Our Vision

At TAS, we believe that education is about the development of character and that being engaged in worthwhile activities must run alongside our central ambition of the best academic achievement possible. Every student deserves to experience the kind of success that builds self-esteem, promotes a sense of purpose, and gives confidence to face new challenges.

By doing this, our students develop skills such as leadership, teamwork and communication which will stand by them for life.
Headmaster’s Welcome

Welcome to The Armidale School, also known far and wide as TAS.

TAS has a long history as a quality boarding school that prides itself on the breadth of its offering and attention to the individual student. We offer a broad-based curriculum both in and out of the classroom, and welcome international students to share in our academic, cultural and sporting programs.

Students from around the world have been coming to TAS for more than 60 years. We value the contribution they make to the school while they are here, and to the wider community in Australia and elsewhere, once they leave our care. It is with a sense of pride that most of our students continue to study at universities in Sydney, Brisbane, Melbourne, Canberra and other centres, where they build on the opportunities they have been offered at TAS.

With more than 120 years of experience in boarding, TAS offers a quality residential education and a place where students make friendships that last a lifetime. When you come to TAS, you are not just coming to a school but become a member of a vibrant community.

I am delighted that you are considering TAS for your son’s education. In choosing an Australian education you are helping to give your child the best start to his adult life.

Murray Guest  I  Headmaster
The School

The Armidale School (TAS) is amongst the leading boarding and day schools in NSW. Founded in 1894, TAS has a proud history of shaping the lives of thousands of students who have come to us from all over the world.

TAS is a school of about 600 students, with a Junior School, Middle School (Years 6-8) and Senior School (Years 9-12). With more than 200 boarders from Years 6-12, we specialise in offering first class residential care seven days a week. Our boarder students make the most of academic support programs that give them a real advantage to succeed.

TAS is one of nine members of the Great Public Schools (GPS) of NSW, an association of the most prestigious schools in the State. TAS is also a member of Round Square, an organisation of more than 140 schools around the world that share similar values. Together these two associations allow TAS to foster relationships of friendship with other member schools through service, student leadership and sporting opportunities.

We have a strong academic focus, solid links with universities, and ties with schools around the world. Christian principles ensure all students enjoy a strong sense of community and wellbeing.
Quick Facts

- Leading boarding school
- Founded 1894
- Internationally recognised
- Christian values
- Safe, healthy environment
- Excellent facilities
- Strong pastoral care
- Wireless campus
- Links with universities
- Boarding an academic advantage
- Small class sizes
- Music and sport programs
Facilities

- Five quality boarding houses
- Performing arts theatre
- Gymnasium
- Indoor swim centre
- Eight all-weather tennis courts
- 24 hour Medical Centre
- Music Centre and recording studio
Exceptional Facilities

The school’s facilities for teaching, recreation and residential life are of exceptional quality.

Well-equipped boarding houses create a ‘home away from home’ for our residential students. A commercial kitchen caters for students and staff who enjoy meals together in a handsome communal dining room.

A specialist 24 hour Medical Centre, with a doctor’s consulting room, comfortable wards and nurse’s accommodation provides the best of care for students.

For sport and recreation, there is an indoor 25m swimming pool, gymnasium and strength training centre, six sporting ovals and eight all-weather tennis courts.

A new creative arts centre includes a fully equipped 240 seat theatre, two drama/rehearsal rooms and three art studios. The theatre makes possible the teaching of Drama in a custom-built space and the performance of school productions in a state of the art venue. An adjacent music centre has its own recording studio.

The school buildings are a mix of heritage and modern, but all are designed in a similar style. Along with large areas of green space, and plenty of fresh clean air, this ensures TAS has a campus that is regarded as one of the most attractive in the country.

“My former school in Hong Kong was only one sixth the size with twice the number of students as TAS. It’s definitely better having so much space. The facilities here are all so convenient and make me feel like I am living at home.”

Willis Yung, Hong Kong
Residential Excellence

TAS is one of Australia’s leading boarding schools and has been a specialist in residential life since 1894. At TAS, a boarding house is a home rather than just a residence. Approximately half our secondary school students are boarders, giving them a strong identity within the school.

Our two Middle School and three Senior School boarding houses offer quality residential care and are a ‘home away from home’ for students. Each boarding house is lead by a resident housemaster who is supported by a deputy housemaster who are senior teachers in the school and live-in adult residential assistants. In Middle School a House Mother provides additional motherly care. This close pastoral care extends to the provision of activities on weekends and our boarders are active and engaged socially as well as academically.

The Middle School Houses are home to around 40 boys between the ages of 11 and 14 years (Years 6 to 8), who enjoy dormitory style accommodation which they share with between four to eight others. To promote sound learning habits homework, or ‘prep’ takes place in their home classrooms supervised by boarding staff.

