A SCHOOL OF CHOICE

Education with a difference

CELEBRATING DIVERSITY

Education that empowers students to stand out from the crowd

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Meeting the needs of individuals

DIVERSITY & INCLUSIVITY

ABOUT ALESCO...

Alesco Senior College is a secondary school, set within an adult learning environment, which encourages young people to participate in education and training that leads to a sustainable future.

Alesco Senior College’s strengths are in the provision of specialised services to students. These include;

- A small school environment,
- A safe, supportive environment,
- Staff working to empower students, rather than a model of power and control,
- Access through education allowing the inclusion of other support mechanisms.

The Alesco Senior College is based firmly in these key principles:

- Taking an holistic approach. The student is the centre of the education plan, this plan revolves around the needs of the student educationally, emotionally and socially,
- Ensuring there is rigour in the educational program provided comparable to any school in the state
- Students have the opportunity to experience an adult learning environment while undertaking a Board of Studies curriculum.
AIM

Our aim is to offer education to young people whose circumstances have previously prohibited them from finding success in education by providing opportunities for these young people to prove that their potential is endless.

“Alesco was the difference between merely having a dream and being able to make it come true. Without Alesco I’d never have had the skills let alone the confidence or resilience to go on to tackle 2 uni degrees and work full time helping youth at the same crossroads I was. I could never adequately explain to anyone how Alesco and all the teachers within it helped me grow. In many ways, I feel Alesco saved my life.” Gillian, 2008

GOAL

The Alesco Senior College will strive toward providing young people struggling to find success in a mainstream system the opportunity to achieve success in a smaller and more supportive environment.

“After being back at school (Alesco) for a couple of weeks I realized this place was great, and I love it here. Bullying still exists in my community and life but at least I know when I come to school I don’t have to be afraid of people putting me down or bullying because everybody knows and understands THAT THIS IS NOT OK.” Anonymous, 2012
WELCOME TO ALESCO SENIOR COLLEGE

“Offering programs to meet a students individual learning needs”

Alesco Senior College is primarily a Senior Secondary College offering students the opportunity to complete their Higher School Certificate in a supportive environment which focuses on offering programs to meet their individual learning needs.

Alesco Senior College does offer a small Year 10 preparation program for selected students who are ready to work in an adult learning environment that offers individual support, personalised planning and a pathway into Vocational Training. Graduates of Alesco Senior College will most likely move onto further vocational training or sustainable employment. Some of our students who have an identified and targeted vocational pathway may pursue a future in tertiary education or University.

Students of Alesco Senior College will be required to wear a school shirt when representing our school in the community. This is so we are clearly identified within our learning community and when out participating in Vocational Placements or Community Work.

As a part of their program of study with Alesco Senior College students may undertake at least one Vocational Program as a part of their HSC studies. Subjects that may be offered to students include; Business, Hospitality, Retail or Aged Care.

In addition to this students may choose to undertake their HSC via a traditional face to face study option or a combination of this and flexible/self directed delivery option (comprising of workshops and online course work). This ensures that each student has a program of study that meets his or her pathway planning needs.

Mosaic project: completed by Year 9 in 2010
What’s on offer?

SUBJECTS...

MAKING THE RIGHT CHOICES

“Alesco is a great school, you don’t feel like another number, you feel like part of a caring family” Alesco Student, 2013

Whilst these are all the subjects on our scope, the subjects provided each year will be different combinations from the list below:

HSC choices
- English
- Maths
- Science
- Geography

- Visual Arts
- Community and Family Studies
- PDHPE
- Community and Vocational Services
- VET Courses
- Ancient History
- Earth and Environmental Science
- Society and Culture
- Design and Technology
- Digital Media
- General Mathematics
- 2 Unit Mathematics
- Business Services
- Advanced English
YEAR 10 PROGRAM

Alesco Senior College offers an opportunity for a select number of students to enter into our Year 10 program and complete a dynamic and innovative Record of School Achievement (RoSA) built around a blend of the NSW school curriculum and additional learning opportunities to prepare them for their pathway forward.

Alesco has a very strong focus on Vocational Education and Training and provides all students the opportunity of consistent work experience teamed with a nationally accredited qualification, Certificate 1 in Work Education, that may lead to employment or further study.

To be eligible to apply for the Year 10 program applicants are required to have completed a minimum of 6 months of Year 9 or equivalent.

