



HAWKER COLLEGE

Frequently Asked Questions from Prospective Families

- 1. How many students do you have?**
Currently a little over 600 students.
- 2. How close to capacity is the college? Will you be accepting out of area enrolments?**
Hawker College is a Category B School. Category B Schools have some capacity to accept out of area enrolments subject to the criteria listed on the [ACT Education Directorate website](#).
- 3. Which suburbs are in the PEA for Hawker College?**
Hawker, Higgins, Holt, Page, Scullin, Strathnairn, Weetangera and Whitlam (shared with Canberra College).
- 4. Which feeder schools are in the Priority Enrolment Area?**
Priority Enrolment Area (PEA) is determined by which suburb you live in rather than which high school you attend.
- 5. If we are out of area and we put Hawker College as first preference, do you (Hawker College) select which students get a place or is it by the Education Directorate?**
The Principal will assess each out of area enrolment application on an individual basis to ensure that the criteria for out of area enrolment listed on the [ACT Education Directorate](#) website is met.
- 6. When do enrolments close?**
11:59pm on the 3rd of June 2022.
- 7. Is there another chance to enrol if you didn't enrol before the June 3rd deadline?**
There is; however, our Subject Selection Evening is held in early August. Students have the best chance of being placed in their first choice of units if they attend Subject Selection Evening as we base our staffing and grid on the choices made at this time. If students enrol later in the year or the following year, they may not be placed in their first choices.



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8. Can you accept mid-year enrolment to Year 11?

Yes, if from our PEA; otherwise, normal out of area enrolment criteria and procedures apply. The challenge with mid-year enrolments is availability of courses to maintain majors and minors and spaces in classes. If undertaking a T package then scores from the previous college will not contribute to the ATAR as they have been generated within a different cohort of students. We would meet with you to discuss your individual circumstances.

9. Do you offer additional transitions for students in learning support?

Yes. We are planning for a Transition Day at the end of Term 2, followed by an additional Transition Day later in the year for students that require additional transition support.

10. How are subjects chosen and when is this done?

Once students have enrolled at Hawker College and received a letter of offer, they will be invited to our Subject Selection Evening in early Term 3. Here they will have a one-on-one interview with one of our staff to choose their subjects and discuss their learning program.

11. Do students usually get into the subject they request or is it first in best dressed like high school electives?

Students select five subjects and two reserves on Subject Selection Evening. This occurs prior to designing the timetable and staffing profile so that we can do our best to meet the subject selections made by students. There are times where there are timetable clashes which is why we ask for two reserve subjects. Students have the best chance of getting into the subjects they want by ensuring they enrol by the deadline and attending their subject selection interview.

12. Can you explain the difference between tertiary and accredited streams?

A Tertiary (T) academic package is for students who are aiming for immediate entry into university straight after college with an ATAR (Australian Tertiary Admission Rank). Students doing a T package have certain requirements around the number of T courses they must study in addition to sitting the AST (ACT Scaling Test). An Accredited (A) package is for students that are not pursuing immediate entry to university.



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13. Will you be detailing some of the course outlines?

Our 2023 Prospectus, available on our [website](#), gives an overview of all our courses. You can also visit the [BSSS website](#) to look at any of the courses in more detail.

14. Do external sports count toward my package?

External sport does not count towards your package. Representing Hawker College in Intercollegiate sport competitions does. There are a wide range of extra curricula activities that can be recognised on the Senior Secondary Certificate as a Registered (R) unit. External vocational courses (e.g. Certificate III in Fitness) undertaken during Years 11 and 12 can be recognised on the Senior Secondary Certificate as an E course.

15. Is my child able to undertake an Australian School Based Apprenticeship (ASBA), and how do you support those who wish to undertake ASBAs?

Absolutely. Students can also start an ASBA in Year 10, which can be continued through to college. ASBAs are classified as an E course and count towards the points and minors required for the Senior Secondary Certificate. We have an amazing team to support students to secure an ASBA and to monitor their progress throughout their time at college. If you are interested in ASBAs and want further information, please email careers@hawkerc.act.edu.au.

