

December 2024

CELEBRATING
100 YEARS
OF BRIGHTER FUTURES

Brighter Futures

© LEARNING FOR SUCCESS | 2025 APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN!

A start in life
a brighter future for young australians

Learning for Success Program Launched

Following the launch of our new **Learning for Success** program, we would like your help in spreading the word of this great opportunity for students.

Evolved from long experience and research, this innovative and exciting program offers high quality, individualised support through a 'whole-of-school-life' approach, encouraging students to unlock and nurture their own potential, broaden their skills and educational horizons, and explore wider future career options within a rapidly changing modern society.

Recruitment is already underway across NSW/ACT, enabling students to receive appropriate enrichment resources and experiences from January 2025, aligning with the new school year. Students already in our Primary and Secondary Program have been invited to transition to this new program; it will sit alongside our Career and Skills Development Scholarship and Tertiary Program.

The educational and future trajectories of participating students through Kindergarten to Year 12 will be enhanced via **three key Pillars**:

Pillar 1



Creation of Literacy, Numeracy and Creativity Rich Home Environments (Grades 1–4)

Research shows that out-of-school learning and parental involvement are vital in maximising academic outcomes – boosting motivation and capabilities, and promoting habits and skills that foster lifelong learning.

Pillar 2



Self Discovery of Values, Interests, Abilities (Grades 5–8) **and Careers** (Grades 9–12)

As students begin forming their own identity, emphasis shifts to gaining better understanding of themselves, their values, interests and abilities. These are invaluable life-enhancing skills for the future and the exploration of possible career options.

Pillar 3



Development of 21st Century Skills (Grades 9–12)

Our focus here goes beyond traditional academic knowledge to the skills needed for an ever-changing world: communication, collaboration, creativity, leadership, flexibility, adaptability, critical thinking and problem solving.

Adapted to individual needs, regular interactions, support, coaching, enriching experiences and activities, resources and financial support form the heart of our **Learning for Success** program.



Learning for Success – help spread the word!

Do **YOU** know a student or family who would benefit from our **Learning for Success** program? If so, please encourage them to find out more and apply by simply scanning the QR code. We greatly appreciate your support, and look forward to sharing the progress of students with you.



Building Skills and Broadening Horizons

Now in its second year, this valuable scholarship is growing, helping students gain essential skills and opening up a world of career possibilities.

Our 10 pilot year students, who began in 2023, continue to grow into inquisitive, capable young adults, applying their deepening mastery of 21st Century skills.

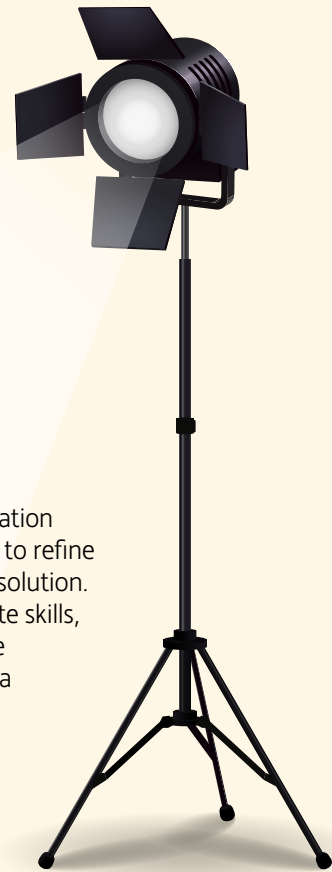
Theo, for example, displayed excellent leadership when taking initiative and networking at a recent event. While Aliya has been honing her leadership through SRC "caring for, supporting and listening to students".

These students are now exploring and practicing skills with industry experts – from honing communication skills with the Founder and Director of a climate tech company, to exploring creativity with a Financial Services Specialist.

Our 20 new students, who began this year, are enthusiastically embracing the program. In workshop and career coaching sessions, they have been eager to learn as much as possible

from each interaction. In their collaboration workshop, students expressed a desire to refine skills such as teamwork and conflict resolution. They are also exploring how their innate skills, interests and values can offer guidance when exploring career options – Danica realised she likes to "think outside the box" and help people, while Tasheen recognised her naturally competitive nature and ability to work well in fast-paced environments.

As both cohorts discover more about themselves, they are also discovering the countless careers and opportunities that lay ahead – from software development to textiles, politics and business ownership.



Spotlight on Creativity

Through our scholarship, students are learning the power creativity.

