



**AYR STATE HIGH SCHOOL**

*SUCCESS:  
Every Student, Every Day.*

**2025 Prospectus**



# PRINCIPAL'S WELCOME

Ayr State High School has a proud tradition of academic excellence and service to our community. We value learning, global citizenship and quality relationships. Ayr State High School looks to make a difference in the lives of all our students so they develop into responsible, informed and valued citizens of the world. We have a strong belief that every student can learn, which is articulated in our belief statement **SUCCESS: Every Student, Every Day**. Most importantly, we are dedicated to developing the whole child through respectful and positive relationships and a focus on developing each individual student's wellbeing as a platform for quality student outcomes.

Feel free to learn more about our great school and how being an Ayr High Learner helps you look to embrace the future as a confident and caring citizen who values personal excellence.

Craig Whittred, Principal



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## IN PUBLIC EDUCATION

Established in 1937, Ayr State High School is proudly a part of Queensland's State School system. Public education provides opportunities for all to excel, regardless of personal circumstance. Public education is about universal excellence, access to education, being part of the community and valuing diversity.

Ayr State High School is proud to have been the district's leading senior secondary educational institution for the last 87 years and holds the majority of our region's past and present community leaders within our alumni. As a proud state school, we believe that partnerships both within and outside of the Burdekin provide a network of support that brings a vibrancy to the school experience.



We celebrate our diversity and teach our students that difference brings a richness to our experiences, providing each of us the opportunity to learn and grow. We encourage our students to stand strong and proud together, valuing our differences and being united in our commitment to learn, grow and excel as individuals.





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# IN TEACHING AND LEARNING

Being an Ayr High Learner is all about learning and achieving your Personal Best. Our experienced and dedicated staff are committed to high expectations within a positive learning environment. It is our goal to ensure all students are motivated and challenged to learn and achieve to their fullest potential.



An Ayr High Learner is inquiring, resilient, self-motivated and aspirational. They are values-driven leaders who are inclusive, community-minded and who act with integrity.

Our staff strive to continuously develop their teaching practice using research-based methods in order to meet the needs of the contemporary learner. We are committed to developing a three-way partnership between staff, students and parents/carers to optimise the learning potential of all students.

We provide students with a wide range of learning opportunities which are designed to meet the learning needs of all students in both Junior Secondary and Senior Secondary phases of learning, extending above and beyond standard curriculum delivery. We offer a fully staffed Special Education Program. The program supports students with disability to achieve success through an inclusive secondary schooling experience that meets the needs of the individual. Weekly timetabled intervention programs support students with temporary gaps in their learning, focusing on Reading and Numeracy.

Ayr State High School is also committed to engaging with a wide range of extracurricular academic activities to extend our higher performing students including public speaking, National and International Youth Science Forums, Young Diplomats Program, QUT STEM Program and ICAS English, Mathematics and Science competitions. We also provide weekly after school tutorials for students in all year levels focusing on the key curriculum areas of English, Mathematics and Science in order to support their literacy and numeracy development.

Within our school culture of **SUCCESS: Every Student, Every Day**, we provide an academic case management program for every student in the senior secondary phase of schooling. Every student is assigned a staff member from the Senior Leadership Team to support them from the beginning of Year 10 through their development of Student Education and Training plan continuing through to graduation at the end of Year 12. This attention to detail and consideration of individual student needs has seen our graduating class attain a Queensland Certificate of Education at rates in excess of State averages. We have also very proudly been able to maintain excellent university placement outcomes, with 100% of eligible students receiving offers to university courses of their choice over many years.





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## IN OUR EXPECTATIONS

Ayr State High School is committed to the underpinning principles of High Expectations and Positive Learning Environments. Ayr High Learners demonstrate this through the enactment of our Learner Code by being Safe, showing Respect and doing their Personal Best.

Our expectation is for all students to proudly wear our uniform as a symbol of belonging and acceptance of our school's values. Students understand that whilst wearing our uniform they represent our school community to the highest standards.

To ensure Personal Best we expect all students to maintain high levels of attendance and engagement with the educational program offered. Our benchmark for attendance is 95% and above. High levels of Effort and Behaviour in all classes, are hallmarks of the Ayr High Learner.

Tracking, acknowledging and rewarding students who meet these expectations is an important part of reinforcing our values and maintains a positive learning environment. Awesome and Perfect Attendance Awards, as well as Gold and Silver Awards for high levels of effort and behaviour, are awarded on a term by term basis, providing students with positive reinforcement and documents that can be added to a student's resume as artefacts of reliability and work ethic - two characteristics valued by prospective employers.

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## FOR OUR STUDENTS

Complementing our rigorous academic curriculum, Ayr State High School's student support and wellbeing programs help students develop personally and socially. The cornerstone of our student support programs is a strengths-based approach to personal development that is focused on developing a growth mindset and emotional resilience.

