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Introduction:

The Queensland Academies are selective senior secondary schools, with world-class, technology rich learning environments for high-achieving, like minded senior students. Queensland Academies focus on nurturing the development of such students, with a rigorous, innovatively delivered curriculum allowing collaborative and accelerated learning, developing unique partnerships with universities and industry, recruiting internationally trained, high achieving staff who are experienced and innovative practitioners.

The Queensland Academies provide a way for Queensland's high achieving students to accelerate their studies, complete extension and enrichment work with universities and work with industry to combine career-based and university level studies. The Academies contribute significantly to the delivery of Education Queensland's "Destination 2010", Strategic Plan 2008-2012 and the State Government's "Smart State" agenda.

The Queensland Academy for Health Sciences (QAHS):

- Is a showcase state school with enterprise partnerships established between Griffith University, Education Queensland and the medical and related industry sectors.
- Provides a new mode of transition from secondary school to university, through pathways that more effectively cater for students who display exceptional intellectual capacity.
- Operates as a "school" that has exceptional performance expectations with respect to the development of the intellectual, social and employment capital of each individual learner (student and teacher).
- Exceeds the expectations of students, staff, parents and the university culture in which it is immersed.
- As a showcase for public education nationally, the Academy hosts visiting students, educators and industry without disruption to learning programs and deliverables. Together with its core services to its enrolled students, operating hours include after hours, weekend and programs for students not enrolled in the school, including a program for Young Scholars (high achieving students in grades 5-9 from other schools).

QAHS 2008 Achievements:

- 78 QAHS students received CSIRO CREST (Creativity in Science and Technology) awards in 2008. Students earned 20 silver and 58 bronze national awards from CSIRO for their research work.
- QAHS results were 10% above the state average for the University of NSW Science competition.
- 1 QAHS student reached the BHP Billiton Science competition finals. Of the 50 students nationally who reached the semi-finals 8 were from QAHS.
- 70% of QAHS students achieved a credit or above in the Australian Mathematics Competition. One student scored in the 100th percentile.
- 66% of students received credit or above in the National Chemistry Quiz, and 36% received a Distinction or High Distinction.
- QAHS was the overall senior school winner at the Griffith University Gold Coast Science Teachers Competition.
- Students completing accelerated studies in Business and Management, Psychology and Mandarin achieved an average International Baccalaureate result of 6.4 out of 7 in 2008.
- All subject results were well above worldwide averages for these subjects (between 1.0 and 2.3 above worldwide averages).
- Students successful in prescribed subjects may gain credit for five of the eight Griffith Health Foundation Year courses.
- Students at the Queensland Academy for Health Sciences may complete the Griffith University Health Sciences Certificate and receive credit for up to three of the eight Griffith Health Foundation courses and receive guaranteed admission into select degree programs. Foundation Year is the first year of many Griffith Health degree programs. 14 Year 12 Students are concurrently completing the Health Sciences Certificate at Griffith University. Students completed the Semester 1 Biophysics course in a 2 week intensive in January 2009 with 95% of students earning a Distinction or High Distinction.

- All Academy students have an opportunity to receive advanced credit towards university subjects.
- Credit has been established in: Arts, Communication, Journalism, Criminology and Criminal Justice, Arts in Applied Theatre, Education, Business, Laws/Business, Exercise Science, Exercise Science (Pre-Physiotherapy, Health Science, Biomedical Science, Pharmaceutical Science, Oral Health in Dental Science, Oral Health Therapy, Dental Technology, Medical Science, Environment/Marine Science, Engineering, Information Technology/Multimedia, Aviation, Biomolecular Science, Forensic Science, Photonics and Nanoscience, Science, Science (advanced) and Science with Honours (accelerated).
- University Entrance Bonus Rankings for Students who successfully study:
 - A foreign language - 2 bonus ranks
 - Higher Level maths - 2 bonus ranks
 - A university course - 1 bonus rank(This applies to Griffith University, UQ and QUT and select universities in other Australian States)
- Griffith University Admissions are currently exploring a further 1 bonus ranking for Theory of Knowledge and Extended Essay.

