



**THE ACADEMY**



# The Academy

**40% of students are currently disengaged in their school\*.**

It's a worrying figure, but not much is being done to fix it. The education system has hardly evolved in the last 50 years and traditional teaching methods remain the norm for every student, with minimal regard to the individual and how they learn.

You wouldn't call a fish a failure, just because it can't climb a tree, right?

The Academy aims to lower the disengagement statistic by bringing a modern, contextualized and effective way of learning to Australia's young adults.

When students are passionately engaged in their education, it shows through their results and fulfilment levels. Students are more excited about their future when they're equipped with the tools to live a life they love.

For young athletes, The Academy is the optimal setting to learn and train from the best, hone their skills and take their footy and futures to the next level.

Welcome to The Academy.

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**The Academy is a full-time AFL passion education program, offering an alternative to standard year 11 & 12 schooling.**

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**The Academy campuses:**

- > Essendon
- > Geelong
- > Wangaratta

Each student at The Academy enrolls because they are passionate about Australian Rules Football. For two years, they'll be placed in an AFL-simulated environment that focuses on personal growth and high performance to prepare them in the next step of their football journey.

## COURSE STRUCTURE

The Academy is a different kind of education. Using an approach that steers away from outdated methods, we're preparing Australia's boys for a future that's built on their passion.

The curriculum at The Academy is tailored in a way that allows students to personally connect to their education. Designed for more practical learners, we're removing the stigma associated with VCAL and proving that a real-world education is the key to success.

## LEARNING APPROACH

The Academy's program is delivered over 3 phases:

### PHASE 1 YEAR 11

#### Discovery

National Curriculum Code  
VCALINT001  
SIS30115 - Certificate III in  
Sport & Recreation

The first phase in our Year 11s journey lays a solid foundation of self awareness and passion based education, improving engagement through The Academy culture.

### PHASE 2 YEAR 12

#### Growth

National Curriculum Code  
VCALSEN001  
SIS30115 - Certificate III in  
Sport & Recreation

This middle phase sees students master their individual learning and leadership styles, becoming aware of the opportunities which are now possibilities.

### PHASE 3 YEAR 12

#### Launch Pad

This final phase in our year 12's education acts as a platform to launch them into the next part of their journey. Launch Pad provides the following advantages:

- > Investigate different pathway options.
- > Develop planning and research skills.
- > Consolidate students' purpose and passion.
- > Students will also be guaranteed entry into the following:



#### Richmond Institute of Sports Leadership & Swinburne University

Diploma of Sport (SIS50321) and Diploma of Leadership & Management (BSB50420)



#### GOTAFE

All certificate & diploma level course

- > Other pathway options:



#### Victoria University

Students can use their learning and experiences for future pathways into an undergraduate degree course at Victoria University and more. Common courses that recent graduates now find themselves completed include:

- Bachelor of Education Studies
- Bachelor of Physical Education And Sport Science
- Bachelor of Health Science
- Bachelor of Business - All Majors



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# Curriculum Snapshot

- > Year 11 & 12 VCAL (Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning)
  - > Contextualised learning to suit students' passions
  - > Designed and updated by the industry
  - > Direct entry into numerous further study courses & beyond
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The curriculum is based on  
The Academy's 3 P's of  
Holistic Education:  
**Personal, Passion & Professional.**

## The ATAR Myth

There's more than one way for students to achieve their goals. Getting into university and achieving the job of their dreams is a real possibility even without a VCE.

As the tertiary education landscape changes, so too are admissions processes. More students are applying directly to institutions, and admissions decisions are increasingly being made on a range of bases other than ATAR.\* More than half of all Australian students are starting a bachelor degree admitted on a basis other than their ATAR.

\* The Mitchell Paper (2018), Exploring the use and usefulness of the Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR)

## Personal

### Student Development Program

- WHY** To help students understand their strengths & celebrate who they are.
- HOW** Curriculum and support to help pupils set goals and ensure they're happy at school and at home.

Each student has different coping mechanisms and we strive to foster an environment that nurtures their mental and physical well-being, to empower students to be proud of who they are and develop their emotional intelligence.

To support this, The Academy Daily Wellness Check-Ins include gratitude reflections and questions on how students are feeling physically and mentally, helping teachers shape each day to better suit students' needs and also provide additional support when required. Each

student will also complete a personality profile (DISC) at the start of the year, to help them understand their own behaviour and better adapt to that of others.

As part of our commitment to develop students both academically and holistically, a leadership group is selected at the start of each year, to make important decisions on behalf of the student body. This group will receive leadership development training to expose them to various leadership styles and strengthen their capabilities.

## Passion

### High-Performance Program

- WHY** So students can do what they love, enhance skills & enjoy their time within the program.
- HOW** Being part of a unique culture and participating in theory and practical sessions that confirm or rediscover their passion.