Our wellbeing program is a timetabled feature of the school week for all students. Its aim is to support students in developing an understanding of the importance of their own wellbeing and to provide them with a range of strategies that will allow them to proactively deal with the everyday challenges that face the contemporary teenager. An ability to maintain their own wellbeing is



a key factor in the development of strong and resilient young adults. A sense of personal wellbeing also allows students to truly value and support others in the community.



We have a dedicated Student Support team providing services across the school, designed to meet the needs of all students and to ensure they are safe and supported in their education. A case management approach is utilised to provide support services to students with specifically identified needs, whether they are social and emotional, mental health, academic, behavioural, or health and wellbeing related.

Integral to our student personal development program is building the leadership capacity of our students throughout their journey in secondary school. We are committed to providing opportunities for students to participate and lead in team based environments including Student Council and Student Executive. These activities develop the leadership skills and collaborative abilities that allow students to constructively contribute to the school and wider community and, most importantly, to become innovative leaders in the workforce of the future.

Ayr State High School provides a strong Transition and Orientation Program for all students who are beginning their journey into secondary schooling. Our transition program begins with students in Year 5 and continues in Year 6 with the purpose of developing understanding and confidence for students transitioning from primary

to secondary schooling. Our orientation program is offered to all students who have enrolled in our school for the next school year and is scheduled in the last weeks of Year 6. It enables students to make connections with the Year Level Coordinator for their cohort, teachers, student buddies and, importantly, classmates. This program has been running for a number of years and its success is evident in significantly more confident and settled Year 7 students at the start of the school year.

From this point forward, the school continues to provide targeted support for all Year 7 students to ensure that they transition in a positive and successful manner into high school. A range of other support programs and personnel within our school help ensure that all students are supported and nurtured during their educational journey at Ayr State High School.

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## IN OUR COMMUNITY

An Ayr High Learner recognises the importance of giving back to the community that has nurtured them. Community involvement and service learning are critical elements of global citizenship which is an integral feature of being an Ayr High Learner.

Throughout the year, there is a range of charitable activities for students of all year levels to be involved in. Day for Daniel, Relay for Life and Pink Stumps Day are always regular features of the school calendar. These are student organised and run

activities that form part of our community charity event calendar. Students across all year levels also have the opportunity to be involved with our Interact Club that coordinates events and performs fundraising activities in alignment with the ideals of Rotary Australia.

We believe that strong partnerships between our school and the wider community are vital in adding value to the educational experience that we offer our students. These partnerships extend beyond the school to parents and carers, other schools, universities, businesses, employers and government agencies, who work together to create innovative and engaging learning experiences for our students.

Our partnership with community organisations continues to deliver improved outcomes for all our students. The Queensland Mining and Energy Academy has given our students access to invaluable experiences in the mining and energy sector. Students have opportunities to engage with workplace mentors and experience life on a working mine site. Partnerships with local businesses, such as Snap Fitness and Big Bird's Nest Childcare, have provided students with opportunities to engage and complete activities in industry specific conditions. These community partnerships provide a range of highly positive outcomes for our students.

There are many opportunities for parents and carers to contribute actively in our school community. Our Parents and Citizens Association plays a vital role within our school community. They contribute to the development of the school's strategic direction as well as provide support and leadership to many of our programs and initiatives including Sport and Performing Arts programs. Their support is also vital to the success of our biennial school musical.





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## IN THE ARTS



Ayr State High School is committed to providing opportunities to develop the “whole” student beyond the academic. We have a long standing and high performing Arts program that features both Visual and Performing Arts. These programs feature curriculum and extra-curricular opportunities.

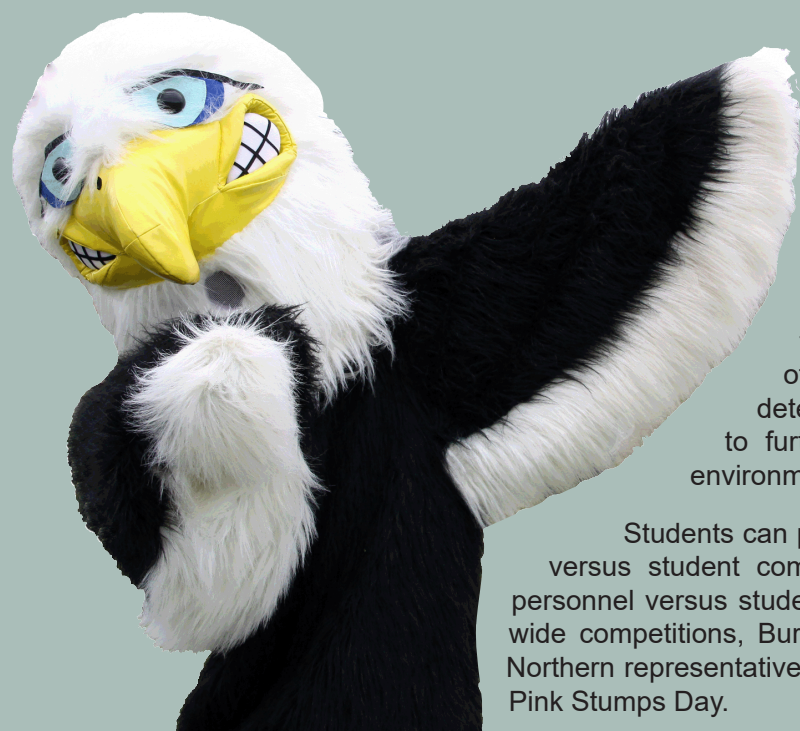
Our vibrant Visual Arts program challenges students to develop their knowledge of artist appreciation, whilst encouraging students to use a range of mediums to express themselves artistically.

