

Prospectus



TIGS

The Illawarra Grammar School



TIGS
Strong

Welcome

Founded in 1959 in the hall of St Mark's Anglican Church, The Illawarra Grammar School has grown from strength to strength. Nonetheless, the founding vision of providing an academic and Christian education to the students of the Illawarra remains true, with TIGS being the school of choice for families who seek an engaging, rigorous and purposeful learning environment for their child.

Based in beautiful and well-maintained grounds that include well-resourced classrooms and other facilities, The Illawarra Grammar School resounds with joyful echoes throughout the school day. Under the tutelage of a team of excellent educators, the children at the School enjoy learning, with the classroom remaining our prime focus.

The subjects on offer are designed to cater for a wide range of interest and ability. From Physics to Woodwork, Economics to Japanese, Extension Mathematics to Drama, students are able to compile a personalised suite of subjects that contributes positively to their HSC package.

Nonetheless, much of the students' learning also takes place outside the classroom. Activities such as Music, Sport, excursions and camps are highly valued by staff and students alike. Co-curricular opportunities that include Music, Sport, Debating, the Duke of Edinburgh program, leadership training and the Student Christian groups complete TIGS program.

Students at the School are strongly encouraged to take full advantage of the holistic education that is on offer.

I warmly invite you to visit The Illawarra Grammar School on one of our Open Days. Nothing is better than hearing from the students themselves, witnessing their love for the School, and seeing their optimistic, respectful and confident manner.

I look forward to welcoming you to The Illawarra Grammar School in the near future.



Dr Julie Greenhalgh
Principal

**“De Virtute in
Virtutem” – From
Strength to Strength
(Psalm 84:7)**

Our Mission and Values

Mission

The achievement of **Academic** excellence in a **Caring** environment that is founded on **Christian** belief and behaviour, so that students are equipped to act with wisdom, compassion and justice as faithful stewards of our world.

Values

Academic. At TIGS we foster rigorous and cohesive teaching practices to deliver excellent learning outcomes.

Christian. TIGS is an Anglican School and we actively promote the value and relevance of the Christian faith among the whole school community.

Caring. We know and care for each and every individual student's needs on a deep and personal level.





Our journey with The Illawarra Grammar School began with our eldest child starting in Pre-Prep. Fourteen years later she is now in her final year of school with her three siblings following in her footsteps.

TIGS has allowed our children to develop through academics, leadership, sports and The Arts.

What we love about the School is not only the calibre of teaching, but how well the teachers know our children - their strengths, their challenges, and how hard the staff work to ensure each of our children reaches their potential. We could not have hoped for a more nurturing environment to instil and reinforce our own values.

The environment and families within the School have made our experience at TIGS unforgettable and so incredibly enjoyable.

For the most important and influential part of our children's lives, we couldn't be happier with the experience they have received at TIGS.

Rehana and Shabbir Kermali

TIGS parents

TIGS Strong

We believe a good education is not solely about an examination score. School should be about far more than a number. It is about growing each day, building on the learnings of the day before. Students stretching their minds, training their bodies, caring for others, and growing in faith; growing stronger each day.

The Illawarra and the world need new types of leaders, at work, within the community, and at home. This new generation of leaders calls for an enhanced set of skills and intelligences that a curriculum-only approach cannot provide.

We need leaders who can stand against the headwinds of life. We need leaders of character and curiosity, compassion and connection, critical thinking and courage.

To take students from strength to strength, a school needs to be consistent, creative, and customised.

The Illawarra and the world need strong leaders.

Strong leaders need a strong school — TIGS Strong.

**”
The Illawarra and
the world need strong
leaders. Strong leaders
need a strong school.**

Strategic pillars

TIGS is committed to remaining at the forefront of educational practice in a constantly evolving global landscape. Our strategic pillars were developed in collaboration with parents, students and staff and endorsed by the School Council. The pillars set a clear path for the School's future and development.

Academic Excellence

STRONG learning

We have outstanding teachers partnered with engaged learners and parents to achieve excellent personal outcomes.

Christian Belief and Behaviour

STRONG character and convictions

We are a community of people who are shaped by God's love.

Caring

STRONG connection and care

We are a safe community where care is active.

Tradition and Future Focussed

STRONG identity

We honour our past as we focus on the future.

Sustainability and Stewardship

STRONG corporate citizenship

We tread lightly and leave a legacy for those who follow.

Scan to find out more.





At TIGS every child is known and cared for.

