



## Ballarat Clarendon College, Victoria

### About us

We are a large, independent, co-educational, prep-12 day and boarding school located in regional Victoria. We have a campus on King Island where year 9 students spend part of their year.

### Our approach

We have benefited from a confluence of three key ideas.

In 2013 we introduced the whole school to the concept of backward design based on the work of Jay Wiggins and Grant McTighe. We start with the outcome in mind and work backwards to determine our instructional methods. This ensures learning activities are directed towards a specific learning intention and are structured around big ideas and essential questions.

We use Rosenshine's principles of instruction as a planning tool to support explicit instruction. The Mathematics department was an early adopter, and leaders at every level worked to ensure mathematical concepts and procedures were clearly explained and assessed.

Students are asked to solve problems they have been explicitly taught to solve. We use pairs of worked examples with teachers modelling the example and thinking aloud while they work through the problem. Students complete a similar exercise, often on mini-whiteboards, allowing teachers to assess their understanding and adjust accordingly. As students move along the developmental pathway, support is gradually withdrawn. The model draws upon research demonstrating that conceptual understanding of Mathematics develops in parallel with procedural knowledge. We do not use Rosenshine's principles as a checklist.

The Mathematics department uses a system of shared planning. Teaching teams collaborate to produce units of work and lesson plans and a precise timeline for each unit is followed. Once assessment data is available for a unit, it is audited and areas of weakness are addressed. Units of work pass through many iterations and each class benefits from the sum of those iterations.

The effectiveness of our teaching is improving over time and we place an explicit focus on the capture of that improvement.

### Our profile

ENROLMENTS **1,422** LBOTE **18%** INDIGENOUS **0%** ICSEA **1160**