The Performing Arts program feature Music and Drama curriculum programs that enable students to integrate their personal passions into their studies. We also offer an Instrumental Music program to help further develop students on their chosen instruments. Students perform as part of the School Concert Band at school functions and community events such as Burdekin Eisteddfod and Burdekin Brass Live. We also provide a vocal program where our School Choir consistently place at the Burdekin Eisteddfod. Our extra-curricular drama program features both a senior and junior Drama Festival ensemble which is testament to our philosophy of developing and engaging all students.

The highlight, not only of the school calendar but our community, is our biennial musical production. The musical involves students in all aspects of the production and brings together the talents of our whole Arts faculty. Ayr State High School's musicals have consistently performed to sell out audiences at the Burdekin Theatre, showcasing the broad talents of our students and receiving rave reviews from our community.

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## IN SPORT



Ayr State High School is proud of its sporting achievements and has a strong tradition in this area. Students have the opportunity to participate in a variety of sporting events that foster and develop their talents and skills. Ayr High Hawks display qualities of sportsmanship, leadership, involvement, pride and determination. There are opportunities for students to further their sporting aspirations through competitive environments and representative selections.

Students can participate in sport through interhouse carnivals, staff versus student competitions, Community Shield (emergency services personnel versus students), interschool carnivals, interschool sports, state-wide competitions, Burdekin and North Queensland Trials for selection in Northern representative teams, and community engagement events such as Pink Stumps Day.

**BELONG, BE VALUED, BE SEEN.**





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## FOR THE FUTURE

Ayr State High School's central focus is to prepare all students to complete formal schooling and transition into an "Earning or Learning" pathway, dependent upon their own personal career plan.

We are committed to remaining future focused, preparing students for a globalised world and ensuring they are able to contribute on local, national and international stages. We assume the responsibility of keeping abreast of research and prepare our students for the jobs of the future. Students of today will experience a more dynamic future of work, where linear careers will be far less common and young people will need a portfolio of skills and capabilities to navigate the more complex world of work.



