1. **BIG PICTURE ACADEMY**

1.1 **INTRODUCTION TO THIS ACADEMY**

Erindale College has now established a ‘Big Picture’ inspired Academy, one of seven academies operating within the college. The program has been designed to meet the needs of a diverse range of students in both Year 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.

All students who successfully participate in the program will be able to achieve an ACT Year 12 Certificate within two years.

1.2 **COURSES**

All students in the program are enrolled in a combination of courses incorporating the following subjects and experiences:

- Community Learning – Humanities (A)
- Community Learning – Technology (A)
- Contemporary English (A)
- Contemporary Mathematics (A)
- Work Education
- An Australian School-based Apprenticeship (ASBA)
- The Work Experience Program in order to complete an Internship with a host organisation
- Any other course accredited by the Board of senior Secondary Studies, and approved by teachers in the program
- Approved courses of study at the Canberra Institute of Technology or any other Registered Training Organisation
- On-line courses of study offered by the ‘Open High School’ and ‘Open University’ which will be “T” accredited courses.

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