Outdoor learning is a critical component of a student’s time at Launceston Grammar. Students have an opportunity to develop their understanding of places of natural significance in Tasmania, whilst learning new and fun skills which they will carry with them for a lifetime. Furthermore, students are able to develop positive relationships with their peers and school staff which can have a profound effect on their time at the school.

The Outdoor Education programme at the school capitalises on our close proximity to some of Australia’s most magnificent areas of natural beauty. Students have the opportunity to participate in bushwalking, rock climbing, whitewater rafting, whitewater kayaking, mountain biking, sea kayaking and many other activities.
Why is **Outdoor Education** important?

Learning extends beyond the classroom, and Outdoor Education provides an outstanding opportunity for students to learn about themselves, others and the natural environment. Most importantly, we provide fun, positive and memorable experiences so that our students will want to return to the outdoors again and again long after they have left the school.

The Outdoor Education programme at Launceston Grammar is centred around some key character attributes critical to living and working in the 21st Century. These character attributes, which can be modelled, developed and nurtured through meaningful outdoor experiences, include:

**Resilience**

Is the student prepared to risk failure? If the student does not achieve immediate success, can they devise other methods to succeed? Can they cope with not **“succeeding”**?

**Independence**

Can the student complete tasks by themselves, or do they tend to rely heavily on others? Can the student solve his/her own problems and answer his/her own questions?

**Interdependence**

Can the student contribute to and work effectively in groups when required?

**Integrity**

Can the student make constructive, informed and considered decisions?
Initiative
Can the student make proactive decisions in the interest of attaining individual and group goals?

Empathy
Does the student demonstrate self-respect, care and respect for others and care for the natural world?

The Outdoor Education programme works within the school’s 2011-2020 Strategic Plan to offer a globally relevant education, offer a uniquely Tasmanian experience, and develop students’ awareness and understanding of their environmental responsibilities. Furthermore, Outdoor Education provides a perfect platform to teach elements of the Australian Curriculum, particularly cross-curricula priorities such as Sustainability and Indigenous Culture.
The **Outdoor Education Programme**

There are Outdoor Education Camps at each grade level at the Senior Campus. These camps are compulsory up to Grade 10; it is an expectation of the School that all students will attend. Depending on the grade level, camps can run from four to nine days. In the following pages, each camp from Grade 7 to TCE is described in brief.

**Grade 7**

Hanleth

Students in Grade 7 have two Outdoor Education camps during the year. The first camp is a four day (three night) introductory trip to the property “Hanleth” in the Fingal Valley. The trip takes place in the second week of Term One, an important bonding time for students. Activities on this camp are designed to give students the opportunity to get to know their teachers and peers, and begin to form a friendship group. Students will also be introduced to some of the outdoor skills relevant to future Outdoor Education programmes.

Maria Island

With its pristine landscapes, abundance of flora and fauna, and rich indigenous and European history, Maria Island on the East Coast of Tasmania is perfectly suited for an extended school camp. The Maria Island camp is a very special part of the Launceston Grammar curriculum. It has a tradition of over 50 years of bringing students, teachers, parents and the Outdoor Education staff together providing an opportunity to develop independence, personal and group skills and resilience.

This experience aims to foster aspects of teamwork (such as co-operation, empathy and communication); develop an awareness of, and appreciation for, the natural environment and; extend the academic classroom into this area of natural and historical significance. The Maria Island Camp is both formative and memorable.
Grade 8

Freyceinet National Park
In Grade 8, students venture to Freycinet National Park in small groups to undertake a week of activities including bushwalking, bivouacking and rock climbing.

The trip focuses specifically on some of the character strengths and virtues outlined on pages 4 and 6 of this booklet. We expect that students in Grade 8 are willing to accept appropriate challenges, and are able to devise strategies to maximise their opportunities for success. The camp aims primarily to foster resilience and interdependence (working with others) in an outdoor environment. Some aspects of the trip are challenging for students on a physical, social and/or emotional level. Students are regularly required to engage and communicate effectively with others, and use initiative and independent decision making to achieve individual and group objectives.

Grade 9

Mt Cameron
Lasting 9 days, our Grade 9 trip to Mt Cameron is the longest trip on the Outdoor Education calendar. This trip combines the skills learnt on previous Outdoor Education experiences with new skills such as kayaking and mountain bike riding. This trip also aims to connect with Tasmania’s rich indigenous history in the most authentic way possible.

