

Somerset College



Annual Report 2015

This report is compiled to comply with State and Federal Government Reporting requirements. The College also provides information to the school and wider community through the College's weekly newsletter, website, and bi-annual magazine *Somerset Lifetimes*.

School Sector

Independent

School Address

Somerset Drive Mudgeeraba Queensland 4213

Total Enrolments

1474 at the end of the 2015 academic year

Year Levels Offered

Pre-Prep to Year 12

Co-Educational or Single Sex

Co-educational

Vision

Personal Success | Global Outlook

Mission

To develop engaged global citizens aspiring to excellence, demonstrating integrity and valuing difference.

The History of Somerset College

Somerset College, a co-educational day school from Pre-Prep to Year 12, is located at Mudgeeraba on the Gold Coast, and is situated on approximately 22 hectares of land. The site upon which Somerset College is built was originally used for dairy farming, was uniquely rural and owned by the original pioneering families to the area. Since 1983 the surrounding countryside has undergone considerable urban development.

The College opened with a simple ceremony on 27 January 1983, with 158 students in classes from Year 1 to Year 8. The College's first Headmaster was Mr CR Wells. By the commencement of Term Four, total enrolments had grown to 248, 189 of which were in the Junior School. The growth of numbers through this first year proved that there was a need for another independent school on the Gold Coast and, indeed, secured the College's future.

Major contributing factors to the success of the College have been a very well-qualified, talented and deeply committed staff, and the presence of very strong support from parents and the community. The most up-to-date equipment and the fine facilities enhance an educational environment in which academic, cultural and sporting opportunities are maximised.

Massive building developments have taken place almost continually as the College increased in size to its maximum enrolment of approximately 1430. The first Year 12 students graduated in 1987. The history and traditions of the College are recorded and maintained by the Archivist.

Property And Facilities

The College is situated on approximately 22 hectares of land in the Gold Coast Hinterland. The buildings comprise of an Early Learning Precinct, a double storey Junior School block, three Junior School blocks of four classrooms and specialist rooms for Junior School Technology, Music and Art.

In the Senior School, the College has five Science laboratories and one Engineering Technology room, an Art block of three classrooms, two double storey blocks of eight classrooms each, an Administration block, a Great Hall/Chapel and a Performing Arts Complex comprising a theatre, four classrooms and facilities for the teaching of Music and Drama. In 2012 the Dr Peter Brown Building, the Knowledge and Information Precinct was opened.

In addition there is a Music Centre for private and classroom lessons, Senior Learning Centre and Year 11 Common Room. The Student Services Hub provides a focal point for Pastoral Care. Located under the Senior Learning Centre is a Computer Centre with four computer classrooms.

The Ray Building opened in 2007 and provides teaching areas, a classroom gymnasium, dining room, alfresco eating areas, cafeteria, and retail and café facilities located at the Bird and Bush.

The extensive grounds include eight sporting ovals and an athletics track, a large area providing courts for Volleyball, Basketball and Netball, a covered sports pavilion, an Olympic size swimming pool and two covered Learn to Swim pools, a Tennis complex comprising six courts, a fully equipped gymnasium and a rock climbing wall.

From 2009, Somerset College has conducted its Rowing Programme from the newly built Somerset Boat Shed located on Lake Orr beside Bond University.

During 2015 construction of new Athletic facilities commenced. A new gymnasium, indoor Basketball and Netball courts and a ten-lane synthetic track will be completed early in 2016.

College Board

The Founders of Somerset College formed the initial College Council. Subsequent personnel changes were made in accordance with statutory regulations and provisions of the Companies Act.

The College Board has total responsibility for the affairs of Somerset College, but is most generally concerned with major issues such as finance, building alterations, maintenance, salary scales and fee structures.

The Headmaster has responsibility for the administration of all day-to-day affairs. He is also charged with encouraging and promoting activities appropriate to the ethos of the College.