16. Do you have established recognition between ANU or UC for course credits for courses post college?

Yes, we have a very close relationship with both ANU and UC. H courses are targeted extension programs or first year university programs delivered in partnership with higher education providers. Hawker College students have access to all H courses and we support students with their applications for these. H courses run for two semesters (which makes a minor) and students study a course at ANU or UC whilst concurrently studying at Hawker College. The H course is recognised on the Senior Secondary Certificate and students will get credit for the unit if they continue into university after college. You can find out more about H courses at the [BSSS website](#).



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17. How do you teach mathematics?

Hawker College delivers all the Board of Senior Secondary Studies (BSSS) Mathematics courses, the same as all ACT colleges; however, our model is a more flexible arrangement similar to a university model. Students have a lecture during their Monday lesson where the learning intentions for the week are outlined and the key concepts and content are taught. Students then work through the learning brief for the week that is specifically related to the concepts taught in the lecture. Students have the choice to work in their classroom or in the Maths Hub immediately outside their classroom where all the mathematics teachers are available to support students with their mathematics work for the week.

The embedded practices in mathematics at Hawker College has received interest from global communities. We have received visitors from South Korea, Singapore, Thailand, Indonesia and the US to observe a typical day in the Maths learning Hub. Google analytics show that hawkermaths.com receives clicks from various countries such as the US, India, Japan and Brazil on a weekly basis. We have also had interstate schools visit our college to observe the maths program.

18. Do you have a dance program? If yes, is it difficult to get in to?

Yes, we have a dance program. Any student may enrol in Dance as one of their courses. Enrolment is not based on an audition process. Dance is available as a T, A or M course.

19. Do you offer languages?

Yes, we have a partnership with Canberra Academy of Languages (CAL). It is not viable for Hawker College to deliver every available language course. At the same time, we value the study of languages and recognise that many students wish to include a language in their learning program. CAL is registered with the BSSS as a provider of the language courses. Currently Hawker College sponsors students if the language enrolled in is one of the five subjects contributing towards their Senior Secondary Certificate.

20. Is Canberra Academy of Languages (CAL) offsite or a virtual class?

Classes are offsite, currently at Ainslie Primary School.

21. How do offsite courses at CAL work in with the timetable?

They are conducted outside of core school hours, in one timeslot per week.



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22. What is your policy about students' devices (phone and Chromebook, etc)?

Every ACT senior secondary student will have a Chromebook provided by the Education Directorate. Chromebooks are equipped for students to access Google Classroom which is the platform that all courses use at Hawker College. Students can use their personal device if they prefer.

Portable devices must be stored in bags and switched to silent mode by default from the beginning of each lesson or learning activity. They may be used during classes and learning activities only for learning purposes, and only when authorised explicitly by the supervising teacher.

23. Is your timetable different to other colleges? What time does school start and finish?

Yes, it is different with a later start and earlier finish. After lockdown in 2020, we had a revised timetable for the return to onsite learning. We found the modified timetable had many benefits and maintained it for a trial period. After consultation with all stakeholders the new timetable was maintained. We do have slightly reduced face-to-face class time; however, each course also has an independent learning component which students are required to complete. The school is open for students to access the college study areas beyond the face-to-face hours.

24. Do you have a canteen?

Yes, we have an industry standard café, 51 Bake. We also promote “paddock to plate” where the produce grown in our Horticulture plot is used by the Hospitality classes and then the food produced is sold in 51 Bake.

25. Are there opportunities to go on exchange trips to other countries?

Hawker College supports student exchange experiences. We meet with interested students to discuss their individual circumstances and the process involved, to ensure the exchange is recognised on their ACT Senior Secondary Certificate and is not jeopardised.



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26. Are any overseas excursions planned for 2023?

Not currently. We do run overseas excursions occasionally, however, this will be dependent on the situation at the time. Prior to COVID we were planning an Outdoor and Environmental Education excursion to Vanuatu which unfortunately had to be cancelled.

27. Do you have a uniform policy?

Uniform is not mandatory; however, we do have Hawker College t-shirts and hoodies available to purchase. We also offer a Year 12 Hoodie each year.