



PLC

PRESBYTERIAN
LADIES' COLLEGE
PATHWAYS

— 2017 —



PLC PATHWAYS



Educating successful global women for the 21st Century

ARMIDALE ■ NSW ■ AUSTRALIA





PLC PATHWAYS

A boutique, residential intensive English language and cultural familiarisation program within PLC Armidale girls' school, for Middle School aged international students, providing pathways to further Australian education at high school and university.

TRADITIONAL Our college has been educating girls since 1887.

PRESTIGIOUS We have a proud record of academic excellence.

TRUSTWORTHY We seek to nurture the wellbeing and safety of every girl entrusted to us.

HOLISTIC We provide English language acquisition, pastoral care, and social and co-curricular activities in one consistent environment.

INDIVIDUAL Our personalised program is tailored to meet the needs of every student.

INTEGRATED We provide seamless pathways to school and university education.



WELCOME FROM THE PRINCIPAL

I am delighted to introduce you to PLC Pathways, a new program of PLC Armidale especially established for international students in their middle years of schooling.

PLC Pathways is a 12-month residential English Language Intensive Course of Study program (ELICOS). It provides exceptionally high quality teaching and cultural familiarisation, and creates direct pathways so students can advance to further secondary and tertiary study in Australia.

PLC Pathways operates within PLC Armidale, a prestigious Australian school for girls established in 1887. PLC Armidale educates girls to be life long learners, from pre-kindergarten to matriculation at Year 12. The College provides an inspirational culture of learning, supporting girls as they develop into young women of substance. We believe that success as a 21st century global citizen requires strength of character and quality of person, not just high examination marks.

Since its inception, PLC Armidale has catered for day and boarding students, providing a nurturing environment allowing each girl to focus and flourish in a safe, stable and diverse community.

PLC Armidale is located in the magnificent New England district of New South Wales – a location famed for educational excellence as well as a pleasant climate, and a safe and welcoming local community. The College is set amongst beautiful gardens and expansive facilities that allow all our girls to flourish. The course has a strategic alliance with its sister school, PLC Sydney.


For me, the most important part of PLC Pathways is that it provides enhanced pathways for students to move seamlessly into secondary and tertiary education – at high schools such as PLC Armidale and PLC Sydney – and onward into universities such as our close neighbour and partner, the University of New England (UNE).

PLC Pathways students will be under the academic and pastoral care of Mr Christopher Spencer, a highly experienced educational leader. Mr Spencer has a strong background in Linguistics, English, History, and Teaching English as a Second Language. As a committed Christian, husband, and father of four daughters, Chris is fully prepared to help every girl in PLC Pathways face the challenges of living and studying away from home – and achieve to her highest potential.


We are pleased to be welcoming PLC Pathways students from countries outside Australia to join our academic community.

MRS NICOLA TAYLOR

Principal



It provides exceptionally high quality teaching and cultural familiarisation, and creates direct pathways so students can advance to further secondary and tertiary study in Australia.

A scenic view of a school campus. In the foreground, there are green plants and pink roses. A paved path leads through a grassy area towards a large tree. To the right, a flagpole with a blue flag stands against a blue sky with white clouds. A white text box is overlaid on the left side of the image.

Our approach is holistic.
Students will live, learn,
socialise and study all in the
one place – a prestigious
academic centre of learning
that has been caring for girls
since 1887.



WELCOME FROM THE PLC PATHWAYS DIRECTOR

I warmly welcome you to our new program, PLC Pathways. I am excited to be starting my role as the first year of the program begins and our first students arrive in early 2017.

We understand the enormous responsibility of looking after young women from outside Australia who are entrusted to our care – and PLC Pathways provides an ideal and safe environment in which our students can flourish.

Our approach is holistic. Students will live, learn, socialise and study all in the one place – a prestigious academic centre of learning that has been caring for girls since 1887.

PLC Pathways students will become like a family. Initially two classes, each of no more than 18 students, provides for a highly individual environment. This will allow me to get to know the girls well, and tailor their learning experiences to suit their needs.

