Hurlstone Agricultural High stands proud as one of the state’s finest schools. We are situated on 130 ha of farm land on the outskirts of Sydney. The school’s rich culture underpins its success. At Hurlstone you find a culture based upon pride, striving for personal excellence, caring for and supporting fellow students and valuing community service. We celebrated our centenary with style in 2007.

The emphasis at Hurlstone is on the pursuit of academic excellence and the school’s record in this area is outstanding. In the 2008 Higher School Certificate, Hurlstone was ranked in the top 25 within the state, of all schools, public and private. In addition, the number of students who earn recognition in state and national academic competitions is quite remarkable. We were particularly pleased that five students gained a Co-op Scholarship from the University of NSW this year.

The school has more to offer than just the academics. Students can develop skills in a wide range of sports including rugby union, hockey, swimming and a number of other sports through a sporting zone and state knockout championships in which the school participates. Other activities available to students include public speaking and debating as well as the creative and performing arts by joining one of the schools art clubs, bands, vocal ensembles or drama groups. There is also an emphasis on school and community service through membership of the school’s Interact club and its involvement in several charity drives and environment improvement projects.

Students value the emphasis the school places on leadership development. Prefects, two student councils, a senior leadership group, the rural youth club, and cadets provide both character and leadership development opportunities.

There is no doubt that the greatest source of pride at Hurlstone lies in the overall quality of the students it produces. Over many decades the students have earned the school its great reputation. Wherever they go, Hurlstone students receive accolades for their personal qualities. They demonstrate wholesome values, initiative and independence. They are proud, confident and articulate young men and women who at the same time are caring and very supportive of each other. They provide proof that while there is an emphasis on striving for individual excellence, the development of the whole person is never forgotten at Hurlstone.
The boarding school a home to 180 boys and girls

Hurlstone’s 180 boarders are drawn from all over New South Wales. For them, school becomes a second home where students and staff proudly promote the concept of a “Hurlstone Family”.

The life of a boarder is characterised by the development of deep and lasting friendships and great camaraderie. Boarding students learn so much about themselves and others by living in a community of their peers. Boarding students also develop a great love of their school and many claim that boarding is the most positive aspect of Hurlstone for them. Parents of boarding students are impressed by the independence, self-reliance and self confidence their children develop from boarding as well as the quality of the boarder friends they bring home.

A trained welfare team of staff year co-ordinators and senior student dormitory monitors, help students adjust to their new environment. The emphasis is on providing a happy, caring and supportive environment. Boarding staff organise a program of activities including orientation trips, trips to the city, weekend excursions, year group barbeques, camps, eat-outs and sporting contests. There are also resident tutors on site to help with homework problems when they arise.

At Hurlstone, boarding students are encouraged to keep in touch with family and friends through weekend leave, day leave and surprise leave.

A professional boarding school catering team helps hostel staff develop carefully designed menus which ensure nutritious and well-balanced meals – lots of fresh fruit, milk and variety as well as the occasional special treat.

Students in Years 7 to 10 are generally accommodated in an open dormitory with their peers. Living together and the associated sharing in these early years are important elements in the development of the family concept. Tidiness is encouraged through a daily room inspection. Boarding students develop independence and soon adapt to being responsible for their own personal space. They also gain skills in organising their study, following routines and adapting to change.

Senior students are accommodated in conditions more conducive to effective private study. All Year 12 students and all of Year 11 have their own rooms. Students at Hurlstone value the emphasis the school places on the development of leadership skills and senior boarding students certainly have plenty of opportunities to develop and practice such skills. Year 11 students receive special leadership and strong staff support as they assume leadership roles. Year 10 students also serve as dormitory monitors and they supervise a farm squad program.

Fees and Contributions

Hurlstone Agricultural High School provides meals and accommodation to boarding students throughout the school year.

To help cover the costs of this operation, compulsory boarding fees, of an approximate value of $2000 per term, are payable to the school. Smaller contributions are made to the school for day school operations, $300-$500 per year to cover equipment and other resources.

The state and federal governments offer financial assistance schemes for boarding students. Further information can be obtained from the school by contacting the administration office.
An Agricultural Focus

Hurlstone’s 130 hectare farm provides the perfect resources for one of the state’s largest agriculture faculties.

Faculty staff members help the school operate a wide range of farm operations and these enable a very practical approach to the teaching of Agriculture. All students at Hurlstone study Agriculture at either the junior or senior level.