Distinctive Curriculum Offerings

- Somerset College is one of a limited number of schools in Australia to offer internationally benchmarked curriculum, the Primary Years Programme, Middle Years Programme and Diploma of the International Baccalaureate from Pre-Prep to Year 12.
- Somerset College is an all Steinway School.
- Somerset College enjoys, by invitation, partnering links with local and interstate universities, particularly University of New South Wales .
- In 2015, all students from Pre-Prep to Year 10 participated in a Language other than English Programme; Mandarin, Italian, German, French and Japanese were offered at various year levels. In past years, more than 55% of students have matriculated with a second language. Senior School students also have the opportunity to travel on College language trips to Italy, Japan and Germany.
- Other experiences included the Business, Economics, Commerce and Legal Studies trip to the United States of America and the community outreach trip to indigenous communities in Central Australia.
- Somerset College offers an extensive Performing Arts and Music Programme which includes conducting the regional eisteddfod and The Somerset Festival for Young Performers (a primary school performance-based festival) .
- An extensive Literacy Programme is provided and included in 2015 conducting the annual Somerset Celebration of Literature, attracting both national and international authors and speakers.
- An Olympic size swimming pool, grass, rebound ace and synthetic tennis courts, rebound ace basketball/ netball courts, a rock climbing wall, gymnasium and classrooms are available on site.
- The development of fully serviced dining facilities for students, with menus established on nutritionally sound principles, opened in 2007.
- Rowing at both national and international levels is offered.
- Chess is offered at all levels with National Championships achieved.

Co-Curricular And Extra Curricular Activities

Our co-curricular programme includes involvement in a comprehensive sporting programme with the Association of Private Schools on the Gold Coast; a cultural programme which includes Music, Art, Drama, Public Speaking and Debating, Dance and Design, and Service activities associated with the Middle Years Programme. An extensive extra-curricular programme supplements and complements the academic and co-curricular programme.

Parental Involvement

The College provides multiple opportunities for parents and the wider community to become involved in the many activities and events held at Somerset College:

- The Somerset Parents' and Friends' Association meets regularly and encourages parental participation
- The Somerset Swimming Club
- The Somerset Rowing Club
- The Somerset Tennis Club
- Volunteer involvement at the Somerset Celebration of Literature and the Festival for Young Performers
- Learning assistance programmes in Literacy and subsequent support roles in class programmes
- Parent Information and Education sessions

Staffing Information

Staff composition, including Indigenous staff

2015 Teachers – 98.1 full-time equivalent teachers were employed.

A list of staff and their qualifications is available for viewing on the College website by following this link on the College website, www.somerset.qld.edu.au: Our College, Our Staff, Staff Qualifications.

Expenditure on Teacher Personal Development:

In 2015, \$89,012 was spent on Professional Development for Staff. Additional in-house training was provided for both teaching and non-teaching staff.

This figure does not include the cost of employing relief staff to cover teachers undertaking Professional Development activities.

Proportion Of Teaching Staff Retained From The Previous Year

Of the 2014 teaching staff, 93% were retained in 2015.

Staff Attendance Rate

In 2015, 97% of teachers were in attendance each day.

Teacher Participation in Professional Development

All staff are expected to participate in annual professional development.

All teaching staff participate in professional learning including: International Baccalaureate PYP and MYP and Diploma training – both interstate and overseas; AAIBS Conference; IBAP Workshops; Work Place Health and Safety training; individual learning styles; gifted and talented; behaviour management; sports coaching clinics; information technology and first aid training.

All non-teaching staff are currently provided with staff in-service opportunities including: traineeships; work place health and safety training; management training; information technology and first aid training as well as the ability to attend conferences and relevant seminars.

Key Student Outcomes

In 2015, an average of 94.6% of students were in attendance every day.

Guidelines for the management and minimisation of student absences are published in the College Handbook, which is made available to all students and parents for viewing on the College Website at the commencement of every school year.

Year 12 Outcomes And Naplan Results

Please see the following two pages for OP and IB results.

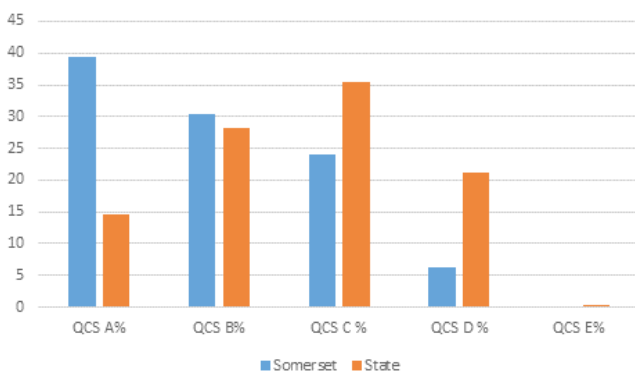
Overall Position (OP) Results

The table below summarises the results achieved by the Class of 2015. Please note that results of our International Students are included.

An impressive 20% gained an OP of 1 or 2 and 70% achieved an OP of 10 or better.

