Beaconhills College

let your light shine...
Let your light shine – Lux Luceat

Lux Luceat – Let your light shine – is our College motto. We encourage each student to find his or her own way to shine. We want them to discover their own strengths and light the lives of others.

“Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven”

Matthew 5:16 (NRSV)
A snapshot

Beaconhills College offers affordable but high quality education, setting it apart in the region. We are an independent, open-entry, co-educational Christian College with campuses in Pakenham and Berwick.

Our strengths lie in our strong sense of community within our school, from our infants and Early Learning years right through to Year 12. The school was founded more than 30 years ago on Christian principles and these underpin all of our College programs and how we care for our students.

Our aim

At Beaconhills we educate the whole child, to help each one develop spiritually, intellectually, physically and emotionally. We challenge our students - and inspire and nurture them to achieve excellence in everything they do.

Our pledge

Our holistic approach to education inspires excellence and nurtures confident, independent learners with the values they need to be responsible, caring citizens in their local and global communities.

At Beaconhills College, we foster individual talents and strengths. We know if students pursue their passion, excellent results will follow naturally.

The spirit of excellence

Excellence at Beaconhills is more than about achieving high scores or finishing at the top of the State. Excellence is a state-of-mind that all young people need to understand and apply to all walks of life. Whether it is in behaviour, appearance or commitment on the sporting field or on the stage, we encourage and expect our students to strive for excellence.
“Beaconhills College gives me such a wide range of choices. The facilities and teacher support are excellent.”

Maddison L., Year 12
Good reasons to choose Beaconhills

We have a proud 30-year history in the community and a proven track record of success.

Our teachers

At Beaconhills we are proud of our teachers and value their commitment to giving our students the best education. We understand the importance of quality teaching. We ensure our teachers are not only passionate educators in their field but know how to motivate and inspire our students to be enthusiastic and skilled learners.

Our strengths

- Caring teachers who nurture every student to help them achieve their best
- Diverse curriculum with huge choice, including the VCE years
- A solid record of academic results, kick-starting many successful careers in business, performing arts, sport and academia
- Technology trail-blazer — one of the largest iPad programs in the Southern Hemisphere
- Holistic education that inspires excellence and nurtures confident, independent learners
- Chaplains, counsellors and comprehensive pastoral care network to support students’ spiritual and emotional wellbeing
- Beautiful grounds and modern facilities
- Endless opportunities to pursue interests in sport, the performing arts, travel and the great outdoors
- Strong emphasis on community service, helping those in need here and abroad through projects in East Timor and Bangladesh
- All-inclusive fees, so no more dipping into your pocket to cover expenses such as excursions or Outward Bound programs

Proven results

Whether they are headed for the workplace, TAFE or university, we support all of our students to achieve their goals and succeed.

Increasing numbers of Beaconhills College students are receiving VCE Season of Excellence awards, placing them among the best in the State for their work in the areas of Technology, Media, Visual Arts and Performing Arts.

Academic success is celebrated both through the College’s award ceremonies across all year levels and by encouraging students to compete against their peers in external debating, spelling, literature or mathematics competitions at state and national level.

Our student feedback strongly demonstrates a high regard for our teachers and their dedication to inspiring and supporting students in their studies.

Beaconhills alumni include a Rhodes Scholar, a quantum physicist, successful business owners, a famous chef, baseball star and overseas care worker. Each found his or her own path at Beaconhills College.
Our College

While each student is part of the larger Beaconhills community, each sub-school within the College has been designed to maintain a small community feel.

Students never feel lost at Beaconhills. We have five sub-schools - Little Beacons Learning Centre (childcare and Early Learning), Junior School (Prep-Year 4) Middle School (Years 3-8), Year 9 and Senior School (Years 10-12). Each sub-school is its own small community and the transition between year levels is a process managed carefully by our teaching staff and leadership teams.

