

TINTERN  GRAMMAR



# SPARK

Our signature Year 9 program



# Discover who you are. Explore what matters. Create your future.

Year 9 is a pivotal stage in every student's learning journey. It is a time when young people begin to develop greater independence, discover new interests and make important decisions about their future.

Tintern Grammar's signature SPARK program helps our students make the most of this important year.

Through authentic experiences, purposeful challenges and real-world learning, SPARK encourages students to discover their strengths, broaden their perspectives and develop the confidence, character and skills they need to thrive in an increasingly complex world.



# Measuring growth

Success in SPARK extends well beyond traditional academic achievement. Student growth is assessed in partnership with the University of Melbourne's Melbourne Metrics program, which measures complex competencies that underpin lifelong learning.

This innovative approach provides meaningful insights into each student's development across areas including agency in learning, collaboration, communication, critical thinking, creativity and self-management.

It reflects the broader capabilities students need to succeed at school, in the workplace and throughout life.



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
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# What is SPARK?

SPARK combines academic learning with practical experiences, personal development and future-focused learning.

The program is founded on the five pillars that give SPARK its name.

These pillars create a learning environment where students are challenged to think deeply, collaborate effectively and grow both academically and personally.

## S Self-Discovery

Encourages students to better understand themselves, their strengths and their aspirations.

## P Purposeful Learning

Connects classroom learning with authentic experiences that make learning meaningful.

## A Action and Agency

Empowers students to take initiative, solve problems and make informed decisions.

## R Resilience and Growth

Helps students develop confidence, perseverance and adaptability when faced with new challenges.

## K Kindness and Impact

Encourages empathy, service and leadership, inspiring students to make a positive contribution to their community.

# A connected learning journey

SPARK is designed to challenge students, ignite curiosity and deepen their engagement with the world around them.

## Challenge

**Growing every week**

Extends learning through rich academic experiences that encourage critical thinking, creativity and problem-solving.

## Ignite

**Firing enthusiasm through experience**

Immerses students in interdisciplinary, hands-on learning experiences that foster innovation, collaboration and real-world application.

## Outdoor Education

**Learning in nature**

Develops resilience, independence and teamwork through purposeful experiences beyond the classroom.

## City Cite

**Real-world opportunities**

Connects students with Melbourne's cultural, business and educational landscape, providing authentic opportunities to explore contemporary issues, industries and future pathways.

# Challenge

## Growing every week

Challenge offers students dedicated time every week to deepen their learning, pursue individual interests and develop personal capabilities.

Purposeful wellbeing activities are woven throughout the year, helping students build resilience, healthy habits and greater self-awareness.

The program includes sessions that encourage students to engage with social justice, service and community responsibility.

Students also complete an inquiry-based personal project while earning recognised Credly Microcredentials that acknowledge the development of valuable skills.



# Ignite

## Firing enthusiasm through experience

Ignite days are held once a fortnight throughout the year. These full-day experiences take students beyond the traditional classroom through a balance of excursions, incursions and hands-on learning.

Each Ignite day is designed to build future-ready capabilities while encouraging curiosity, collaboration and reflection. Students explore real-world issues, develop practical skills and discover new interests through immersive experiences.

Every experience is carefully connected to the broader goals of the program to help students apply their learning in meaningful ways.



# Outdoor Education

## Learning in nature

At Tintern, Outdoor Education is a carefully designed learning journey, developed by our expert Outdoor Education staff. Year 9 students develop confidence, resilience, independence and the ability to thrive when faced with challenge across two camps.

In Term 3, students stay in the unique setting of Camp Howqua, where activities such as whitewater rafting, cross-country skiing, mountain biking and hiking push students beyond their comfort zones. Students learn how to manage discomfort, persevere through difficulty and develop confidence in their ability to overcome challenges.

In Term 4, students embark on a significant journey experience, undertaking a five to eight day hike through locations such as the Great Ocean Walk, Wilsons Promontory, the Grampians or the Bogong High Plains. Students learn teamwork, self-reliance, resilience and an appreciation for the natural environment alongside genuine achievement.





# City Cite

## Real-world opportunities

City Cite extends learning beyond the classroom by immersing students in the many cultural, educational and professional opportunities of Melbourne.

The week-long program encourages students to think critically, ask questions and develop a deeper understanding of the world around them.

Students are offered carefully curated experiences to engage with businesses, cultural institutions, galleries, theatres, government organisations and industry experts.

# Why SPARK matters

SPARK provides learning opportunities that can't be replicated within a traditional classroom alone.

Students learn to think independently, work collaboratively, communicate effectively and approach challenges with resilience and curiosity.

Just as importantly, students develop a stronger understanding of themselves, their values and their potential.

By balancing academic growth with wellbeing, leadership, service and authentic learning experiences, SPARK creates a distinctive Year 9 journey that prepares students not only for Years 10 - 12, but for the opportunities and challenges to come after they leave school.

Discover who you are.  
Explore what matters.  
Create your future.



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ACN 004 293 994 | ABN 24 693 089 021 | CRICOS 00348E