Our immersive English language program has been carefully structured to ensure girls become proficient in academic and conversational English, and comfortable studying in an Australian institution, while still progressing in their own studies.

Our education philosophy is based on 21st Century learning ideals, helping girls develop a deep, critical understanding of western thought. We help our students become more resilient, welcoming of challenges and prepared to think creatively – qualities that are highly valuable in an increasingly competitive and globally connected world.

And of course, our focus is on providing seamless and enhanced education pathways so our students may continue their school education at PLC Armidale, PLC Sydney or other Australian high schools of their choice – including those of the same calibre as the PLC schools, with which we are closely networked.

This school education will lay the foundations for successful university study in the future – particularly for students matriculating into the University of New England (UNE), our supporter in this program. UNE already has strategic partnerships with several Chinese universities and a very successful international student program.

We are also excited about the culture and learning opportunities that your daughters will bring to PLC Armidale. Their presence – and the friendships that will form – will help prepare all our students for their future lives in higher education and work – as part of an increasingly globally connected world, where real understanding of cultural diversity is an essential skill.

CHRIS SPENCER

Director, PLC Pathways

STUDYING IN AUSTRALIA

Australia is a leading global education powerhouse with some of the world's best facilities and educators, providing international students with a wide range of study options.

With an international and modern outlook, Australian education systems are focused on 21st Century learning, preparing students for the challenges of a globally connected and rapidly changing world.

We are the third most popular international student destination in the world and are home to eight of the top 100 universities in the world. Australia is consistently ranked in the world's top ten most liveable countries.

To gain the most from studying in Australia, at high school and university level, international students need a strong foundation in English language, both spoken and academic.

As importantly, they need to become familiar with – and comfortable in – Australian academic culture, with its philosophical roots in Western critical thinking, personal communication, and intellectual creativity.

At PLC Pathways, we believe this is best achieved by immersing students in intensive English language acquisition and cultural familiarisation in a high school environment.

For up to a year, PLC Pathways students will live in an Australian school community, doing the groundwork that will ensure their future development, achievement, success and fulfilment in Australian academic study.

Our unique program has been carefully crafted to offer the highest quality foundation course for international students, setting them on the road to Australian academic success.





PLC ARMIDALE

PLC Armidale specialises in educating girls to be successful and flourishing young women.

For over a century, our College has built an enviable reputation for consistent academic achievement, an exceptional music program, and sporting excellence. We are characterised by a strong sense of community, and teach our girls the values of respect, and service to others, in the Christian tradition.

PLC Armidale is the only all-girls' school from Pre-Kindergarten to Year 12 in Northern New South Wales. As a combined Day and Boarding School, the interaction between the Junior School, Senior School and Boarding House creates a unique connection and rapport between students, staff and families – which will embrace our new PLC Pathways students.

Our College is situated three kilometres north of the Armidale Central Business District, on seventeen hectares of beautiful parkland and gardens. This location is convenient for its proximity to Armidale's shops and services, yet our spacious grounds are tranquil and secure.

A comprehensive pastoral care and chaplaincy program underpins our College curriculum.

The magnificent gardens and grounds, along with modern facilities and programs the girls and staff now enjoy, are a legacy of the vision and ongoing support of past families, staff and the Presbyterian Church.

PLC Armidale has a diverse and competitive sports offering, a challenging leadership program, extensive community service activities and international service learning opportunities.

Our girls are encouraged to be active participants in many co and extra curricular activities including music, sport, art, drama, dance, cattle and equestrian team pursuits, and involvement in many community organisations, as well as the popular Duke of Edinburgh's Award program.



PLC PATHWAYS OVERVIEW AND CURRICULUM

PLC Pathways is a 12-month residential English Language Intensive Course of Study (ELICOS) course for international students, providing exceptionally high quality teaching and cultural familiarisation, creating pathways to further study.

Operating as an independent but interrelated part of PLC Armidale, located within the school PLC Pathways utilises our extensive facilities and resources to provide the highest quality education to a new group of students.

PLC Pathways students will be part of the PLC Armidale school community – wearing the uniform, joining the school for Chapel, Assembly and dining, and studying within the classroom precinct alongside the school's main student body.