SWELL PROGRAM

The SWELL Program, an initiative of Alesco, is an acronym for SKILLS, WORKPLACE EDUCATION & LIFELONG LEARNING PROGRAM. The Alesco SWELL program is about gaining a realistic picture of what the working environment is all about. It is expected that students will be able to fill their weeks learning about the company and the industry they are ‘taste testing’, actively participating in workplace activities (including cleaning) and identifying their own skills and strengths as prospective and effective employees. The program has the potential to empower students and allow them to make informed life decisions and goals, creating a personalised road map of possible future directions. These are:

- New experiences, perhaps in an environment students have never been in before, but have always wanted to try.
- Confirmation that the environment or industry experience is indeed one that they would like to pursue further through more training or study.
- Confirmation that the environment is in fact something that they don’t want to pursue. What they imagined the industry to be was not what it was realistically.
- Experience. You can’t get a job without experience AND you can’t get experience without a job... or can you?
- The opportunity to prove to themselves that they are capable of making it in the ‘real world’.

What are the benefits for the Workplace?

- An extra pair of hands.
- Opportunity to show off your business in a way that the young person will remember for a long time.
- Opportunity to be actively involved in training the workforce of the future.
- Opportunity to view and trial prospective junior staff.
**HSC PROGRAM**

Alesco Senior College offers a Senior secondary program designed to empower students to strive for greater success in the Higher School Certificate.

Our students complete their HSC through the HSC Pathways Program introduced into the education reform in 2007. This program is to assist students gain their HSC in a more manageable and achievable way.

Instead of the traditional 6 subjects in Year 11 followed by the full Year 12 program, our students combine their learning, completing 3 full HSC subjects in any one year. This way if a student can only complete one year, they still receive a partial HSC. Additionally students may complete their HSC over more than 2 years if necessary.

Students are able to choose their subjects from the streams available based on their Personal Education Program (PEP) and build a program that best suits their individual learning needs

In addition to this, the Alesco Flex program allows students a greater range of additional HSC subjects. These additional subjects are available for inclusion into their HSC Personal Education Program by negotiation.

**FLEXIBLE DELIVERY PROGRAM**

Alesco Flex is an innovative and exciting program that was introduced in 2012.

The Flexible Delivery Program is very well suited to students who may have other pressing commitments such as employment or family commitments during the day or who are too old to attend our day program.

In addition to this some students who are attending our regular Day Program may select specialised units from the Flex program to build into their Personal Learning Plan to complete as a part of the HSC; making their HSC unique and very individualised.

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*Alesco Flexible Delivery:*

*Hours of facilitated workshops are:*

- Four afternoons per week
  - 1.00pm – 5.00pm
- One afternoon per week: personalised flexible study

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Multi purpose hall - Completed in 2010
Meet the dedicated staff of Alesco Senior College

DAN CHAPMAN
After completing his HSC Dan secured an apprenticeship on the local council as an electrician, he also worked with a privately owned electrical company. However he still felt drawn to the idea of further education. Initially interest in primary teaching Dan found Newcastle University offered a specialised degree for people with a trade background. On completion he applied for a teaching position at Alesco and the rest is history!

WENDY RATCLIFFE
Having completed a Bachelor of Arts decided to go on to complete a Diploma of Education. At her first practicum she found herself drawn to those students struggling within the school, potentially because Wendy’s own school life had not been rosy due to bullying. Wendy has championed alternative education for the past 12 years and competed her Master of Education with a focus on this passion.

THERESA PANTTELONE
Theresa came to teaching later in life. Theresa, involved in youth work for a period of time, became frustrated at the inability of young people to determine their life paths. This caused her to become passionate about the idea that education could change a person’s life. She was drawn to Alesco Senior College as the whole principle of the school was ensuring the young person was central to their educational philosophy.

KELLY WHITE
As a small child Kelly had wanted to be a teacher, yet after only 4 years in mainstream school she left the profession, loving the job, but hating how the system treated young people. Her path lead her to youth work and community development. For 8 years Kelly worked in some tough neighbourhoods with some great kids. She came to Alesco 4 years ago and while she loved her community job she knew Alesco would be the educational system she believed in and, like some of our students, she felt ready to give education another chance.

KELLIE COBURN
The greatest reward in being a teacher is being able to support and guide students as they learn to believe in their own skills and abilities.

GINO DIFELICE
Working as a casual teacher in the Newcastle and lake Macquarie area for about 5 years Gino was looking to be a member of a team for a school that was doing something positive for the community and for young people’s lives. He found this at Alesco as a teachers aide. This role allows him to support students in their learning that would otherwise have little chance of success at mainstream. Simply put… he is proud of my school.

