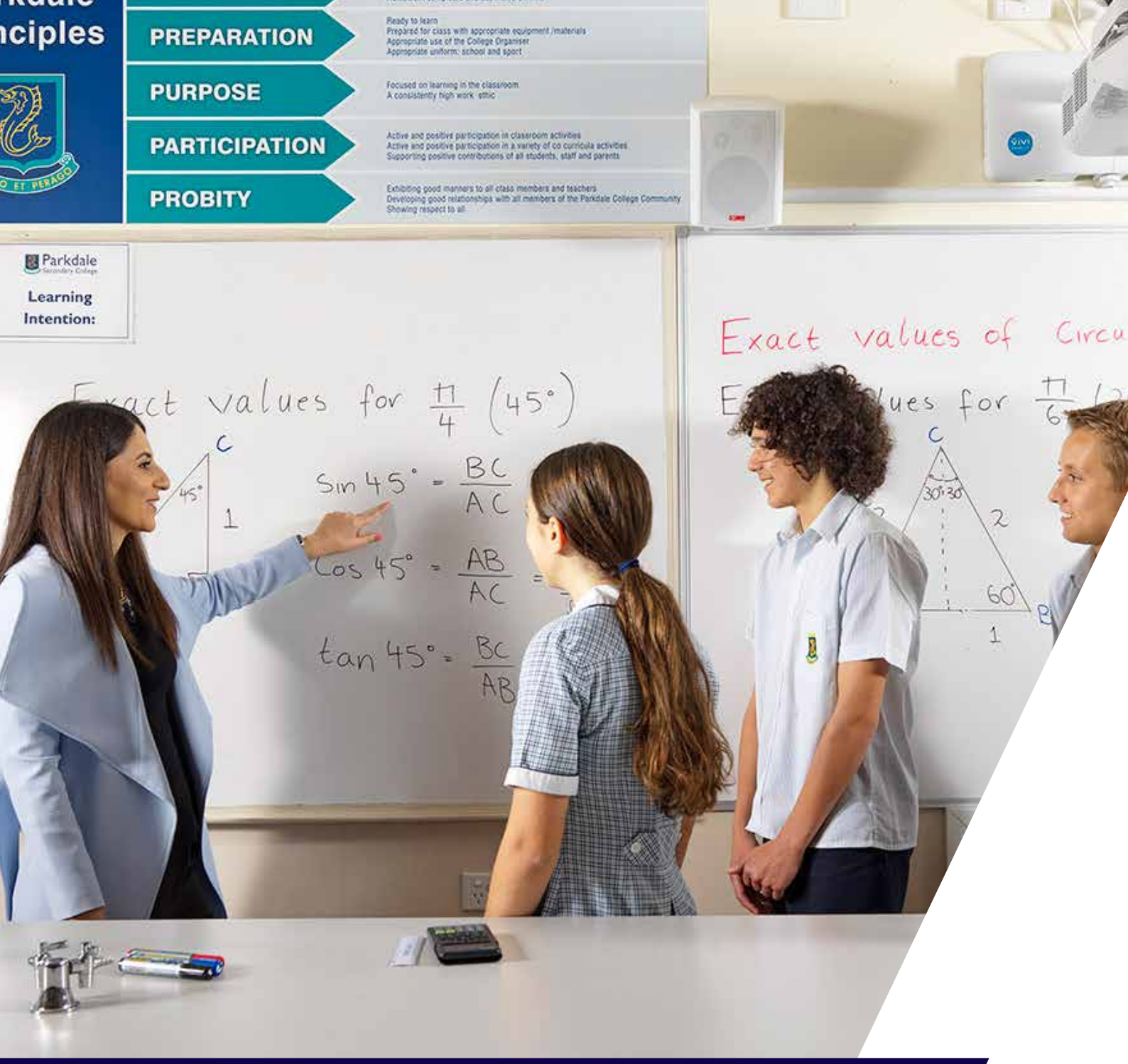
PARKDALE SECONDARY COLLEGE

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT PROGRAM

Victoria, Australia
Department of Education

VICTORIA
State Government
Australia



OUR AIM IS TO PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL STUDENTS TO DEVELOP NETWORKS AND LINKS THAT SPAN THE GLOBAL DIVIDE.

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Parkdale Secondary College is committed to providing the best possible educational opportunities for all students.

Our College is a place of academic learning; a place where the emotional, social and physical wellbeing of all our students is at the heart of all we do.

Success is embraced for every student.

Our dedicated teaching staff support, guide and challenge each student to become curious and resilient learners who strive to achieve their best. Plus, ensure they are well prepared to engage in their future pathways.

David Russell
Principal

WHY CHOOSE PARKDALE SECONDARY COLLEGE?

Our international students come from various countries and study with us for a few terms to a few years. A full team supports our international students and this includes a deputy principal, international student coordinator and homestay coordinator. They focus on each students' wellbeing and safety.

