OXFORD FALLS GRAMMAR

PROSPECTUS

Our Ethos

For Greatness, For Excellence, For Christ

Our Vision

To develop in each child their unique qualities, equipping them to enjoy a successful, Christ-centred life.

Our Mission

To be a learning community providing Christ-centred educational excellence, encompassing the spiritual, physical, emotional, social and academic development of each student.

Welcome to OXFORD FALLS GRAMMAR

Many of our current students will still be living at the start of the 22nd century. This raises a significant question for parents and school alike: how do we prepare our students for a world that does not yet exist, and one that we can barely imagine?

OFG is a school that is 'informed by its foundations, attuned to the present and preparing for the future'. We are strongly anchored in our Christian foundation creating a rich history and traditions. We are engaged and responsive to the world of the present. However, as we look to the future, we are in the business of empowering young people to be lifelong learners and confident contributors to society; to be well grounded intellectually, psychologically and spiritually. We strive to develop our students' talents, capabilities and skills to equip them, now and in the future, to enjoy a successful Christ-centred life.

A 21st century learning focus and the pursuit of high academic achievement provide expansive opportunities for our students in an ever-evolving world. However, this is only part of the story. Equally important is helping our students develop their character, faith, values and sense of self. At OFG, students from a range of backgrounds experience a strong Christian foundation and a clear compass with which to thrive and confidently navigate the challenging complexities of modern life.

As a co-educational Christian school, we provide a safe environment in which our students can learn and grow together. OFG teachers develop caring positive relationships with their students so that every student is known and supported to be their personal best.

We are also a school where little things mean a lot. We value manners, courtesy, respect, personal deportment.

Please enjoy reading this prospectus and exploring the OFG website which will give you a glimpse of the amazing opportunities that await your child at Oxford Falls Grammar and how we inspire students to be Confident in Life.

Dr Peter Downey
Principal

THE CO-EDUCATIONAL ADVANTAGE

Reflecting the world in which we live, work and play, co-education brings many benefits in preparing our students for our complex and evolving world.

Co-education provides a “real world” environment for boys and girls to grow and learn together, relate to each other and on a daily basis live out the basics of respect, co-operation, kindness and equality. Healthy relationships and attitudes are forged as students come to an understanding of each other, sharing the significant experiences of childhood and adolescence in a safe and positive environment. Boys and girls share leadership and academic opportunities and benefit from equal involvement in sports, camps and co-curricular pursuits.

Co-education normalises and demystifies gender, reduces stereotypes, promotes appropriate behaviours and perspectives and ultimately prepares our graduates for the real world environments of university and the workplace into which they move. Parents with mixed siblings also appreciate the practicalities of having their sons and daughters at the same school, which makes daily family life so much more convenient.

Our Ethos

FOR GREATNESS
Developing confident servant-hearted people of strong character, purpose and attitude

FOR EXCELLENCE
Empowering our community to aspire, learn and work to achieve their full potential

FOR CHRIST
Providing a positive and meaningful experience of Christian faith, hope and life

EXPANSIVE GROUNDS

OFG is located in the hinterland of Sydney's Northern Beaches. The spacious grounds of the Junior and Senior School campuses are designed to maximise the learning, sociability and physical activity of our students. The modern buildings and expansive landscaped grounds provide a wonderful environment for school life at OFG.

The Junior School campus includes the Southwell Oval, an adventure playground and a designated Kindy to Year 2 play area for our littlest students. Senior School students enjoy flexible learning environments including well equipped Science laboratories and specialist Technological and Applied Studies workshops for; electronics, wood and plastics, Textiles and Design and Food Technology.

Our Performing Arts Precinct has purpose-built dance and drama studios, music tuition rooms, a production studio and a dedicated concert and stage band rehearsal room. Our newly created Sports Precinct will feature additional basketball courts, a grass oval for sports and recreation along with a large undercover car park.

HIGH QUALITY ENGAGING TEACHING

Teacher quality is hugely influential on your child's educational success. OFG teachers bring a broad range of experience, talents, interests and perspectives to the classroom. These dedicated professionals guide students from their earliest learning experiences in Kindergarten all the way through to Year 12. To optimise a student's educational success, OFG teachers understand each student's learning needs and teach to the individual and not the average.