Our schools

To deliver consistent and effective learning experiences, a school needs a clear vision implemented by dedicated staff and supported by the School community.

At TIGS our Mission, Values and strategic pillars create unity and purpose across our three schools to deliver an exceptional educational experience from Pre-Prep through to Year 12.

TIGS Prep

Our preparatory program uses the Early Years Learning Framework to create an environment that is carefully structured to equip our youngest learners with the social, emotional and foundational skills that will enable them to succeed in their Junior School years. TIGS Prep students make a seamless transition into Kindergarten, ready to start their academic journey.

Junior School

Students in our Junior School are equipped to become lifelong learners, empowered to think deeply and critically about the world and their place in it. The Junior School delivers highly personalised learning in Mathematics and Literacy through differentiated class groupings. Through transdisciplinary learning, students become skilled in research and reflection, growing in self-confidence which allows them to enter Senior School as self-directed learners.

Senior School

To prepare students for the ever-changing world, our Senior School has a holistic focus, where a strong academic foundation is enriched by extensive co-curricular, community service and wellbeing programs. Students are equipped to graduate as leaders, with the strength of character, confidence and capability to make a positive impact on the world. Delivering the NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA) curriculum, students work towards achieving their Higher School Certificate, with 85-90 per cent of eligible students accepting university placements.





The strongest start to life

TIGS Prep

Outstanding preparation for Kindergarten
Preparatory program for children aged 3 to 5



Junior School

A strong foundation for learning
Kindergarten to Year 6



Senior School

From strength to strength
Year 7 to Year 12



TIGS Prep

Outstanding preparation for Kindergarten

It's common for parents to wonder whether their child is ready for Kindergarten, while also feeling excited their child has reached this new milestone.

At TIGS Prep we build the social, emotional and foundational skills that young learners need in order to thrive when they transition into the Junior School. By harnessing the innate curiosity and creativity of children, our preparatory program unlocks the power of play-based learning.

Our program is influenced by the Reggio Emilia approach to education and the Early Years Learning Framework, in which relationships and play are at the forefront and are used to guide learning delivery.

Play is driven by the children's interests, questions, and the world that they live in. The materials available for play add to the children's learning in meaningful ways. The opportunity for children to create their own explorations helps to develop independence and creative thinking. As children guide their own play, social interactions take place and relationships are built.

Language is developed, Mathematics and Science are explored, creativity and The Arts are promoted. Nature finds its way into many scenarios and explorations and the culture and diversity of others is discovered in meaningful ways. Children are truly immersed in their play and learning.

Provocations or experiences are curated by staff after observation of the children to encourage discussion, exploration, experimentation, interest and thinking. Each experience is carefully guided by expert staff who encourage the children to think creatively and problem solve to promote and extend their critical thinking skills.

We believe in the process of learning; where the teachers, parents and the child are viewed as collaborators. Teachers and parents are essential to the child's learning where the exchange and collaboration of ideas is vital in creating a positive learning environment. We encourage parents to be active participants in their child's learning through continual communication and involvement between parents, teachers and the child, and by creating connections within the School and community.

Extended hours

9.00am to 2.30pm – Structured Learning (all children are expected to attend).

7.30am to 5.30pm – Families have flexibility of arrival and departure times.

TIGS Prep

Opportunities

TIGS Prep offers a range of exciting specialist programs:

- Art
- Languages
- Movement
- Music
- Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM).

Facilities

The Piper Centre houses four learning classrooms and an art studio. Students belong to one of four classes, named according to the Dharawal Indigenous community language:

- Amaroo 'a beautiful place'
- Cooinda 'the happy place'
- Elanora 'home by the sea'
- Marana 'the stars'

The Centre also includes soft play spaces with beautiful and engaging outdoor areas designed to facilitate fun and social interaction within a safe and inspiring environment.





A day in the life

From 7.30am – Arrival time

Children can engage in learning experiences in the indoor and outdoor learning environments.

Parents can settle their children and engage with educators.

9.00am – Structured learning

Time is allocated to core learning areas including language and literacy, arts, STEM and social and emotional development.

12.00pm – Lunch

Children bring a healthy morning tea, lunch and afternoon snack to be enjoyed indoors or outdoors.

Lunch can also be ordered from the School Canteen using an online ordering system. Orders are delivered to the classroom.

1.00pm – Rest

Rest or quiet time is enjoyed each day.

