

International
Grammar School

Into the World

Strategic Plan 2016-2020

Explore our plans for the future





We acknowledge the Gadigal people,
the traditional custodians of the land on which our school stands.
We pay respect to the elders past and present
and extend that respect to all Aboriginal people in the IGS community.

INTERNATIONAL GRAMMAR SCHOOL
2020 VISION

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PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Into the World outlines a vision for our School and sets a clear direction for the next five years. It builds on the strong foundations of the School's history. It aims to ensure that our students have new and inspiring opportunities to reach their full potential. It builds our capacity to embrace change and to equip our students for world readiness. It is a blueprint for the future.

There are three whole school strategic initiatives that represent our commitment to action.

We will:

- Introduce Chinese as a core language from Early Learning in 2017, thereby enhancing our flagship language program
- Enhance middle years development by implementing the SAGE program, a unique curriculum offering for students in Years 7 to 10
- Develop a significant Master Plan for all of the School's sites

I am grateful to the staff, parents and students whose insights have contributed to this plan.

I commend it to you.

Shauna Colnan
Principal





CHAIR OF THE BOARD'S MESSAGE

More than 30 years ago IGS was established to provide a unique education, one that values scholarship and applauds creativity, inspires individuals to excel and to honour the efforts of others, an education rich in the arts and sciences, languages and humanities.

For three decades we have stayed true to our founding values, which make this possible - diversity, personal achievement, connectedness, vibrancy and authenticity – and we have measured success by the achievements of our students, both academically and in life-experience.

Our new strategic plan will build on our traditions of providing our students with the academic foundation, emotional intelligence and respect for those around them, they need to succeed at work and in life.

What we will expand and adapt are some of the ways we use to address the challenges young people face, be they starting or finishing their schooling in the next few years.

In the first half of the 21st century far more than in the second half of the 20th, Australia must connect with Asia and build an economy based on innovation. We need people just as comfortable working in Shanghai as Sydney and who are confident in their capacity to learn new skills throughout their working lives.

Our new strategic plan takes essential steps to help ensure IGS students have the skills and qualities they need to succeed in the lives they choose.

Stephen Matchett
Chair

OUR PLACE



OUR PAST

IGS was founded in 1984 with a vision to provide students with the gift of a bilingual education. Languages would be at the centre of a broad liberal education, rich in the study of music, the arts and the traditional disciplines. This was to be a progressive school - contemporary, independent, coeducational and secular.



OUR PRESENT

Today this pioneering spirit continues.

IGS is a vibrant school with a warm and inclusive community. It has a population of 1200 students that we will gently grow to 1375 over the next decade.

Unity through diversity is our motto and our five core values – diversity, personal achievement, connectedness, vibrancy and authenticity – are at the heart of who we are and what we do.



OUR FUTURE

This is an exciting time for IGS. We are a passionate learning community, located in the nation's most creative, dynamic, digital precinct, a short walk to UTS and the University of Sydney. Ultimo and its surrounds continue to transform as Sydney becomes a truly international city.

We will create new strategic collaborations across educational, digital and cultural spheres, building on existing partnerships with UTS and the University of Sydney. Our location gives us the opportunity to engage with innovators in our parent community and beyond. These innovators have the potential to enhance our push into science, technology, engineering, mathematics and the arts (STEAM) through innovative project-based learning.

We are committed to re-imagining and redesigning our campus over the next five years, improving the learning environment for students and teachers and strengthening our place in the Ultimo precinct.



