The Young and Deadly Mob
Information for Principals

AURORA COLLEGE

Aurora College – Igniting new ways of learning

- Aurora College, the state's first virtual school, is a gazetted 'stand-alone' school that has hosted thousands of students from across the state. The Young and Deadly Mob program at Aurora College began in 2022. Since then, hundreds of students have participated in this online program created for Aboriginal High Potential and Gifted students.

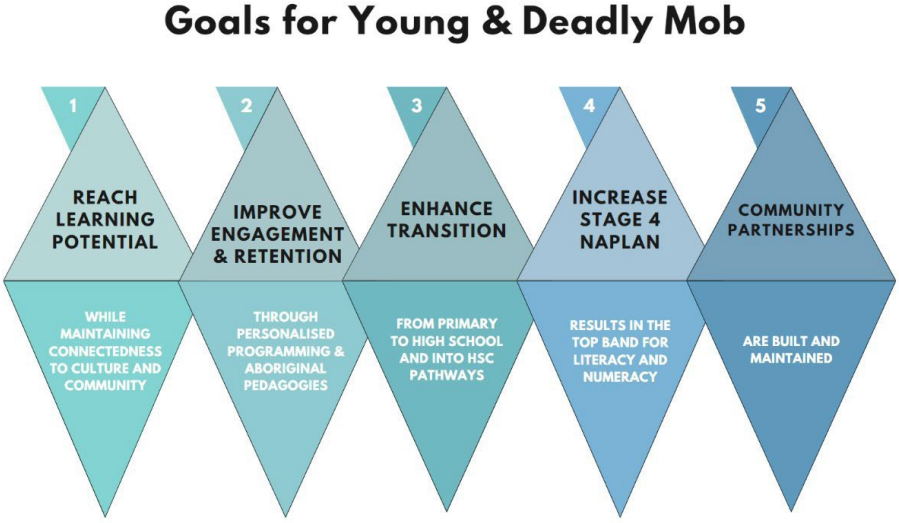
- Aurora provides a mix of online and residential school classes. Students connect with their teachers and classmates in timetabled lessons delivered live in real time through a virtual learning environment, which comprises video conferencing software, a learning management system, and a range of cutting-edge online communication and collaboration tools. The school also runs a fully digital school library.

- Our school offers:
  - The Opportunity Class – for Year 5 and Year 6 students studying Mathematics, Science and Technology
  - **The Young and Deadly Mob – for Year 5 to Year 10 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Students, studying Mathematics, Science and Technology in Primary school, then Mathematics, English and Science in Secondary school**
  - Selective School - Year 7 to 10 students studying English, Mathematics and Science
  - Stage 6 - Year 11 and 12 students the opportunity to study one or more Preliminary and/or Higher School Certificate subjects that may not be available in their local school.

- Students study the balance of the curriculum in their local government school. This unique provision allows students to access a challenging academic program without the need to leave their local community. This model helps students to learn by grouping them with other students of similar ability, and by using specialised teaching methods and educational materials at the appropriate level.

The virtual Aboriginal High Potential and Gifted Students Program, the Young and Deadly Mob

- The Department of Education funds this ongoing provision. In developing the model, the Aboriginal Education and Communities Directorate worked closely with the Aurora team and with a project reference group which has wide representation from across the community, Aboriginal Education Consultative Groups and within the Department of Education.
- Our partner schools and local AECGs are integral to the ongoing development of the program.



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- Potential students are identified by the Department of Education as Year 4 Aboriginal students who achieved highly in a range of department assessments, or through a direct nomination. Schools, parents and students then submit an application for consideration of the Selection Committee.

- Each student of the Young and Deadly Mob program will study with Aurora College:
  - Mathematics, Science and Technology in Year 5 to Year 6 at their local* primary school
  - Mathematics, Science and English in Year 7 to Year 10 at their local* high school.

* The full list of eligible rural, regional and remote schools: Years 5/6 | Years 7–10

How will Aurora and the home (partner) school work together?