The OFG Quality Teaching Program drives innovative, professional development for every teacher in a collaborative, supportive environment. This is an exciting initiative with a direct impact on positive student engagement and learning. At OFG, teachers celebrate the achievements of all students as they learn and grow.

EVERY CHILD EVERY DAY

The wellbeing of students is an essential part of educating the whole child. We desire for our students to be well rounded, healthy, aspirational and generous people with positive attitudes who strive for greatness. Living for greatness also means growing in resilience, independence and integrity.

Our Heads of Wellbeing for the Junior and Senior School work together with teachers and our school counsellors to create a positive learning environment so our students are engaged and successful. Wellbeing and learning are inextricably linked and research shows that effective wellbeing initiatives and strategies enhance student learning. Our wellbeing programs promote the development of a robust character, strong values and a confident identity so students are skilled to actively navigate school life.

CHRISTIANITY IN ACTION

As a community OFG celebrates faith in many ways. Through active involvement in a caring and vibrant Christian community, students gain authentic experiences as they see Christianity lived in practice. Under the guidance of our School Community Chaplain, Youth Chaplain and Christian Studies Teachers, students develop into self-aware, respectful and mindful adults.

In the classroom our contemporary Christian Studies Program engages students from Kindergarten as they explore how God connects with people in a meaningful and purposeful way. Our School Community and Youth Chaplains deliver the Chapel Program, facilitate Christian courses, Connect Groups and organise prayer meetings. These activities ensure our students have a meaningful and positive experience of the Christian faith. OFG's Community Chaplain also has a significant ministry with our parent community including supporting families facing a challenging season.

Our Christian ethos is meaningfully demonstrated through the OFG Outreach Program, a Kindergarten to Year 12 philanthropic initiative that raises money for families and communities across Australia and Asia. In Years 10 and 11, students have the opportunity to participate in an annual overseas mission trip, fostering a strong culture of generosity. We believe it is important to encourage students to think beyond themselves, develop a global perspective and to help others around them.

JUNIOR SCHOOL

BUILDING CONFIDENCE

The OFG educational approach captures and cultivates our youngest students' wonder, curiosity and excitement as they commence school. Our balanced curriculum and positive learning environment builds the spiritual, social, physical and intellectual dimensions of each child, as they discover their passions and develop their identity.

We understand each child is unique and will learn and respond to different styles and approaches. Our teachers foster a genuine love of learning by preparing creative and innovative lessons with the needs of each student in mind. Our specialist sport, language, performing arts, creative arts and music teachers develop each child's talents and passions across their areas of interest.

The development of robust character, strong values and a confident identity are key when educating our youngest students.

Bursting with energy and enthusiasm for learning

Kindergarten lays the important foundation for a child's educational journey. Our teachers design stimulating, play-based academic experiences that develop critical thinking and cultivate lifelong learning. Building a student's literacy and numeracy skills is paramount during this stage of schooling. These are supplemented with subjects such as Music, Drama and Art. STEM, the learning integration of Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths, is introduced in Kindergarten to develop a student's natural process of inquiry and innovation.

"OFG has gone above and beyond in helping our son successfully transition from preschool into Kindergarten. The teachers have been extremely thoughtful and attentive in making the transition go as smoothly as possible."

NICOLA POWELL (OLIVER IN KINDY)

BUILDING CITIZENSHIP AND STRONG CHARACTER

The objective for students in Years 3 to 6 is to strengthen their academic skills, emotional well-being, social abilities, spiritual awareness and personal character. Building on the OFG ethos of educational excellence, students are actively engaged in their learning, connecting their knowledge across curriculum subjects and understanding the responsible use of technology in each class.

As a Christian school, OFG students learn to respect and care for each other. In the Junior School, students proudly support a wide range of local, national and global outreach initiatives. They research and present information on relevant issues and services for OFG to support. Combining curriculum inquiry skills with a compassionate attitude, authentically demonstrates how a culture of compassion and generosity can make a positive difference to people's lives and their community. Our Learning Support Program provides a warm and inclusive environment for students who need additional help.

The OFG Outdoor Education program encourages student adventurers to gain an appreciation for the environment whilst they experience the great outdoors in safe, sustainable ways. Each camp is designed to develop a student's independence, resilience and encourages collaboration through positive interactions with their peers and the environment.

