Co-Curricular Activities

At Ivanhoe Girls’ we believe equally in opportunities for participation and for the pursuit of excellence. To encourage students to explore their abilities and talents in the widest possible diversity of areas, we provide a rich and varied co-curricular program throughout the School.

SPORT

Every student is a member of one of our six Houses. Within the House system all girls participate in a full range of sporting activities at a level to suit their ability. These activities also provide girls with valuable leadership and teamwork experiences. The cross-age nature of many House sporting activities allows for extensive leadership opportunities and facilitates nurturing relationships between girls of different age levels. House sports include athletics, basketball, cross-country, softball, swimming and many other individual and team sports.

SENIOR SCHOOL

Ivanhoe Girls’ is a member school of Girls Sport Victoria (GSV), enabling students to play a wide variety of inter-school sports competitively at levels tailored to their own experience and accomplishment. Activities include athletics, cross-country and swimming carnivals, incorporating provision for elite level competition, along with a comprehensive schedule of weekly round robin competitions in a wide variety of team sports.

JUNIOR SCHOOL

Teams in the Junior School compete in the School Sport Victoria (SSV) sport and Tuesday invitational inter-school sport (basketball, hockey, netball, soccer, softball and teeball). House competitions are held each year in athletics, swimming, and cross-country. Interested girls may train for and compete in other co-curricular activities such as the Victorian Snow Sports Championships, aerobics, diving, basketball and tennis competitions.

MUSIC

Music occupies a central place in the life of Ivanhoe Girls’. A very large proportion of our girls elect to participate in individual and ensemble music performance opportunities. The School provides opportunities for tuition, rehearsal and performance in a wide range of levels in both instrumental and choral music. Orchestras, bands and ensembles are formed in various different ways to enable participation at levels geared to extending the individual’s level of accomplishment. Some groups are open to all, while others are invitational and based on audition. Whether in the School’s premier orchestra, Boaden Orchestra, or in one of the many entry level ensembles in both Junior School and Senior School, students are readily able to enjoy the fulfilment of experiencing success and teamwork through School music.

CULTURAL

Drama and Debating occupy pivotal roles in the provision of cultural and personal development opportunities at Ivanhoe Girls’. Debating is offered at both House and inter-school levels through the Debaters Association of Victoria (DAV). The School has an established track record of exceptional success at all DAV levels and our debating framework gives our girls exposure to leadership and teamwork at many levels.

We are proud of the standard of dramatic performance achieved by so many participants in our many drama groups and production teams, from sophisticated experimental productions to large-scale school productions. Girls are able to test, extend and fully stretch themselves in a variety of drama contexts suiting their age and ability levels.
LEADERSHIP AND SOCIAL SERVICE

At Ivanhoe Girls’ the entire School ethos is devoted to the cultivation of selfless leadership and service to others. Teamwork and leadership belong not only on the sportsfields and in performance opportunities. Our girls choose to participate in a range of social service activities, cooperating with others and acquiring valuable skills of collaboration and leadership in the process. Just some of the areas offered are Amnesty International, Mustard (Christian Group), Duke of Edinburgh Scheme, International Club, Library Committee, and Red Shield Appeal collecting. The giving of selfless service results in the return of personal fulfilment and the pride of knowing that an important job was well done. Leadership experience is acquired in countless informal ways but equally through the many formal positions of leadership offered in sporting teams, cultural pursuits, student representative groups and in other activity areas where students are appointed or elected to positions of significant responsibility.

Leadership opportunities also abound in Junior School. From their early years in the School, girls are encouraged to accept leadership positions. They are encouraged to show their ability to be responsible, to get along with others, to be confident, to organise and to lead. Class, Library and Social Service Captain roles are held for one term/semester and are available to girls from Year 2 to Year 6. The Year 6 students have particular opportunities for leadership roles: by student and staff election, School Captains, House Captains; and by application, Music, Sports, Orchestra, Band, Art, Fitness, Social Service, Ambassadors, Environment and Library Captains.

INITIATIVES FROM THE COOEWRULL CENTRE FOR LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE

The Cooerwull Centre for Leadership and Service was established to enhance Ivanhoe Girls’ Grammar School’s core values of leadership and service and to provide a coherent framework for these.

The goals of the Cooerwull Centre are:
- to enhance the concepts of leadership, teamwork and service throughout the School community
- to develop students’ leadership, teamwork and responsibility skills and provide opportunities to practise these skills in meaningful ways
- to provide authentic opportunities for genuine service to our community throughout the School
- to uphold the values of leadership and service by providing a framework for formal recognition of student achievements in this area
- to model that true fulfilment comes from helping others

AWARDS

Ivanhoe Girls’ believes in acknowledging dedicated effort which serves others in the School and the broader community and which represents for each student her personal and social growth through sustained commitment in Senior School. From the House system, through each major activity area such as Debating, Drama, Music and Sport, right up to the highest level of School Colours, we recognise outstanding effort through a coherent and highly valued system of awards. Because the awards are earned by meeting clear and transparent participation and performance criteria, the system strongly supports the personal development of every girl by enabling her to know with a sense of certainty the commitments she needs to undertake to qualify for her next award level. The School’s awards system also underpins an important element of the School’s ethos in showing the value we place on affirming and celebrating accomplishment gained through hard work, determination, team work and perseverance.