

# Choose Bialik for All-Round Excellence

## BIALIK COLLEGE

Bialik is committed to the pursuit of excellence in an enriching, nurturing environment. The College is dedicated to empowering students with the knowledge, skills, dispositions and values necessary to achieve their potential and to contribute meaningfully to the Jewish, Australian and global communities.

Academically, Bialik leads the field not only in consistently outstanding VCE results – the school topped the State in 2018 for the second time in three consecutive years and has been in the top five in the State for a remarkable 22 of the last 23 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 Primary school, the College is quick to respond to new approaches and ideas. Bialik's initiatives in STEM for instance have been so successful that there has been an exponential increase in girls studying forensic science and STEM electives into Senior school.

The College's approach to Judaism is unique amongst the Jewish Schools in Victoria. As a cross-communal Jewish school, Bialik has a pluralist ethos and all expressions of Judaism are welcomed and honoured. One way of articulating the College'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, and their family's own preferences. Zionism and a love for Israel is infused into the culture at Bialik College. Hebrew is part of the Bialik student's daily experience and is made accessible to all levels of ability. In addition, a Bilingual Hebrew Immersion Program operates in Years 4 and 5 at Primary School level, introducing students from a monolingual background to another

diverse culture and language. The College's enriching Jewish Studies curriculum is supported through our relationship with Hebrew University's Melton Centre for Jewish Education. This is further enhanced by the engaging and interactive Jewish programs run by the Jewish Informal Education Team in The Mifgash (Centre for Jewish Life). The College has also developed strong connections with schools in the Arava region of Israel and fosters close relationships between the Israeli and Australian students. These relationships begin in the Kinder and are strengthened when the Year 10 cohort visit the Arava as part of their 6 week Chavayah trip to Israel and China.

Health and Wellbeing continues to be a key focus in 2019. From Prep to Year

12, students benefit from the College's exceptional program that develops the student holistically and deals with building healthy relationships, healthy minds and healthy bodies. The program is carefully tailored to the individual age levels and includes, amongst others, sex education, respectful relationships, dealing with stress and conflict, yoga and meditation.

Bialik offers a robust Visual and Performing Arts program ensuring that a wide range of co-curricular opportunities for both skill acquisition and creative expression are made available to all students throughout the academic year. The Sports program is equally impressive and runs out of the superbly appointed Gringlas Sports Centre. But perhaps the area in which Bialik shines brightest, is the family atmosphere and care that permeates the environment of the school. With everyone on one campus, from ELC to VCE, respectful relationships are ingrained into the fabric of the school with mentorship programs between older and younger students and leadership opportunities from Year 5 through to Year 12 that are based on individual students volunteering to take on more responsibility rather than being voted into position by others.

***A new addition to the Bialik family, the Bialik Creche, opens its doors in July. Places are filling fast so if you'd like to book a spot, contact creche@bialik.vic.edu.au***