School Profile

Purpose
Our college purpose is to build confident, resilient and independent learners. Heathmont College is a mutually respectful and safe learning community which promotes growing through knowledge.

Values
Our core values arise from our College motto “Growing through Knowledge”. Values inform and shape how the school is organised, how people relate to each other in school, how decisions are made, as well as the content and processes of teaching and learning. Staff, students and parents have identified the following core values:

- Respectful relationships
- Excellence in all we do
- Supportive community
- Perseverance
- Enthusiasm for learning
- Cooperation
- Trust

Environmental Context
Social – Community and Demographics
The school attracts students from nearly forty feeder primary schools, with over sixty percent of students commuting by bus or train. College enrolment has declined over the past two years and expected to be 700 students in 2011. This enrolment trend must be halted as a matter of urgency.

The demographic of our student cohort has changed significantly over the past four years with the Student Family Occupation (SFO) rating from 0.42 to 0.63 with increasing numbers of students from single parent or blended families and lower socio economic status, but with little change with respect to ethnicity.
Students are managed in two sub schools: years 7, 8 and 9 and years 10, 11, 12 by year level coordinators and heads of school. There continues to be a need to focus explicitly on the social and emotional development of these students and to establish acceptable norms of behaviour in them.

Over the next four years, sustained attention will be required to nurture our relationship orientated culture that embodies the values espoused by the school community.

The staff profile continues to change with about one third of staff being employed at Heathmont in the past four years. The number of graduate teachers has more than doubled in this time. Hence it is essential that we effectively provide mentoring and professional support for our staff.

The leadership profile is reviewed each year in the light of enrolments and changes to the overall staffing profile.

**Educational**

The college offers a broad curriculum from years 7-10 with traditional core electives. A recently introduced year 9 program comprises two terms of integrated studies called HIPE@9. A number of students undertake an accelerated VCE study while in year 10. A range of VET studies is offered in years 10 to 12. The college has developed an increasingly popular program which combines school based new apprenticeships with VCAL.

Our pre-year 7 testing in literacy and numeracy is indicating increasing numbers of students with learning difficulties. Hence there is a need for differential learning programs to be continued to be developed. This is particularly important at year 10 to provide for the increasing range of student needs.

There has been an improvement in the level of accountability and subsequent pride from teachers in VCE student performance data. Increased enrolment in VCAL and improving access of Year 10 students to VCE studies has been important. It will be vital to investigate further year 10 student program options and to broaden the access to VCE and VCAL programs to provide students with appropriate pathways. However, there is a major hurdle in increasing the aspirations of many of our students and sustaining high expectations of performance with them.

The school will continue to improve its effectiveness in staff performance and development. The range of co-curricular programs has increased over the past four years with the expansion of the School production, Heathmont Musical Evenings and an annual Arts Exhibition. Further expansion across other learning areas is considered a priority over these next four years.
**Technological**

Over the life of the next Strategic Plan significant emphasis will be placed on the use of ICT and multimedia to increase levels of engagement in learning.

All teachers have wireless inked laptop computers. There are three fully equipped computer rooms, complemented by six pods, as well as a VCE Centre and Library ICT resource. The college has six Laptop and Mac books trolleys.

Almost all rooms have a data projector or electronic whiteboard. Music has a fully operational recording studio and students have the opportunity to select from a wide variety of multimedia subjects. All these resources enable us to deliver learning through a multimedia environment.

The school is engaged in a research project on the effective use of ipads in improving learning outcomes for students and is currently introducing a 1:1 Netbook Program beginning at Year 9 2011.

**Environmental – Grounds and Facilities**

Heathmont is a single campus College with excellent facilities for science, technology, sports gymnasium and VCE centre together with the development of tranquil garden setting. A new flexible learning space was constructed in 2008 principally for use by year 9 students. All classrooms and locker bays have recently been refurbished and the improvements to our facilities are making our College an ideal physical environment for learning.

**Student Learning**

**Goals**

- To improve achievement in Literacy and Numeracy.
- Progressive learning growth from Years 7 to 9 for all students
- To improve student learning outcomes in years 10, 11 and 12

**Key Improvement Strategies**

- Build a clear and accountable leadership throughout the school
- Create a culture of purposeful teaching and high expectations of all
**Student Engagement and Wellbeing**

*Goals*

- To improve student connectedness to school.
- Improve engagement in learning through positive relationships in stimulating environments.

*Key Improvement Strategies*

- Develop a positive and connected community.

**Student Pathways and Transitions**

*Goals*

- To improve student transition into, through and beyond the college.

*Key Improvement Strategies*

- Establish effective transitions into and through the college