

WILLIAM ROSS STATE HIGH SCHOOL PROSPECTUS



SUCCESS THROUGH COMMITMENT

PRINCIPAL'S WELCOME



William Ross State High School is an innovative, coeducational school located in Townsville, North Queensland. The school provides an extensive range of curriculum offerings facilitating high quality learning aligned with a strong student support and wellbeing program.

At William Ross State High School our motto is "Success through Commitment". This principle is evident in all aspects of our school. From our supportive community of parents and friends to our dedicated, expert staff, who

together, with unique and talented students, build a strong academic culture focussed on quality learning and outcomes. Our aim is to provide an academically rigorous education that will equip our students to be active global citizens and lifelong learners.

In addition, the school has a highly talented and acknowledged STEAM program (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics) recognised at a state and national level. The school also has a proud sporting tradition, demonstrated by an excellence program that has nurtured talented athletes to achieve success at regional, state and national competitions.

Welcome to William Ross State High School. You are invited to join us, to explore your own potential for personal success. I sincerely hope your time in our school community will be one of the most valuable and memorable experiences of your lifetime.

Allan Evans
PRINCIPAL



SUCCESS THROUGH COMMITMENT...

IN RECOGNITION FOR ITS AWARD WINNING INITIATIVES + OUTSTANDING STAFF

2020 Regional and State 2020 showcase awards -
The Queensland Teachers' Union Showcase Award
for Excellence in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander
Education - People, Culture, Country Wearable Art Project

2020 NEiTA National Excellence in Secondary Teaching
Award

2020 NEiTA Terry O'Connell Regional and Remote
Teachers' National Award

2019 Peter Doherty Awards for Excellence in STEM
Education - Outstanding STEM School



SUCCESS THROUGH COMMITMENT...

IN PUBLIC EDUCATION

Established in 1991, William Ross State High School has a reputation for a diverse, innovative curriculum, world-class facilities, dedicated, expert staff and a supportive environment for student learning. An extensive range of curriculum opportunities are provided for students across the Junior, Middle and Senior Secondary phases of learning.

William Ross State High School's status as an Independent Public School enables the school community to exercise the autonomy and local decision making needed to drive innovation while still enjoying the benefits of being a part of the state schooling, public education system.

We are committed to providing a challenging, relevant and coherent curriculum, which promotes lifelong learning and produces resilient, independent, critical thinkers who act confidently as engaged global citizens.

As a proud state school, we value diversity, access to education, universal excellence and being a part of our broader community.

SUCCESS THROUGH COMMITMENT...

IN TEACHING + LEARNING

In line with regional education initiatives, William Ross State High School adopts Robert Marzano's New Art and Science of Teaching (ASOT) as its pedagogical framework to support teaching and learning. Effective classroom instruction results in engaged students and improved student outcomes. Teachers at William Ross State High School target best practice through the consistent monitoring of strategies and curriculum design. This deliberate practice and professionalism of William Ross State High School teachers results in exceptional teaching and outstanding student outcomes.



SUCCESS THROUGH COMMITMENT...

IN LITERACY + NUMERACY

William Ross State High School is committed to achieving positive outcomes for all students through an explicit focus on effective literacy and numeracy practices. Commitment to high achievement begins with knowing our students. This requires the consistent interrogation of all available data sets to identify students who are positioned to excel and also recognising those students who are struggling and may require extra support or intervention.

One feature unique at William Ross State High School is the use of PAT data, specifically PAT Reading, PAT Maths and PAT Science, in addition to traditional data platforms, to provide a more comprehensive picture of students. This data identifies aspects of literacy and numeracy comprehension across a range of key learning areas and skill sets and therefore, informs strategic differentiation for that particular student.

William Ross State High School has a dedicated literacy and numeracy support team who implement targeted programs within the school. A significant element of the commitment to making a difference in the lives of students is in the continued focus on building teacher capacity through specific professional development centred around current research in literacy and numeracy 'best practice'.

SUCCESS THROUGH COMMITMENT...

IN STEAM

Our school program incorporates the Australian Curriculum STEAM learning areas of Science, Technology, Engineering, The Arts and Mathematics. These programs are an important response to the pressing need to prepare young people with higher-order abilities to deal positively and productively with 21st century global challenges that impact the economy, the natural environment and our diverse cultural heritage.

At William Ross the purpose of STEAM is to contextualise learning. The curriculum programs and the extra-curricular projects enable students to apply their knowledge in different learning areas to real-world issues and problems within our community.



SUCCESS THROUGH COMMITMENT...