Our Mission

To equip our students to be world ready

Our Motto

Unity through Diversity

Our Values

Diversity
Personal Achievement
Connectedness
Vibrancy
Authenticity

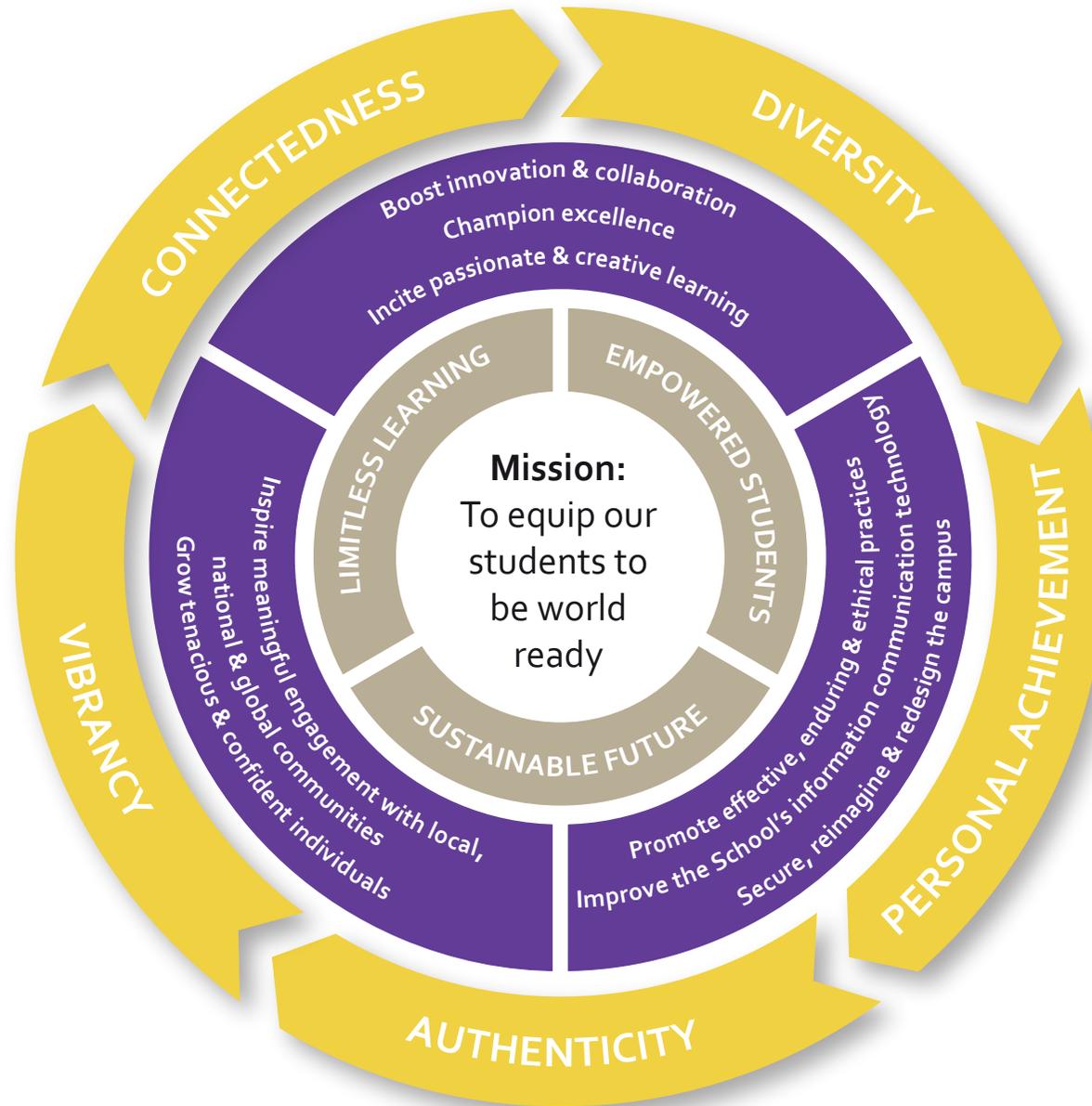


STRATEGIC ASPIRATIONS

We will deliver our vision through three strategic aspirations, inspiring collaboration, creativity and innovation:



These aspirations are interdependent, fostering a school-wide approach.





LIMITLESS LEARNING

Tech savvy is a given. World savvy is the new frontier.

We now see global competence as a learning entitlement for all students. They must understand how their learning is relevant...to themselves, their peers and the world. Learning should be authentic and real world. Students must be co-designers of what and how they are learning.

Engagement and joy in learning are whole school priorities. So too is challenge. Learning will be performed, exhibited and celebrated. World-class professional development opportunities for teachers will build improved learning outcomes for students and help us attract and retain the best teachers.

Areas of Action

We will:

- Boost innovation and collaboration
- Champion excellence
- Incite passionate and creative learning

STRATEGIC ASPIRATIONS



EMPOWERED STUDENTS

We will take students on an educational journey that empowers them to

- Explore their gifts
- Find their voices
- Become their best selves

as they move with growing confidence and independence towards adulthood.