- When a student enrols in Aurora College, they become a shared enrolment between Aurora and their home school. In this educational partnership, both schools must plan for and support the curriculum of each shared student.
- Aurora will provide students with a laptop, headset, and webcam to participate in lessons. Participating primary schools are required to provide a desktop computer and an allocated Aurora space to support student learning. The student laptops can be taken home to complete set tasks and support learning in all areas of the curriculum.
- The operational model of Aurora College is based on face-to-face, real-time lessons. This model requires each partner school to build part of their timetable from the common timetable template.
- Supervision will be provided by the Aurora College teacher as well as by the home school. Students will be working in a space that is visible to staff at the primary school they attend.
- In each partner school, Aurora funds the release of a suitable teacher to fill the role of Aurora College Coordinator (ACC). The ACC adds an important layer of support for the educational, social and emotional needs of our high potential and gifted students. The ACC is an important advocate of Aurora College in the partner school and in the local community.
- The Stage 3 curriculum has a STEM focus, delivered through an inquiry-based learning approach. Students study the content of the Mathematics and Science and Technology syllabuses.
- Aurora College has sole responsibility for teaching, assessing and reporting in these areas of the curriculum. The home school delivers the balance of the curriculum.
- Following the Department's guidelines, Aurora College produces a full academic report at the end of Semesters 1 and 2. An interim report is also provided early in Term 1 for Year 5. Parent/teacher interviews are conducted in Term 1 and as required.

Stage 3 program overview

- During Term 1, Year 5 will undertake an orientation program which builds their confidence and proficiency in the use of the various learning platforms and technological components.
- Once oriented to the platforms, online tools and systems of Aurora College, students begin their learning of mandatory curriculum for **Mathematics and Science & Technology**, with a STEM focus.
- Lessons are delivered through a balance of Aboriginal Pedagogies and differentiation adjustments for High Potential and Gifted Students.
- To accommodate the required NESA hours, the Aurora timetable allocates a total of **400 minutes of lesson time throughout the week**.
- Partner schools will make their timetable selections for Year 5 in Term 4 of the year prior. Please refer to the Stage 3 timetable template on the partner school resources page of the Aurora College website.

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Stage 4-5 program overview

- In Year 7, students carry over their learning with a local government high school that is designated as rural, regional or remote. Prior to 2028, students bring their technical equipment with them from their primary school and continue their learning with the Young and Deadly Mob. As of 2028, students will receive a new laptop as they move into Secondary School.
- In Years 7–10, students study **English, Mathematics and Science for a total of 600 minutes per week**. This includes a Science practical lesson each fortnight that is presented by a teacher in the home school.
- Lessons are delivered through a balance of Aboriginal Pedagogies and differentiation adjustments for High Potential and Gifted students.
- Partner schools will make their timetable selections for Year 7 in Term 4 of the previous year. Please refer to the Secondary Common timetable template.

Program special features

- The Residential School ("Res") gives students the opportunity to meet and work with their peers and teachers face to face. Aurora College provides supervised bus transport to and from the Residential school. The program includes lessons, tutorials, masterclasses, mentoring sessions, incursions and excursions. Transport and accommodation costs for Young and Deadly Mob students will be paid for by the program. Primary classes attend one Res per year, Secondary classes attend two Res camps per year.
- The Masterclass Program is a key component of the online and Residential School programs. Students connect with and learn from a variety of individuals who are leaders and experts in their chosen field. Masterclasses also feature inspiring First Nations Community Members who share their story and experiences with students.

Need further information?

- Further information on partnering with Aurora College in Stage 3 is provided in a suite of support documents on the partner school page https://aurora.schools.nsw.gov.au/learning-and-support/young-and-deadly-mob.

- For additional questions or information, please contact Chris Robertson (Principal) or Beth Hodson (Deputy Principal Middle School) on 1300 287 629 or email at auroracoll-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au.