During this trip, students are given a range of challenges as they make their way through the Mt Cameron area in small groups. These challenges include having to navigate off track to find a camp site, starting a fire to cook a meal using flint, finding a food drop using a map, and building a raft out of rudimentary materials to cross a lake. Working cooperatively and cohesively as a team is an essential component of this trip.
Grade 10

Expeditions
Launceston Grammar’s Outdoor Education Grade 10 expeditions programme builds on a solid foundation of previous outdoor experiences at the School. The last of the compulsory Outdoor Education trips, students are expected to capitalise on their previous experiences so that they are entirely independent and self-sufficient.

Students are given a range of options and are required to elect which expedition they wish to attend. Past expeditions have included: whitewater rafting on the Huon River; whitewater kayaking on the Arthur River; sea kayaking on the Gordon River; bushwalking on the Overland Track; bushwalking to the summit of Frenchmans Cap; and Bike Touring on Bruny Island. All trips are exciting, fun and adventurous. Most trips take place in remote areas where groups are unlikely to see other people for some days.

Grades 11/12

Outdoor Education
Outdoor Education (OXP215113) is an elective course and has a complexity level of TQA 2. The commitment to this course is approximately 150 hours of work, and most of these hours are spent “in the field”, on camp. This course is designed to foster the development of independence and self-sufficiency within the context of outdoor recreational activities. Skills and knowledge will be developed through theoretical learning and experiences in a range of outdoor activities. Central to this course are the following elements: Personal Development; Social and Interpersonal Development; Skills and Technical Knowledge; The Environment.

All trips for this course are scheduled during the school holiday periods, and all work for this course occurs whilst on camp and some lunchtime meetings (that is, there are no timetabled classes during a normal school week). Students are to attend a minimum of three school camps over a two year period. In the past, trips have included mountain bike riding, sea kayaking, rafting, caving, white water kayaking, rock climbing and many others.
Grade 11/12

Outdoor Leadership
Outdoor Leadership (OXP315113) has a complexity level of TQA 3, and contributes to the calculation of Australian Tertiary Admission Ranks (ATAR). The commitment to this course is approximately 150 hours of work, combining field work with timetabled classes to cover the practical and theoretical elements of the course.

Outdoor Leadership encourages students to develop an understanding of self, to develop a positive relationship with others and the natural environment, and use effective leadership techniques. The course also aims to foster an awareness of the natural environment and build responsibility for its care and conservation. These understandings empower students to contribute towards achieving an ecologically sustainable world.

Other Information

There are Outdoor Education Camps at each grade level at the Senior Campus. These camps are compulsory up to Grade 10; it is an expectation that all students will attend. Depending on the grade level, camps can run from four to nine days. In the previous pages, each camp from Grade 7 to TCE is described in brief.

When do the school camps occur?

Information about dates for upcoming trips are available on the school calendar. All trips, with the exception of Grades 11 & 12 trips, occur during the academic year. Grades 11 & 12 trips are run during the school holidays so that they do not interrupt other studies.
Equipment and Clothing
The School has an extensive range of high-quality and well-maintained equipment that can be hired by students for a small cleaning and maintenance fee. This equipment includes lightweight tents, rainwear, sleeping bags and sleeping mats. Prior to each trip, parents and guardians are given a comprehensive list of clothing and equipment required for the camp.

Medical Information
The Outdoor Education Department uses medical details supplied by parents/guardians each year. Please advise the School as soon as practically possible, if your child’s medical details change.

Parent Involvement
We invite parents of Grade 7 students to attend part of the Outdoor Education camp to Maria Island. This gives parents a great insight into the nature of Outdoor Education and experiential learning at Launceston Grammar. With the exception of the Grade 7 Maria Island camp, we generally do not require any parental involvement with other sections of the Outdoor Education programme.

Costs
With the exception of hire of personal equipment (as described above), the Outdoor Education programme does not attract any additional fees from Grade 7 to Grade 9. Most costs are included in the annual school levy.
In Grades 10, 11 & 12 Outdoor Education and Grades 11 & 12 Outdoor Leadership, where students choose from a range of camp options, a fee to cover costs of the school having to hire specialist equipment for the week may be incurred.
Risk and Safety

Student safety is our first and foremost priority. At all times, outdoor activity is run by qualified and experienced staff, and is conducted within the guidelines set down by state or national associations governing these activities.

There is, however, an inherent degree of risk with all Outdoor Education programmes. Indeed, one of the overarching objectives of Outdoor Education at Launceston Grammar is for students to consider risk (real or perceived) when they make decisions concerning themselves or others. It is therefore not possible or desirable to eliminate all risk from our programme.

Any parent wishing to discuss the health and safety of their child whilst on Outdoor Education programme is most welcome to arrange an appointment with the Outdoor Education Department through the School.

Further information

For further information concerning the Outdoor Education programme at Launceston Grammar, please email outdooreducation@lcgs.tas.edu.au or phone 03 6336 6000.