The senior boarding Houses are specifically designed to accommodate approximately 50 students, or roughly 12 students in each year group. The accommodation varies between Houses, with some students in small shared bedrooms in Year 9 and 10 and separate study areas. Boys in Year 11 share a twin room while all students in Year 12 have their own study bedroom.

Each boarding House has wi-fi access and study rooms, common recreation areas, TV room and kitchens for students’ use and full access to the school’s sporting and recreational facilities.

A well-appointed Medical Centre is staffed by qualified nursing sisters seven days a week, and the school doctor also visits three mornings a week.

International Student Language Program

A small number of international students join the TAS community each year, and all are encouraged to engage in all aspects of school life. The very broad co-curricular life at TAS allows international students to engage in their interests and contribute positively to the school.

International students are placed in mainstream classes, with new students offered English tuition and in-class support to assist them to meet the requirements of their course. At TAS our international students mix with Australian students in the classroom, and in the cultural, sporting and social life of the school. This assimilation builds confidence both in their English skills and in their character development, and encourages friendships that can last a lifetime.
Mixing with Australian students has been very good for my English – you have to learn to speak in English, study in English and that makes you think in English, which is really good.”

Brian To, Hong Kong
Academic Focus

The Australian school year commences in late January and finishes in early December. The main intakes are at the start of the school year, or at the start of Semester 2 in July.

Each week follows a set timetable that includes at least 20 hours of face-to-face teaching.

Parents receive detailed school reports twice each year – at the end of Term 2, and the end of Term 4.

TAS values and actively encourages each individual to pursue their highest academic potential through effort and engagement. Boarding at TAS gives students an academic advantage. Teachers and other academics offer after-school tutoring in all major HSC subjects at TAS, and senior academic staff are assigned to the boarding houses after class and at weekends to help with assessment tasks and time management. A Homework Centre operates after school hours, and a Year 12 residential study camp gives boys ideal preparation for the Higher School Certificate.

Every year the majority of our students leave us for study at a wide range of universities, including the University of Sydney, University of Melbourne, University of NSW, Australian National University and other institutions.

“I came to Australia to do well in my studies and the teachers here have been really good. Maths is my best subject and I have been able to study at the top level. The Boarding House has a quiet environment that is perfect for study and there is a huge amount of support for boarders in their academics.”

Hong Cham, Hong Kong

“The class sizes are smaller so the teachers have more time to help each student. When I first came I stayed after class and the teachers helped me catch up with my English and my work. I like the interaction we have with the teachers, they are really nice.”

Willis Yung, Hong Kong

“I have really enjoyed Visual Arts. The teachers are very friendly. I had lost the drawing technique I had as a child and focussed on photography, but the teachers have helped me rediscover my drawing skills.”

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School Structure

TAS has a Junior School (Kindergarten - Year 5), Middle School (Years 6-8), and Senior School (Years 9-12). This provides ideal academic and residential environments in which students can flourish.

In Junior School, small classes and individual attention provide rich opportunities for us to nurture each student.

Middle School students have a homeroom teacher for core subjects in English, History, and Geography, then meet with specialist teachers for Mathematics, Science, Music, Drama, Visual Arts, and Physical Education.

In Senior School, it is expected that our students are self-motivated, focused, and independent learners with high goals of achievement. Subjects available to boys in Senior School include Ancient History, Biology, Business Studies, Chemistry, Drama, Economics, English, English as a Second Language, Design & Technology, Information Technology, Legal Studies, Mathematics, Modern History, Music, Physics, Personal Development Health and Physical Education, and Visual Arts.

Class sizes are small. Most classes have no more than 25 students in some elective courses; it can be fewer than 10. This allows teachers to give students specialist attention.

TAS is a school rich in information technology. Students are issued with a Macintosh laptop loaded with comprehensive software and backed by technical support. The school has a high-speed wireless internet access across the entire campus, providing first-class learning capability as well as making it easy for students to stay in touch with family and friends in Australia and overseas. Access to the internet for academic use is extensive, but social use is limited to particular times, especially for younger students.
Pastoral Care and Wellbeing

The TAS Pastoral Care system fosters positive relationships between students and staff in an informal setting. Every student has an adult mentor, who they meet with four times a week. In Middle School this is their Homeroom teacher, and in Years 9-12, their Advisor. This mentor helps a student identify and develop their strengths and interests and set personal and academic goals.

Boarding Housemasters provide the legal guardianship of our international students and ensure the provision of a safe and caring environment. It is not necessary for our international students to have an external guardian. Housemasters are supported in this role by deputy housemasters, residential staff, Advisors, teachers and others, including the Overseas Student Registrar, Director of Pastoral Care, School Counsellor and Chaplain. All are committed to ensuring the development and wellbeing of every student is monitored and fully supported.

“Being a boarder at TAS has been great. My Australian friends are really friendly and they helped me to settle in as soon as I arrived. Being in the boarding house with Australian boys has really been a great opportunity to study and practice my English skills and my English skills really improved.”