Children bring their own sheet, pillow and small blanket for a chance to recharge with dimmed lights and calming background music.

From 2.30pm to 5.30pm – Departure

Children can be collected by an authorised adult at any time until 5.30pm.

Educators are available to discuss your child's adventures and achievements of the day.




Junior School

A strong foundation for learning

Not every school can provide the level of personalisation, academic focus and support that form part of the core offering at TIGS, but every student requires this to achieve their best.

Our Junior School is a warm and friendly environment where children thrive. When students feel safe and supported, they are empowered to achieve their full potential. Through an environment where care and attention are active, our students are able to flourish academically.

We create a highly personalised experience for each student, using extensive data analysis to understand exactly what they have learned and deliver what they are ready to learn next. This is supported by a culture of care, where student wellbeing is a primary focus across the School. Our Deputy Head of Junior School oversees a comprehensive and embedded program of wellbeing that nurtures resilient and capable young students.

A young girl with dark skin and braided hair, wearing a dark blue school uniform with a red tie, is looking down thoughtfully. The background is blurred, showing other students in similar uniforms.

Learning in our Junior School delves further than a content driven curriculum and develops conceptual understanding by deepening knowledge and skills within subjects. By making connections across subjects our students transfer learning into new contexts. For example, students may explore English, History and Visual Art through the concept of 'perspective', debating each sides of an argument and understanding the point of view in past events to add dimension and depth to a drawing. This collaborative and inquiry-based approach to learning has a profound effect on outcomes because it caters to different learning styles and develops active, compassionate and lifelong learners.

Beyond the curriculum, students have access to extensive co-curricular, community service, sporting, artistic and Outdoor Education opportunities to create a truly holistic learning journey that strengthens them in character and resilience while also developing a sense of connection and belonging.

The Junior School campus inspires and engages students with facilities designed to support learning, connection and growth. With multiple play spaces, sporting facilities and well-equipped classrooms, the environment cultivates a sense of exploration and wonder.

The strongest start in life





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We are committed to outstanding academic achievement within a culture of personalised care and Christian values.

Senior School

From strength to strength

A holistic education prepares future leaders for success. In the Senior School, students develop in knowledge as well as character so that they can approach complex challenges with clarity, confidence and empathy.

To achieve this, our Senior School is structured with a focus on personal learning excellence and integrates our strategic pillars across all learning areas. The curriculum is delivered progressively to enable opportunities for personalisation as students grow in experience and skill.

Starting with a strong foundation across core subject areas in Year 7. Elective subjects are added in Year 9 and expanded in Year 11 and Year 12.

Senior students also engage in community service to develop their awareness of others, compassion and humility, and are supported with a comprehensive wellbeing program to develop their resilience and sense of belonging.

Student learning is enhanced with the use of significant data analysis. Our deep understanding of each student's strengths and weaknesses allows us to tailor their learning delivery and ensure they are improving day by day.

Our extensive co-curricular program expands learning beyond academics. By exploring their passions, TIGS students attain a wealth of skills and competencies that only experience can provide and drive a deeper understanding of self, relationships and the world.

TIGS students are also active in Sport, Outdoor Education, cultural learning, The Arts with extensive opportunities available in each area. From representative Sport to overseas cultural immersion trips. TIGS students are equipped with the conceptual and experiential knowledge needed for a strong start in life.



■ **Inaaya Kermali**
Year 12 student

Through my 15 years at TIGS, I've realised how this School has become my second home. TIGS fosters such an encouraging and supportive environment and has instilled values in me which has shaped my character over the years.

The abundance of resources, dedicated staff and teachers, and amazing opportunities from extracurriculars and competitions to excursions, camps and overseas trips have all added to the quality of my experience.

I have made so many great memories with staff and my peers. Memories I will take with me once I graduate. I am so thankful to have had the opportunity to attend TIGS.


Senior School

Curriculum

Our Senior School students study the NESA curriculum under the guidance and framework of TIGS Mission and Values.

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|---------------------------|--|
| Year 7 and Year 8 | The Arts, Biblical Studies, English, HSIE, Mathematics, Music, PDHPE, Science, Sport, Wellbeing and one Language (Mandarin, Japanese or French). |
| Year 9 and Year 10 | The Arts, Biblical Studies, Design, English, HSIE, Mathematics, Music, PDHPE, Science, Sport, Wellbeing, plus two electives. |
| Year 11 | A minimum of 12 Units of electives from the approved list of Board Developed or Board Endorsed courses, with English as a mandatory subject. |
| Year 12 | A minimum of 10 Units of electives from the approved list of Board Developed or Board Endorsed courses, with English as a mandatory subject. |

Year 11 and Year 12 have 31 elective options and 7 extension options.