CAMINO PROGRAM

The Camino Program is OFG's Gifted & Talented Extension Program which commences in Kindergarten with the early identification of a student's strengths and talents. Extension classes are taught by specialist teachers who encourage creative, divergent and higher level thinking. There is a dedicated Gifted and Talented class for Years 5 and 6 students, to inspire academically gifted children to achieve their full potential.

SENIOR SCHOOL

A CULTURE OF ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

The OFG Senior School provides an education that is rigorous, engaging and forward thinking. We empower our students to aspire, learn and work to achieve their full potential. We set high expectations to promote a positive growth mindset and encourage confidence and self-belief as students push through comfort zones to obtain new knowledge and skills.

In the Senior School, students pursue a challenging and stimulating curriculum that offers a breadth and depth of study, with access to a large range of courses including accelerated coursework. Senior students build intellectual confidence through the development of critical analysis and creative thinking as they pursue their educational areas of interest.

Senior students are placed into mentor groups under the care of Year Advisors and Mentors. They are responsible for the academic progress and wellbeing of their students, and are the first point of communication with parents. The wellbeing of our students is integral in their development and we desire for OFG students to be well-rounded, growing in resilience, independence and integrity.

Our Camino Program continues through Senior School and offers appropriate differentiation for our most academically gifted and talented students. In keeping with research, Camino students engage with a differentiated curriculum deeply exploring complex and abstract ideas at a faster pace. To ensure all individual learning needs are met, our specialist Learning Support teachers provide direct and timely assistance to students that require additional support.

Life in the OFG Senior School is exciting and rewarding as students are encouraged to pursue academic and personal excellence whilst observing the OFG's ethos of; For Greatness, For Excellence, For Christ.

> "We are thrilled with the journey that Charlie has taken with OFG. The programs and encouragement in place enabling him to grow in confidence and extend his ability."
>
> RACHEL CARROLL (CHARLIE YEAR 10)

THE POWER OF SELF-EXPRESSION

PERFORMING ARTS

At OFG, Performing Arts are integral to a student's academic life. All students are given the opportunity to graduate with the power to create and appreciate the arts for a lifetime. We expose students to a myriad of expressions found in the worlds of dance, drama and music. Students are encouraged to discover their artistic abilities and develop their voices. New ideas and subject matter shape the learning landscape.

An arts education at OFG goes beyond the studio and the stage. On-campus opportunities include school-wide performances, portfolio exhibitions, HSC Showcases and visits by well-known artists. Offsite our students compete at Eisteddfods, Dance Competitions and Theatre Sports. All these aspects are brought together with our biannual school musical.

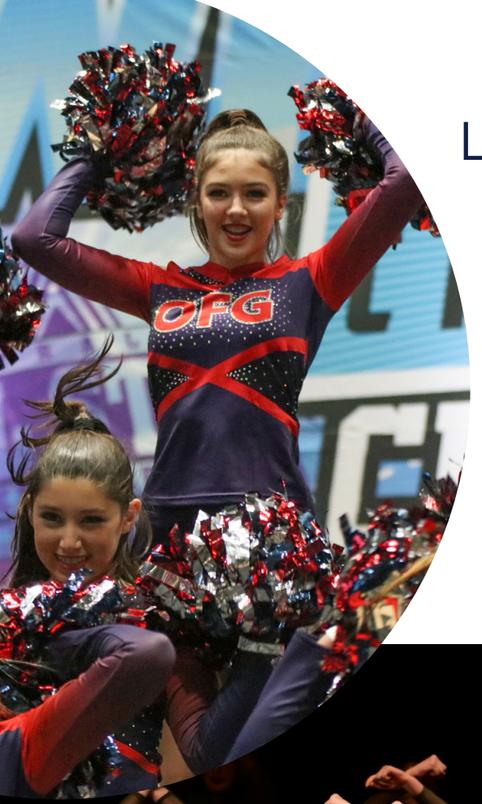
The Sound of Music

Music has the capacity to engage, enrich and inspire, encouraging each student to reach their creative and expressive potential. Whether your child's passion is guitar, percussion, woodwind, vocal or a brass instrument, OFG has an ensemble or performance group to meet their musical interests. Co-curricular and private tuition programs complement class based academic programs and are open to all students from Kindergarten to Year 12.

