



Merrimac

State High School
Gold Coast

PROSPECTUS





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We acknowledge and pay respects to the Yugambah people of the Gold Coast and all their descendants both past and present. We also acknowledge the many Aboriginal people from other regions as well as Torres Strait and South Sea Islander people who now live in the local area and have made an important contribution to the community.

Welcome

Welcome to Merrimac State High School, one of the Gold Coast's premium educational environments. As an internationally recognised school with an outstanding reputation, Merrimac delivers world class education built upon the core principles of respect, responsibility and reliability.

Our school motto, 'Pride in Excellence', emphasises our unwavering pursuit of excellence, which we believe is best achieved when students, parents, teachers and community work together to reach the greatest possible educational outcomes.

We recognise that learning is a lifelong endeavour and that, while a Merrimac education is intellectually challenging, it also focuses on the development of character and skills that will continue to serve our students beyond the classroom.

Our dynamic school curriculum includes a fully integrated wellbeing program, Merrimac Minds Matter, which affords students the time and space to ask the difficult questions. It is here that students uncover the value of life skills such as resilience, honesty, integrity and respect.

Through our Selective Entry Program, students are engaged in opportunities for academic, sporting and cultural extension. This is based on the understanding that fostering student interests and providing opportunities for growth allows students to reach their highest potential.

Our Leadership Program challenges students through opportunities for mentoring, contributing to a culture of collective wellbeing and service to the community.

The digital world is a reality and our Bring Your Own Device Program provides extended learning opportunities both at home and at school. Our highly experienced teaching staff constantly explore opportunities to bring authentic learning experiences to students, with an innovative approach to technology that best equips our students for life in the 21st Century.

Through our strong relationships with Griffith University, Bond University and Southern Cross University, students are provided with flexible pathways to tertiary education, while our industry partners offer a diverse range of traineeships and school-based apprenticeships.

Industry not only works in partnership with the school to create positive employment outcomes for students but also simultaneously shapes and designs curriculum and vocational standards in alignment with modern workforce trends.

Our accreditation by the Council of International Schools (CIS) demonstrates our commitment to continuous improvement while placing us with only 650 schools worldwide which have met this standard. While the standards we set ourselves are high, we are known for our commitment to our students.

Merrimac State High School is a school with a 'futures' focus and a youthful optimism. Our caring relationships with students and partnerships with parents provide us with the best opportunity to deliver an education that challenges every student to live our motto, 'Pride in Excellence'.



Respect
Responsibility
Reliability

OUR PHILOSOPHY

Merrimac State High School strives to build positive relationships, value differences to promote collective wellbeing, encourage lifelong learning, and contribute to the school, family and wider community to make our planet more equal, fair and sustainable.

Our school community has the capacity and disposition to examine issues of local, global and cultural significance, understand and appreciate different perspectives, establish positive interactions with people of different national, ethnic, religious, social or gender backgrounds and act toward sustainable development and collective wellbeing.

Education is a shared responsibility promoting a spirit of co-operation and belonging. Our students are prepared for life as literate, informed, resilient, happy, responsible and caring individuals who take 'Pride in Excellence'.



OUR VALUES

The three school values of Respect, Responsibility and Reliability underpin all school operations.

There is a strong belief that everyone has the right to be respected and the responsibility to respect themselves, others and property. It is expected that all members of the Merrimac community are reliable in their commitment to ensuring that their actions have only a positive influence on all. To ensure students and staff can achieve their best within a safe and caring environment, school values have been developed and are exemplified by all members of our school community.

CIS Accreditation

We value our International Program, acknowledging the role international students play in promoting global citizenship.

The Council of International Schools (CIS) is a membership community committed to high quality international education. Our school is one of 650 schools in the world to receive a CIS accreditation.

Since receiving the accreditation in 2010, our school has remained committed to continuous improvement, delivering world class education and measuring ourselves against the international benchmark set by the organisation. For students and families, our CIS accreditation is confirmation of quality assurance and peace of mind knowing that all Merrimac students receive a high quality education.



