Junior Secondary Philosophy

Tamborine Mountain State High School is united in its pursuit of excellence in the Junior Secondary years. Junior Secondary recognises the early phase of adolescence as a distinct stage of development, by understanding Years 7 – 9 students’ developmental and learning needs. Students will be engaged in age-appropriate and content-appropriate teaching and learning practices, providing future work and study opportunities for students in the context of a rapidly changing environment.

Distinct Identity

Junior Secondary students at Tamborine Mountain State High School engage, achieve and excel through a strong sense of belonging and group identity within the wider school community.

• Tamborine Mountain State High School will see as part of its Junior Secondary preparations facilities specifically designed for student engagement:
  o Construction of a contemporary building containing eight general learning areas.
  o Classrooms equipped with interactive data projectors and whiteboards.
  o Classrooms that contain a diverse range of contemporary furniture that can be easily adapted to suit the learning and teaching needs of junior students.
  o Specialist learning areas designed with student benches, teacher demonstration areas and specialised equipment enabling the practical teaching of Home Economics, Science, Visual Art, Design Technology, Media Studies, Graphics and Performing Arts.
  o A number of inviting spaces where students can eat, play and gather in friendship groups.

• Break time activities regularly offered to all students (Performing Arts, Sport).
• An electronic diary that encompasses aspects directly linked to Junior Secondary education.
• Students are supervised in the school grounds and around the precinct by staff whilst on lunch breaks.
• Students in Junior Secondary will be in year level form classes.
• Tutoring and assistance will be available to students on scheduled afternoons.
• Success will be celebrated and recognised at the Junior Secondary level as well as part of the whole school when appropriate.
• Students will be encouraged to participate in the diverse range of extra-curricular and co-curricular activities.
Quality Teaching

At Tamborine Mountain State High School our priority is our Explicit Improvement Agenda – 4 D’s (Dimensions of Learning, Digital, Data and Differentiation). Excellence in teaching is the single most powerful influence on student achievement. Teachers working with students in the Junior Secondary years will support young teenagers through these crucial early high school years.

The Junior Secondary teaching team will:

- Employ collaborative practices in developing and implementing quality teaching programs.
- Belong to faculties that focus on collaborating ideas and forming relationships amongst a Junior Secondary staff.
- Engage students using ICT resources and tools that compliment learning and assessment experiences.
- Implement the Australian Curriculum and provide a structure that ensures coverage of curriculum areas, a ‘rounded’ curriculum, access to electives and an engaging curriculum programme for students.
- Draw on their knowledge of the needs and issues that face early adolescence.
- Ensure that students transitioning to high school participate in learning experiences, demonstrate academic and behavioural expectations and enjoy success that matches and extends beyond their primary schooling.
- Use the shared language and pedagogical framework of Dimensions of Learning to underpin all teaching and learning.
- Implement explicitly structured lessons that cater for early adolescence.
- Provide appropriate feedback and guidance to explicitly develop skills.
- Connect with the wide variety of programmes aligned to the differentiated needs of students such as:
  - Griff Phy, Griff Eng, Griff Chem, Griff Biol
  - Indigenous Cultural Support
  - Learning Support
  - Special Education Programme
  - Accelerated/Individualised Learning Pathways

Student Wellbeing

Student wellbeing can be defined as a sustainable state characterised by predominately positive feelings and attitudes, constructive school relationships, resilience, self-optimisation and a high level of satisfaction with learning experiences.

As a place of learning, Tamborine Mountain State High School values participation, relationships, integrity, diligence and enthusiasm. Attention is paid to the informal development of students’ peer culture with the building of resilience to cope with social pressures. The embedding of these core values has resulted in students interacting through respectful and caring relationships. At Tamborine Mountain State High School there is an observable commitment to supporting the emotional health and wellbeing of all students.

If the transition from primary to lower secondary is a time when some students become less engaged, then the systems and support networks in place at Tamborine Mountain State High School have the critical goal of assisting students to feel connected and ultimately to be a ‘TAMBO’ student.
Student wellbeing at Tamborine Mountain State High School is nurtured through:

- A support team. This team consists of key staff in the school who meet weekly to respond to and act on learning emotional and wellbeing referrals.
- An experienced Middle Management team.
- Acting on reports of bullying.
- A comprehensive induction/transition programme.
- A best practice ACER emotional health and wellbeing test for students, conducted in the first month following enrolment.
- A daily form group to allow a supportive relationship to develop with their form teacher.
- Minimising movement of Year 7 cohort to classrooms.
- Year Co-ordinators and Administration Year Level Managers.
- Catering for a rich diversity of cultures.
- A wide range of extracurricular programmes and activities.
- A focus on life skills – tolerance, resilience, self-discipline, collaboration and communication.

**Parent/Caregiver and Community Involvement**

High levels of parent/caregiver and community involvement are identified as one of the key characteristics of an effective school.

Evidence shows Tamborine Mountain State High School parents/caregivers are encouraged to take a genuine and close interest in the work of the school and are welcomed as partners in their child’s learning. Genuine dialogue occurs both within and across the school and its community around the school’s future direction and priorities.

The following avenues are available for parents/caregivers to be active participants:

- Parents and Citizens Association.
- Term Parent/Teacher Conferencing.
- Information Evenings.
- Cluster of primary schools.

**Leadership**

Tamborine Mountain State High School recognises the importance of adolescents to have opportunities to take on leadership roles, explore new challenges, build self-esteem through success and mentor others. As such a smooth transition from upper primary to lower secondary caters for those students who have demonstrated leadership and mentoring qualities.

Dedicated and enthusiastic teachers with experience in teaching young adolescents will lead Junior Secondary at Tamborine Mountain State High School, supported by the Principal and Administration Team.

Leadership at the Junior Secondary level can involve students being a:

- Member of the Student Representative Council.
- Student Ambassadors.
- Specialist Area Captains.
Local Decision Making

It is common practice at Tamborine Mountain State High School for Junior Secondary students to participate in an induction programme - learning the ‘TAMBO’ way. The personal and civic qualities of a Tamborine Mountain State High School students have evolved through the school developing policies, custom and practices in response to the particular needs and aspirations of the school and wider community.

- Tamborine Mountain Cluster comprises of our four feeder primary schools. Many of the needs, expectations and aspirations of our students are voiced through this cluster.
- The school website is a plethora of information, as well as serving as a feedback channel for input regarding any aspect of school operations, including Junior Secondary.
- A direct email address of the Principal (the.principal@tamborinemtnshs.eq.edu.au) is available for matters pertaining to Junior Schooling.