Your child’s learning is important to us. We pride ourselves on providing a rich and diverse learning experience for each child, in order to develop learners who are confident, flexible and adaptive in a rapidly changing world. Our students are expected to participate fully in all aspects of school life: academic, cultural, sporting, leadership and social development.

Marsden High School is a dynamic and culturally rich school. We emphasise diversity of choice and the importance of connecting students’ learning to the world beyond school. Our school motto is Learning for Life. We are achievement focused and strongly believe that every student can excel with the right support. Marsden students consistently perform well at HSC level, strongly supported by a highly experienced teaching staff.

Marsden enjoys strong industry links with global corporations such as Johnson and Johnson, Fuji Xerox, Amgen and Macquarie Telecom as well as learning institutions such as Macquarie University, Macquarie Hospital and Northern Sydney Institute of TAFE. Such links offer students an opportunity to network with people in the workforce and develop the skills and understanding of what it takes to succeed in the workplace.

The learning environment at Marsden is challenging, harmonious and respectful. We are committed to ensuring that your child’s education will be instrumental in developing confident, articulate, achievement oriented individuals with a strong sense of responsibility and moral purpose.

I would welcome the opportunity to talk to any prospective parents about the opportunities we can provide for your child at Marsden.

Gus Vrolyk
Principal
Teaching and learning is our core business. Our talented staff and students strive for and achieve excellent results. We are committed to challenging and extending all students. Marsden offers a very wide curriculum that includes all levels of English, mathematics, sciences, Asian languages, humanities and technology based subjects.

Marsden High School attracts students who are curious, imaginative and enjoy learning. There is an emphasis on critical and creative thinking. We promote an environment that encourages and motivates students to be successful inside and outside the classroom.

Students engage with a wide range of enriching excursions and extra-curricular activities, including international and interstate tours. Marsden pioneers innovative and challenging extension classes such as Big History, the Galileo Project and Robotics. Students are encouraged to enter competitions in all key learning areas, e.g., English, mathematics, sciences, sport and art competitions.

Our teaching and learning programs, combined with student involvement in whole school activities, enable students to develop 21st Century skills, to prepare them to be responsible, caring citizens and individual excellence.
Applications for the Pinnacle program for Year 7 students open in March each year. Please see our website for an application form and further details.

The Pinnacle program was created to extend and challenge gifted and talented students in order to maximise their learning outcomes. Our goal is to prepare students for the future by giving them the skills they need for the 21st century, e.g., critical thinking, communication, collaboration, creativity, life and career skills, information media and technology skills.

All staff have been trained to differentiate programs to enrich student learning via Project-Based Learning. In addition, teachers of Pinnacle classes undertake collaborative professional learning to ensure current research is embedded into teaching and learning programs.

It is critical that gifted and talented students be given appropriate opportunity, stimulation and experiences to develop their potential. Our program offers these opportunities across all subject areas.
Integrated Sport
Marsden High School runs two hour integrated sports lessons each week. These lessons are designed to promote participation and enjoyment in physical activities and encourage students to lead active lives. Students benefit by having all sport lessons taught by trained sports teachers where they develop leadership, communication and sports skills confidently in this supportive environment.

The program utilises the school’s house structure to define teams and allow for healthy competition in a wide variety of sports.

Carnival Sport
Swimming, Cross Country and Athletics programs are part of the annual sports calendar at Marsden. Students compete for their house at school level and then progress to Zone, Regional and State competitions.

Facilities
Marsden High School has some of the best playing surfaces and facilities in the Northern Sydney Region. Our recently established Gym provides state of the art technology for fitness and strength training and compliments study in subjects such as Personal Development, Health and Physical Education, Physical Activity and Sports Studies, Dance and Sport, Lifestyle and Recreation.

Talented Sport Program
Sport has a strong history at Marsden and this is continued through our Talented Sport Program. Students selected in the program train weekly with experienced staff to develop skills and expertise in their chosen sports. Teams compete in the zone grade sport competition each week, as well as in knock-out tournaments, trial matches and intra-school matches.

Marsden High School has developed a strong relationship with a number of local and state sporting clubs, teams and governing bodies which allows access to expert knowledge, coaching and opportunities for our students. Coaches work with players and their teachers to develop academic performance and assist with balancing academic and sporting commitments. Students excelling in their area of expertise are identified and invited to trial for Zone and Regional teams and representative teams external to the school.

To explore recent student achievement, more information about the ‘Talented’ sport programs and to download an application form, please visit the school’s website.
Music

The Music faculty offers students a range of opportunities to develop and extend their performance skills and experience.

The Concert Band and Flute Ensemble are open to any student learning an appropriate instrument. Placement in the Big Band is determined by the student’s ability and the requirements of the band. The Vocal Group is open to all students.

Ensemble members are required to attend rehearsals regularly, to learn and practice their parts, and to make every effort to be available for performances, including outside school hours. The ensembles perform at school and community events and competitions. Students also have the opportunity to participate in district and regional events such as the Arts North Music Festival and the Schools’ Spectacular. We also showcase student talent at our biannual school musical.