Future outlook:

Key Strategic Priorities for 2009:

- Ensure all Year 12 completing students meet requirements for the award of the International Baccalaureate Diploma or International Baccalaureate Certificate and the Queensland Certificate of Education.
- All graduating students have tertiary pathways defined.
- Broaden partnerships and pathways to Griffith University across a range of GU faculties.
- Develop Friends of the Academy opportunities for enhanced student outcomes and networking for students with professionals in fields of student interest.
- Focus on internationalism and service orientation.
- Focus on ensuring student, parent, teacher satisfaction remains high to very high across all parameters.
- Young Scholars program enhancement.
- Opportunities for Indigenous students.
- AAA+ ICT Index rating.
- Development of QAHS Virtual World.

Our school at a glance

School Profile:

Total student enrolments for this school: 242
Year levels offered: Years 10, 11, 12
Co-educational

Curriculum offerings:

QAHS is an International Baccalaureate World School offering the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme.

The International Baccalaureate Diploma Program (IBDP) comprising of 6 subject groupings from the IBDP and core IBDP components including Theory of Knowledge and Extended Essay.

- English A1
- Second Language (French, Mandarin)
- Individuals & Societies (Business & Management, Psychology, IT in a Global Society)
- Mathematics (3 Levels)
- Experimental Sciences (Biology, Chemistry, Physics)
- Arts (Music)

Extra curricula activities:

- A core component of the IBDP is student involvement in Creativity, Action and Service (CAS).
- CAS activities cover a balance of sporting, community service and creative development programs.
- Students must complete approximately 150 hours of CAS concurrently with the study of the IB Diploma in Years 11 and 12.
- Example CAS activities: Film Appreciation, Creative Writing, Music, Dance, Astronomy club, Calligraphy, Digital Photography, Australian Business Week, Interschool Debating, Interschool Sport, Yoga, Fitness training (gym), Oak Tree Foundation, international community service projects, Interact, Tutoring Refugees Program, Clean Up Australia Day, Young Scholars support program.

How computers are used to assist learning:

The Queensland Academy for Health Sciences is a AAA rated school in ITCs. All students have their own Tablet Laptop - a 1-1 computer environment. All classrooms are equipped for student laptop usage with wireless LAN technology throughout the Academy with a current bandwidth of 4Mb GWAP. An additional 20 tablet computers are also available for use with network connection. A bank of 3 High-End Desktop Computers enable students to use industry standard software such as Avid.

Data projectors are fitted in all rooms as well as DVD Players and Document Cameras. Remote desktop software available to staff allows them to work in a collaborative environment with students.

e-Learning is core to our curriculum, communication, Learning and Teaching. All curriculum is online and accessible via The Learning Place 24/7. All staff are trained and skilled in ICTs. An e-Learning Head of Department leads and supports all students and staff.

- All teachers and students are enrolled into every subject online (Blackboard and/or Project Rooms – Learning Place).
- All subject areas access a range of Web 2.0 technologies (Forums, Blogs and Wikis) to deepen and create new knowledge as well as use of vodcasts and podcasts.
- English has utilised the use of Voice Thread – an interactive forum utility.
- Maths and Chemistry utilise online quizzes and utilise online Gradebooks.
- Chemistry uses online submission of student work for assessment.
- Chemistry and Business and Management accesses Web conferencing (Elluminate) to extend learning interactions, invite expert consults and tutorials – all recordable for later viewing by students.
- A range of websites, other digital content and a range of digital pedagogies developed by all teachers to

Our school at a glance

extend student learning.

- 84% of teachers are satisfied with their own knowledge and skills in using ICT.
- 92% of students are satisfied with the way they use ICT for learning at school.
- 94% of parents and caregivers are satisfied with online access to school and student information.
- 15% of teachers have the ICT Pedagogical Licence (Smart Classrooms Professional Development Framework).

Social climate:

The Queensland Academy for Health Sciences is a world-class learning environment for high-achieving, like minded senior students. Our focus is on nurturing the development of high-achieving students through excellent care/mentoring and leadership enhancement programs that develop resilience, self management and equip students with a high level of capacity for involvement in school governance.