LEARNING AND TEACHING

Our school has two phases of education; Junior Secondary for students in Years 7-9 and Senior Secondary for Years 10-12. During the Senior Secondary phase of learning, students have an opportunity to choose either an academic and/or vocational program. The curriculum is based on eight key learning areas and enhanced in Years 11 and 12 with a choice of 35 subjects (registered with the Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority), as well as Australian Quality Training certificates.

The Australian Curriculum describes what young Australians should learn as they progress through schooling. It is the foundation for their future learning, growth and active participation in the Australian community. It sets out essential knowledge, understanding, skills and capabilities and provides a national standard for student achievement in core learning areas.

Junior Secondary

The Year 7, 8 and 9 curriculum is delivered through eight Key Learning Areas (KLAs) to ensure students receive a challenging, engaging and comprehensive education.

- English
- Mathematics
- Science
- Social Science: History, Geography
- Health and Physical Education: Health & Physical Education, High Performance Sport
- The Arts: Performing Arts, Creative Arts, Music, Dance, Drama, Media, Visual Art
- Languages: Chinese, Chinese VET Pathway, Spanish
- Technology: Design and Technology, Business Technology, Food and Textile Technology, Industrial Technology and Design, Digital Solutions and Robotics

Senior Secondary

In Senior Secondary, Merrimac continues to deliver quality academic programs, offering students various pathways to tertiary education, industry or employment.

Students can focus exclusively on tertiary entrance rankings (ATAR) or they may choose to explore and negotiate a range of career options tailored to individual learning needs.

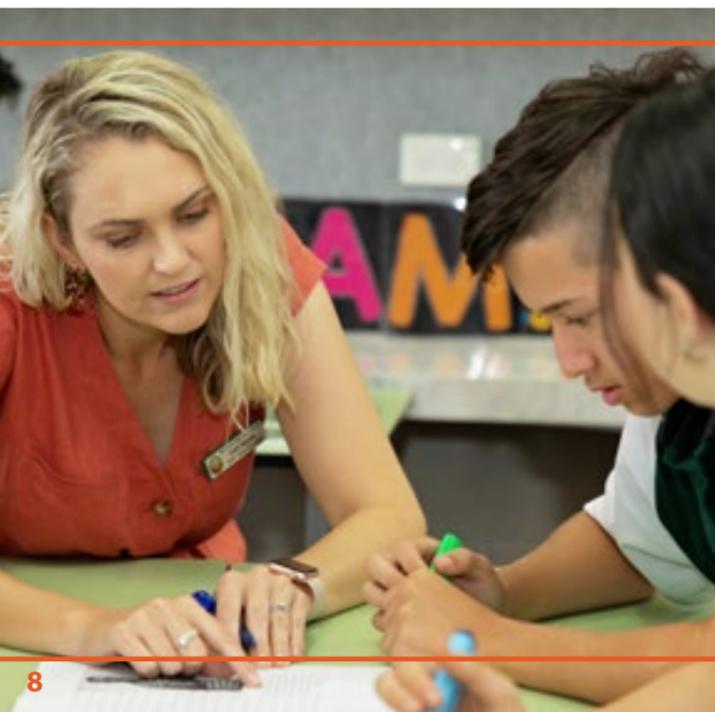
Year 10 is part of the Senior Phase of Learning and subjects taken in this year level will inform students' course of study in Years 11 and 12.

We offer four different types of subjects in Years 11 and 12: General, Applied, Industry Pathway and School-based subjects.

QCAA General Subjects are approved by the Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority (QCAA), are recorded on the Senior Education Profile and will contribute towards a student's Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE). Many of the General subjects are academically demanding.

QCAA Applied subjects are also registered by the QCAA. They have QCAA approved study plans and focus on a strong vocational educational core. They are also recorded on the Senior Education Profile and contribute towards a student's QCE. Applied subjects place more emphasis on practical skills and knowledge and are designed to develop specific skills relevant to employment and real-life.

Industry Pathway/School-based subjects provide pathways to vocational education certificates and are offered through the school in conjunction with a Registered Training Organisation. These subjects provide industry standard qualifications. Each subject offered through this process will have a direct industry association and will often incorporate a compulsory work placement.