IN SPECIALIST FACILITIES

Complementing a rigorous academic curriculum, William Ross State High School provides students with on campus access to technology rich world-class facilities including:

- Every classroom offers wireless connectivity and interactive data projectors
- Computer laboratories offer all-in-one desktop computers, for specialist subjects
- Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) laptop program
- 3D printing and AutoCAD design capabilities
- Laser printing and cutting equipment
- Commercial kitchen with café and barista facilities
- Trade Centre with trade certified equipment providing simulated workplace experience in the construction field.
- Industry standard business training environment
- University standard science laboratory with biotechnology & robotics facilities
- Aquaculture Facility supporting marine and freshwater aquaculture
- Sustainability Centre
- Mathematics Laboratory
- STEAM room that features robotics, drones and a flight simulator
- Film and sound studio
- Performing Arts Centre
- Art studios with Kiln
- Outdoor amphitheatre
- Fully equipped gym with weights and cardio capabilities
- Rock climbing wall
- International Standard Cricket Nets
- Confucius Classroom in partnership with Queensland University of Technology
- Language Ambassador Centre – James Cook University Initiative
- Student Support Services Hub



SUCCESS THROUGH COMMITMENT...

IN JUNIOR SECONDARY

The Junior School - A Culture of Care, Challenge, Resilience and Identity

Junior Secondary curriculum at William Ross State High School represents a sequence of carefully planned and balanced learning experiences designed to meet the current and future needs of students.

Junior Secondary students study the Australian Curriculum for all of their subjects including; English, Mathematics, Science, Humanities, Health and Physical Education and the Languages (Japanese or Chinese) as well as completing elective subjects in Business, Practical Technology and The Arts.

Year 7 provides the platform for building the knowledge, skills, experience and understanding required for the junior secondary phase of learning. It is during this phase the foundations are laid to prepare students for tracking academic achievements throughout high school.

William Ross State High School has a strong commitment to meeting the needs of young adolescents as they progress through the Junior Secondary years of schooling. Our Junior School curriculum enables students to:

- Experience success which fosters self confidence
- Develop independence yet still retain reliable constants in their lives
- Experience freedom within negotiated and accepted boundaries
- Adjust to significant physical, social, emotional and intellectual changes
- Recognise their place in the wider community - broadening their perspectives
- Interact with positive adult role models who are dependable and accessible
- Make decisions and accept that consequences follow all decisions
- Experience positive peer recognition and acceptance

'Leading Learner' Excellence programs in Mathematics, English, Science and Humanities are provided for academically advanced students in Years 7 & 8.

Ensuring a quality transition from primary to a secondary environment is an integral aspect of planning and operations at William Ross State High School. This is fostered by working closely with primary feeder schools throughout the year.

SUCCESS THROUGH COMMITMENT...

IN MIDDLE SECONDARY

The Middle School – Challenging, engaging, belonging

The Middle Secondary curriculum at William Ross State High School provides challenging educational offerings that engage young adolescents, while giving them a sense of belonging and support.

Middle Secondary students study the Australian Curriculum for English, Mathematics, Science, Humanities and Health and Physical Education. Students select two electives for the year from a range of Practical Technology, The Arts, Business and Information Technology subjects. 'Leading Learner' Excellence programs in Mathematics, English, Science and Humanities are provided for academically advanced students in Years 9 and 10.

At the completion of Year 9, successful students will be awarded the JCE (Junior Certificate of Education). This is a school-based certificate, pioneered by William Ross State High School that recognises the completion of the student's junior phase of learning.

Students in Year 10 complete a Certificate II in Skills for Work and Vocational Pathways where they complete Career Education including further education, job pathways and writing resumes and cover letters. Students use this platform to make informed decisions for subject selection in the Senior School and successful completion of their SET Plan – Senior Education & Training Plan.

SUCCESS THROUGH COMMITMENT...

IN SENIOR SECONDARY

The Senior School – Provision of Many Explicit, Diverse Learning Pathways

Students in the senior years of schooling (Year 11 and Year 12) are emerging young adults who have diverse needs and aspirations. Senior Secondary at William Ross State High School is characterised by:

- Access to a wide selection of General & Applied subjects and VET (Vocational Education & Training) Certificates
- Flexible curriculum and a timetable structure to allow for the diverse interests and lifestyles of students. Some students study off-campus as part of VET programs, TAFE or School Based Apprenticeship & Traineeship programs
- Pathways which provide a seamless transition to employment and further education and training at Universities or TAFE
- Case managing and mentoring support for identified students for attainment of a Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE)
- Positive and mutually respectful relationships between all members of the school community
- A safe, secure and caring learning environment
- Provision of explicit, diverse learning pathways and post schooling support through regional programs.

Partnerships with James Cook University (JCU), Central Queensland University (CQU) and Queensland University of Technology (QUT) provide valuable opportunities for students to enhance learning and prepare for tertiary study.



As a Registered Training Organisation (RTO), William Ross State High School also offers vocational training courses in a range of areas, including Engineering, Construction and Hospitality, alongside courses from external RTOs in Fitness, Early Childhood Education and Care, Health Services and Business. William Ross also has partnerships with other RTOs to enable students to access a variety of learning opportunities for their individual pathway.

William Ross State High School has a rich tradition of academic achievement with many graduates going on to excel across a range of university fields. High Tertiary Entrance Scores (ATARs) leading to University and TAFE offers, combined with 100% Queensland Certificate of Education completion are the accepted standard for William Ross State High School graduates.

SUCCESS THROUGH COMMITMENT...