Synergy of like-minded students is evidenced through:

- Students working with and learning from each other
- Working in teams
- Selective entry and the nature of curriculum means fast, challenging learning
- A collaborative rather than competitive environment

At QAHS all students belong to a Mentor Learning Community (MLC), a care and mentoring group with structured learning programs and close relationships with their MLC teacher and fellow students. A Head of Department Student Services oversees program development and delivery. Our Guidance Officer works closely with students, parents and staff in a pastoral and career capacity.

2008 School Opinion Survey shows that parents and students are satisfied, or very satisfied, across the full range of performance standards. For parents and students, QAHS is at, or mostly above the state average or “like schools” average, for Student Outcomes, Curriculum, Pedagogy, Learning Climate, School Climate, School-Community Relations, Resources and General Satisfaction.

A recent National Safe Schools Audit shows student satisfaction at QAHS is high across a comprehensive range of components including:

- I feel safe and secure at this school: 93.5% Strongly Agree/Agree
- I am worried about being bullied at this school: 92% Strongly Disagree/Disagree
- I am proud to be a part of this school: 93.8% Strongly Agree/Agree

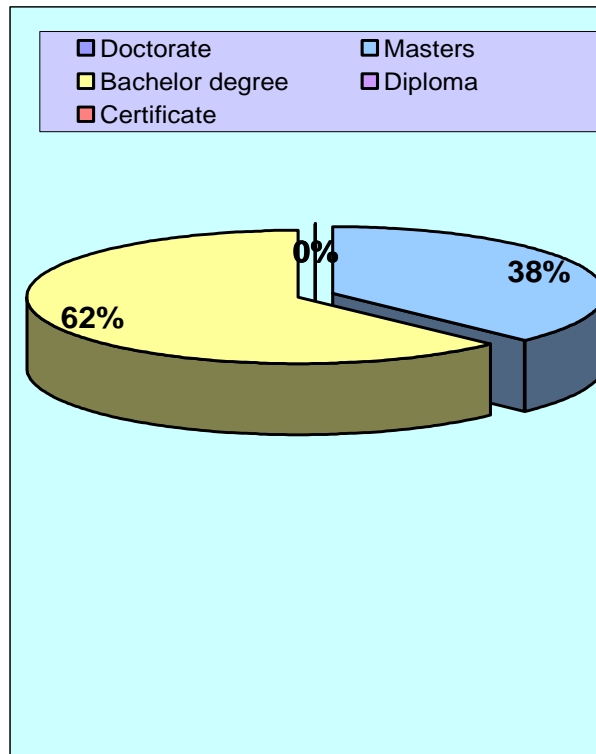
Involving parents in their child's education:

QAHS has an open door policy. Parents engage with the school freely, formally and informally through forums (both face-to-face and online), ready contact with all staff (policy of maximum 24 hour response time to parents), Open Days. Academy survey data and anecdotal reports show that parents consider they are well informed via newsletters, email, website, sms messaging, Twitter. School Opinion Survey data shows high or very high levels of satisfaction with school-community relations. 2008 data for the Queensland Academy for Health Sciences is at/above the state and “like schools” averages for all performance areas.

Our staff profile

Qualifications of all teachers:

Highest level of attainment	Number of classroom teachers and school leaders at the school
Doctorate	0
Masters	9
Bachelor degree	15
Diploma	0
Certificate	0



Expenditure on and teacher participation in professional development:

The total funds expended on teacher professional development in 2008: \$107,349.00.

The major professional development initiatives are as follows:

- International Baccalaureate Diploma Program training for all staff.
- High Level e-Learning and ICT's Professional Development
- Gifted and Talented Professional Development
- The involvement of the teaching staff in professional development activities during 2008 was 100 %.

2009 Developments:

- Continued IB subject area Professional Development (Level 2 and 3 training)
- Professional Practitioner Development:
- Queensland Academies Staff Interaction Network (QASI-NET) deployed to full organisational capacity including site flexibility and work shadowing.
- Visiting IB Subject Area Expert Programme developed.
- QA staff recognised and supported in presenting at local, national and international conferences (IB and broader forums).
- QA staff mentored by university and enterprise partners to support professional, academic and industry based growth including beyond Academy tenure.