Students take advantage of the many exciting extra-curricular activities the school’s farming operation is able to offer them.

The school’s stud cattle have been shown at local shows and the Royal Easter Show with great success as students have been able to nurture cattle which earn the school a host of ribbons.

There is also a Hereford stud which supplies the local meat market as well as steers for students to exhibit at the Dubbo Steer Show each year.

On the sheep front, there is a stud of Poll Dorsets and some Merinos for the school’s student sheep group to look after.

Students and staff are also in the process of breeding up a herd of boer goats.

In the piggery, pregnant sows farrow over a period of several months, with piglets being sold as porkers or baconers, depending on demand at the local market.

There is also a commercial poultry operation consisting of around 200 birds in a barn system to supply eggs while a purebred poultry flock is also kept.

Lastly, there is a horticulture unit consisting of shade houses and glass houses which produces plants for sale and which allows students to become involved in propagation techniques and hydroponics.

The Selection Process

Year 7

Year 7 students sit for the Selective Schools entry test during March while they are in Year 6.

Years 8 - 12

Entry into Hurlstone Agricultural High is a competitive process and is overseen by the Department of Education and Training Selective Schools Unit.

Successful selection into Hurlstone follows this process:

1. All students must complete and submit to the school a ‘years 8 to 12 selective high schools application package’ with copies of school reports, certificates and other evidence of achievements. The application will be necessary to facilitate the selection procedure.

2. Each applicant will complete an entrance examination at the school.

3. Prospective successful students and parents attend an interview with a member of the school executive.

Entrance into Hurlstone

1. An academic test
2. Review the student’s previous achievements
3. An interview with the school executive

Do I study agriculture?

All students at Hurlstone study agriculture at some time at the school.

If students enter into Hurlstone into any year, from 7 to 10, they study agriculture as a part of the School Certificate.

If students enter into Hurlstone in year 11, they study agriculture as a part of their HSC.

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The School’s Curriculum

In addition to Agriculture, students in Years 7 and 8 study the same core subjects as are taught in most New South Wales secondary schools. These subjects are English, Mathematics, Science, History, Geography, Music, Art, Design and Technology, Japanese, Personal Development/Health/Physical Education and Sport. Study Skills courses are also offered.

The compulsory core courses in Years 9 and 10 leading to the School Certificate are English, Mathematics, Science, Agriculture, Australian History and Geography, Personal Development/Health/Physical Education and Sport. Students also choose three elective courses from Commerce, History, Information Technology, Japanese, Wood Technics, Farm Technology, Food Technology, Graphic Technology, Art, Music, Drama, Dance and a Physical Education elective. Career Education and study skills courses are also provided.

In senior years, English is the only compulsory subject for the Higher School Certificate. Elective courses offered at Hurlstone include Mathematics, Agriculture, Primary Industries, Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Senior Science, Information Processes and Technology, Engineering Studies, Rural Technology, Drama, Modern History, Ancient History, Geography, Economics, Business Studies, Legal Studies, Japanese and Extension courses in English, Mathematics and History. Under current Board of Studies rules, students can elect to spread their HSC preparation over one to five years and the school gladly accommodates students who wish to take advantage of this flexibility.

Rugby

Hurlstone rugby has a proud tradition that is as old as the school itself. Over the years a number of our students have gone on to represent the state and Australia. Recent waratah and wallaby, David Lyons, is one such proud old boy - playing his junior representative rugby out of Hurlstone.

To ensure the future of strong competitive rugby at our school, in 2006 we entered into a strategic partnership with the NSW Waratahs. This initiative sees some of the most promising rugby talent from country NSW enrolling into our boarding school where they participate in all our school has to offer as well as accessing specialised coaching and support as part of the NSW junior academy program. Today our teams play in the GPS rugby competition filling a place in the draw alongside Sydney Boys High.

Getting to know the school

Come and visit us to experience the warm and supportive family atmosphere of Hurlstone. Whether as a day student or as a boarder you will be welcomed.

Contact us for the opportunity to look around at both the day school and boarding school facilities and seek answers to all of your questions. You can arrange appointments by phoning the administration office.

Contact

The Enrolment Officer
Hurlstone Agricultural High School
Roy Watts Road
Glenfield NSW 2167
Ph: 02 9829 9222 Fax: 02 9829 2026
hurlstone-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au