Areas of Action

We will:

- Inspire meaningful engagement with local, national and global communities
- Grow tenacious and confident individuals

STRATEGIC ASPIRATIONS



SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

To build upon our history of excellence in education, we must

- Enhance and grow our offerings
- Capitalise on technology
- Improve our campus
- Build our capacity to adapt to change.

We take seriously our responsibility to ensure that the School continues to educate students in new and inspiring ways that are fit for the future.

Areas of Action

We will:

- Promote effective, enduring and ethical practices
- Improve the School's information communication technology
- Secure, re-imagine and redesign the campus

STRATEGIC INITIATIVE

01

The introduction of Chinese as a core language from Preschool

A key assumption underpinning the strategic plan is that our unique languages program will remain as our School's enduring point of difference and will be enhanced and built upon over the next five years.

"India, China and other Asian nations are growing and their influence on the world is increasing. Australians need to become 'Asia literate', engaging and building strong relationships with Asia."

The Melbourne Declaration on Educational Goals for Young Australians

In 2017, we will introduce Chinese, initially in Early Learning as part of our flagship language program. Between 2017 and 2025 Chinese will become a core offering.

From 2017 we will add Chinese to our core language offerings of French, German, Italian and Japanese, enhancing our successful language program. Students in preschool and transition have a 30 minute lesson each day in the target language. In kindergarten this grows to 40 minutes. From Year 1 students learn their target language for 80 minutes a day. The mode of delivery is immersion. Students continue this language through to at least Year 10. Additionally in Year 7 they pick up a third language. Students will continue to study a range of languages for the HSC.

Our enduring commitment to languages learning will ensure that we have a high quality implementation of Chinese from preschool, building our School's responsiveness to a demand for Asia literacy and intercultural understanding. We look forward to embracing and celebrating the beauty of Chinese culture, alongside the many cultures that are celebrated at IGS.



STRATEGIC INITIATIVE

02



Enhance middle years development through the SAGE program

“The middle years are an important period of learning, in which knowledge of fundamental disciplines is developed, yet this is also a time when students are at the greatest risk of disengagement from learning. Student motivation and engagement in these years is critical, and can be influenced by tailoring approaches to teaching, with learning activities and learning environments that specifically consider the needs of middle years students.”

The Melbourne Declaration on Educational Goals for Young Australians

SAGE

SAGE is a project in limitless learning, a unique curriculum offering for students in the middle years. SAGE cuts across disciplines and gives students inspirational real world project-based learning experiences. Through SAGE we will build students’ critical and creative thinking skills, the depth of their understanding and engagement, their ability to work with others and their love of learning.

SAGE

- Student choice
- Authentic learning experiences
- Global relevance
- Exhibitions and celebrations of learning

The Projects

- Year 7 Shakespeare Bootcamp – master classes with professional actors leading to performances of King Lear, Macbeth, A Midsummer Night’s Dream and The Tempest
- Year 8 The Rocks Quest – learning moves to The Rocks as students work with archaeologists to uncover stories from the past. They share their findings in an exhibition of learning.
- Year 9 Opera on Kelly – students work with opera singers, musicians, actors and Australian composers to create and perform three operas.
- Year 10 Tasmania – Writing the Island. In the final year of SAGE we take Year 10 to Tasmania for a writing project. They explore the island – its beauty, history and stories. They create an artefact of the project, an anthology of writing and art works.

STRATEGIC INITIATIVE 03

Develop a significant Master Plan for all of the School's sites

Over the past 12 months we have collaborated with UTS School of Architecture on a foundational design project. We now have guiding principles and a series of architectural visions to help us plan the next steps in designing learning spaces fit for the future. The recent purchase of 77-79 Bay Street provides us with additional space to re-imagine our School so that it inspires and facilitates the highest quality teaching and learning. Over the next five years we will secure, re-imagine and redesign our campus.



Thank you

International Grammar School is a member school of the Association of Heads of Independent Schools of Australia (AHISA) and the Heads of Independent Co-Educational Schools NSW & ACT (HICES).

The School is governed by a Board of Directors.



<http://www.igssyd.nsw.edu.au>