Special Features of the Program

An Individual Learning Program (ILP) formulated through negotiation with the student, the family, the college and the Internship Mentor.

- A personal college mentor called the ‘Advisory Teacher’ who meets with the student regularly to establish goals and monitor progress

- Individual access to careers counselling and information about Vocational opportunities

- Authentic learning through real life activities

- The option to be involved in an Internship in an organisation for up to 2 days of every school week, or to complete an ASBA

- Assessment of research projects through an ‘exhibition’ where the student is required to describe, analyse and reflect on the successes and challenges of the project and learning with a group of mentors and friends

- The development of an ‘e portfolio’ that provides an overview of the student’s employability skills, work place and volunteering experiences and goals for the future.

Further enquiries about the ‘Big Picture’ Inspired Program at Erindale College may be made by calling Jenny Blackall Deputy Principal on 02 62058116
**Introduction**

The Erindale College Big Picture inspired academy has been designed to meet the needs of a diverse range of students in both Years 11 and 12.

Big picture schools are committed to the education of ‘one student at a time’. The key to achievement in a Big Picture school lies in fostering student’s individual interests, encouraging their active participation in the learning process, and developing their ability to apply knowledge and skills to real life experience and challenges.

Big Picture Learning (USA) was founded by Dennis Littky and Elliot Washor in 1995 in the USA, and today there are 50 such schools in the USA. These schools are known for their high attendance and completion rates, and large numbers of students entering University and TAFE colleges. Big Picture Australia is based in Melbourne, and Big Picture inspired programs have now been established in Western Australia, Tasmania, Victoria, NSW & ACT.

---

**Why enrol in the program?**

Erindale College students who have been recommended for the program, or who have self-identified, will benefit from the program for the following reasons:

- Individual mentoring and encouragement can be more easily accommodated than in a classroom with a large number of students.
- The provision of a home-room facility allows students to develop an immediate connection with a small group of peers and teachers.
- Students are motivated to succeed because they are learning within an atmosphere where their individual needs can be quickly identified.
- Students will be able to learn more about their own skills and strengths and be better placed to enhance skill areas that need strengthening.
- Learning in context, or learning for a genuine purpose will in most cases provide greater motivation for success.
- Projects that incorporate a range of skills including literacy and numeracy completed during Internships in an organisation, assist students to better understand the requirements of various employment and career opportunities. Students are then better able to see the reason for strengthening their skill base.
- Flexible learning combined with structured classroom based learning provides a varied experience and encourages students to be more independent learners.
- Students are able to establish a strong connection with a mentor who will monitor their individual progress and modify their program to meet their changing learning needs.

---

**The program**

All students who successfully participate in the program will be able to achieve an ACT Year 12 Certificate within two years. Students may also achieve university entrance with an ATAR or Principal’s Recommendation.

All students in the program will be enrolled in a combination of the following subjects and experiences:

1-5 subject elective units of study from the following courses:

- Community Learning-Humanities
- Community Learning-Technology
- Contemporary Literacy
- Contemporary Mathematics
- Any Tertiary Accredited Subject
- Any other course offered at the college
- An Australian School Based Apprenticeship (ASBA)
- The Work Experience Program in order to complete an Internship with an organisation
- Approved courses of study at the Canberra Institute of Technology or another Registered Training Organisation.
- On-line courses of study offered by the ‘Open High School’ & ‘Open University’ which will be ‘T’ accredited courses.

---