Frensham - set on 178 hectares in Australia’s Southern Highlands, 100km south of Sydney.

A forward-thinking Boarding and Day School for girls

Local + National + International
Frensham’s values and educational ethos are based on the philosophical position that our moral purpose in life is to develop our talents and use them for the common good – to make a meaningful contribution to the world.

“In love serve one another”
~ Frensham Motto ~

The Iris
Chosen for its beauty, strength and ability to flourish in all conditions.
~ Frensham Emblem ~

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FRENSHAM
Winifred West Schools: Gib Gate, Frensham and Sturt

~ Mission Statement and Guiding Values ~

We commit to maintain and develop Winifred West Schools as a pre-eminent Australian educational environment founded on Christian principles, renowned for its unique combination of values which focus on:

≈ emotional and physical health and happiness ~ providing a caring and supportive environment in beautiful surroundings close to nature, and encouraging a sense of wellbeing through teamwork, friendship, self-management and tolerant beliefs

≈ unselfish pursuit of excellence ~ exceeding what would otherwise be possible in terms of development, contribution, achievement and leadership, across the totality of the educational experience

≈ individual growth ~ challenging and inspiring each member of the WWS community to define, plan for and work towards the achievement of personal goals, with passion and commitment

≈ service to others ~ living the challenge of our founders, ‘In Love, Serve One Another’, being active and compassionate in recognising the needs of others and responding with generosity, self-assurance, leadership by example, integrity and humility in all matters in a global community

≈ broad experience ~ recognising the need for multifaceted development of each individual, enhancing his or her intellectual, spiritual, aesthetic, social and physical powers, emphasising academic requirements and other long-term life skills

≈ innovative and adaptive approaches ~ developing a spirit of enquiry and a love of learning, with a future focus and the capacity to discern, so that students and staff experience the adventure of experiment and the excitement of breaking new ground
A forward-thinking Boarding School

Frensham is an outward-looking and forward-thinking boarding school. In a spectacular living and learning environment, girls are challenged and supported to develop the skills and the willingness to make a positive difference in the world.

Frensham girls are inspired to be confident and respectful, curious, creative and grounded.

Frensham was established by Winifred West in 1913. Today, Frensham is one of Australia’s most respected independent schools for girls.

Frensham is a boarding school, not a school with boarders.
Boarding at Frensham is a way of life

Boarding at Frensham is a wonderful experience where valued friendships are formed. With over 70 percent of students in residence, our boarding tradition sets us apart. We are the only school in Australia with a full-day tailored programme across the entire week, with each year group’s needs and interests catered for differently.

Along with sport on weekends, boarders have fixed study times, evening workshops, academic coaching and dedicated time for music practice. Balancing a full weekend schedule is important personal time for optional activities, reading, and relaxation with friends.

Teachers are on campus throughout the week for support and guidance, and students are encouraged to work independently and manage their time responsibly.

In this unique environment, each student is encouraged to be active and compassionate in recognising the needs of others, responding with generosity and integrity, and leading by example.

“I love boarding. It’s a bit like one long sleepover...”
Year 7 student

“Frensham is a place that inspires and encourages and helps you to fulfil your dreams while having fun on the way...”
Year 7 student

everyone’s a boarder... not everyone sleeps over...
Global citizens of today, and tomorrow

Frensham students are encouraged to make a real difference in the world. They are taught to value kindness and resilience, and to carry these attributes with them for life.

Living in residence, students form strong, lifelong friendships. They are inspired and supported to work together to embrace and overcome challenges, and to celebrate each other’s achievements.

It is this sense of community that shapes the School’s character – and the character of our students. Success is measured in the way girls carry themselves beyond school – with a courageous and generous spirit.

“It is a place where everyone can be themselves and I don’t have to act differently to be included.”

Year 9 student

“...here, we look out for each other...”

Year 9 student

“The idea of the mosaic is so true ~ we all have such an important part to play...”

Year 12 student

the unselfish pursuit of excellence...
A (re)defined education

We want students to thrive. With the belief that students rise to the intellectual life around them, Frensham creates a culture designed to inspire intellectual and emotional growth in maturity.

Our curriculum is personalised and flexible, and we benchmark our academic outcomes for students and the School against global standards.

A progressive approach
The world is more connected than ever. Entire industries are changing and new ones are emerging every year. In response, we are strengthening links internationally and re-defining our curriculum to future-proof our School.

Teachers to inspire
Truly great schools are underpinned by outstanding teachers. Frensham teachers are known for their professionalism and expertise, and they value the fact that their professional learning is delivered by leading researchers and practitioners from around the world.

“\textit{A teacher's work is not to dominate but to inspire, not to mould but to awaken, not to control but to set free.}”
\textit{Winifred West, 1973}

emotional and intellectual maturity...
Jamieson Programme

Adolescence can be a time for pushing boundaries and risk taking. Frensham’s Jamieson Programme addresses one of the most important questions we consider as educators: ‘What is worth learning in a complex and rapidly changing world?’

Our Jamieson Programme is built on the belief that exposure to challenges in a secure environment can awaken in young people a belief in themselves that will stay with them throughout their lives.

With a focus on health and fitness, critical and ethical thinking, service and leadership, the Jamieson Programme helps girls gain confidence and courage to deal with the unfamiliar territory ahead. It also challenges students to consider the difference they can make, individually and as part of a group, when exploring real social, political and environmental issues.

The Jamieson Programme includes student participation in Cambridge courses.

- Year 9: (IGSCE) Global Perspectives – providing opportunities for enquiry into, and reflection on, key global issues from a personal, local, national and global perspective.
- Year 10: (AS Level) General Paper – an advanced multi-disciplinary course which challenges thinking and requires rigorous academic writing.

