



BRISBANE GRAMMAR SCHOOL

# Boarding Prospectus



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## Welcome to Boarding

A warm welcome to BGS Boarding, set in the heart of Brisbane Grammar School.

By joining our boarding family, boys from all over the world experience the academic and cocurricular opportunities at Queensland's leading school for boys.

Our boarders come from around Australia and overseas, and we also offer a boarding option for families who live in Brisbane.

This diversity creates a vibrant educational culture that benefits boarders and the wider school community.

As Director of Boarding, I lead the Brisbane Grammar School boarding community, develop the strategic direction for the Boarding program

and provide a constant point of contact for parents. I also remain fully involved in the day-to-day running of Harlin House and Griffith House, as the real reward is working with students and seeing them grow and mature into young people ready for the challenges of life beyond school. Having an integral role in the lives of young men during their adolescent years is a privilege.

We understand that without parents or guardians to coordinate their daily lives, boarders need significant adult mentors to support them in achieving their goals. I am joined by the Assistant Director of Boarding and Head of Harlin House, Senior Boarding Tutors in Griffith House, a Houseparent, and Boarding Tutors in helping

the boys adapt and feel at home. Boys also join a House Family, which gives them the chance to make friends across year levels and develop a sense of belonging.

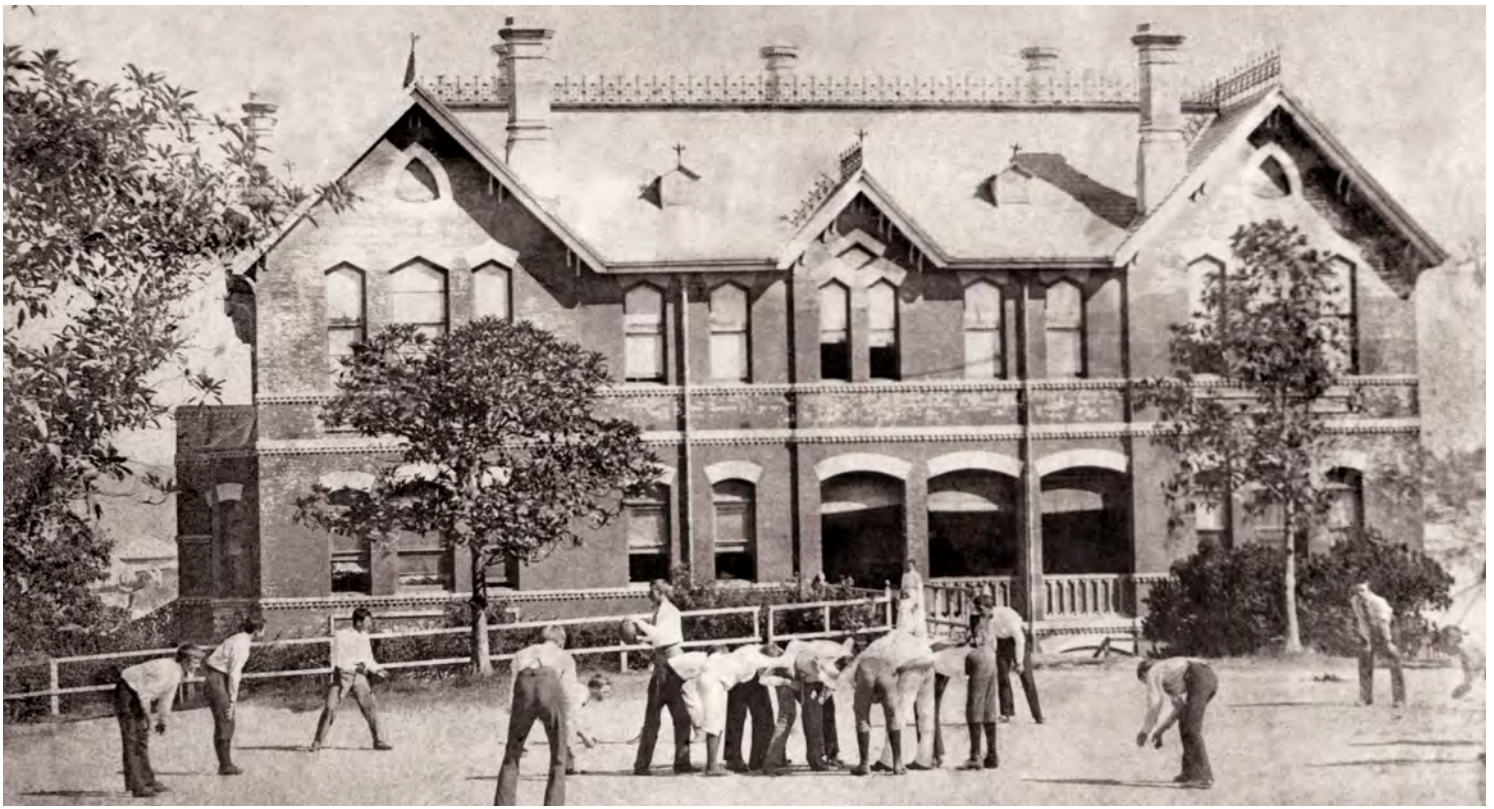
A carefully designed Boarding program enriches each boy's BGS journey. Our weekday schedule focuses on establishing healthy routines and good study habits, with supervised study in The Lilley Centre each evening. Students also engage in social, cultural and sporting activities after school and on weekends.

Our aim is to cater to the needs of each boy, providing academic support and fun weekend activities. We also focus on teaching the boys the skills they need to live away from home.

Above all, we strive to know each boy well and build close and supportive relationships with parents.