Average staff attendance:

For permanent and temporary staff and school leaders the staff attendance rate was 98% in 2008.

Proportion of staff retained from the previous school year:

From the end of the 2007 school year, 100 % of staff were retained by the school for the entire 2008 school year.

Performance of our students

Student attendance:

The average attendance rate as a percentage in 2008 was 97 %.

Key outcomes

Apparent retention rates Year 10 to Year 12:

Year 12 student enrolment as a percentage of the Year 10 student cohort.

NA

Outcomes for our Year 12 cohort of 2008:

NO YEAR 12 COHORT IN 2008

Number of students awarded a Senior Statement.	NA
Number of students awarded a Queensland Certificate Individual Achievement (QCIA).	NA
Number of students awarded a Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE) at the end of Year 12.	NA
Number of students awarded an International Baccalaureate Diploma (IBD).	NA
Number of students awarded one or more Vocational Education and Training (VET) qualifications.	NA
Number of students who are completing or completed a School-based Apprenticeship or Traineeship (SAT).	NA
Number of students receiving an Overall Position (OP).	NA
Percentage of OP/ IBD eligible students with OP 1-15 or an IBD.	NA
Percentage of Year 12 students who are completing or completed a SAT or were awarded one or more of the following: QCE, IBD, VET qualification.	NA
Percentage of Queensland Tertiary Admissions Centre (QTAC) applicants receiving a tertiary offer.	NA

Post-school destination information:

NA

Value added:

The Queensland Academy for Health Sciences is a Griffith University Connect Partner:

- Scholarships
- Guaranteed Admission Scheme
- GUESTS Program
- Experience Days
- Other special events (lectures, competitions)

Other Relationships with Griffith University:

- Collaborative program development for support of pre-service teachers
- Associate membership of Griffith University Library for QAHS students
- Associate membership of Student Guild
- Shared use of facilities and equipment

Performance of our students

- Videoconferencing capacity enhanced through connecting to Griffith Universities ARNET
- Developing relationship with GELI – school age student programs and teacher Professional Studies programs
- Refer to credit arrangements in Introduction

From Parent surveys - What we are currently doing well:

- Encouraging students with clear guidelines for assessment pieces.
- Professionalism, good teaching standard, friendly atmosphere, the way teachers connect and engage with students.
- Opportunities to improve study skills.
- Challenging the students with level of study/workload.
- Front Office and admin staff are always helpful and friendly.
- Welcoming environment & fantastic facilities.
- Activities done in MLC groups, study skills and time management.
- Treating the students as adolescents; the environment is not over-regulated.
- Communicating via e-mail with teachers.
- Choice of subjects on offer and IB.
- Overall standard of education empowering students to take responsibility for their actions.
- Content of work is challenging.
- Tutorials are fantastic.
- Library hours are good.
- Keeping parents informed.
- Encouraging students to think.
- Encouraging independence.
- Providing variety of CAS activities.
- Educating, supporting & encouraging.
- Providing a place that is non threatening and pleasant that student enjoys going to.
- Being aware of the stresses.
- Motivation.
- High expectations and standards.
- Great assistance e.g. tutorials, dedicated teachers.
- Giving a sense of ownership in the school to the students.
- High standard of education.
- Encourage active participation of parents towards student's education process.
- Unbelievable science opportunities.
- Love the uniform.

Parent, student and teacher satisfaction with the school:

2008 School Opinion Survey shows that parents and students are satisfied or very satisfied across the full range of performance standards. For parents and students, QAHS is at, or mostly above the state average or "like schools" average, for Student Outcomes, Curriculum, Pedagogy, Learning Climate, School Climate, School-Community Relations, Resources and General Satisfaction.

2008 School Opinion Survey shows that staff are satisfied or very satisfied across the full range of performance standards with Physical Work Environment, Relationships, School Operations, Staff Morale, Support, Resources & Training, Work Roles, and Professional Development at, or well above state and "like schools" averages.