FRENSHAM is accredited by CAMBRIDGE to offer subjects from the International General Certificate of Secondary Education (IGCSE) – an international qualification for 14 to 16 year olds and the Advanced Courses (AS) for 16 to 19 year olds.
The Duke of Edinburgh’s International Award
Within the Jamieson Programme, beginning in Year 9, all students are involved in cultural, practical and adventurous activities. They lead expeditions, learn the value of community service, gain practical skills and take part in physical recreation. Each activity sets a different challenge and encourages ingenuity, confidence and teamwork.

Environmental care
Frensham is a member of the Community Environment Network and our grounds are a designated Land For Wildlife area where native, orphaned animals are rehabilitated.

“I really enjoyed Global Forum. It made me think of the ways we could help people in parts of the world where they don’t have some of the things we think are basic.”
Year 9 student
Sport

Representative Sport is an essential, celebrated part of life at Frensham. Well over 90 percent of girls represent the School in the Independent Girls’ Schools (IGSSA) competition, every term.

With all teams in our much-loved purple, green and white, Frensham’s sporting spirit is on display each Saturday morning at the Games Field. Owing to the School’s expansive grounds, we host round matches ‘at home’, with our parents forming an integral part of the welcome we extend to visiting teams and their families.

Our Equestrian* and Snowsports teams also represent the School at local, state and national events.

IGSSA competitions and competitive team sports are organised by term:

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| • Tennis  
  • Softball  
  • Swimming | • Athletics  
  • Cross Country  
  • Basketball  
  • Football  
  • Swimming | • Athletics  
  • Hockey  
  • Netball  
  • Swimming | • Gymnastics  
  • Touch  
  • Tennis  
  • Swimming  
  • Water Polo |
| • Equestrian* | • Equestrian*  
  • Snowsports | • Equestrian*  
  • Snowsports | • Equestrian* |

* Riding is scheduled within the co-curricular programme across the full year. Girls with their own horses ride at their choice of venue, at designated times. Lessons are scheduled by the School for those wanting to learn.
Fit for the future

Being fit (both mentally and physically) is a central part of Frensham culture. Outside the classroom, we see sport as a great way for students to challenge themselves, uncover talents, build confidence and form strong bonds of friendship along the way.

The School has fantastic sporting facilities, including a cross country track, synthetic and grass fields, tennis and netball courts, an indoor swimming pool and a gymnasium.

Professional coaches and teachers support girls to maximise their skills and fitness, and set the highest expectations for student conduct on and off the field.
Music, Drama, Art & Design

Frensham has always nurtured the arts – they are an integral part of the fabric of the School. Whether it be in the performing arts (music and drama), art and design or writing, students are actively involved in creating and producing in a range of forms to express their unique and personal views about the world.

Sturt ~ Design & Fabrication
Adjacent to Frensham, Sturt plays an essential role in a Frensham education. Sturt is Winifred West Schools’ contemporary world-class centre for design, technology and the arts. Our Design and Fabrication Studios at Sturt form a creative hub where expert teachers lead courses in digital design and fabrication, supported by the latest technologies.
Today’s dreamers are tomorrow’s doers

The world is buzzing with technological innovation and scientific discovery, and STEM subjects (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) are at the core of our academic curriculum. At Frensham, we include the Arts in our approach to STEM. Science and Technology interpreted through Engineering and the Arts – all based in elements of Mathematics – collectively known as STE(A)M.

Frensham is moving beyond traditional structures and breaking new ground for Australian schools. A recent example is the establishment of the Frensham Drone Academy.

We urge students to be innovative and entrepreneurial, in response to ever-increasing opportunities to develop their creative, technological and collaborative skills.

‘E-check’ is an app and casing design to monitor the fitness and health of horses in polo matches. Designed by Mimi Wylie (2016) for her HSC Major Work in Design & Technology.

curiosity and courage to ask why...
“Each generation has its dreams of what the world might be... you are needed, your integrity is needed, your vitality is needed, and your dreams are needed...”

Winifred West, 1945
Our Teachers

Frensham’s highly qualified teachers nurture students to think critically and creatively, and to value the learning process as much as the end result.

Our goals are
- To meet the individual learning needs of all students by personalising programmes, experiences and outcomes
- To promote a growth mindset in every student and member of staff
- To develop leadership capacity in all students and staff
- To create a learning community that embraces innovation, inspired by evidence-based research and external critique

Each year our Foundation funds scholarships to support professional learning experiences for outstanding teachers.

In keeping with our position as a world class school, staff represent Frensham nationally and internationally at courses and conferences.

“I came to Frensham to focus on my studies. It’s been good to be able to concentrate on things.”
Year 10 student

“We have really amazing teachers who give us as much help as we need…”
Year 12 student

academically rigorous, personalised learning...
Grit, gratitude and good humour

Frensham offers girls a rich and rewarding experience at a pivotal time in their lives.

Through the rhythm of daily life, they are taught that great things come through dedicated effort, patience, and self-belief. It is this legacy that fires the Frensham spirit – and the way of life that girls come to know and love.

“Frensham offers a perfect balance of fun, friends and studies...”

Year 12 student

responsibility, service and leadership...
MEMBERSHIP
• Association of Heads of Independent Schools of Australia [AHISA]
• Association of Heads of Independent Girls’ Schools of Australia [AHIGS]
• Independent Girls’ Schools Sports Association [IGSSA]
• The Alliance of Girls’ Schools [Australasia]
• Boarding Schools’ Association of the United Kingdom [BSA]