We look forward to welcoming you to the BGS Boarding community.

**Berian Williams-Jones**  
**Director of Boarding**



1912 Boys play rugby on the Boarders' Lawn, in front of Roe House ▲

## The Boarding story

As Brisbane's first secondary school for boys, BGS has been a leader in education in Queensland since its foundation in 1868. Our pursuit of excellence extends to our ambition to be the best school for boys in Australia. To achieve this, BGS has created world-class boarding facilities to complement our leading boarding program, which first opened in 1869.

BGS Boarding has undergone a \$5 million redevelopment to provide leading facilities with an individual, modern room for each boy in Years 5 to 12.

Griffith House provides boys in Years 5 to 8 with a private space in a light, airy facility. Our Senior Boarding Tutors live alongside the boys, caring for their social, emotional and physical wellbeing, and promoting a family atmosphere.

Harlin House is home to boys in Years 9 to 12. Individual rooms provide a space to recharge, while social areas foster connection.



Harlin House (Years 9 to 12) ▲ Griffith House (Years 5 to 8) ▼





# A parent's perspective

Jenny and Doug MacGibbon from Moranbah in central Queensland chose BGS for their sons Andrew and Alex, who were both Harlin House Captains. Jenny shares her family's experience.

## **Choosing the right boarding school is a big decision.**

### **Why did you choose to send your sons to BGS?**

In addition to the School's excellent reputation and abundance of opportunities, our decision was initially based on a long and very happy family association with the School. My husband Doug was a boarder in the 1980s, and we were keen to continue into the next generation. But the final decision actually came

down to Andrew and Alex – we brought them to visit the School before signing on the dotted line. Watching their faces light up when we saw the amazing facilities firsthand and met with enthusiastic staff and students made sealing the deal a no-brainer! My advice to all prospective parents is to make the time to bring your son to have a look at the School and give them the chance to connect with present or past students and staff.

## **You've had two sons board at BGS. How have you found the experience as a parent?**

It's been amazing! Despite the inevitable distance and challenges as boarding parents, we have been made to feel we are still an integral and highly involved part of our sons' lives and education. Boarding and day school staff have been brilliant in keeping us informed about general daily happenings, celebrations and other points of interest via the weekly

newsletters, and Facebook and Instagram posts. Insightful and reassuring personal contact is also made when necessary.

The boarding community offers great opportunities for parents to become connected through numerous social functions, contact with the Boarder Support Group, fundraising activities such as the Harlin House Coffee Shop on Open Day, and other volunteering opportunities. I also found incredible kindness and generosity among the day school families. Make the most of getting to know these beautiful families who will bend over backwards to help you and your son.

### **What's the hardest part of having kids away at boarding school? What advice would you give other parents considering boarding?**

You miss their physical presence in your everyday life – and you worry that you might miss things only you as a parent might pick up on, because you don't always get to interpret facial expressions or voice intonations. Have great faith in the skills of the staff at Griffith and Harlin House, keep in touch regularly and connect with other parents to help you get a feeling of what's normal or not. It's not easy sending children away to school, but I have learned as a parent that there are some things you can compromise on, other things you can't. Education is one thing you can't – you get one crack at it, and my experience has been that BGS will not disappoint.



## **From bush to city**

Year 6 boarder Marcus Lynch lives on Viola Station, 70km from Julia Creek in North West Queensland. At home, he drives a ute to do his chores – feeding the cows, chooks and ducks, and cleaning the troughs. It's also his job to open the gates when someone else is driving.

After a couple of years of home-schooling on a remote property, Marcus said he's adjusting to life at a city boarding school. "Some days I miss mum and dad, but I do love the activities: going down to the city, going to Wet'n'Wild – that was really fun. It was just my second time at a theme park."

Marcus' mum Helen said she and husband John appreciate the School's focus on identifying each boy's strengths and interests.

"I heard from friends who were current BGS parents that the School really understands boys," Helen said.

"Naturally I worried that Marcus would be very homesick, and therefore not be in a state to do his best at school, get involved in sport or develop friendships initially. The boarder orientation helped tremendously, where the new boarders learned BGS values and expectations, and were given practical advice for boarding life.

"Apart from some temporary homesickness, he has transitioned remarkably quickly and is thriving under the care of boarding and school staff and older boarders. In class, Marcus' Form Teacher has been wonderfully supportive of a boy from the bush making the change to a face-to-face classroom in the city," Helen said.



## Academic and wellbeing enrichment

Boys living away from home achieve their potential when they feel connected to their school and boarding community. Our Academic and Wellbeing Enrichment programs work together to foster this sense of connection and belonging.

The Wellbeing Enrichment program takes a holistic approach to each boy's diet, exercise and sleep. A varied and balanced menu, access to the School's pool and gym, and an emphasis on good routines help boys make healthy decisions.

After-school activities tailored to boys of different ages provide another avenue for connection, and involve games such as handball and touch footy for the younger boys and opportunities for older boys who wish to learn barista skills, or improve their resume writing in preparation for university.

All boys belong to a House Family, and enjoy recreational activities such as sport, games and outings together on the weekend.

The Academic Enrichment

program is managed by boarding staff, who ensure boys actively plan their tasks and supervise evening study in The Lilley Centre. Academic Tutors provide additional advice and guidance and prepare boys for assessment and examinations. BGS teaching staff also support boarding students, running 40-minute specialist sessions.

BGS Boarding equips boys with the resources, structure and support they need to make the most of their educational experience.

**Our aim is to offer boys the best possible facilities in a supportive environment, where each boy is safe and happy, is valued as an individual, and is encouraged to achieve his best.**



For further details regarding fees and specific arrangements, please contact:

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