Senior Secondary Subjects

Year 10

Compulsory

English

- English
- English Literature

Mathematics

- Mathematical Methods
- General Mathematics
- Specialist Mathematics
- Digital Solutions

Science

- Science

Electives

Social Science

- Modern History and Geography
- Social and Community Studies and Tourism
- Economics and Legal Studies
- Essential Humanities
- Philosophy and Reason and History

Health and Physical Education

- Health and Physical Education

The Arts

- Dance
- Drama
- Media Arts
- Music
- Visual Art

Business and Design

Technology

- Business and Accounting
- Information Technology
- Design Technology

- Industrial Technology
- Fashion Studies
- Hospitality Studies
- Early Childhood Practices

Languages

- Chinese VET Pathway
- Spanish

Year 11/12

Compulsory

English

- English
- English and Literature Extension
- English as an Additional Language
- Literature

Mathematics

- General Mathematics
- Mathematical Methods
- Specialist Mathematics
- Digital Solutions
- Essential Mathematics

Electives

Science

- Physics
- Chemistry
- Psychology
- Biology
- Science in Practice

Social Science

- Economics
- Legal Studies
- Modern History
- Philosophy and Reason
- Social and Community Studies
- Tourism

Health and Physical Education

- Health
- Physical Education
- Sport and Recreation
- Aquatic Practices

The Arts

- Dance
- Music
- Drama
- Visual Art
- Dance in Practice
- Drama in Practice
- Music in Practice
- Visual Arts in Practice
- Media Arts in Practice

Business and Design

Technology

- Design
- Business
- Accounting
- Information and Communication Technology
- Business Studies
- Industrial Technology Skills
- Engineering Skills
- Building and Construction Skills
- Early Childhood Studies
- Hospitality Practices
- Fashion

Languages

- Chinese
- Spanish

General subjects (ATAR Path)

Applied subjects (Non-ATAR)



Selective Entry Summit Program

At Merrimac, we believe that fostering student interests and providing opportunities for growth allows students to reach their highest potential.

Our Selective Entry Summit program provides students with opportunities for academic, sporting and cultural extension, enabling students to thrive in their chosen area of interest. Places in our various Summit Programs are limited, therefore only students with passion, commitment and high levels of performance are selected.

Students may apply for entry into the programs listed below. Our Leadership Program can also be undertaken in conjunction with the student's chosen program.

Academic Summit: an innovative academic curriculum that fosters a higher order and critical thinking approach to deep learning and accelerates students' understanding of the world around them; including social, political and environmental issues.

Dance Summit: an engaging course that focuses on practical activities relating to the dance industry, consequently developing a strong technical foundation across a broad spectrum of dance. The program has an increased emphasis on choreography skills, industry awareness and professionalism.

Sport Summit: a dynamic, generalised sporting excellence program that emphasises attitude and mindset as much as physical ability. Students participate in a wide variety of physical performance activities designed to promote improvement of specific physical/mental capacities and attributes, test and improve personal fitness levels and build team work and communication skills.

STEAM Academy: a stream of learning that develops skills commonly used in Science, Technology, Enterprise, the Arts and Mathematics. The STEAM Academy allows students to design, develop and evaluate their own solutions in a project-based learning environment. The program brings digital and design technologies together with problem-solving skills to foster higher-order thinking.

STUDENT LEADERSHIP

Merrimac State High School encourages all students to participate in the extensive leadership opportunities available in both the Junior Secondary and Senior Secondary School. Students can apply to participate in our specialised leadership program, which has been specifically designed to develop character and leadership capabilities.

Leaders at Merrimac uphold a culture of service to others by being aware of their community's needs, modelling an attitude that is optimistic and proactive, and being committed to enact positive change through their actions. Our student leaders understand their social responsibility and are encouraged to volunteer in the wider community. It is expected that nominated leaders model exemplary behaviour and uphold our school values of Respect, Responsibility and Reliability to the highest degree.

