

The Gap State High School



PO address	PO Box 1 The Gap Qld 4061
Phone	07 3511 3888
Fax	07 3511 3800
Email	admin@thegapshs.eq.edu.au
Website or Contact Person	www.thegapshs.eq.edu.au

Principal's foreword

Introduction

The Gap State High School is situated in a north-west suburb of Brisbane. In recent years the school has grown in population and will be at near capacity for the beginning of the 2009 school year, an increase of 30% in the last three years. During this time of growth the school has added additional facilities and resources to meet the growing demand of a modern educational environment.

The Gap High's vision is "Educating the whole student in a supportive local school community" and our aim is to be a school that provides opportunities to students to identify their unique talents and be able to achieve to their potential as future leaders in our society.

Our school emphasizes the need for students to be challenged in all their learning experiences to achieve their highest academic potential and further develop their attributes that will contribute to their individual character and leadership capacities.

The Gap High School has a respected tradition for its commitment towards enhancing student achievement in academic studies, the performing and visual arts, community service and leadership development.

Future outlook

At The Gap we acknowledge that our greatest asset is our students and staff. The ability to continually build productive quality relationships focussing on continuous learning is the fabric that encompasses our culture. As our school grows we are very conscious of maintaining our strong culture.

Our staff are well trained and professional. We have a balance of youth and experience to cater for our very diverse curriculum offerings and student engagement in learning. Our staff will be continually challenged to engage in active research, working with professional organisations, networking and personal learning to inform themselves of the latest curriculum directions and teaching models.

Our school at a glance

School Profile

Total student enrolments for this school	983
Year levels offered	Years 8 to 12
Coeducational or single sex	Co-educational

Curriculum offerings

Our distinctive curriculum offerings in 2008

- GOALS – The Gap Outdoor Adventure and Leadership Studies aims to enhance students' personal, social and leadership competencies in order to increase their potential for life success and their ability to contribute to and lead in society. The course has been developed as a core program from year 8 to year 12 and to complement the school's academic curriculum. The GOALS program helps ensure the whole school curriculum is a more holistic educational experience.
- Music Extension classes for middle school students.
- Music and English Extension classes in year 12
- Visual Art enrichment classes for all year levels.
- Vocational Education – Vocational Pathways Program.
- Consolidation Units for Year 8-10 semester 1 and Senior Foundation Units from Year 10 semester 2,
- Dimensions of Learning a whole school approach to teaching students how to develop and use high order thinking skills.

Extra curricula activities

- Instrumental Music program involving over 200 students. Concert Bands, Junior and Stage Bands, Chamber Strings and Percussion Ensembles.
- Student choirs who compete in local competitions.
- Debating teams in all year levels – Queensland Debating Union Competition.
- Sporting teams – Interschool, District, and Metropolitan North and State competitions.
- Camping Program for all year levels 8 – 12.
- Wide variety of sport offerings and options.
- School dances – one per term
- Chess Club, Karma Club
- School trips: Snowy Mountains, International trips to China for language students, Adventure hiking to New Zealand.

How information technology is being used to assist learning

The school has 4 computer laboratories, 4 curriculum areas of computer pods adjacent to subject areas, clusters of computers in the library, a suite of laptop computers for student loans from the library.

The computers are used in many various ways to assist the learning of students. In the Business subjects, Graphics classes and Multi-Media subjects. Students are in computer laboratories using computers 100% of the class time. In the Design Technology classrooms, Music classrooms, Science classes computers are used as classroom tools to enhance learning experiences. In the library computers are used for research and independent study work by students. Computers and associated digital media are used for the Film & Television subjects as well as producing multi-media presentations for assessment and informing larger audiences.



Our school at a glance

Social climate

The GOALS program – fosters the leader in every child and assists students to understand the importance of relationships and teamwork in a practical supportive program.

The School also hosts International Students thus providing a cultural diversity beneficial to the whole school community and allowing the development of students' understanding of other cultures. Registered CRICOS number is 00608A.

There is a strong history of Social Justice throughout the school with active student participation in Harmony Week and NAIDOC week activities.

Strong networks exist with feeder primary schools and during education week an Outreach program allows over 1000 students to experience high school life. Our older students are involved in visits to primary schools and assisting staff with special activities.

Peer Support Program involving senior students supporting new year 8 students and year 9 students. This program is supported by a welfare committee who also monitor and develop programs to address welfare issues as they arise.

School Chaplains, Youth support Co-ordinator, School Nurse and Guidance Officer all work together to provide an integrated level of support structures and develop proactive programs that encourage quality relationships throughout the student body.

Student Executive Leadership Team: Student leadership is a very important aspect of the school. Twelve senior students have very defined roles in leading whole school programs. The administration meets weekly with student leaders and students are represented on many school committees

Involving parents in their child's education.

Our Parents and Citizens Association and associated sub-committees are very active across our school.