Advanced students are also encouraged to audition for the prestigious ensembles run by the Department of Education Arts Unit – Symphonic Wind Ensemble, Stage Band, Jazz Orchestra, Symphony Orchestra, Millennium Marching Band and the Public Schools Singers. These ensembles often offer students the experience of working with outstanding conductors and fellow musicians on a wide range of repertoire.

The annual Performing Arts Night and Junior Performer’s Night involve virtually every ensemble but also offer students the opportunity to prepare and perform solo and small group items.

Visual Arts

In Visual Arts, students immerse themselves in both Art Making and Art Writing, expressing their ideas whilst learning how other artists have created their art.

The Annual Art Exhibition is open to students in Years 7 to 12 and includes HSC Visual Arts Bodies of Work, Digital Media and Photography. The exhibition allows students to see their own work and the work of others in an exhibition setting and gives parents and the community some insight into the talents of our students in the Creative Arts.

Gifted and talented students extend their learning with afternoon classes which will allow the exploration of ideas and further development of skills using a variety of art making materials.

Performing & Creative Arts
We promote excellence by following the CARE principles: Cooperate, Achieve, Respect and Engage. The school has a population of around 650 students, which allows for each student to be valued and receive individual attention.
Robotics at Marsden is one of our signature programs. It provides a highly engaging medium for creativity, critical thinking, collaboration and communication. Students from Years 8-12 meet once a week after school in our Robotics/Technology room. Interested Year 7 students meet one lunchtime each week and work on Lego robotics. Our team competes in the Duel Down Under as well as in regional and international competitions, which attract teams from all over Australia and Asia.

In addition to the Robotics Program, the use of technology is actively embedded in faculty teaching and learning programs. The school boasts five computer kiosks, interactive white boards and data projectors. Staff are encouraged to integrate technology, such as in the teaching and learning programs.

Student leadership is valued at Marsden High School. Working closely with teacher mentors, students build a shared vision and sense of purpose. Our leadership programs set high performance expectations and aims to develop resilient, purposeful and adaptable young people.

Students from Years 7-12 are encouraged to nominate for election to the Student Representative Council (SRC). Junior SRC members develop a range of early leadership skills through organisation and involvement in whole school activities, community events and by working collaboratively with senior SRC members.

Senior SRC members form the Prefect Leadership Team (PLT) and are selected by their peers and staff members on the basis of demonstrated leadership ability and the capacity to further develop these skills. Senior PLT members oversee many school initiatives and are representatives of the whole school community.

As part of our commitment to fostering leadership potential in our students, camps, and workshops are held to assist in developing capable and inspired leaders. More information about the student leadership opportunities that exist at Marsden High School is available on the school’s website.
Marsden High School offers a broad range of extra-curricular activities to support learning and provide opportunities to develop social and communication skills by engaging in real world experiences. Many of the memories and friendships created at school are formed during these events and provide an enriched learning experience in a holistic approach to education. Some of the extra-curricular opportunities for everyone include:

**Academic**
- Competitions
- Debating
- Mock Trial
- Chess competitions
- Science club
- Robotics
- Macquarie University Tutoring Program

**Cultural**
- Interstate and International study excursions
- Schools Spectacular
- Musicals
- Regional Drama Festivals
- Art Club
- Performing Arts nights
- Eisteddfods
- Dance group
- Year Camps

**Work Readiness**
- Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme
- Work Experience
- Volunteering
- Mentoring by business leaders
- Outdoor Recreation

**Sporting**
- Talented Sport Program
- Ski Trip
- Competitive sporting teams and competitions

**Outdoor Recreation**
- Hiking
John Tuckerman Pinnacle Scholarships

John Tuckerman was a dedicated student, a keen cricketer and former school captain of Marsden High School. John generously awards four scholarships to two current Year 8 students for three years and two current Year 10 students for two years. The scholarships are intended to expand academic opportunities for the students.

Joan and David Williams Scholarship

Mr Kim Williams (ex-CEO of News Limited) is an ex-student of Marsden High School. The scholarship is named in memory of his mother and father, Joan and David Williams. Kim generously awards a two year scholarship to a current Year 10 student for Year 11 and 12 to assist them achieve their personal best in their final years of school.

Academic Scholarships

Academic scholarships provide a substantial remission in school fees as well as part payment for equipment that supports learning e.g. laptops, desktops, iPads or other personal learning devices, when appropriate and as decided by the Scholarship Committee.

Academic scholarships are awarded on the basis of a demonstrated strong academic record as evidenced by documentary records such as awards, reports and recommendations from teachers.

Sport Scholarships

Sport scholarships provide a substantial remission in Talented Sport Program fees and may contribute to part or full payment for musical tuition or equipment where appropriate and as decided by the Scholarship Committee.

Music Scholarships

Music scholarships provide a substantial remission in school fees as well as part or full payment for musical tuition or equipment where appropriate and as decided by the Scholarship Committee. The student must have displayed outstanding commitment to, and involvement in, their current school’s music program or a musical endeavour outside of school to be eligible for a music scholarship.

For more information on scholarship requirements, closing dates and to download an application form please visit the school’s website.