We provide targeted and intentional personalised pathways to ensure maximum learning growth.



Beyond the classroom

Co-curricular

TIGS offers one of the largest co-curricular programs in the Illawarra in both Junior and Senior School. We believe that academic foundations need to be enriched with practical experiences and that many essential skills cannot be learned solely through the curriculum.

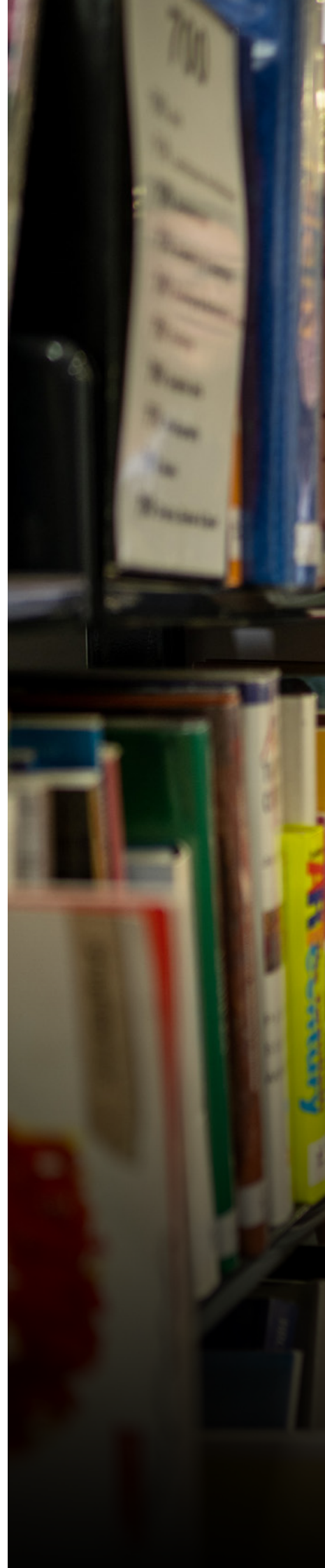
Opportunities are grouped broadly into five categories:

- Academic
- The Arts
- Christian Service and Stewardship
- Cultural Learning
- Sport

Students have access to both timetabled co-curricular offerings and additional opportunities outside school hours.

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A TIGS education gives your child the strongest start in life.





Beyond the classroom

The Arts

From Prep to Year 12, The Arts are an important part of life at TIGS.

An Arts education is vital to the learning and shaping of young people. We believe that everyone is creative and has creative potential; we seek to ignite this potential in each one of our students. Engagement with The Arts activities can increase academic progress, skill development and a sense of wellbeing, not just in the area of The Arts, but across the academic and social landscape.

In the face of an ever-changing world, now, more so than ever, it is important that young people possess the skills that are going to allow them to excel. When creativity is fostered within students, it allows them to become agile and active problem solvers and independent learners.

In The Arts at TIGS, students will find a secure space to be themselves in a collaborative and shared learning environment, with unlimited potential to build their skills and express themselves as people within our world.



Community service

Community service is a prominent feature of life in our School. It is through serving others that we gain a deeper understanding of compassion, humility and empathy. We see these skills as essential for future leaders to make a meaningful impact on the world.

TIGS has partnerships with communities and organisations across Australia including the Coomaditchie and Nganambala First Nations communities, Anglicare, SONY Foundation and Disability Trust. Our students can regularly volunteer or contribute through fundraising.

Academic Support

All students at TIGS are empowered to achieve their best. Our Academic Support team are a core part of our commitment to removing barriers to learning.

High potential learners are given rich opportunities to extend and apply their learning while students who require additional learning support receive personalised specialist assistance and care. This department is well resourced with expert staff to provide the right extension and support to each student.

Our team of school psychologists are also available to support the emotional and mental wellbeing of all students through the ups and downs of their developmental years.



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In the face of an ever-changing world, it is important that young people possess skills that enable them to excel.

Beyond the classroom

Outdoor Education

Some lessons are best delivered outside the classroom. Our Outdoor Education program takes students into the wild and wonderful places of our planet to learn some of the intangible lessons of life. Lessons of perseverance and determination; friendship and connection to the environment.

