



# Bialik College looking forward to 2015

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Bialik's pluralistic approach, its consistent outstanding VCE results (Bialik has ranked in the Top 5 VCE schools in the State for 17 of the past 18 years), and the innovative initiatives continually being introduced at the school, are credited with the college's growth in strength and popularity. In 2015, Bialik will capitalise on its success with a rebuilding of the primary school and an extension of some of the exciting programs introduced last year—such as the inclusion of a visit to China in the Year 10 'Chavayah' program.

In December 2014, Bialik became the world's first Jewish school to bring an entire year level to both China and Israel in one memorable trip. Over the course of six weeks, Bialik's Year 10 students fostered an understanding and engagement with Australia's most important trading partner as well as a true appreciation and love for Eretz Yisrael. The students were exposed to comparisons between Israel's vibrant democracy and open society—which has generated a disproportionate number of technological breakthroughs and inventions—and China's highly-structured, communist and industrialised society, with its incredible work ethic and similar Jewish values of respect for family, ritual, and tradition.

Another outstanding initiative, the VCE Subject Alliance, trailblazed by Bialik and King David schools, will develop further in 2015, enabling both schools to offer shared classes in Hebrew, Information Technology, Music, Theatre Studies and Visual Communications and Design. As Principal Jeremy Stowe-Lindner said, "The two schools are thrilled that we are able to work together for the good of the community to offer a range of VCE options traditionally found only in the largest schools in the state."

Bialik's sporting success of 2014, when the college won more sporting awards than any

other year in its history, looks set to continue with the Sports Department becoming even more popular with the students. The introduction of Bialik's first school mascot — the Bialik Wolves — will revolutionise the sporting culture at Bialik, bringing even more excitement and engagement with students who will come together as the supporting 'Wolfpack' to cheer on the school's athletes at their games.

But of all the exciting things planned for 2015, the new primary school will be the jewel in the crown for Bialik's younger students. Designed to be at the forefront of educational innovation, with new learning spaces fitting around the needs of the children (rather than the other way around), children will find it easier to move into project spaces for collaborative team work or into more intimate spaces for smaller groups concentrating on personal tasks, with a central hub serving as a connecting space for each year level. As a Year 4 child said on viewing the architectural plans, "I see a future Bialik, it looks thought-through"— a sentiment that no doubt, applies to the school as a whole.

