective management are reflected in the school’s Business Plan and have resulted in:

- The systematic refurbishment of classroom furniture and Learning Area offices over the last 5 years.
- Information Technology roll-out of the National Computer Programs ($615,000) and Interactive whiteboards ($50,000) in 2010/11.
- Replacement of the school bus in 2010 ($135,000),
- New Intensive English Centre facility requiring the management of $600,000 of infrastructure and establishment for the accommodation of the 120 predicted IEC students.
- The investment in Ipads for each staff member to enhance their ability to engage students in up to date learning opportunities.
- The re-surfacing of the school’s hard playing surfaces with much more school infrastructure enhancement being constantly pursued, including a dedicated Student Services Centre, a new gymnasium and performing arts centre as well as many maintenance programs such as painting and information signage.

Local Support from School Board and P&C Support
Lynwood has had consistent parent involvement in the school over many years. The P&C manages income from the school’s uniform shop and the school canteen. In both cases the income is made available to the school to benefit students by: supporting sporting representatives and teams; school events such as information evenings and BBQs; library resources; music equipment; shade facilities; air conditioning units for classrooms and much more. The P&C’s objective is measured by the direct benefit to students. The School Board is a fully functioning and important entity in the daily life of the school. The Board oversees the School’s Business Plan, approves the School’s uniform code and participates in the school’s financial planning processes. As highlighted, Lynwood has added the dimension of including representation from our partner primary schools. This latter innovation increases the involvement of our future parents in the school and strengthens the community’s ownership of Lynwood as their school of choice.

Future Directions
Lynwood has embarked on many programs in recent years such as the whole school focus on the environment and sustainability; the establishment of the Intensive English Centre, Specialist Programs in Environment and Life Sciences and engagement with the LEAF class. There are also numerous examples of projects that these programs are generating in the school to enhance and engage our students such as the Boodja Organic Garden, the aquaponics/hydroponics enterprise, the art outdoor sculpture facility and in recent times the proposed wetland area.

1. The achievement of Independent Public School status is an initiative that has allowed the school to manage its own direction, released from some of the restrictions of bureaucratic policy. It will allow greater flexibility in administering the school’s finances as one budget that includes staff costs and special grants that the school acquires. As mentioned IPS has allowed the school to select its own staff as vacancies occur, this is of specific benefit in meeting the needs of our students.

2. Lynwood will further explore initiatives that enhance a K-12 strategy across our cluster of Primary Schools in collaboration with Lynwood. The benefits of this educational collaboration includes: planning, curriculum specialisation and continuity of policy all of which bring stability and certainty to each child’s school experience. We see this as an opportunity to significantly benefit the outcomes of all of our students.

3. Post school destinations. The school has also developed a partnership to allow for students across the metropolitan area to enrol in certificates delivered by an external organisation Sport Education Development Australia. This exciting innovation is also in partnership with the Fremantle Dockers, Perth Glory and the Western Warriors. This opportunity developed in 2012 and has commenced in 2013 is unique to Lynwood and can only grow into the future.
Highlights for 2012/13

- First full year of Independent Public Schools initiative and the formation of the School Board
- The majority of Business Plan targets achieved in our first year as an IPS
- Inaugural year for Environment and Life Sciences Applied Academic Specialist Program
- Waterwise Accreditation
- Waterwise school of the Year 2012
- Second place - Highly Commended in Department of Environment Awards
- Biodiversity Audit trialled with Department of Environment and Conservation
- Extensive rehabilitation of our local Bannister Creek
- Construction of the Aquaponics and hydroponics centre
- Implementation of the Australian Curriculum
- World Challenge trip to Vietnam and Cambodia
- Highly successful Singapore Soccer and Netball Tour
- Harmony and Sustainability Week celebrations
- Grower’s market to open on site soon
- BP school grant for Wetlands Project to be completed in 2013