JOEL SHAKESPEARE
Working in an industry writing and implementing Youth Programs Joel decided that this was a direction that he would like to go in. Moving into welfare/ youth work he worked in this industry for 3 years and gained his Certificate 4 in youth work before deciding to move into a similar field within education and found Alesco.
EXTRA CURRICULA OPPORTUNITIES

What else?

Alesco works with students on engaging within the community through new and existing programmes and projects.

2013 has witnessed the development of one such project. Alesco has invested in purchasing puppets and a puppet theatre as a new innovative and exciting resource.

The Puppet project commenced as an idea to be a resource that would engender students with a sense of belonging and pride in serving their community. Added to which it has become a rich resource to enhance student learning as they work together to create puppet shows that focus on issues important to young people such as anti-bullying messages.

Students learn beneficial skills such as working as part of a team, script writing, public speaking and being generous with their time and skills.

Alesco students have a repertoire of different puppet performances and continue to learn and practice new ones.

If you would like a puppet show please contact Alesco Senior College:

Ph: 4926 1113

or visit:

www.alc.nsw.edu.au

PUPPET PROGRAM

Alesco Senior College offers students the opportunity to enrich their educational careers with a range of extra curricula opportunities that help build their Record of School Achievement (RoSA) into a full and diverse portfolio.
EXTRA CURRICULA CONT...

The more that can be added to a student's Record of School Achievement (RoSA) by the end of their schooling career the stronger their future opportunities may be.

THE ROSA
The biggest change to education in the past 5 years has been the abolition of the School Certificate and it's associated exams and the introduction of the RoSA, Record of School Achievement.

The RoSA is moving to a structure that allows for ANY achievement to be recorded, for example, should a student have the opportunity to complete their life saving certificate this will be recorded and evidence of the achievement may be uploaded onto that student's RoSA.

Overall this has the potential of turning the RoSA into a full and rich portfolio that represents far more than academic achievement.

Imagine having the opportunity to present to prospective employers a full transcript of ALL achievements during a student's time at school, both academic and none academic. This allows students to stand out from the crowd and demonstrate to employers and other key stakeholders a more rounded picture of everything a student has achieved & their development throughout their time at school.

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT
Utilizing long standing connections within our local community Alesco can make available to our students a range of personal development opportunities, for example, anger management courses, referrals to external mental health providers, completing their First Aid certificate at a reduced cost...

COMMUNITY ENRICHMENT
As a part of our 2013 commitment to engage more fully with the wider community, we have been planning and are in the process of setting up a range of community enrichment projects such as:

COMMUNITY ENRICHMENT CONT...

volunteering in the local community, planning and organising youth forums addressing issues confronting young people in the local community, planning and organising fundraising events that give back to charities within the local community, The puppet show project and more, all of which can be attributed to their RoSA.

LIFE STYLE COURSES
WEA Hunter, our auspicing body has proudly set up a sponsorship project that will see students have the opportunity to participate in a range of WEA Hunters quality life style course for free or limited cost. These courses may include:

- Sea Kayaking
- Guitar
- Photography
- Creative writing
- Learn to Draw
- Dog grooming
- A language
A WORD FROM OUR STUDENTS...
What do the students, past and present, have to say?

“Alesco gave me a new lease on life. The school and the teachers offered opportunities to me which I thought were out of reach and an endless amount of support. I was given back my self confidence and the ability to believe in myself again. There’s a lot more I could say but then it wouldn’t be a short quote. I’ll always be glad I made the decision to go to Alesco. Without that school I wouldn’t be where I am now”

Mural project: competed by years 10 - 12, 2012

“Alesco meant that I wasn’t forgotten. The teachers believed in every one of their students even when they didn’t believe in themselves. Their unconditional support provided me with the opportunity to achieve my HSC and their dedicated team of teachers rekindled my passion for learning” C, 2009
Providing innovative and inclusive education options to students of the Hunter for over 10 years.

“We are treated like adults and work on a system of mutual respect”

“I would not have had the future I have today, Alesco gave me the chance to travel, a trade… Simply they gave me a future”

“Before Alesco I suffered from severe panic attacks and social issues, Alesco gave me the strength and the tools to become an independent adult. I am proud to say I have not suffered a panic attack in 4 years”

“The start to the rest of my life! Alesco was not only a school, it felt like a home. The constant support from fellow students and teachers is amazing. Alesco made it possible for me to love school” S, 2008

“Not just a school, a family”

“If it wasn’t for Alesco and the great staff you guys have there I would never have finished school”

“Above all else, Alesco showed me the value of my own self worth, helping me realise that I can in fact achieve everything I want out of life and more”