Religion and values

Starting from Junior School, students take part in regular Religion and Values Education (RAVE) classes. The classes focus on the spiritual nurture of our students in a Christian context and the teaching of tolerance and respect for all faiths. In Year 10, all students study Ethics and can continue their studies in VCE through Religion and Society units.

Each House has an annual church service, a gathering of College families. These services are also major fundraisers for our schools in East Timor and Bangladesh.

Little Beacons

Growing young minds

Little Beacons is a spacious, peaceful environment where children can grow and develop on their path through life.

The high quality standards set by our Little Beacons Learning Centre are evident the minute you step through the door.

The Centre earned an unprecedented 100 per cent rating from the National Childcare Accreditation Council. It offers:

- Enquiry-based learning
- Use of natural materials, providing unique opportunities to explore and develop without overstimulation
- A collaborative approach to care
- Excellent communication enhanced through the use of Sharing Journals containing photos, artwork and learning stories and documentation. This reflects the children’s sense of belonging in their community
- Electronic portfolios given to families that track learning stages and developmental milestones
- Highly qualified staff and small group sizes
Junior School

Setting the foundation

Students at Junior School receive the best individual care and attention to help develop their self-esteem and confidence.

The Junior School curriculum focuses on laying firm foundations in English, Mathematics and fundamental learning skills, along with developing a positive attitude and healthy social skills.

In the classroom

Each class teacher integrates Science, Humanities, Health, Computer Studies and Technology within topic-based study units. Specialist subjects include Physical Education, French, Japanese, Visual Arts, Performing Arts and Religion and Values Education – all taught by specialist staff. Students also take part in camps and a swimming program, part of the all-inclusive College fees.

Junior School students have extensive opportunities to take part in the Performing Arts, from our Year 2 Strings Program to involvement in College musicals.

Middle School

Consolidating and strengthening

Middle Schooling, Years 5 to 8, has proved to be highly effective in meeting the unique needs of students in those crucial years between primary and secondary schooling.

Students in these years develop autonomy, problem-solving skills and the ability to work co-operatively with others.

Middle School is an exciting and vibrant place with exhibitions and celebrations of learning a regular feature. Students take part in the Relay for Life to raise money for cancer research, a Variety Night, Performing Arts Festival and Middle School Expo – a creative showcase of student projects and performances.

In the classroom

Year 5 students have one core teacher who takes English, Mathematics, Science and Humanities. At Years 6 and 7 students have two significant teachers who teach a combination of English/Humanities and Mathematics/Science classes, ensuring the vital links between these subjects are consolidated. By Year 8, students move to working with specialist teachers in the areas of Mathematics, Science, English and Humanities.

Students who achieve the highest subject marks each semester receive certificates of Academic Excellence.
Year 9
Discovery, independence and experience

Our College recognised many years ago that Year 9 was a critical time where teenagers can lose interest in school. It is a time where they also begin to explore their world view and question their place in it. So we designed a unique Year 9 program delivered from our purpose-built Year 9 Centres.

In the classroom

Year 9 is an exciting year of opportunities, but also a year where students build on the essential skills needed to take them through senior schooling.

Year 9 Centres at both campuses are purpose-built multimedia-rich places of learning, staffed by teachers with special skills in teaching Year 9s. The focus is not only about learning through experience but providing challenges and fostering independence, decision-making, team-building and character development in our young people.

At Year 9 students have the opportunity to select from a broad range of electives and choose their academic pathway to the Senior School. As part of the core program students complete units in Mathematics, English, Science, Humanities, Personal Development, Physical Education and a choice of French or Japanese.

