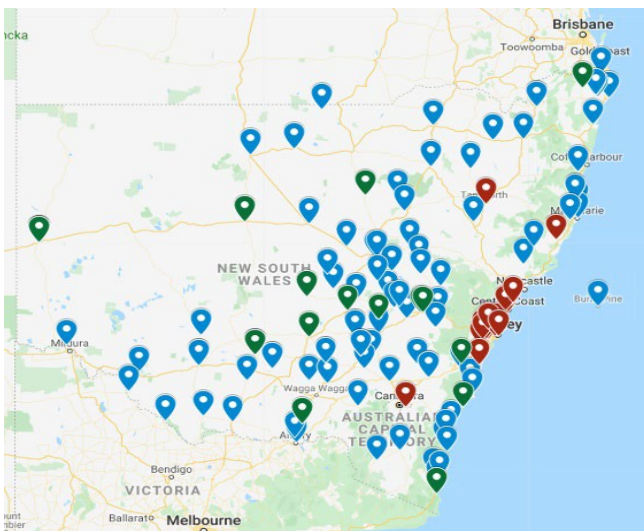


# Igniting new ways of learning

## Information at a glance



- Aurora College, the NSW Department of Education's virtual school, commenced classes on Monday 2 February 2015. The school was a key deliverable of the [Rural and Remote Education – a Blueprint for Action](#). It is a gazetted 'stand alone' school.
- Aurora is providing innovative, flexible learning in a whole new context, by allowing students to connect locally and learn globally. To be eligible for enrolment in Aurora College, students must also be enrolled in a NSW Government school which is classified as a rural and remote.
- Aurora provides a mix of online and residential school classes. Students connect with their teachers and classmates in timetabled lessons through a virtual learning environment, which comprises web conferencing software, a learning management system, and a range of cutting-edge online communication and collaboration tools. The school also operates one of the state's only fully digital school libraries.



- In 2023, Aurora College 'shares' 750 students (blue and green markers) with more than 220 rural and remote schools.
- Aurora's teachers 64 (green and red markers) are located in 40 locations across the state. Most are based in their local school with a reduced load so they can also teach an Aurora class.
- Aurora's teachers were selected through an EOJ process and were chosen on the basis of their subject expertise and their capacity to deliver engaging and innovative lessons in a virtual environment.
- All Aurora teachers and executive staff have completed the GERRIC mini-Certificate in Gifted Education course.

- Aurora's coordinating office is located at Lindfield Learning Village and is staffed with a Principal, Deputy Principal, Head Teacher Teaching and Learning, Head Teacher Secondary Studies, School Administrative Manager and a Learning Technologies Support Officer.

### Stage 3 curriculum

- Aurora College offers an Opportunity Class for high potential and gifted students in Years 5 and 6. Students study Mathematics, Science and Technology with Aurora College and will study the balance of the curriculum in their home school.
- For enrolment information, visit <https://aurora.schools.nsw.gov.au/learning/primary-school/primary-enrolment-information.html>

### Stages 4 and 5 curriculum

- Aurora offers selective classes in English, Mathematics and Science to high potential and gifted Year 7-10 students. Students study the balance of the curriculum in their home school.
- Students who did not qualify and/or did not apply for entry in Year 7 have the opportunity to apply for the selective stream in Years 8, 9 and 10, providing there are vacancies available.
- For enrolment information, visit <https://aurora.schools.nsw.gov.au/learning/secondary-school/secondary-enrolment-information.html>

## Stage 6 curriculum

- Stage 6 government high school students in rural and remote communities may apply to study one or more subjects with Aurora College.
- In 2023, students may choose to study the following courses: Agriculture, Chemistry, Physics, Biology, Earth and Environmental Science, Science Extension, Mathematics Advanced, Mathematics Extension 1, Mathematics Extension 2, English Advanced, English Extension 1, English Extension 2, Software Design and Development, Economics, Geography, Modern History and Legal Studies.
- The range of courses offered over time is determined in consultation with principals and communities in rural and remote areas.
- For enrolment information, visit <https://aurora.schools.nsw.gov.au/learning/senior-school/senior-enrolment-information.html>

## Residential school program

- Aurora College holds two residential schools per year. In 2024, the residential schools will be held in Sydney in Term 2, Week 2 and in Term 4, Week 3. Subsidised and supervised travel to and from residential schools is provided by the college.
- Residential schools give students the opportunity to meet and work with their peers and teachers.
- The program includes lessons, tutorials, master classes, mentoring sessions, excursions and programs from the Australian Business Community Network.

## Masterclass and Mentor programs

- Aurora College offers students expanded career options through innovative partnerships with businesses and with scientific, cultural and tertiary education institutions.
- Mentoring opportunities and master classes are key features of both the online and residential school programs. These initiatives provide students with access to people who are leaders in their chosen field.
- Public school students from all over NSW join Aurora students for Aurora's online [HSC Study Days series](#). A range of experts, experienced teachers and HSC markers present HSC examination advice and up to date information on course content.

## Young and Deadly Mob Initiative

- Working in partnership with the Department's Aboriginal Outcomes and Partnerships Directorate, Aurora College is conducting a five-year pilot program for high potential and gifted Aboriginal students in rural and remote government schools across NSW.
- For further information, visit: <https://aurora.schools.nsw.gov.au/learning/aboriginal-hpg-students-program.html>

## Other key information

- As a gazetted school, Aurora must meet all policy and legislative requirements for government schools and work within a fixed, approved budget.
- Students entering the selective stream and opportunity class need to be accommodated in their home school. This includes 'aligning' their school timetable matrix with that of Aurora College. Further information can be found on our [partner school information pages](#).
- Students applying for entry in Stage 6 must do so with the approval of their principal. The [Aurora College Enrolment Principles](#) outlines the principles and processes that will be applied when students seek to enrol in one or more Stage 6 courses with Aurora College.
- Students are supported in their home school by an Aurora College Coordinator funded by Aurora College. Aurora's budget also includes an allocation for assistance to families in need, including assistance with the cost of residential schools.
- Aurora teachers receive ongoing support and targeted professional learning to establish best practice teaching and learning in a virtual learning environment. Aurora College values opportunities to share expertise and experiences with all schools. Public school colleagues from across the state join Aurora teachers online for high-quality [registered professional learning](#) presentations.