A wide range of leadership opportunities are available for all students from Year 7 to Year 12. These include: Phoenix Leader (Y7-9), Junior School Captain (Y9), LEO's Leaders (Y9), Peer Mentors (Y10), International Mentors (Y10), You Can Sit With Me (Y10), Student Council Executives (Y11), Indigenous Student Leaders (Y12), Prefects (Y12), House Captains (Y12) and School Captains (Y12).



Special Education Program

We are proud to have one of the Gold Coast's premium Special Education Programs, with more than 100 students currently enrolled.

Special Education is available to those students who have physical, intellectual, visual, hearing or speech impairments, and/or Autistic Spectrum Disorders. All verified Special Education students have an Education Adjustment Profile and engage in a program where the goal is for the students to become active participants in the wider community.

Core subjects focus on work experience, community access, literacy, numeracy and socialisation skills. Students also participate in mainstream elective subjects.

Students in the program can obtain either a Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE) or Queensland Certificate of Individual Achievement (QCIA).

The Special Education Programs department is based in our newly refurbished Special Education building, which features eight state-of-the-art classrooms, a sensory room, a bright meeting space, a kitchen and reception.

All rooms are also fitted with hearing augmentation systems, Braille signage, ducted air and dimmable lighting.





INTERNATIONAL FOCUS

Wellbeing

Under the direction of the Head of Leadership and Wellbeing, along with our Year Level Deans, we prioritise student wellbeing through the fully integrated Wellbeing Program, Merrimac Minds Matter.

The program aims to develop protective factors amongst our students through the promotion, prevention and early intervention of mental health.

Each week students participate in the timetabled wellbeing class, Merrimac Minds Matter, which engages our young people in relevant and meaningful discussions with Phoenix teachers to build relationships, develop resilience and practise mindfulness.

This program has also been designed specifically for the needs of our students after site specific data collection identified peaks in particular student concerns and interventions offered in support. As a result, school-wide term focus units have been established, finding opportunities to develop greater consistency in our student wellbeing approach and engaging our community in positive education.

With multiculturalism and global citizenship at the heart of our ethos, we warmly welcome international students and are proud to offer an enriching local homestay courtesy of our strong engagement with the school community.

Our current student body - representing 42 nationalities - reflects the diverse cultural make up of our school, and includes international students from China, Japan, Brazil, Germany, Norway, Hong Kong, Taiwan and beyond.

As they undertake a challenging academic education, international students experience an enriching cultural immersion through experiences such as a trip to Cairns and Central Queensland, a multi-night stay a Numinbah Valley, a day-trip to one of the Gold Coast's



"The Gold Coast is such a multicultural and friendly place... Choosing to study here has been one of the best decisions I have made. At Merrimac, not only do we receive a quality education, but we learn to communicate as a global citizen".

– Echo Zheng, International Student / Mayor's Student Ambassador 2021.

Student Opportunities

Instrumental Music

It is our aim to provide our students with a solid start and a quality foundation to their musical education that will encourage and support them to be the best musician they can be.

Our expert teachers implement the Queensland Instrumental Music Curriculum from Levels 1 through to 10 with the delivery consisting of a weekly lesson and ensemble rehearsal. We have two programs:

Band Program offers group tuition in flute, clarinet, bass clarinet, alto saxophone, tenor saxophone, trumpet, trombone, baritone horn, euphonium, bass guitar, bass keyboard and percussion.

String Program offers group tuition in violin, viola, cello and double bass. Ensembles include:

- String Ensemble
- String Quartet
- Concert Band
- Stage Band
- Percussion Ensemble
- Year 7 and 8 Band





Sports

Merrimac has a long history of valuing physical activity and promoting overall physical and mental wellbeing. All students from Years 7-12 are encouraged to participate in sport and also utilise the school's extensive sporting facilities during their breaks.

Sporting opportunities for students at Merrimac include:

- Intra-house carnivals (swimming, cross country, track and field)
- Intra-school Friday afternoon sport, including traditional and recreational sporting options
- Representative sporting trials
- Regional and state sporting competitions (touch football, basketball, netball, rugby, and rugby league)

Arts

Spanning drama, music, dance, visual arts, creative arts and media, the Arts Department offers a wide range of curricular and extra-curricular opportunities for students.

