



Welcome to
Alamanda College
Junior & Middle Schools

2021

YEAR 1-YEAR 6 PROSPECTUS

Dear Parents/Guardians and Students,

At Alamanda, your child will have the opportunity to learn, to shine, to serve, to be part of a vibrant and caring community, to explore, challenge, and to be the best they can be. The "Burrow" program introduces your child to the PYP Program embracing the learner profile as key characteristics of good learners.

Our youngest students will be taught across a range of subject areas providing them with a rich and diverse early learning experience. In the Burrow, the children will begin to understand the Inquiry Program and will work with mathematical concepts, read and write, and spell. Our junior and middle school students will be challenged through an intellectually rich curriculum and rigorous learning experiences.

Children learn best when they are treated in a fair and inclusive manner, made aware of their rights

and responsibilities and encouraged to respect and understand the views of others.

Choosing a school is one of the most important decisions you will make for your child. At Alamanda College, we will strive to nurture the development of well rounded young students who have the attributes to become significant contributors to their world and pursue their individual academic goals in years 10-12 and beyond.

I look forward to meeting you and your family. Together we will build an outstanding educational organisation that will not only serve your family but generations of children.

Warmest regards,

Lyn Jobson
Principal

We propose moving deep learning from the margins of practice for some students to being the foundation of learning for all students at Alamanda College.

CHOOSING A SCHOOL is one of the most important decisions you will make...

OUR VISION

Alamanda College aspires to create a challenging learning environment that develops young people with active minds and ethical spirits who will be able to contribute wisdom, compassion, empathy, integrity and leadership in the global society of which they will all be members.

OUR MISSION

Alamanda College has high expectations of all students and we encourage them to strive to achieve their greatest potential to make a positive contribution to a diverse and ever changing local and global society. We will aspire to be a school renowned as a vibrant community that lives the school's motto of 'Dare to be wise', in all our thoughts and actions.

In embracing the College motto, we will develop creativity and innovation and encourage students to test the limits of their intellectual and physical capabilities whilst displaying their moral convictions through their actions.

We seek to provide a challenging education in a safe, supportive environment. We will strive to build positive relationships within a learning, caring and inclusive school community in order to achieve the best possible educational experience for each student.

Students and staff are expected to engage in the total life of the College and to actively pursue a range of learning opportunities. The ultimate aim is to develop personal qualities and attitudes that will enable students to face the challenges of the future with confidence.

OUR MOTTO

Dare to be wise
Inspire. Shine. Create.

'THINKING,' THE FOUNDATION OF ALL LEARNING

Rapidly changing circumstances and opportunities demand the continuing acquisition of new knowledge, skills and understandings.

Alamanda College understands the importance of encouraging and sustaining students' effective engagement with learning, well after the students have left school.

In order to participate effectively in the 'information societies' of the new millennium, we recognise that an individual needs to be better-informed, to have greater thinking and problem-solving abilities, to be more self-motivated, than ever before.

As a "thinking school", our teaching and learning program will involve all students from Prep to Year 9, and introduces tools such as de Bono's Thinking Hats, Mind Mapping, DATT Tools, Socratic questioning methods and a variety of cognitive thinking processes and strategies that equip our students with the skills to navigate through an information rich future.

The College teachers and students will integrate digital pedagogies throughout the curriculum. Digital pedagogies are new ways of working with learning and ICT to facilitate quality learning experiences for this generation of students. They support personalised and authentic learning and promote the ability to learn and understand within a global context and enable learning experiences to be broadened and deepened.

Alamanda College will be structured into five sub-schools:

- Prep - The Burrow
- Years 1
- Years 2 & 3
- Years 4, 5 & 6
- Years 7, 8 & 9

Each school will have an Assistant Principal, Leading Teacher and Head of School to ensure that the school has a focus on each and every learner. The priority of the school will be the students.

We believe deep learning occurs when learners use acquired knowledge, understanding, insight and thinking skills to solve a range of problems. They worked independently and collaboratively leveraging digital technology to create innovative solutions and pose critical questions. Through their development of self-reflection, inquiry and perseverance, successful learners face new challenges with confidence and tenacity - Fullan, Quinn, McEachen 2017

JUNIOR SCHOOL (PREP-GRADE 6)

TEACHING AND LEARNING

“Learning starts in infancy, long before formal education begins, and continues throughout life. Early learning begets later learning and early success breeds later success.”
- James J. Heckman

The Junior School teaching and learning programs acknowledge the complex needs of each individual child and values and nurtures their childhood.

Our programs will be diverse, yet revolve around a strong commitment to the development of essential literacy and numeracy skills, along with knowledge and understanding of the world.