Our P&C meets monthly along with POPARTS (Parents of Performing ARTS students), and SHAPE (Sport, health and physical education). Other responsibilities are; the tuckshop, stationery shop and uniform shop where all volunteers and employees add to a vibrant community of parents working together to improve educational outcomes for all students.

Our P&C has a strong vision of building social capital across our school. New parents welcome morning tea, parent information nights, Year 8 family barbeque, catering at parent/teacher interviews, assisting with senior citizens' concert, get -to-know-you informal gatherings once per term (at the Coffee Club), supporting the role of chaplaincy and by marketing our school through the provision of a part-time communications officer. All these activities add towards developing quality relationships and a positive environment. The P&C sponsor Speech Night awards and other worthy student achievements both within and external to the school.

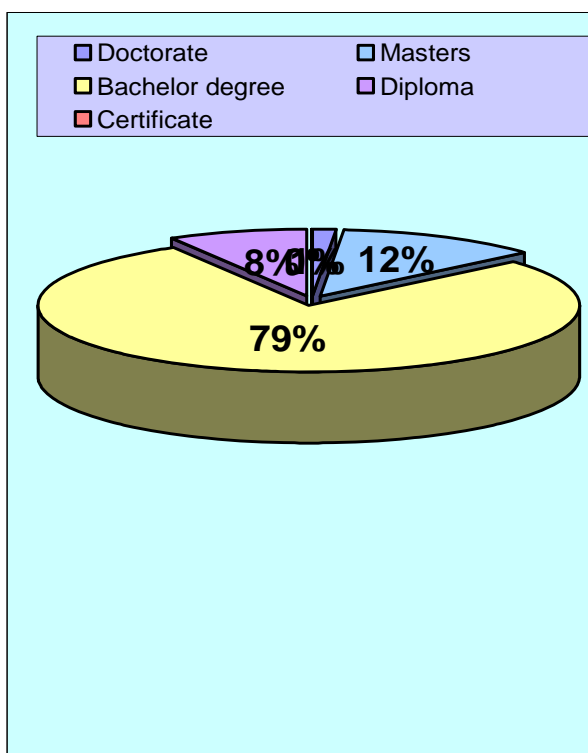
Student leaders are also welcomed and encouraged to present Student Committee Annual Operational Plans at monthly parent meetings. These presentations are very popular and add the student dimension to decisions made at these meetings.

The P&C also support our teaching staff with an International Teachers' Day breakfast.

Our staff profile

Qualifications of all teachers

Highest level of attainment	Number of classroom teachers and school leaders at the school
Doctorate	1
Masters	9
Bachelor degree	57
Diploma	6
Certificate	0



Expenditure on and teacher participation in professional development.

- The total funds expended on teacher professional development in 2008 were \$29,400.
- The major professional development initiatives are as follows:
 - Queensland Studies Authority curriculum workshops for Senior Schooling and the Middle Phase of Learning
 - Training for new staff in Dimensions of Learning
 - Workplace Health & Safety training
 - First –Aid Qualifications
 - Information Technology Courses. Including Education Queensland's One School, other school data bases and the implementation of computers for teachers.
 - Training Qualifications for the Leadership Development and Training Centre
 - Specific curriculum requirements across subject areas.
 - Professional Leadership Conferences
- The involvement of the teaching staff in professional development activities during 2008 was 85 %.

Average staff attendance

- For permanent and temporary staff and school leaders the staff attendance rate was 97% in 2008.

Proportion of staff retained from the previous school year.

- From the end of the 2007 school year, 96 % of staff were retained by the school for the entire 2008 school year.

Performance of our students

Student attendance

The average attendance rate as a percentage in 2008 was 91 %.

Key outcomes

National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) results - our reading, writing, spelling, grammar and punctuation, and numeracy results for Year 9.

Domain	Measures	Year 9
Reading	Average score for the school	604
	Average score for Queensland	568.2
	For the school the percentage of students at or above the national minimum standard.	2008 98 %
Writing	Average score for the school	574
	Average score for Queensland	555.3
	For the school the percentage of students at or above the national minimum standard.	2008 93 %
Spelling	Average score for the school	587
	Average score for Queensland	567.8
	For the school the percentage of students at or above the national minimum standard.	2008 94 %
Grammar and Punctuation	Average score for the school	602
	Average score for Queensland	563.2
	For the school the percentage of students at or above the national minimum standard.	2008 98 %
Numeracy	Average score for the school	601
	Average score for Queensland	570.7
	For the school the percentage of students at or above the national minimum standard.	2008 98 %

Apparent retention rates Year 10 to Year 12.