Key features of our Year 9 program:

- Focus on Experiential Learning
- 'Personal Best'. Students spend a term creating a major project that is their personal passion – everything from restoring a boat to creating an intricate fashion garment.
- Experiencing Melbourne. 'City Experience' is a time to explore Melbourne’s amazing diversity and discover its history, geography and art. Regular city visits include spending time with charity groups such as Urban Seed and the Salvation Army.
- Out of the comfort zone. Year 9 students can tour Vietnam working in schools and an orphanage, help rebuild our sister school in East Timor or do a nine-day ‘Outward Bound’ trek in the Snowy River region with rafting, abseiling and climbing.
- 'Common Good' is a chance for students to extend their awareness and become responsible global citizens. They may raise funds for our sister schools in East Timor and Bangladesh, support a charity of their choice, work in a soup kitchen or volunteer in a variety of ways.
- Care and support. Students meet each morning in House groups with a staff tutor. Counsellors, chaplains and nurses form part of a strong student welfare support network.
Senior School
Focusing and finishing

Choosing the right academic path is essential in Senior School and Beaconhills College has the crucial ingredients - diversity of choice and the right senior teachers.

Huge choice

Students can choose a diverse range of pathways to suit their own strengths and interests. There are no less than 42 VCE units with a possible 400 course combinations.

Proven success

Beaconhills has an excellent history of high academic results, with students receiving Premier's Awards in English, Chemistry, Economics, Theatre Studies, Systems Engineering and Visual Communication and Design. Many students have also earned VCE Season of Excellence awards in Top Arts, Top Class, Top Screen and Top Designs, placing them amongst the State's best.

We encourage our high achievers to join the ‘Lux Lucent Society’, which has a scholars’ dinner each term. These dinners present guest speakers from all walks of life, including many high-achieving alumni, to inspire and further educate our students about their future opportunities.

Supportive teachers

A number of our Senior School teachers are involved in curriculum development and exam assessment at a state level.

We encourage our students to develop a strong relationship with our Careers Counsellors. Career guidance starts in Year 9 and also involves Heads of Senior School, Heads of Senior Learning, Heads of Senior Students and Heads of House.
“The Wellness and Wellbeing program equips our students with the essential tools they need to understand their personal strengths, cope with life's challenges and make great life choices.”

Yvonne Ashmore
Student Counsellor
Wellness and wellbeing

The College has a highly comprehensive Wellness and Wellbeing Program. We support our students to become confident, happy and resilient individuals who can be their best.

Student Wellness and Wellbeing is supported by Heads of House, tutors and teachers, the school nurse, our three counsellors and five chaplains as well as the pastoral care staff such as heads of section and careers counsellors - all highly engaged in student care.

Core wellbeing goals

The mental and physical wellbeing of our students is of paramount importance. Our Wellness and Wellbeing program includes a carefully-devised case management and referral safety net. It focuses on four key goals:

1. Community spirit
   This goal focuses on developing and strengthening the individual, to benefit the wider community. We equip our young leaders to support other students and we emphasise messages such as cybersafety, anti-bullying and positive relationships.

2. Healthy mind
   A range of strategies for students and parents includes dynamic age-appropriate wellbeing programs, parenting programs with inspiring speakers on mental health awareness, student counselling and staff support and regular student presentations on wellbeing through the Assembly program.

3. Accurate information
   Staff are specifically trained to deal with youth issues in a sensitive and informed way. As students move through Middle and Senior Schools, they are equipped with information on subjects such as risky behaviours, stress management and personal safety. The College also provides a Wellbeing App on student iPads and information on the website, general wellbeing information through the College and strong links with external providers.

4. Personal achievement
   Students are encouraged to take on challenges in College life, whether it is in the academic, sporting or leadership arena. We recognise and praise the achievement of personal goals - this also inspires other students to do their best.

Everybody in the House

Beaconhills has eight Houses named after our College pioneers and each student ‘belongs’ to a House. This culture enables the College to promote each student’s sense of identity, belonging and self-esteem. Led by the staff tutor, House groups comprise of students from a range of year levels. As well as daily morning meetings, there are weekly House meetings and Headmaster’s Assemblies.

Students are proud of their House and there is a friendly rivalry between Houses on the sporting field, the stage and in debating and public speaking competitions.
Outdoor Education

Resilience in the outdoors

Outdoor Education endeavours to take students out of their comfort zone and challenge them physically, emotionally and spiritually.