MUSIC ENSEMBLES

OFG offers an extensive range of music groups for our students to join including:

- Concert Band
- Junior & Senior Stage Band
- Junior (Development) Band
- Pop and Rock Bands
- Symphonic Wind Ensemble
- Woodwind Ensembles
- Percussion Ensembles
- Bass Ensembles
- Guitar Ensembles
- K–2 Choir
- Junior Choir



LET'S DANCE

Dance participation promotes creativity, self-expression, confidence, fitness and collaboration as students develop fundamental movement and technical skills. Working individually and within groups, students learn structured dance sequence movements and use the elements of dance and choreographic devices to communicate meaning through dance.

Dance is offered as a co-curricular activity from Years 1 to 12, with a variety of ensembles including lyrical, jazz, hip hop, technique and musical jazz. Performances include the annual Dance Showcase, school assemblies and eisteddfods. Our dedicated dance teachers have inspired and guided our passionate dance students to successfully compete at competitions throughout Sydney. In Years 9 to 12, dance is offered as an elective curriculum subject with a specialist teacher.

CREATING CHARACTERS

OFG students' imagination and creative expression is stimulated through our Drama Program. Students develop voice and movement skills to create character, mood and dramatic atmosphere. Self-confidence is built through a variety of acting techniques and presenting skills. Our specialist drama teachers bring authentic, real life experience to the stage, giving students endless inspiration from which to draw.

Drama is offered as a weekly co-curricular activity from Kindy to Year 12 culminating in school wide performances to the OFG community and participation at interschool competitions. Drama can be taken as an elective subject in Years 9 to 12 where the broader aspects of dramatic play are explored including; theatre history, improvisation, text analysis and practitioner acting theories.

HEALTHY COMPETITION

Sport is an integral and vibrant part of OFG school life from Kindergarten to Year 12. Through active participation in the OFG Sports Program, students develop a wonderful culture of team spirit to achieve their personal best. Students are involved in a variety of summer and winter sports to develop a healthy appreciation for competition, inspiring confidence, teamwork and active living.

Students participate in our annual swimming, athletic and cross country carnivals. We are a member and compete in the interschool competitions of the PISA, CSSA (Christian School Sports Association) and the CIS (Combined Independent Schools). Our elite athletes are given the opportunity to trial for representative teams at a National level.

The Falls Academies

Students have the opportunity to participate in the Falls Academies for Tennis, Football and Basketball. Each Academy develops and enhances individual skill and technical development in each sport. Our experienced coaches provide an inspirational training environment, empowering students to achieve their personal best and build confidence.

OFG offers the following sports:

- Basketball
- Football
- Netball
- Athletics
- Tennis
- Swimming
- Rugby Union
- Rugby League
- AFL
- Touch Football
- Gymnastics
- Softball
- Rock Climbing
- Surfing
- Snow Sports*
- Mountain Biking*
- Equestrian*

** Facilitated externally*

CITIZENS OF THE WORLD

OFG is committed to preparing students for participation in a global community, therefore international topics are woven throughout the curriculum and co-curricular programs. Guest speakers and special events complement classroom offerings.

OFG offers educational trips to a variety of international destinations. Trips have included:

- Year 10 and 11 Mission Trips to the Philippines to work with local communities and build facilities and mentor children
- OFG Football Team touring China and playing soccer with local Chinese students
- OFG Dance Group touring the East Coast of America and immersing themselves into the world of Dance.

A CULTURE OF GENEROSITY

OFG instills in its students a sense of responsibility to the larger community, connecting our classroom curriculum with opportunities for involvement with local communities and initiatives across the region. Students choose to go out help others in need. The Christian spirit of giving back is pervasive and students are involved in service activities each year. A selection of OFG community partners include; Child Action Lanka, C3 Cares and local Women's Shelters.

The world beyond the classroom is an invaluable learning space where students extend and apply their knowledge. This exposure ensures that students understand how their participation makes an impact. Through the Urban Challenge service learning program OFG students participate in practical and meaningful community service activities with their friends at; Kids Giving Back, Thread Together, Rough Edges, Wayside Chapel and The Big Issue Classroom. These communities provide education about the issues surrounding homelessness in Sydney such as substance abuse, domestic violence, unemployment and mental illness.

JOIN OUR COMMUNITY

"I started at OFG in Kindy and really enjoyed all the educational experiences on offer, especially exploring my own creativity through multi-media. The confidence I feel today stems from the support of my teachers and the wonderful group of lifelong friends I have made."

BELLA MALCOLM (2019)

OXFORD
FALLS
GRAMMAR

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