Johnson Li, Hong Kong
Co-curricular Activities

At TAS, education is seen as more than just academic excellence. It is about the training and skill development needed for life. Our co-curricular program is designed to engage, challenge and broaden the experience of all students.

Sport
All students participate in sport and they have a wide selection to choose from. Our broad offering includes football, basketball, volleyball, table tennis, swimming, waterpolo, rugby, kayaking, tennis, cricket, rowing, triathlon and shooting. Our excellent sporting facilities include an indoor 25m swimming pool, gymnasium with basketball courts, strength and conditional facility, eight all-weather tennis courts and six sporting ovals.

“If you enjoy sport, TAS is the perfect place to come to. I love soccer and I have really enjoyed playing in the 1st XI this year. I feel like the friendships I have made through sport will last for my whole life.”
Kenny Au-Yeung, Hong Kong

“I have always enjoyed taking photographs and there is always plenty of activity here, especially sport. I started taking photos of the rugby, and have come to really enjoying watching it.”
Brian To, Hong Kong

Cultural

Music, visual arts and drama play an important role in the life of TAS students. Students are encouraged to sing, play an instrument, join one of our many music ensembles or to be a part of our technical crew looking after the sound, lights and technical equipment in the school's musicals and drama productions. Our partnerships with community groups such as the Armidale Youth Orchestra and various choral societies allow students to extend their skills and talents. The performing arts theatre, specialised art rooms (including a potter's kiln) and music centre with digital recording studio enrich our offering to students.

There are numerous student-driven clubs offering a range of activities, such as chess and debating.

Duke of Edinburgh Award and Round Square Opportunities

Students have the opportunity to take part in the Duke of Edinburgh Award at bronze, silver and gold levels and our membership of the international association Round Square (www.roundsquare.org) provides opportunities to join conference delegations, participate in student exchange and language programs or join service projects in Australia and overseas.

“I have enjoyed art the most. TAS has great facilities for art making and the teachers give good advice and are really helpful. I feel like I have had a lot of opportunities to develop my creative life and I am going to continue that at university.”
Jones Yue, Hong Kong
The TAS Music Centre is really great. I enjoy spending time practicing piano. The teachers and staff are also very generous and offer helpful advice.

Tony Phung, Vietnam
About Armidale

Armidale is a vibrant city located inland from the coast, about halfway between Sydney and Brisbane, and is the ‘capital’ of the New England region of New South Wales.

The city is a centre of educational excellence and is home to Australia’s oldest regional university, the University of New England, which has recently established a Rural Medical School. Armidale also has two independent girls’ boarding schools and the New England Institute of TAFE.

One of Australia’s leading regional art collections valued at $40 million is housed at the New England Regional Art Museum and the city is also the home of the New England Conservatorium of Music which has more than 3,600 students.

The district has a cool temperate climate with four distinct seasons – pleasant warm summers, extended spring and autumn seasons, and cool to cold winters with some frosty nights.

Armidale has easy access to major cities. Sydney is only an hour away from Sydney by air, and there are four flights every day with Qantas. A daily train service to Sydney also operates, as well as coach services to Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane and to Coffs Harbour on the coast.

‘Armidale is a good place to come to school, because there is more space and it is a quiet place to study. Not like the big city which has a lot of temptations.’

Willis Yung, Hong Kong
How to Enrol

Application for Enrolment

Application for enrolment is made by submitting an Application for Enrolment Form together with a non-refundable Application Fee. This places your child’s name on a Register of Applicants, but does not guarantee entry to the School. Your application must include:

- Completed Application form for International Students
- Certified copy of passport or birth certificate
- Certified copy of the student’s last two School Reports translated into English
- Character reference from current school
- Copy of the student’s English language test results (if required).

The Application for Enrolment and supporting documents should be mailed to:

The International Students Registrar
The Armidale School
Locked Bag 3003
ARMIDALE NSW 2350 AUSTRALIA

or faxed to: International Enrolments on +61 2 6776 5830
or emailed to: jguest@as.edu.au

English Language Requirements

All students from non-English speaking backgrounds applying for entry to Year 10 or below will be assessed individually based on their current school reports.

Students wishing to enter Year 11 should complete an English language proficiency test achieving a score of 61-70 band Upper Intermediate in the AEAS Test, or a score of 5.5 in the IELTS (Academic) test.

There is no academic selection test for enrolment to TAS.

Enrolment Offer and Acceptance

All offers of places at TAS are made in writing. Should your application be successful you will be sent a Letter of Offer with an Enrolment Acceptance Agreement. This will need to be returned along with other information as outlined in the offer.

On receipt of the above, successful applicants will be sent a Confirmation of Enrolment (COE) and Confirmation of Appropriate Accommodation and Welfare (CAAW), if applicable, to apply for the Student Visa. Enrolment is a contract with defined Terms and Conditions that applicants must agree to.
The Armidale School

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