Dance Troupe

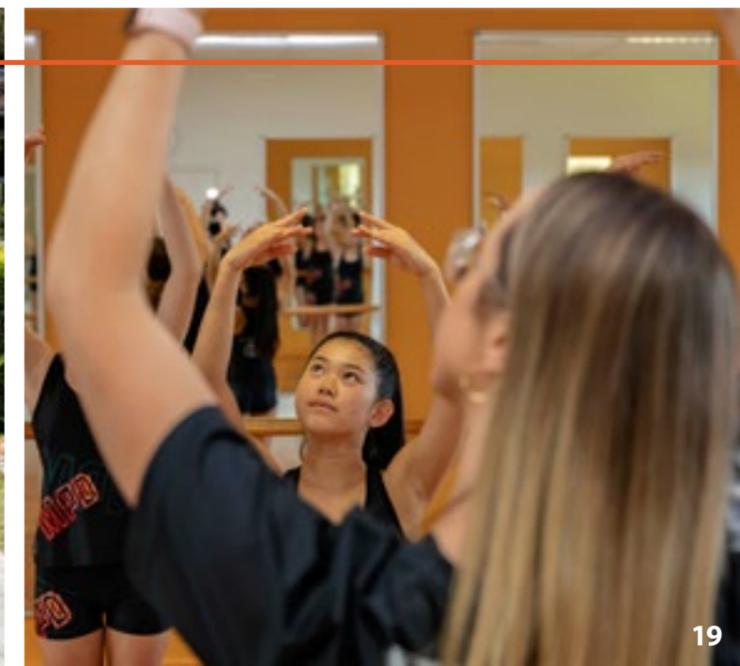
Dance troupe is an audition-based dance group that rehearses outside of school hours, for dance competitions throughout the year. The Troupe is dedicated and hard working and as a result have received great success at dance eisteddfods in South East Queensland.

Musicals

Musicals are run frequently and presented to the community including music, singing and dancing.

Danza

Danza is a dance concert extravaganza showcasing dance work from class and dance troupe. It is staged at Nerang Bicentennial Hall and is a spectacular community event in the Merrimac calendar.



STUDENT SUPPORT

In line with our school philosophy and approach to collective wellbeing, Merrimac is proud to employ an array of staff to assist with student support.

Students can utilise support services from: Guidance Officers, Deans, Psychologists, School Based Youth Health Nurse, Head of Positive Behaviour, Chaplain, Social Worker and Industry Liaison Officer.

Academic support

In addition to welfare support, students are able to receive academic support throughout their schooling here at Merrimac.

The **Lift Program**, available to students in Years 7-9, is designed to provide identified students with additional support in developing essential Literacy and Numeracy skills necessary to successfully engage with the curriculum.

Literacy: In lieu of studying another language, students in the Lift Program will engage in skill-based activities which support the improvement of reading comprehension, spelling and written communication.

Numeracy: During their scheduled Mathematics lesson, students will work in small groups to improve the areas of knowledge that may be hindering their development. The Mathematics Department utilises Waypoints diagnostic testing to identify students with deficits in knowledge that require addressing beyond the regular classroom setting.



In our school we celebrate a range of cultural and national days through the annual calendar. On these occasions, students have the opportunity to watch and participate in cultural dances, traditions and experience culturally diverse foods. In our wellbeing program, Merrimac Minds Matter, students are also given the opportunity to learn about a day of importance and create a memory or tradition.

Chinese Master Class

The Chinese Master Class is designed to help senior Chinese students with:

- Chinese character writing in preparation for external exams
- Chinese daily conversation practice to maximise learning experiences in real situations
- Chinese tea ceremony and calligraphy experience

Multicultural night

Coordinated by the Student Representative Council (SRC), our multicultural night is a long-standing tradition that we value. This celebrated event invites students and members of the wider community to showcase their cultures through the arts and food.





“When leaving primary school, high school was deemed an intimidating part of your future, but I never felt that way at Merrimac. I had instantly found my place, meeting new friends and building relationships with teachers who support me every day.”

– Cullen Paikea, School Captain 2021

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