From seeing its power in seemingly straightforward tasks, to understanding its importance when reflecting and refining - students are discovering its wide-ranging applications. Vee, for instance, has been creating innovative arguments during his school debating. Students are also combining creativity with other 21st Century skills, like Tanya who enjoys pairing it with collaboration to explore different ideas in group projects.

Kyle views creativity as a wildfire – "Like nature, it's unpredictable and can allow individuals thinking processes to just burst with ideas and have this beautiful blitz in their heads".



Words of Gratitude

Students and families share their thoughts and express their heartfelt thanks for the personalised care and stability enabled through your kindness. They speak of the opportunities they otherwise might not have had, the encouragement and sense of community they have found, the inspiration to give back to others and the lasting impact on their lives.

“ Thank you so much for being such a stable part in my growth. You have been so supportive and patient with me throughout the years. It’s because of your help I can read and write and I have more confidence in myself now because of that. ”

Marissa, Year 12

“ Your generosity has inspired me to help others and give back to the community. I hope one day I will be able to help students achieve their goals just as you have helped me. ”

May, alumni who graduated as a teacher

“ Upon discovering *A Start in Life* and the tertiary scholarship, I felt a renewed sense of hope and knew that applying would be one of the best decisions of my life – and I was right ... ”

Tina, Bachelor of Business/Bachelor of Science (IT)

“ The children have matured into resilient, independent young people ... I believe that without such wonderful role models, the support, love and genuine care shown to my family by the community and the generous, selfless people who work with and donate towards *A Start in Life*, they would not be the people they are today. ”

Karen, single mother of four children supported for over ten years

“ This program has offered so much more than I could imagine... solid support and guidance...priceless! Briana has gained much more confidence and insight into what her future looks like...I feel Briana’s won a lotto ticket to get this opportunity in her life. ”

Naomi, mother of Briana in our Career and Skills Development Scholarship

“ I have never been involved in an organisation that makes such a vital difference in young people’s lives at a grassroots level. This program caters to the individual, and the staff are committed to each young person’s cause. ”

Brett, alumni who went on to work in media and production

It’s all you!

You are a vital part of what we do, and we are continually inspired by the creative ways you help us to help young people.

- Community barbecues
- Annual lawn bowl events
- Sale of chocolates
- Individuals advocating tirelessly for us
- Bequests in wills
- Grants from foundations
- Generous personal donations
- Business partnerships to raise both awareness and funds
- Employee donations through workplace giving
- Organisations honouring our work via awards
- A solo flight around Australia by one young lady, fundraising for us along the way!

Your support means the world and changes worlds, so our deepest thanks to you all.

Thank you!



Celebrating our Students

Over the past year, our students have shown incredible dedication and growth.

Their commitment, enabled through your invaluable support, has seen them flourish, and we are excited to share some of their achievements with you.



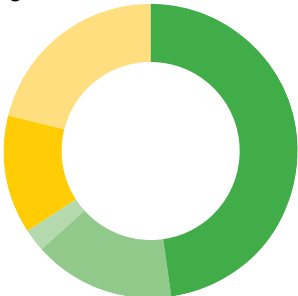
Primary and High School Achievements



8 Students achieved top 10 rankings – including first place in: Advanced English; Science Extension; and Photography, Video and Digital Imaging

370 Subjects studied by primary and secondary students; impressively, 306 of these resulted in an A, B or C grade.

A Grade	13.1%
B Grade	20.9%
C Grade	48.0%
D Grade	15.5%
E Grade	2.4%



Students participated in various activities and took on a range of responsibilities – including library monitoring, buddying with kindergarten students, Clean Up Australia Day, chess club, choir and SRC.

“ During all learning activities, Monica is not afraid to voice her opinions or provide an answer. She listens always and works cooperatively with others ”

Monica’s Year 5 teacher

University and TAFE Achievements



53% received our **Academic Bonus Payment** (for a consistently high WAM, improved WAM or for completing a TAFE course)

1 in 2 One in two students improved their **Weighted Average Mark (WAM)**

Subject Grades Achieved
Of all subjects studied, 25% resulted in a High Distinction and 30% resulted in a Distinction

5 work placements completed – including medicine, engineering, cyber security and law

More impressive achievements include: attended quantum technology conferences, undertaken additional courses, built electrical transformer circuits, made the Dean’s List, participated in science summer research projects, mentored first year engineering students, secured thesis projects and more.

