The Brighton Grammar School Sea Change Program, BGS Sea Change, is an innovative and challenging program for Year 9 boys that will commence in 2008.

Coined by Shakespeare in The Tempest, a sea change is a seemingly magical change brought about by the action of the sea. Boys, throughout this integrated program, will interact with, learn about and enjoy ‘the sea’, in and out of the classroom.

Explorations

The Exploration Program in Terms 1, 2, 3 and 4 consists of 5 to 6-day off-campus experiences.

The first Exploration is an Outdoor Experience. This will be a challenging program to develop personal skills, leadership and to promote individual development. The unique location of King Island has been chosen to help foster an appreciation and understanding of different natural environments. Boys will hike on King Island and immerse themselves in the Island's rich maritime history.

The Community Service (Global) Exploration will involve students working to improve the Martyrs' Memorial School in Popondetta, an Anglican school for boys and girls in Papua New Guinea. Boys will fly to Port Moresby and on to Popondetta with their personal luggage in addition to school supplies for the students of the Martyrs' School. They will assist in maintenance tasks and classroom work with students whilst at the school.

The Community Service (Local) Exploration involves a program with Urban Seed, an ecumenical Christian, not for profit organisation that combines street work with the disadvantaged with education programs. In addition, boys will spend three days at the Brighton Grammar School EcoCentre at Labertouche working to protect the bushland and waterways, revegetate the area with native plants and increase the habitat for native animals.

The third Exploration will be a City of Melbourne experience where boys (and girls from Firbank Grammar School for part of the time) will commute into the City of Melbourne for five days and be engaged in a range of activities in and around the Central Business District.

The final group of Explorations consist of special interest off-campus experiences. These Explorations take ‘the sea’ as their theme. They will see boys engaging in activities such as sailing on Tall Ships, surfing at Byron Bay, becoming qualified SCUBA divers and studying Marine Biology.

Lifetime Learning in Physical Education

Physical Education forms part of the Program. There will be a ‘lifetime learning’ emphasis in Physical Education classes, where students will engage in the activities of sailing, windsurfing, kayaking and surf lifesaving. Sailing instruction, for example, will occur at the Sandringham Yacht Club Boating Academy (SYCBA).

The Bronze Star in Surf Lifesaving will be taught by instructors from Life Saving Victoria in the school pool and at the Brighton Sea Baths.

Gordonstoun International Summer School

Boys from Brighton Grammar School have the opportunity to attend the Gordonstoun Summer School as a special off-campus opportunity.

Founded in 1934 by Dr Kurt Hahn, the originator of the ‘Outward Bound’ philosophy of education, Gordonstoun School is one of the most famous boarding schools in the U.K.

The School has among its past pupils five members of the British Royal family together with boys and girls from other royal families from around the world. The Gordonstoun International Summer School is held in July.

Service

Boys will be given the opportunity to join either the Cadet Unit, St John Ambulance Brigade or the Artists in Residence Program. Service to the School, the Community and to each other will be a focus.

Boys in the Cadet Unit have a 5-day Cadet camp as an alternative Exploration and for those in St John Ambulance, participation at public events is a requirement. A public performance or the production of art for the school is also required by boys involved in the Artists in Residence Program.

Senior School Life

Importantly, the new arrangements for Year 9 retain all that we consider to be such an important part of Senior School life: Chapels, Assemblies, Cultural Activities, APS Sport, Pastoral Care and of course academic rigour. The Sea will become a theme in classes. The integration of the ‘Sea Change’ theme in the academic Program gives coherence to the year without compromising individual subject disciplines.