

T Centre Frequently Asked Questions



Sydney Secondary College
Balmain, Leichhardt,
Blackwattle Bay

What is the T Centre?

The T Centre program is an initiative of Sydney Secondary College (SSC). The program offers a combined academic and wellbeing program in a small group setting for Stage 4 learners. The purpose of the T Centre is to engage students in their own learning to help them develop the skills, behaviours, and strategies for success in all areas of their school life.

Is the T Centre new?

The T Centre is new program of Sydney Secondary College. The program has been co-designed by the executive and teachers from across the College and community representatives. The first program intake will be Term 2, 2022.

Why is the T Centre at the Balmain Campus?

The T Centre is for all students in Stage 4 across Sydney Secondary College's junior campuses, Balmain and Leichhardt. Due to available space, the classroom in 2022 will be at Balmain.

Can we visit the T Centre?

All interested families and students will be invited to a Meet and Greet day on Tuesday 5 April at the Balmain Campus. Individual visits can be arranged if requested.

My child goes to Leichhardt and doesn't know anyone at Balmain, what should I tell them?

The design of the T Centre program is inclusive of students from Leichhardt and of Balmain. There will be equal numbers of students from both campuses. Your child will not be the only Leichhardt Campus student. The T Centre team will work with all students to build a safe and supported classroom and will manage lunch and recess to ensure that the T Centre students support each other.

Will assistance for Leichhardt students be provided by the school/ T Centre?

Logistical support will be provided to students from the Leichhardt Campus to attend the Balmain Campus. This may include a bus pickup.

How will the connection to my child's normal classes be managed?

The T Centre is a support or intervention program. Students nominated to attend the Centre are not performing to their ability in the mainstream classroom setting with 30 students.

The T Centre offers a supported small group learning program. Connection will be maintained with the student's home campus, but they will not be completing their normal classwork. Students will instead be involved in a combined academic and wellbeing program that will include key elements of the learning outcomes required to successfully move back into their mainstream classroom.

Every effort to maintain connections with their home campus, year group, social network and participation in whole school events and activities is a priority. Strengthening, managing and maintaining a strong sense of belonging to the school community will help the student while on the program and on returning to their mainstream class.

What will students do at the T Centre?

Students participating in the T Centre program attend for a full term, 10 weeks, in regular school hours, in school uniform and follow school routines and expectations.

Within the participant group there will be different experiences. To capture, nurture and ensure continued development for each learner, participants will be given different opportunities through guided project-based learning. Included as part of the project is for students to nominate a social, environmental or community cause to assist. This charitable element offers students an ability to connect their school and out of school lives and provides the opportunity to demonstrate their capabilities and responsibility to their community.

Does the T Centre run to a normal school day?

The school day will start and end just like students in the mainstream classes are already doing. Break times for lunch and recess will vary.

What are students required to do?

Students can only participate in the T Centre if they are nominated by their school and selected after the T Centre orientation. It is expected that as participants in the program each student commits to and supports all aspects of the program.

Students are expected to comply with and demonstrate PBL values and practice.

Students are also expected to maintain a good attendance (at least 85%). Students will be assisted to meet these responsibilities.

High and achievable expectations will be jointly developed with T Centre students who will be supported by their peers, teachers, their families and all at SSC to meet their agreed goals.

Are there program partners for the T Centre?

The T Centre has been collaboratively developed by those within schools and community representatives. This has included community leaders and Aboriginal representation. Assistance in the teaching and learning program is being provided by Social Enterprise Australia for the Social Enterprise Schools program and Stronger Brains, a practical and grounded wellbeing program.

Is the T Centre only a program for students who identify as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people?

While the program's design is respectful and inclusive of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture, history, teaching methods and programs, the T Centre is open to all students irrespective of their culture, language, social or economic background.

Will involvement in the T Centre cost anything?

There is no additional or specific cost to families participating in the T Centre. For each student on the program the College is funding their place for specialist tuition. How families and students help is by ensuring there is a good attendance and engagement.

Can families help?

Having families involved in their child's education offers many benefits. Encouraging attendance and contacting the T Centre immediately if there are any issues is one practical way.

For those keen to be more involved, the T Centre will create a range of connections with families.

These include inviting families to contribute as:

- Cultural advisors
- Mentors
- Subject experts
- Motivational speeches to program participants
- Visitors into the classroom and to practical sessions
- Participants attending family days, showcase events
- Advocates for students.