**Career Management Skills**

**Enterprise Skills**

**Digital Skills**

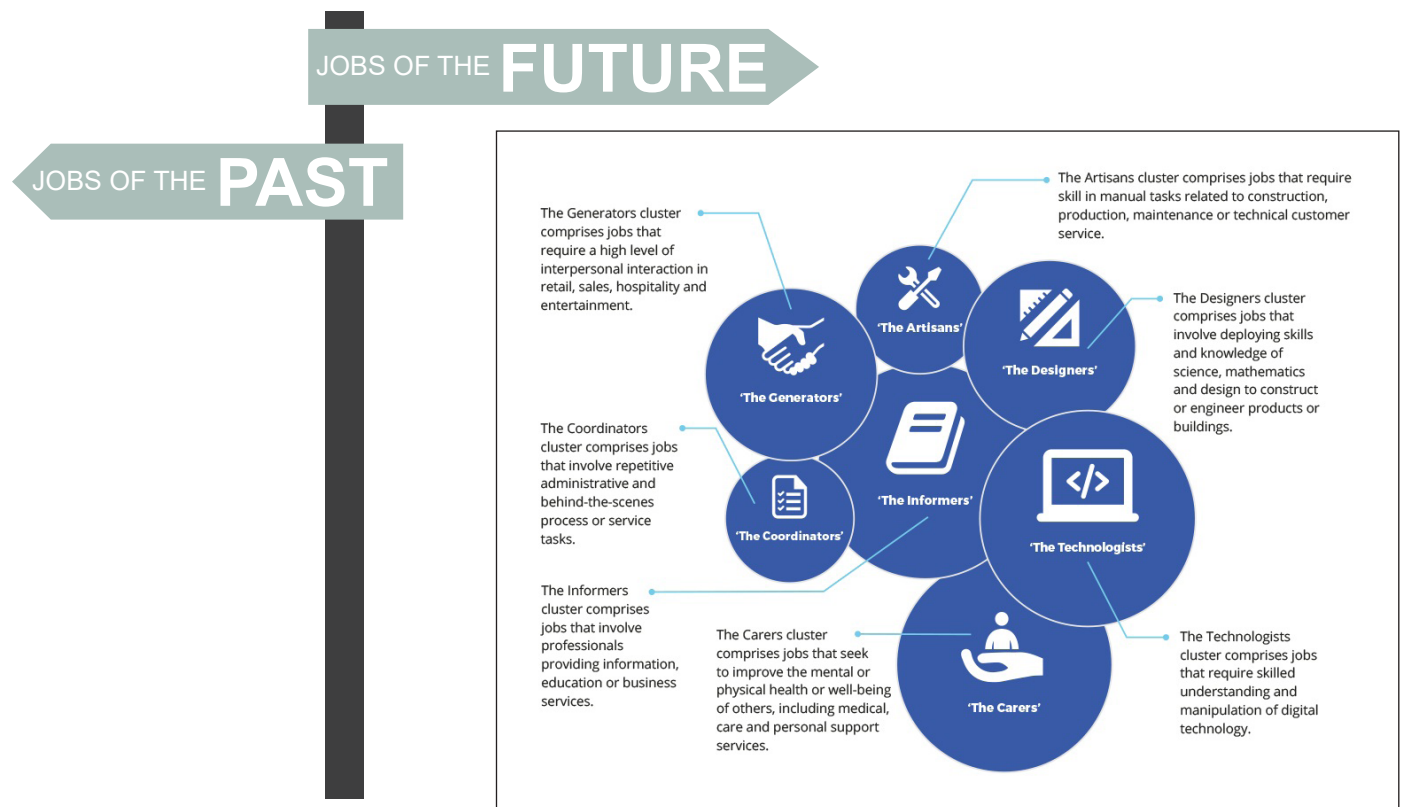
**Critical Thinking**

**Creativity**

**Presentation Skills**

**Ability to Work Collaboratively**

Research is indicating that instead of one fixed career, young people are heading into a future which will involve multiple changes of both employers and careers. According to the Foundation for Young Australians, future job seekers should be seeking broader employment in one of seven new "Job Clusters". These clusters, outlined in the New Work Mindset Report, have a range of occupations that have similar skill sets.



*Taken from the New Work Mindset Report compiled for the Foundation for Young Australians, 2016.*

Our commitment to our students and their families is to integrate this new research into our curriculum delivery, career development and senior mentor programs to best place the Ayr High Learner for future continued success.



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## OUR CURRICULUM OFFERINGS



Ayr State High School is committed to the rigorous and explicit delivery of the Australian Curriculum across the Junior phase of learning. Junior Secondary at Ayr State High School focuses on the foundation skills of literacy and numeracy whilst extending students' academic abilities. All students access a curriculum that integrates technology as a learning tool across the curriculum. We encourage students to become involved in our Bring Your Own Device (BYOx) program.

In Years 7 and 8, students complete all core subjects English, Mathematics, Science, Humanities and Health and Physical Education in accordance with the Australian Curriculum. They also sample a range of subjects from The Arts and Technology Key Learning Areas. In Year 9, students continue with core studies and choose from a suite of elective subjects.

In the senior phase of learning, Year 10 students continue their core and elective studies with a strong orientation towards preparing students for their transition into study beyond Year 10.

In Years 11 and 12, Ayr State High School offers a range of subjects developed by the Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority in alignment with the Australian Senior Curriculum. Ayr State High School is committed to providing a comprehensive range of General and Applied subjects, and Vocational courses to best prepare our students to achieve their career goals in the future landscape of employment or university.

Students whose career pathway requires tertiary study will have the option to choose from a suite of high level General subjects that meet the requirements of university entrance. These subjects are taught face to face by experienced specialist teachers. Ayr State High School has a strong history of excellence in enabling students to gain offers to courses of study at universities of their choice.

Students who are seeking employment in either trade based or non-trade based careers are catered for with a variety of Applied subjects and Vocational Certificates up to a Certificate III level. Students also have the option of participating in School-Based Apprenticeships and Traineeships to complement their school studies, whilst providing employment certainty after the completion of Year 12. Full details of course offerings are listed in course handbooks for each year level.

# Ayr State High School

PO Box 961  
AYR QLD 4807

Phone (07) 4790 4333

[principal@ayrshs.eq.edu.au](mailto:principal@ayrshs.eq.edu.au)  
[www.ayrshs.eq.edu.au](http://www.ayrshs.eq.edu.au)  
[facebook.com/ayrshs](https://facebook.com/ayrshs)

ABN 40 808 982 030

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