Each student at The Academy enrolls because they are passionate about Australian Rules Football. For two years, they'll be placed in an AFL-simulated environment that focuses on personal growth and high performance to prepare them in the next step of their football journey.

An Athletic Profiling Database is maintained to monitor individual development, with data collected during four Academy Athlete testing combines, similar to the AFL. It is then used to identify strengths and weaknesses for a tailored program. The results are fed through to families and clubs (NAB & local).

The Academy enhances performance by focusing on the following major components:

**Skills:** AFL standard drills to improve

structural and system awareness, as well as decision-making and execution.

**Running Tech:** Improve movement efficiency to enhance football capacity.

**Recovery:** Regenerate & adapt from stress, working with our High Performance team through a range of recovery methods (e.g. water-based recovery, pilates, mobility sessions, etc.)

**Injury Rehab:** Enhance regeneration capacity & return student to full performance as soon as possible.

**Strength:** Students are fitter, faster, more powerful & agile, to better adapt to the physical demands of football.

**Cross Train:** To assist with load management on legs, and improve fitness & body composition. Includes pilates, swimming, biking, yoga, etc.

## Professional

### Curriculum & Pathway Options

- WHY** To ensure students are educated to a level that allows them to create any pathway they want.
- HOW** Educating students in literacy and numeracy they'll actually use in the real world, in a way that relates to their passion for football.

Students undertake a learning structure environment that's more closely linked to university or TAFE to prepare them for further study. They'll be involved in face-to-face and online workshops and lectures throughout the two years, as well as three work placements.

The work placements will help them get a real-life grasp of a potential career, so they can eliminate the career paths they don't want and hone in on what they

really want to do. Upon the completion of each placement, students are required to critically evaluate why or why not this could be a potential pathway for them.

We have created articulated pathways, so once students complete two years at The Academy, they can achieve entry into apprenticeships or courses at tertiary education institutions (e.g. university or TAFE).

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## UNIQUE CULTURE

100% of students at The Academy report feeling happy and engaged in both their education and the environment.

### HOW?

- > Inclusive of everyone, whatever their strengths and weaknesses are
- > Focused on connecting people and forming relationships
- > Importance placed more on personal development, rather than outcome

- > Daily schedules are flexible to maximise connection to programmes
- > Regular wellness check-ins
- > No more than 50 students in the school, so each pupil gets the attention they need
- > Lead teachers are allocated a maximum of 25 students each, and become the figure of a supporter, mentor and friend

 See what the students & parents say at [theacademy.com.au/culture](https://theacademy.com.au/culture)

## THE ACADEMY TEACHERS

All staff at The Academy are carefully selected because they fit the program's purpose and values. They each have impressive credentials in both their athletic and academic careers, having been heavily involved in football for a large portion of their lives. All teaching staff have played football or coached at a VFL level or higher.

Teachers choose to work at The Academy because it enables them to align their passions for football and education.

They're also able to form stronger connections to students because they share the same interests and have led a similar life path.

Disengagement at other schools can be a result of students struggling to relate to the teachers. We've been able to eliminate this problem by recruiting staff that have a common passion for AFL and personal growth.

## COMMUNITY

Families of The Academy students are encouraged to take a proactive approach in their son's education and future. We facilitate this by making sure that families get to be a part of the journey.

### HOW?

- > Hosting regular family events throughout the year to connect the community
- > A dedicated Student Journey team is available at each campus to answer any questions you might have

- > We created The Academy Parent Portal on our website. This exciting resource is an additional communications portal between The Academy and families. Families can request to join online groups that help them stay up-to-date with what their son is doing on campus, and complete forms and get access to other updates and information related to their son's enrolment.





# Make the Squad

## THE APPLICATION PROCESS

### 1. Attend an Information Session

Students and families are invited to attend an on-campus or online Information Session or Experience Day which enables us to understand your learning requirements and make sure you and The Academy are the right fit.

### 2. Apply

Parents submit an online application form which places their son on the list of applicants to be considered by the Admissions team. Applicants will be required to submit supporting documentation during this process.

### 3. Letter of Offer

Upon receiving an offer for a place at The Academy, parents have 14 days to accept by completing and returning necessary documentation with the non-refundable acceptance fee. The acceptance deposit will also cover the costs for the student's The Academy uniform starter pack.

## THINGS TO KNOW FIRST

**The Academy application process is required for all students wishing to enrol into the program. We welcome applications for all future enrolment years. Our intake years are Year 11 and Year 12.**

- > Applicants are required to complete Year 10 or 11 before commencing the following year
- > Applicants are able to select the relevant campus and year level at enrolment
- > Students need to be playing football at a minimum local level standard to enrol
- > Applications are considered based on the application answers, supporting documentation and date of submission. Therefore, we encourage you to submit an application as early as possible.

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Ready to apply? Scan the QR code to get started!





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