



# SOMERSET COLLEGE

PERSONAL SUCCESS | GLOBAL OUTLOOK

*passion for learning  
compassion for students*



STRATEGIC PLAN 2014 TO 2018



*The Somerset Experience:  
Academic, Physical, Cultural, Social  
and Spiritual Outcomes*

## FROM THE HEADMASTER

After successfully completing the previous Strategic Plan 2011 to 2015 this year, we embarked on constructing the new blueprint for the College. An extensive series of meetings with all our stakeholders; students, parents, staff and alumni; gave us the feedback and data we needed to light our way for the next five years.

The health of the College is unchallenged. For the first time in many years we have waiting lists at numerous year levels. The success of the Pre-Prep programme has meant that this year level, the very first, is now the largest entry point for Somerset.

The College's finances are rock solid because of the focus of the last few years. Staff morale is high and interest in working for the College means we are able to replenish our human resources at the highest level.

We are grateful for the support of our parents who actively choose to provide the Somerset Experience to their children, our students. Over 50 second generation students, children of alumni, are living testament to parental satisfaction and choice. None of this we take for granted.

The theme of this Plan is continuous improvement. We are committed to enhancing our performance culture. Student outcomes are enhanced by innovative teaching informed by evidence and research.

Next year's Pre-Preps are the Class of 2027. With the focus and facilities of this Plan, we begin the journey to ensuring that the Class of 2027 is as successful and satisfied as any of the previous 26 Senior Classes which have preceded them.

What an exciting time to be at Somerset.

Craig Bassingthwaight  
Headmaster

## FROM THE CHAIR OF THE COLLEGE BOARD

The Somerset College Strategic Plan 2014 to 2018 is not a dream or a vision, it is a commitment! It is a firm commitment from the Board of Somerset College Limited, from the Headmaster and all staff of Somerset College, to deliver in accordance with the scope of outcomes and to provide facilities within the range of the Master Plan.

Our Headmaster has acknowledged that the goals of the Strategic Plan 2011 to 2015 have been achieved this year. He has quite modestly failed to emphasise successful completion of that five year strategic plan two years ahead of schedule. It is a credit to our Headmaster, to his College Leadership Team, to his staff and indeed to the parents and students of Somerset College, that together we have achieved so much over the last three years.

Somerset College does not sit still. Accordingly, welcome to our new Strategic Plan for 2014 to 2018. It is time for all of us to again roll up our sleeves and join with the Somerset Board and the teaching and non-teaching staff in the commitment to deliver this plan, whilst at all times demonstrating a passion for learning and compassion for our students. Parents and students, Somerset College needs you to commit to this plan!

Our joint commitment to the Strategic Plan 2014 to 2018 will guarantee continued success for Somerset College and our students.

Tony Hickey  
Chair of the College Board

*Personal Success  
Global Outlook*



# STRATEGIC PLAN

2014 to 2018

By any measurement, Somerset College is delivering student outcomes at the highest levels in local, state and national forums. Our challenge is then to ensure that our Performance Culture is maintained and enhanced. We are relentless for improvement.

- We will encourage innovation and research in Teaching and Learning.
- We will seek and respond to feedback from our stakeholders through regular surveys.
- We will ensure that our physical facilities match our human resources in excellence and opportunity.
- We will expand our online environment.
- We will broaden our community outreach.
- We will continue to improve Staff conditions to attract and retain the best people.
- We will enhance our Student Leadership and Exchange programmes.

## PASSION FOR LEARNING

*"The Somerset curriculum has been the foundation to a challenging but rewarding intellectual and personal journey. I value the academic forwardness of this curriculum. We cannot simply get by, tacitly accepting and recalling theories. Instead, we are trained to engage on a deeper level of thinking – examine the facts, investigate, derive our own conclusions, communicate and substantiate our knowledge both verbally and on paper. So in the end, we haven't just accepted knowledge but we have experienced it. This is tertiary level thinking. Moreover, what I equally cherish is that the curriculum looks at developing the whole personality. I am much more aware of current issues at a national and global level, and I have been taught to accept social responsibility. This idea of giving back to the community is something that makes Somerset's curriculum unique."*

– Year 12 Student

## COMPASSION FOR STUDENTS

*"I have strived to do something better for not only the community, but the other kids. It is a very important chapter of my life; one that I will no doubt look back on and regard as one of the most enlightening experiences of my schooling years. When I think of the time I have spent with these wonderful children, it grants me a new perspective on life and compels me to help the less fortunate wherever I can. With regards to compassion, I believe that my experience has allowed me to empathise with each and every student that I had the pleasure of meeting. If compassion had to look like anything, I do believe that this would embody its every principle."*

– Year 11 Student

*student outcomes*

*enhanced by*

*innovative teaching*

*informed by*

*evidence based research*





# SOMERSET COLLEGE AND THE INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE

To prepare for educating students in the new millennium, Somerset College offered the International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma when the first cohort graduated in 2001.

The International Baccalaureate programmes are embedded in the College's Teaching and Learning framework.

From Pre-Prep to Year 5, the Primary Years Programme (PYP) provides the necessary building blocks of literacy and numeracy using the child's natural sense of enquiry combined with explicit teaching of skills. The five essential elements of this programme – knowledge, concepts, skills, attitudes and action – are at the heart of all learning.

In Years 6 to 10, the Middle Years Programme (MYP) emphasises the diversity of education across a wide range of learning areas. Our youngsters are taken into a world of service before the culminating experience of the Personal Project.

In Years 11 and 12, our students can opt for the Queensland Studies Authority (QSA) pathway, the OP, or continue the International Baccalaureate methodology in the Diploma Programme. In both programmes, the essential tenets of service and academic rigour, with a global outlook, shape our students for their boundless future.



## MASTER PLAN 2014 to 2023

*We will ensure that our physical facilities match our human resources in excellence and opportunity by diligent assessment of projects such as:*

### Athletic Facilities

- Gymnasium
- Two indoor basketball/netball courts
- Expanded weight and cardio rooms
- Teaching spaces
- Office spaces
- Gymnastics facility
- Professional offices (e.g. Physiotherapist/Nutritionist)
- Dance facility
- Dining and meeting facility
- Alumni and Archives space
- Synthetic athletics track
- Oval redevelopment
- Seating on Wyangan and Sands Ovals
- Seating at the pool

### Junior School

- Additional classrooms
- Reception and offices
- Change facilities
- Club Somerset facility

### Child Care

- Facilities for six weeks to four year olds
- Play space outdoors
- Administrative space

### Chapel

- Seating for 150 students
- Sanctuary
- Lecture facilities

### The Great Hall

- Expand stage facilities to enable productions
- Mezzanine seating

### Covered Walkways

- Early Learning Precinct to Rowe Building
- Performing Arts Centre to Senior Learning Centre
- The Great Hall to the Arnison Building
- Aitkenhead Building and The Brown Building to The Ray Building

### Sustainability

- All facilities to emphasise the latest sustainable green technologies and design

*Developing engaged global citizens  
aspiring to excellence,  
demonstrating integrity  
and valuing difference*



# SOMERSET COLLEGE

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