PLC Pathways will commence in February 2017 at the start of the Australian school year, with up to two classes.

The holistic year of study covers:

- Academic and conversational English, delivered by teachers experienced in high level English for native speakers, as well as those with English as an additional language.
- A deep understanding of western culture and thinking.
- Tuition in maths, music and other key curriculum areas from expert teachers in these fields.
- A broad range of experiences outside the classroom including excursions and cultural experiences.
- School holiday experiences.

PLC Pathways is an individually tailored program. Students who progress more quickly in language acquisition may matriculate into PLC Armidale, PLC Sydney or other NSW schools in less than one year.





PLC PATHWAYS RESIDENCE

PLC Armidale has been caring for boarders since its inception in 1887 and our Pathways students will benefit from this long history of personalised care.

We believe that learning to live, eat, play and study together with girls from different cultures and family circumstances is a unique life experience. Not only does boarding build independence and strong friendships, it also develops resilience, tolerance, empathy and compassion. It prepares girls for life beyond school.

PLC Pathways students will reside together in Austin House, a residence set in the College's seventeen-hectare garden campus. The girls will sleep in dormitories with partitioned personal space, shared bathrooms, and separate study areas.

Our experienced and caring staff will provide a home away from home for the Pathways students, creating a safe and happy environment that nurtures a strong sense of family and community.



While living in their own boarding house, Pathways students will study alongside our main student body in the classroom precinct. They will join Chapel and Assembly, and eat in the dining room with the rest of the school community.

Just like the other boarders at PLC Armidale, Pathways students will be supported in organising and balancing their commitments, and encouraged to develop skills in co-curricular activities such as sport and music.

A core strength of PLC Armidale is our commitment to pastoral care, which will form a strong foundation of support for Pathways students. Each girl is known as an individual and cared for as a whole person, body, mind and spirit.

In our school community everyone works together to create and maintain a caring, supportive environment that encourages resourcefulness and resilience, and fosters a sense of social justice.

Within this environment, our students are nurtured to develop self-esteem and confidence, and to grow as individuals. This positive approach is woven into every aspect of life as part of PLC Pathways.



SPORT

We offer a comprehensive sporting program that caters for the beginner to the talented and from the social to the highly competitive. Our sports include Athletics, Basketball, Equestrian, Fitness, Gymnastics, Hockey, Indoor Hockey, Netball, Soccer (Football), Swimming, Tennis and Touch. Students are also able to participate in competitive sports such as Badminton, Volleyball and Water Polo at the nearby University of New England (UNE), and have the opportunity to access other sporting competitions and facilities within the local community.

MUSIC

Musical excellence has long been synonymous with PLC Armidale. Many of our talented graduates have been placed in the top 10% in NSW for their Higher School Certificate (or matriculation), and have been selected for Conservatoriums of Music in Australia and around the world.

Our College has a number of large and small instrumental ensembles as well as Choirs and smaller vocal ensembles. These include: Senior Orchestra, Senior String Orchestra, Junior and Senior String Quartets, and Recorder Consort. These are involved in performances and competitions within the College and in the wider community.

Music is an integral component of the PLC Pathways program and the curriculum will include numerous music classes for all Pathways girls. Extra music tuition is also available from the excellent New England Conservatorium of Music which includes specialist training in Piano, Violin, Cello and a range of other instruments. This partnership also presents options including membership of numerous ensembles, orchestras and choirs.



A photograph of the PLC Armidale building at night. The building has a modern design with a large glass facade and a dark roof. Inside, people are seated at tables, and the interior is brightly lit. The exterior is dark, and the sky is a deep blue. A tree is visible in the upper left corner.

FACILITIES AT PLC ARMIDALE

PLC Armidale has been located on its current premises for over fifty years and we continue to develop the campus to offer modern indoor and outdoor facilities in an environmentally friendly, safe and tranquil setting of spacious grounds, gardens and native bushland.