Whether it’s rock climbing at Mt Arapiles, rafting on the Mitchell River or hiking through the Snowy River National Park, the Outdoor Education Program aims to challenge and change students’ lives.

The program umbrella stretches across a range of curricular and co-curricular activities. Co-curricular sports such as kayaking and snowsports come under the banner, as do the curriculum-based programs starting in Year 5 and culminating in VCE Outdoor and Environmental Studies – a VCE subject.

The College employs specialist staff to manage and develop the program, with the support of professional Outdoor Education providers.

Vital life skills

Outdoor Education’s deeper purpose is to help children develop important life skills they need to take into adulthood. Many skills they gain underpin academic success.

School camps, for example, are often seen as a ‘bolt-on’ experience to the school curriculum, but we believe they have a greater role to play. Students learn quickly on our programs that actions have consequences in the outdoors and they must communicate, work as a team, problem-solve, respect their peers and learn new skills.

“The Outdoor Education program is far-reaching – it give students opportunities to problem-solve, resolve conflict, develop resilience and those life skills that can’t be taught in the classroom.”

Sam Maddock
Head of Outdoor Education
Personal development

Healthy body, healthy mind

All students from Preparatory to Year 4 have three Physical Education classes a week led by specialist teachers. Years 3 and 4 students have an extra 90 minutes of class sport each fortnight.

In Middle School, students have a double lesson of Physical Education plus extra Health classes that introduce students to the importance of healthy life choices. At Year 8 students complete a Fitness and Health module where they work on their personal fitness as well as learning about the importance of nutrition. Students also participate in weekly House sport competitions.

The Year 9 program covers a wide variety of physical activity, including Physical Education and Outward Bound, centred around Personal Best and exploring diverse recreational activities.

In the Senior years, advanced Physical Education and Human Movement Recreation are offered as electives in Year 10. For VCE, subject choices include Health and Human Development, Physical Education, and Outdoor and Environmental Studies.

Rising to the challenge

The College is now part of the new SEISA (South Eastern Independent Schools Association). Students compete in swimming, athletics, cricket, tennis, basketball, softball, cross-country, hockey, soccer, football and volleyball. Years 3 to 12 students take part in Inter-House carnivals.

Students from Year 3 onwards who perform well in their sport can progress to zone or state level and may represent the College in state or national events.
Caring for culture and community

Global outlook
Beaconhills College is a ‘global’ school. We arm our students with the knowledge they need to meet the challenges and opportunities of a borderless world.

Our Global Beacons program is the intersection of a busy two-way traffic flow between the College and the wider world.

From Year 9 onwards, students may choose to travel to Bangladesh or East Timor to help establish schools in these developing countries. A cultural tour of Vietnam, including community service in an orphanage, is also offered in Year 9. Students can also join an exciting World Challenge expedition to countries such as Vietnam and Laos, discover China, take an art trip to New York or Italy or win a local essay competition to walk Papua New Guinea’s famous Kokoda Trail.

Our youngest students learn about other cultures and countries. International students from Japan, Hong Kong or Malaysia are regular visitors to all year levels. International students working here on their ‘Gap’ year are popular helpers in many parts of the College.

Our popular Homestay program gives all of our College families the chance to learn more about other cultures and languages. Hosting an international student is rewarding and often forges life-long international friendships.

Learning a language
Our French and Japanese language programs offer fantastic cultural travel opportunities. We have two annual trips to French schools - “Immaculée Conception” in Laval and “Lycée Saint Exupéry” in Bourg St Maurice in the heart of the beautiful French Alps. Senior School students studying Japanese can visit our sister school in Ibaraki, combined with a cultural tour of cities such as Tokyo, Kyoto and Hiroshima, while Middle School students can stay with families at Linden Hall Elementary School in Fukuoka.

French and Japanese are introduced at Preparatory level at the College through songs, legends and folk stories and basic teaching of the Japanese alphabet.
Community connections

The College has always recognised that we can make a difference – individually and collectively – to the lives of those less fortunate. Our community service activities are established through all levels of the College, with annual fundraising for various charities now running to the tens of thousands of dollars each year.