Year 12 student enrolment as a percentage of the Year 10 student cohort.	108 %
Year 12 student enrolment as a percentage of the Year 8 student cohort.	111%

Outcomes for our Year 12 cohort of 2008

Number of students awarded a Senior Statement.	136
Number of students awarded a Queensland Certificate Individual Achievement (QCIA).	n/a
Number of students awarded a Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE) at the end of Year 12.	106
Number of students awarded an International Baccalaureate Diploma (IBD).	n/a
Number of students awarded one or more Vocational Education and Training (VET) qualifications.	21
Number of students who are completing or completed a School-based Apprenticeship or Traineeship (SAT).	9
Number of students receiving an Overall Position (OP).	113
Percentage of OP/ IBD eligible students with OP 1-15 or an IBD.	73 %
Percentage of Year 12 students who are completing or completed a SAT or were awarded one or more of the following: QCE, IBD, VET qualification.	79 %
Percentage of Queensland Tertiary Admissions Centre (QTAC) applicants receiving a tertiary offer.	97 %

Post-school destination information

At the time of publishing this School Annual Report, the results of the 2008 Year 12 post-school destinations survey, Next Step – Student Destination Report for the school were not available. Information about these post-school destinations of our students will be incorporated into this Report in September.

YEAR 12 2008 STUDENT DESTINATIONS The Gap State High School



Introduction

This report is based on the findings of the Queensland Government *Next Step* survey, which targeted all students who completed Year 12 and gained a Senior Statement in 2008, whether they attended a Government, Catholic or independent school, or a TAFE secondary college. The Office of the Government Statistician conducted the survey between 30 March and 6 May 2009, approximately six months after the young people left school. Responses were predominantly collected via computer-assisted telephone interviewing with a paper-based survey collected from a small number of students for whom telephone details were not available.

The statewide and regional reports of the *Next Step* survey can be located at the *Next Step* website at www.education.qld.gov.au/nextstep

Response rate for The Gap State High School

Table 1 below reports the response rate for The Gap State High School. It expresses the number of respondents from this school, as a percentage of all Year 12 completers attending The Gap State High School in 2008.

It has not been possible to ascertain how representative these responses are of all students at this school.

Table 1 Survey response rate

Number of respondents	Number of students who completed Year 12	Response rate (%)
120	147	81.6

Definitions of main destinations

The pathways of Year 12 completers were categorised into ten main destinations. Respondents who were both studying and working were reported as studying for their main destination. A table defining these categories can be found in the statewide report at www.education.qld.gov.au/nextstep

Summary of findings

In 2009, 71.7 per cent of young people who completed their Year 12 at The Gap State High School in 2008 continued in some recognised form of education and training in the year after they left school.

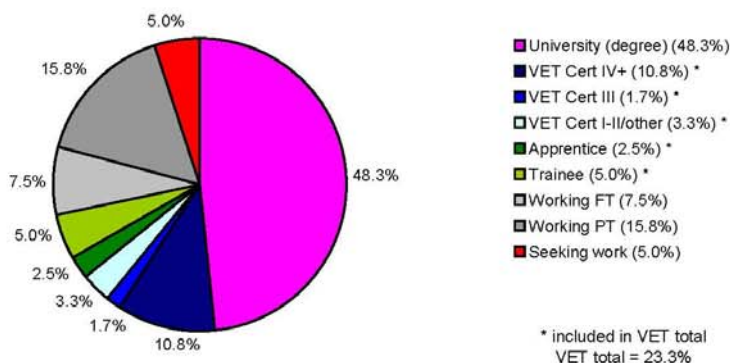
The most common study destination was university (48.3 per cent). The combined VET study destinations accounted for 23.3 per cent of respondents, including 15.8 per cent in campus-based VET programs, with 10.8 per cent of Year 12 completers entering programs at Certificate IV level or higher.

7.5 per cent commenced employment-based training, either as an apprentice (2.5 per cent) or trainee (5.0 per cent).

In addition to the above study destinations, a further 4.2 per cent of respondents from this school deferred a tertiary offer in 2009 (deferrers are shown in Figure 1 in their current destination).

28.3 per cent did not enter post-school education or training, and were either employed (23.3 per cent) or seeking work (5.0 per cent).

Figure 1 Main destinations of Year 12 completers



Performance of our students

Value added

Students in all year levels participate in a variety of National, State and Local competitions and performances. Our students' achievements are consistently above state averages with many students receiving High Distinctions/ Distinctions, public commendations for performances or excellence awards.

Twenty-five students were selected to perform in the Queensland showcase gala concert – Creative Generations on Stage for State Schools. With individual performances, ensembles and orchestra positions, our students excelled in this highly acclaimed performance.

In recent years and again in 2008 the average % score for students in the bands OP1 to OP5 has been 12% above state average.

On the sporting field we had students representing Metropolitan North schools at State Carnivals in a wide range of sports with many students going on to represent Queensland.

As an optional extension to our GOALS program students travelled to New Zealand at the end of 2008. The trip was exciting and full of opportunities to increase their leadership and adventure skills.

Parent, student and teacher satisfaction with the school

From the 2008 School Opinion Survey 78% of parents and 79% of students recorded that they were getting a good education at the school. Similarly 84% of parents stated they were satisfied that the school is a good school. From the staff school opinion survey 80% of all staff were satisfied with the morale in the school.