CAMPUS FACILITIES

- Year 12 Study Centre.
- Two Library Resource Centres, one with seminar rooms and video conferencing facilities.
- Hospitality Centre, with a state of the art commercial kitchen, adjacent classroom, kitchen garden and outdoor entertaining space.
- Astra Arts Centre, incorporating the College Chapel and large foyer for major events.
- Sporting facilities including a versatile indoor gymnasium suitable for sport and special events, a 400 metre grass athletics track, and six hard surface tennis courts.
- Health Care Centre, operated by a Registered Nurse.



THE CITY OF ARMIDALE

Armidale is a cosmopolitan and sophisticated urban centre, located in a picturesque setting in the New England region of northern NSW.

Home to the University of New England, along with numerous independent and public secondary and primary schools and pre-schools, the New England district is renown as a prestigious centre of excellence in education, with a high proportion of its population aged between 10 and 24.

It is also a centre of technological excellence. Australia's National Broadband Network was launched in Armidale, and switched on by the then Australian Prime Minister in 2011 at PLC Armidale itself.

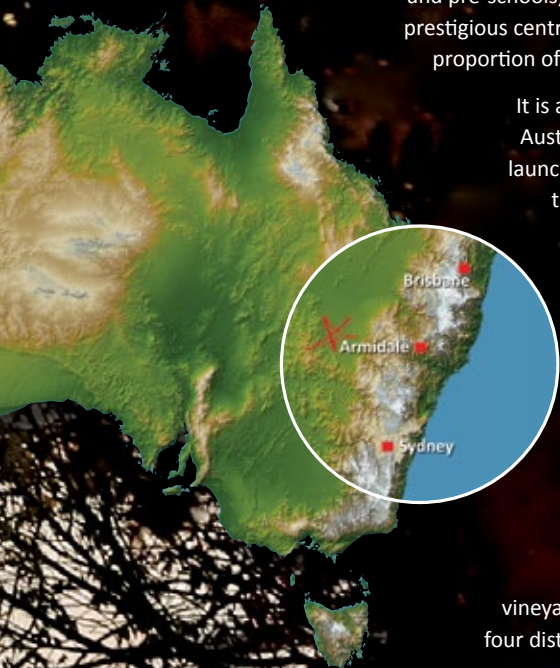
Armidale's boutique lifestyle attracts a range of inhabitants, including corporate executives who make use of easy air links to Sydney and Brisbane and the high quality education available for their children.

The Armidale region boasts spectacular world heritage National Parks, waterfalls, gorges, cool climate vineyards and a diverse cultural heritage. With four distinct seasons, the district is known for its beautiful autumn colours.

Music, both classical and contemporary, contributes enormously to the city's cultural vibrancy. Armidale is home to the New England Conservatorium of Music, which nurtures Armidale Symphony Orchestra, Armidale Youth Orchestra, many choral and music groups, and musical events and competitions.

The New England Regional Art Museum is also located in Armidale, and is the custodian of some 5000 works of art. Regular drama and musical productions add to the district's dynamic performing arts scene.

A cathedral town, Armidale is also a retail centre for the surrounding district, with three shopping malls and a pedestrian mall covering three blocks of the city centre.





Academic Merit

presented to

Hiu Tung (Toby) Chang

Year 12, 2015

for

Biology, Business Studies,
Chemistry, English Standard,
Mathematics,
Mathematics Ext. 1

A woman with long brown hair, wearing glasses, a gold necklace, and a graduation gown with a white stole, is shown from the chest up. She is smiling slightly. The background is dark.

HOW TO ENROL

To enquire about the possibility of your daughter enrolling in PLC Pathways, please contact:

Mrs Sally McCook
Enrolments Manager
PLC Armidale
Crest Road (Locked Bag 5)
Armidale NSW 2350 Australia
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E: plcpathways@plcarmidale.nsw.edu.au

**For a comprehensive list of Agents,
please refer to our website:**

[http://www.plcarmidale.nsw.edu.au/
our-college/plc-pathways/enrolment](http://www.plcarmidale.nsw.edu.au/our-college/plc-pathways/enrolment)



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In alliance with **PLC SYDNEY**