In Prep we will incorporate many of the philosophies and practices of the “Socratic questioning and critical thinking”, in which the curriculum is child-oriented and teacher-framed. In future years the college will investigate the practices of the “Reggio Emilia approach”. Classroom spaces will be carefully organised for small and large group interaction, while intimate spaces are created as quiet, safe places for one or two children to learn. Central to our philosophy is that play and investigative inquiry is the best learning medium for young children, encouraging them to explore, experiment and develop social, physical and language skills. Numeracy and literacy are key elements, along with knowledge and understanding of the world.

From Years 1 to 6 the curriculum progresses towards more discrete subject areas. The school will investigate the opportunities offered through the International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme.

All skills involved in literacy learning, including reading, writing, spelling and communication skills will be taught both explicitly as well as through an integrated approach.

Children will be working in mixed ability groups whilst receiving differentiated instruction to allow all students to be challenged and literacy support will be provided to those who need additional assistance in these crucial early years.

Mathematics teaching will feature a variety of methods of instruction, from student-centred group or whole-class discussions, small-group investigations, to individuals working one-on-one with another student or the teacher. This classroom interaction helps build relationships among students and between students and the teacher and goes some way towards addressing the varied learning styles and ability levels found in the mathematics classroom.

At Alamanda, children will be encouraged to be caring and responsible people, who work and cooperate with others while acquiring vital knowledge and skills. We will place a strong emphasis on the core subjects of Literacy, Numeracy, Science, History/Geography, Information & Communications Technology, Health and Philosophy. Our classrooms will be modern and well equipped with up-to-date technology including personal iPads.

The core curriculum will be supported by a range of specialist teachers contributing to a broad and balanced curriculum.

Research tells us that a positive partnership between parents and the school is one of the most powerful contributors to enhanced student outcomes. At Alamanda, we will embrace parental involvement and work with the benefits this will bring.

THE ARTS

The Arts is an important aspect of a rounded education. It encourages development of the right hemisphere of the brain, with a focus on fostering creativity and providing students with the opportunity to develop their passion for The Arts. It also encourages students to express themselves, to communicate more effectively, to develop a sense of teamwork and to value and nurture individual gifts and talents.

The Arts program will encompass media, drama, visual arts, photography, music and dance. Students will be able to incorporate instrumental tuition and according to their age and proficiency, are able to join a concert band.

Visual art, music and drama will be integrated into educational experiences for students from Junior School to Year 9, where they are offered a variety of opportunities. This area of study will be a work in progress over the coming years.

CONTACT DETAILS:

If you have any questions or would like to know more about Alamanda College, please contact us on (03) 8376 5200 or visit us at www.alamandacollege.vic.edu.au for further information and updates.

School Address: 86-100 Alamanda Boulevard, Point Cook 3030
Postal Address: PO Box 6606 Point Cook 3030
School email: alamanda.k9@education.vic.gov.au

“Life and learning merge. Learning is most powerful when it is closest to what is important in daily life. Personal purpose and making something worthwhile rules.” - Fullan, Quinn, McEachen 2017

SPORT PROGRAM: *Healthy mind, healthy body*

Alamanda students will participate in sporting programmes including after school sports training and competition against other schools. Inter-school sports will be scheduled for the Junior and Middle schools.

Alamanda will create a strong sporting culture. Participation in sports provides life skills well beyond the focus of sports itself. These values are also enhanced through involvement in inter-house sporting events – A journey full of fun excitement and healthy competition.

INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE

The Primary Years And Middle Years Programme

Alamanda College are currently candidates in the initial authorisation stages of implementing the IB Programme.

The Primary Years Programme (PYP) and Middle Years Programme (MYP) forms part of the International Baccalaureate Organisation.

The PYP and MYP are two of three programmes offered by the International Baccalaureate (IB).

The PYP and MYP draws upon best research and practice from a range of national systems to create a relevant and engaging educational framework for all children. It is a comprehensive, transdisciplinary approach to teaching and learning with an international curriculum model that contains three components:

- How students learn
- How teachers teach
- Assessment practice

The philosophy of the PYP and MYP are defined by the IB mission statement:

“The International Baccalaureate aims to develop inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people who help to create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect.

To this end the organisation works with schools, governments and international organisations to develop challenging programmes of international education and rigorous assessment.

These programmes encourage students across the world to become active, compassionate and lifelong learners who understand that other people, with their difference, can also be right.”

The aim of the programme is to develop internationally minded students who become lifelong learners by becoming active and caring learners. The ten qualities that are identified by the IB are the Learner Profile. Learners strive to be: Inquirers, Knowledgeable, Thinkers, Communicators, Principled, Open-Minded, Caring, Risk-Takers, Balanced and Reflective.

“Our best hope collectively is that deep learners inherit the world.” - Fullan, Quinn, McEachen 2017