We have a range of programs specifically for international students including:

- our onsite intensive English language centre
- a tutoring program
- an international student leadership and buddy program.

Our language teachers are highly qualified in English as an Additional Language (EAL) and come from a variety of cultural backgrounds and speak several different languages. This includes Vietnamese; Khmer; Japanese; French; and Spanish.

An academic program fostering excellence

Parkdale Secondary College offers an extensive range of subjects across all year levels. The Victorian Curriculum F-10 forms a strong foundation of studies from Years 7 to 10. The elective subjects ensure students gain greater agency in following pathways in which they have a strong interest or passion.

Additional programs also support this core program. For example, enhancement classes, enrichment academy programs; as well as clubs and leadership courses.

Being a larger secondary college ensures our Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE) students have a broad range of subjects to choose from. Many of our international students enjoy studying subjects across sciences; business; health; physical education; and the arts.

Our VCE teachers are very dedicated to their students' success

VCE teachers work with our students outside of class time providing additional support. Our large senior centre offers two separate study areas that are open to students from 7:30 am to 6 pm each day. We also offer free maths tutoring at school every Tuesday afternoon.

We encourage our international students to study their first language as a VCE subject and they receive assistance to enrol in community language schools in our local area.

The enhanced learning program encourages the study of more complex and abstract concepts in class, with a greater emphasis on higher order thinking skills.

The Year 7 maths and science enhancement program extends students in the skills required to study scientifically and mathematically.

Offering a VCE support program

On Wednesday afternoons our students partake in a VCE support program. This is an opportunity for students to work with teachers to build aspiration, set goals and develop the skills required to be successful in their final years school.

Workshops are run focusing on specific actions students can put in practise; as well as teaching strategies they can implement to look after their physical health and wellbeing.

Activities and programs bringing the student experience to life

Parkdale Secondary College offers a dynamic, stimulating and engaging learning journey. The teaching and enriching of opportunities are all additional support the school provides.

We challenge each student to aspire and reach their full potential both academically and as effective and caring members of the wider community.

Our programs include:

- renowned enrichment academy programs for students who share a passion in one of the following areas:
  - sport
  - performing arts (dance, acting and music)
  - Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) programs
  - writing
- camps and overseas trips
- our school musical
- extra-curricular clubs: debating; Minecraft; coding; art; and design
- student leadership and peer mentorship.

Making welfare and support a priority

We care for our international students from the moment they arrive in Melbourne. We pride ourselves on looking after them in the same way we would our own children.

Our support network includes:

- an administrator who supports students with paperwork and homestay
- an English as an Additional Language (EAL) coordinator and teachers who encourage and support our overseas students across all their subjects
- staff who are fluent in Vietnamese; Khmer; Spanish; Japanese; and French across the school
- the school carefully selects and monitors our local Australian homestay families to ensure they meet all requirements
- a careers coordinator who is trained in advising overseas students on university applications and choices
- a student wellbeing team, this includes a visiting Chinese-speaking psychologist, to look after the wellbeing of our international students
- a deputy principal who oversees the program and is responsible for the guardianship of students who are in homestay and living with family friends.

Homestay for international students

Our international student program team carefully select and oversee our homestay families. We build close relationships with our homestay families. They are a strong part of the school community and connect with the school life of the children they care for.

Many of our homestay families have been welcoming international students for many years. They also have students who continue to live with them when they commence their university studies.

In Victoria, all government school homestay families provide:

- a safe, secure, welcoming place to live
- a household compliant with the Child Safe Standards
- a separate single room for your personal use
- three meals a day, seven days a week, including snacks
- facilities – a bed, wardrobe, towels and linen
- utilities – gas, electricity, heating and water costs, internet
- cleaning services of common living areas
- the use of living areas within the residence
- study facilities – desk, study light, bookcase
- attendance at parent/teacher evenings on behalf of your parents.

Easily accessible location

Parkdale Secondary College is located on the beautiful bayside beaches of south-eastern Melbourne, 25 kilometres from the city centre. Parkdale is a safe family orientated community, well serviced by public transport and close to major shopping centres. The local area has strong community facilities with many sporting, arts and cultural events; as well as many beautiful parks to explore.

A recent success story

Meily Phe, from Cambodia, studied EAL, Maths and Science.

Meily also participated in a range of extra-curricular activities including our science, technology, engineering pathway (STEP) academy and was our international student captain and received an ATAR of 93.5.

Meily is currently studying a Bachelor of Pharmacy at Monash University.

"As a homestay family we have loved learning about our student's cultures and experiences as well as having the opportunity to share our cultures and support them. Hosting students is so interesting and rewarding for us and some of our students have become like family: we have attended their graduations and they have attended our family weddings." Tracey, homestay parent

WE BUILD CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS WITH OUR HOMESTAY FAMILIES. THEY ARE A STRONG PART OF THE SCHOOL COMMUNITY AND CONNECT WITH THE SCHOOL LIFE OF THE CHILDREN THEY CARE FOR.

CONTACTING THE SCHOOL

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