

What makes Bialik different?

ONE way of articulating Bialik's very strong Jewish ethos is with the statement: "We don't preach, we teach."

A core value of Bialik College is to respect individual choice of expression when it comes to Jewish identity. The teaching is expansive and inclusive, demonstrating to students the rich mosaic of our Jewish tradition that encompasses ideologies and practices across the full spectrum of mainstream Judaism - from Orthodox to Progressive, and from secular to Conservative. Students are empowered from a knowledgeable base, to choose how to express themselves according to their own individual preferences, and those of their families.

In a practical sense, this translates into students being given the choice of which siddur they would like to receive in honour of their bat or bar mitzvah. It means that the school's canteen is fully kosher to accommodate everyone, but students' private lunches are not "policed". It means tefillot (prayers) are taught throughout the primary and middle schools, from birchat hamazon to Shema and from the Shabbat service to Rosh Chodesh, but in the senior school, services are optional and are led by students for students.



Yom Ha'atzmaut at Bialik.

And it means that when there is debate about Israel, while the school's proud Zionism and support is unwavering, debate is openly encouraged and tolerated. Bialik's healthy approach to Judaism best reflects the plurality of our thriving and dynamic Melbourne Jewish community.

Academically, Bialik also leads the field not only in consistently outstanding VCE results - top five in the State for 20 of the last 21 years - but in innovative and cutting-edge programs that stimulate and engage students in myriads of ways. Whether it's

about learning to run a business, designing apps, or constructing robots and drones through to using dogs as a conduit of learning in the ELC and primary school, the College is quick to respond to new approaches and ideas.

But perhaps the area in which Bialik shines best, is the family atmosphere and care that permeates the environment of the school.

Bialik is holding an information evening on Tuesday, May 15 at 7.30pm. RSVP essential: RSVP@bialik.vic.edu.au