

BOYS CAN ACHIEVE PROGRAM 2010

The Year 7 program at Pakenham Secondary College offers a learning environment specifically tailored to meet the learning needs and styles of boys. Our curriculum, classroom approach, pastoral care and facilities have been designed by our staff to bring out the best in our boys.

Pakenham Secondary College is developing a strong reputation in the educational community for its innovative programs in the area of Boys Education with students applying from outside of the Cardinia Shire to enrol in this initiative.

An inherent part of our Boys Can Achieve Program is our Challenge Day. This unique program involves our students spending a day in the community participating in a wide range of learning activities and experiences that extend far beyond the classroom.

In 2009, our Year 7 Boys Group is also involved in an exciting partnership with St Kilda Youth Services. Funded by Advance, our boys are involved in making an animated film that will be shown as part of the St Kilda film festival in 2010. The project is entitled "Armed and Dangerous". This exciting project is normally only available to VCAL students and community organizations involving youth.

Research strongly indicates that most boys have different learning styles and needs when compared to girls. Most boys develop mentally, physically and emotionally at a different rate to girls. Their ability to master essential aspects of the curriculum including verbal/linguistic and visual/spatial skills differs to girls' as do boys' interests, hobbies, style of games and their inclination to competitive, structured and physical activities. These differences provide our Staff with an appropriate framework upon which to build a meaningful and challenging learning setting.

Such basic differences between boys and girls, brought about by a combination of hormonal differentiation, variation in the hard-wiring of the male and female brain, and the influence of cultural and environmental expectations, all impact on how boys function in the classroom. Our understanding of boys determines how our teachers design and deliver our curriculum, how we engage our boys, channel their energy and capture their imagination, creativity and enthusiasm.

The Boys Can Achieve program is limited to 20 positions for 2010 and is a select entry program. This means that potential students must complete an application process and interview to be selected for this program. They must also be recommended for this program by their primary school.

Parents and prospective students should note that this program also incurs a separate levy payable at the time of enrolment, in 2009 the levy is \$250. This covers the costs associated with the Challenge Day, materials and transport costs.

Enquiries can be made directly to Mrs Joanne Duggan (Year 7 Educator) or Ms Frances Dunlevie (Assistant Principal) for information regarding application procedures for the Boys Can Achieve Program.