



ST PETERS  
GIRLS

# Headstart Program



Start the final  
years of school  
with an advantage

# Headstart Program at St Peter's Girls

St Peter's Girls' School's Headstart Program supports students as they embark on their final years of schooling.

The Headstart program is a structured introduction to Years 11 and 12 subjects, which our students undertake at the end of Term 4.

Headstart facilitates a smooth transition into the following year's studies by providing a clear introduction of what is expected in each subject. Headstart ensures students are ready to confidently engage with each subject on the first day of the new school year.

## Year 11 Program

Year 10 students participate in a program to prepare for the commencement of their SACE or IB studies. Students are introduced to the requirements of each of their subject choices

## Year 12 Program

Year 11 students participate in a program with experienced Year 12 teachers who discuss course outlines, content and assessment tasks for each subject. Students typically complete one double session for each subject.

The program also assists students to affirm their subject choices, minimising subject changes at the beginning of the school year.

## Ready for the year ahead

On completion of Headstart, students often feel comfortable about their subject choices, and understand what is required of them. The program provides a clear road map to guide students through their studies the following year. In addition, students are able to build early rapport with their teachers.

## Student Voice

"The Headstart program has been an extremely valuable aspect to our Year 12 studies. It allowed us to be fully aware of the courses we are undertaking and gave us a chance to ask questions, decide if the course was right and provided the opportunity to get a start on some work over the holidays, lightening the load for the start of the year. I would definitely recommend that more schools undertake the Research Project in Year 11, as it prepares you so well for Year 12 subjects." – *Georgina*

"Our Research Project sessions during Term 4 in Year 10 enable students to consider directions for their personal investigations, acquainting them with the curriculum and assessment structures. This exposure empowers students to independently initiate their research prior to formal instruction which is delivered in Year 11. Throughout this course, students develop a range of capabilities, become acquainted with a diversity of research processes and sources whilst taking individual responsibility for the development and management of this cross-curricular subject. The advantages of completing this course prior to Year 12 are many. Foremost is the range of academic skills and competencies they experience and often master." – *Miss Hollis*

Your daughter will also benefit from two subjects taught earlier than the usual placement

The **Personal Learning Plan** (PLP) is a compulsory SACE Stage 1 subject, normally undertaken during Year 11. Students at St Peter's Girls complete this subject in Year 10.

The PLP provides students with an opportunity to reflect on themselves as learners, and consider future study and career pathways in a supported environment. Students identify goals and plan how to achieve them.

A practical component of the PLP curriculum is a dedicated work place learning program, held in Term 2. This is a real-world learning experience that gives the girls an understanding of what the industry has to offer.

The **Research Project** is a compulsory SACE Stage 2 subject. St Peter's Girls students undertake the Research Project during Year 11.

The Research Project gives students the opportunity to study in depth an area of interest. Students use their creativity and initiative, while developing their research and presentation skills. Students synthesise their key findings to produce a research outcome, which is substantiated by evidence. They evaluate their research process and the quality of their outcome. By understanding the Research Project at Year 11, students are provided with a firm foundation in research, analytical thinking and skills in the synthesis of information that will hold them in good stead for all Stage 2 (Year 12) subjects.

## Student Voice

"Completing the Research Project in Year 11 gave us a great advantage for Year 12. While completing the project, my research skills improved so much and from day one of Year 12 I have been able to incorporate those skills into my subjects." – *Ashleigh*

The Headstart program is incredibly valuable in a subject such as English because it allows the girls time to develop a more sophisticated understanding of the novels they are studying, as they continue to reflect on the ideas over the summer break. – *Mrs English*

## More information

For further details about how your daughter can benefit from our innovative Headstart program, contact the Deputy Principal/Head of Senior School, Kate Mortimer or Acting Director of Teaching & Learning, Brian Parsons on 8334 2200.

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