Year 3 to Year 6 attend an annual camp that develops their independence, teamwork and confidence.

Year 7 to Year 10 attend a week-long annual camp with a progressive and intentional structure which takes students out of their comfort zones, where they discover new strengths and capabilities.

Year 11 students have the opportunity to attend an Arts Camp at Bundanon, while all Year Groups can take part in the Duke of Edinburgh Award.

Representative Sport

Athletes in most major sports have a pathway into local, state, national and international representation at TIGS. In Junior and Senior School, we encourage students to be ambitious in their goals and strive towards success.

Sport provides the physical, mental and social development that supports wellbeing and strengthens motivation. Our students can progress through NASSA, AICES, NSW CIS or NSW All Schools pathways. Selected students are able to access additional training support through our Talented Athletes Program and Talented Football Program.

Leaders of *their future*

Our graduates soar to astonishing heights – from astronauts, CEOs and missionaries to health professionals, film producers and sporting greats. TIGS has a proud reputation for advancing young lives in a manner that benefits the broader community.

While many of our graduates are university bound, our range of academic choices accommodates both tertiary and vocational pathways. This means every student can navigate their own pathway to success.

Their stories



■ **Meganne Christian,**
Class of 2004

After graduating, I studied a Bachelor of Engineering in Industrial Chemistry at the University of New South Wales. After completing my PhD in 2014, I was excited to get some experience overseas so I moved to Italy with my husband where I commenced working at the National Research Council of Italy in Bologna, where I have been ever since.

In November 2022, I was honoured and humbled to be among the 17 people chosen for the ESA Astronaut Class of 2022. I am a member of the Astronaut Reserve, which means that I continue with my current job until a mission opportunity arises.

The most important aspect of my education at TIGS was the encouragement of a broad range of interests. I loved Mathematics and Science but also Languages. The problem-solving skills I developed in extra-curricular activities like Future Problem Solvers are very invaluable in my current job.

Going to the national FPS competition was an exciting moment every year and I will never forget when my team won 1st place.



James Yan,
Class of 2011

After graduating, I attained a degree in Music at the Australian Institute of Music, before moving overseas to study a Masters in Composition for Screen from the Royal College of Music in London.

I was fortunate enough to work alongside some of the best young musicians in the world, culminating in recording several compositions in the prestigious Abbey Road Studios. I have worked as an orchestrator on several video games including Marvel's *Guardians of the Galaxy* and *Call of Duty Mobile*, and a variety of feature films including *Black Adam* and *Secret Headquarters*.

It was during my time at TIGS that I began to really engage with Music. It was in my final year that my Music teacher opened my eyes to the possibility that this could be my career. I often point to that as being what nudged me down the path I now find myself on.

I was very fortunate to attend a school like TIGS which placed such an emphasis on the performing arts, coupled with a breadth of avenues for expression.

Scholarships

TIGS awards scholarships each year in recognition of significant achievements in academics, music or sports. Our highly sought after scholarships are generally offered until Year 12, and recipients are expected to be actively involved in the life of the School.

Gifted students receive the challenges they need to keep them engaged with their learning in our rigorous and purposeful academic program, with extensive opportunity to pursue their passions through our co-curricular and extra-curricular activities.

Academic Scholarship applicants must apply online and sit the scholarship examination, Music and Sports Scholarship applicants must apply directly to the School.

For more information, please contact our Enrolment Office or scan the QR code below:
Email: scholarships@tigs.nsw.edu.au
Phone: +61 2 4220 0216

Scan to find out more.



How to enrol

Your TIGS Strong journey starts here

Step 1 – Application for Enrolment

An Application for Enrolment is submitted online.

Step 2 – Enrolment interview

Before a place is offered, you and your child will be invited to attend an enrolment interview.

Step 3 – Offer of placement

A successful interview and availability of placement will result in an Offer of Enrolment emailed to parents/guardians.

Step 4 – Accepting or declining placement

To accept your child's place at the School, you will be required to sign and return the Acceptance of Offer and pay the Enrolment Fee.

Step 5 – Receipt of acceptance and commencement

Upon receipt of the signed Acceptance of Offer and payment of the Enrolment Fee, your child will be enrolled at TIGS.

Step 6 – Welcome

In the term prior to commencement parents/guardians will be notified of commencement dates, orientation days and any other pertinent information and details that will assist your child's transition to TIGS.

Scan to find out more.





TIGS

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Grammar School

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