IN SPORT

Sport is an integral part of William Ross State High School and students actively participate in a range of sporting endeavours. The school offers opportunities for students to excel in school carnivals; sports, swimming and cross country, interschool carnivals and interschool sporting competitions. These opportunities have a strong focus on promoting healthy, balanced lifestyles and developing students holistically.

Many students enjoy the opportunity to also take part in the RHINOS Sports Squads that represent the school during block sport. William Ross State High School has many experienced and enthusiastic coaches who supervise teams all throughout the year. The Athlete Development Program (ADP) is one aspect of the RHINOS sports program where the best students in years 7, 8 and 9 are identified and selected to be offered extension health and physical education classes. These students have access to specific training (including the school gym) to improve their fitness including strength, speed, power, endurance and flexibility. RHINOS students encompass the majority of school teams for the swimming, cross country and athletics carnival, and represent the school in state and national teams.



SUCCESS THROUGH COMMITMENT...

IN THE ARTS

William Ross State High School promotes a wide range of Visual Art, Drama, Music and New Media opportunities to prepare students for the 21st century of creative artists and performers on the world stage. Opportunities include:

- Arts Excellence Program
- Chinese Lion Dancing
- Dance Troupe
- Instrumental Music Program: Brass, Woodwind, Percussion, Strings and Vocal
- New Media Program and Northern Sounds Radio Station
- People, Culture Country Project
- STEAM Wearable Art
- Young Indigenous Printmaker Program
- The Scene Project with Drama Queensland
- Queensland Ballet and Dance North Workshops

The Arts Excellence Program at William Ross State High School provides a specialised approach for those students who demonstrate a strong interest and ability in the Arts. The program presents opportunities for students to further enhance and refine their artistic skills within authentic learning experiences and work with innovative community partnerships.



SUCCESS THROUGH COMMITMENT...

IN EXTRA CURRICULA OFFERINGS

The breadth and depth of extra curricula programs offered to students at William Ross State High School is extensive and fosters student personal growth and development. Extra curricula opportunities provided include:

- School productions, music performances and dance evenings
- Leadership camps
- Year level camps and excursions
- Student leadership development and opportunities through the Student Representative Council
- Science and Mathematics competitions
- National Geography & History competitions
- Sports carnivals
- Senior public speaking including Lions Youth of the Year
- Chinese speaking and writing competitions
- Language Ambassador Program
- Pedal Prix teams competing in the Queensland Pedal Prix Super Series
- STEAM Lab, including competing in a variety of State and National events
- Reef Guardian Ambassadors Program
- Chess Club
- University Experience Days to James Cook University and Central Queensland University Townsville Campuses

SUCCESS THROUGH COMMITMENT...

INTERNATIONALLY

Through quality curriculum vision and staff professionalism, William Ross State High School is committed to providing educational experiences that prepare students for a globalised world as successful and engaged citizens. Each year opportunities are provided for students to participate in overseas study tours to a number of countries including: China, Japan, and New Zealand.

Accreditation with Education Queensland International demonstrates consistent commitment to continuing to offer places to international students from all around the world. William Ross State High School delivers opportunities for international students to experience success and achieve productive outcomes across academic studies, cultural events and sporting activities. The school has a strong international focus and excels in a range of cultural endeavours including community performances, NAIDOC celebrations, global networking, and regional, state and global language competitions. William Ross State High School has unique partnerships with Townsville City Council, Townsville Enterprise, James Cook University and Central Queensland University and draws on these partnerships to provide high quality international education experiences.

Through the International Schools Program, William Ross State High School hosts regular International Study Tours each year, from China and Japan. The school also welcomes Regional Study Abroad and Graduate Program international students to the community, providing authentic opportunities for cultural exchange, learning and hosting experiences. The William Ross State High School homestay program is highly valued and has a number of host families who look forward to welcoming international students back into their homes when our borders reopen. It is the continued dedication, passion, enthusiasm and hard work of committed staff, students and host families that make the International program at William Ross State High School so successful.



SUCCESS THROUGH COMMITMENT..

FOR THE FUTURE

Creating a challenging and stimulating environment for learning is the vision of William Ross State High School. Through an innovative and integrated curriculum which extends well beyond the classroom, students gain an understanding for the real-world application of their studies through experience. The school is a leader in providing time and scope to develop and enrich skills in critical problem solving, creative thinking and dialogue. STEAM educational experiences integrate science, technology, engineering, the arts and mathematics to solve contemporary community and world-based problems. These experiences are offered to students from years 7 through to 12. Strong academic rigour combined with the extensive partnerships with universities, industry and community ensure that the experiences our students gain will support a seamless transition from high school into their future world.



A **Mervyn Crossman Drive,**
Annandale Qld 4814

PO Box 1284 MDC,
Aitkenvale Qld 4814

P **+61 7 4726 7666**
F **+61 7 4726 7600**

E **admin@williamrossshs.eq.edu.au**
W **www.williamrossshs.eq.edu.au**



Queensland
Government

CRICOS Provider: 00608A