Overall Position (OP)	Number of Students	Cumulative Percentages		
		Somerset 2015	Somerset Average 1992 to 2015	State Figures 2015
1	9	7.6%	7.7%	2.8%
2	15	20.3%	14.8%	6.6%
3	8	27.1%	20.2%	11.0%
4	7	33.1%	27.5%	15.7%
5	6	38.1%	33.9%	20.5%
6	7	44.1%	40.2%	25.8%
7	10	52.5%	45.8%	31.9%
8	9	60.2%	52.2%	38.4%
9	8	66.9%	58.1%	45.0%
10	3	69.5%	63.6%	51.2%
11	7	75.4%	69.1%	57.2%
12	4	78.8%	73.8%	63.0%
13	10	87.3%	78.5%	68.6%
14	5	91.5%	82.5%	74.3%
15	3	94.1%	86.0%	79.7%
16	2	95.8%	88.8%	84.8%
17	2	97.5%	91.7%	89.3%
18	2	99.2%	94.3%	92.9%
19	0	99.2%	96.2%	95.5%
20	0	99.2%	97.4%	97.5%
21	0	99.2%	98.3%	98.9%
22	1	100%	99.1%	99.6%
23	0	100%	99.7%	99.9%
24	0	100%	100%	100%
25	0	100%	100%	100%

Queensland Core Skills (QCS) Test Outcomes



QCS Grade	Somerset College %	State % All Students
A	39.3%	14.6%
B	30.4%	28.3%
C	24.1%	42.9%
D	6.3%	35.4%
E	0%	0.4%

International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma and Certificate Results

The Class of 2015 was the fourteenth cohort to complete the IB Diploma at Somerset. In total, 5 students sat for the full Diploma and all were successful.

The average subject score at Somerset was 5.8 out of a possible 7. This compares to 5.4 in 2014. The average Somerset Diploma score was 36 out of a possible 45.

In 2015, Somerset students were awarded 9 Merits. (A Merit, which is a score of seven out of seven, is the highest mark awarded through the Diploma programme.) These Merits also were awarded to Certificate students who completed the Italian SL Course.

Subject	Number of Merits	Subject	Number of Merits
English	1	German	1
History	1	Italian	6

Diploma of Business Results

In 2015, 19 students enrolled in and completed the Diploma of Business. For the purpose of university entry in Queensland, for Somerset this means that over 81% of our students received the equivalent of an OP1 to OP10, and 96.6% the equivalent of an OP1 to OP15.

NAPLAN Results

Included here are the average scores for Somerset students for comparison with the Queensland averages and the Australian averages for students in Years 3, 5, 7, and 9 for each of the five areas tested.

Writing

	Somerset Average	Queensland Average	Australian Average	Somerset Average	Queensland Average	Australian Average
Year 3	448	406	416	418	397	409
Year 5	522	470	478	528	489	498
Year 7	573	505	511	602	544	546
Year 9	625	537	546	640	580	583

Spelling

Reading

	Somerset Average	Queensland Average	Australian Average	Somerset Average	Queensland Average	Australian Average
Year 3	467	418	426	478	430	433
Year 5	547	495	498	541	500	504
Year 7	597	543	546	611	538	541
Year 9	634	572	580	636	566	568

Punctuation and Grammar

Numeracy

	Somerset Average	Queensland Average	Australian Average
Year 3	435	393	398
Year 5	526	486	492
Year 7	606	539	543
Year 9	654	585	592

Again this year, NAPLAN results for Somerset College show improvement for Years 3 to 9.

Tertiary Destinations

Shown below is a summary of the Tertiary Institutions the Class of 2015 will attend.

Once again, for many of our students studying a second language proved very beneficial in terms of securing their preferred tertiary destination.

Destination	Percentage
Southern Cross University	1%
Gap Year	10%
Griffith University	26%
Interstate	2%
James Cook University	3%
Queensland University of Technology	18%
University of Queensland	40%

Value Added

Entry into Somerset College is non-selective. This fact makes our academic achievements all the more rewarding.

Somerset College's internationally benchmarked curriculum provides students with opportunities to develop higher order thinking skills. For more than a decade, university placements have been exceptionally high, consistently exceeding 90% of the Year 12 cohort.

Parent, Teacher And Student Satisfaction

The high demand for places at Somerset College reflects the community's acceptance of the quality programmes offered.

The College provides a carefully monitored progression from Pre-Prep to Year 12. Academic Reviews in the Senior School and Performance Reviews in the Junior School mean that each student is encouraged to perform to their potential.

The College consistently achieves academic results at Year 12 which are well above the State average as shown in the previous tables.

The high retention rate of teaching staff is indicative of their satisfaction with the College.



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