Our students help raise funds for our school and kindergarten in Bangladesh built by CO-ID, a charity organisation which has built 45 schools for children in the poorest parts of the country. This is the major House project for the Pakenham Campus.

Our efforts have also supported the rebuilding of our friendship school in the Hatolia district in East Timor, the major Berwick Campus project.

The Common Good component of our Year 9 program encourages students to research a social issue and find a solution, including a fundraising project, which they then share with their parents and the community.

Project charity

Pakenham and Berwick Campuses participate each term in a major charity event, such as the ‘Drive for 4Cs’ Emergency Food Bank, Relay for Life and Operation Christmas Shoebox. There are, as well, four visits a year from the Red Cross Blood Bank, which recruits more than 200 College students and staff donors annually. Added to these are many fundraisers each year to respond to a specific need.
Pursuing your passion

Dancing or double bass? Kayaking or cricket? Beaconhills College students have a myriad of opportunities to discover and develop their passion.

Performing Arts

Our Performing Arts Departments are top-notch and have helped launch professional careers in dance, drama and music. The College also has an impressive list of students who have achieved Top Class awards.

From Preparatory level, every student has the chance to experience Performing Arts through the curriculum, co-curricular activities and the House system.

Performance instills confidence, discipline, courage and pride.

Choirs, dance groups, theatre sports, guitar groups, jazz bands, string orchestras and drama clubs are just some of the ways to be involved. Students perform in annual concerts and at assemblies, as well as in Performing Arts festivals, musical productions and interstate tours.

Performance facilities include teaching studios, recording studios and professional-standard performance venues.

“Ms Jensen (Head of Drama) was always there if I wanted extra help with my performance and was always encouraging me to try harder.”

Chris Edwards
former student and VCE Season of Excellence winner
Co-curricular

Students can extend their horizons with a huge choice of activities during and beyond the school day. Every student is encouraged to take part in at least one activity. It may be helping with the light and sound crew in Performing Arts, or joining in debating, public speaking or chess competitions.

Co-curricular sports range from sailing to snow skiing, kayaking or equestrian. The Beaconhills Australian Army Cadet Unit is highly respected in the region and offers the chance to develop leadership, teamwork and self-discipline. The Unit forms the Honour Guard at the Dawn Service each year and leads the College commemorative services.

Junior School students take part in after school activities ranging from tennis and cooking classes to knitting with elderly residents from a local retirement village.
Our campuses

Pakenham Campus

Pakenham Campus opened in 1982 and is nestled in the picturesque Toomuc Valley on 18 hectares of beautiful grounds. The Pakenham Campus incorporates the Little Beacons Learning Centre. Other features include:

- New Global Beacons (International) Centre and Middle School development
- Outdoor Amphitheatre
- Purpose-built Senior School
- Lecture Theatre with video conferencing facilities
- Fully-landscaped separate Year 9 Centre
- Human Movement Centre with two full-size indoor multi-purpose courts
- 800 seat Performing Arts Auditorium with professional sound and lighting
- Solar-powered Science and Technology Centre
- Food Technology Centre
- Full wireless networking
- Fully-equipped Junior School with interactive whiteboards
- Fully-resourced Visual Arts Centre
- All-purpose sporting fields
Berwick Campus

The Berwick Campus opened in 2003 and overlooks the townships of Berwick and Beaconsfield. Its modern facilities include:

- Purpose-built Senior School and Year 9 Centre
- New $3.9 million Technology Centre
- Lecture Theatre with video conferencing facilities
- Sporting facilities which include a multi-purpose stadium with indoor double courts and aerobics and weights room
- Food Technology Centre
- Outdoor multi-purpose courts and running track
- Performing Arts Auditorium
- Fully-equipped Junior School with interactive whiteboards
- Full wireless networking
- Cutting-edge Visual Arts Centre
“Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven”

Matthew 5:16 (NRSV)