Established in 1962, Penola High School has been enriching the lives of its students through dedication to the school's motto of *nurturing individual successes*. Penola High School aims to provide a stimulating, quality education so that students of all ability levels are supported to reach their full potential within a caring and secure environment.

Our students are drawn from a hinterland whose radius is approximately 25 kilometres from the school and nearly 75% of our students travel by bus. Our Year 8 intake is drawn from Penola, Mary MacKillop Memorial, Kalangadoo and Nangwarry Primary Schools.

**INDIVIDUAL LEARNING PLAN**

Penola High School offers a unique opportunity for each student to have a comprehensive Plan for Ideal Learning. This means that students are supported throughout their high school years to successfully achieve their educational and lifestyle goals. The desired outcomes have been created as goals by students in collaboration with caregivers and teachers. Penola High School works as a whole community to provide an education of the highest order and most relevance for each young person in our care.

**EXCELLENT ACADEMIC OPPORTUNITIES**

Penola High School prides itself on meeting the educational needs of all its students, and the area of academic endeavour is no exception. Skilled and dedicated teachers mean that we can offer students a wide variety of subjects, either here at PHS or through other agencies such as the WREN network. Our students are therefore well prepared to access tertiary education and are supported in this through an extensive post-school transition program. Over recent years, Year 12 results have been steadily improving culminating in our top ATAR score in 2014 being 97.65.

**OUTSTANDING VET OPPORTUNITIES**

Penola High School has long been a Regional leader in the provision of Vocational Education and Training (VET) opportunities for our students. Our students achieve outstanding success in the completion of nationally accredited VET modules in their learning, both on and off site. Many students undertake School Based Traineeships and/or Apprenticeships whilst continuing their study at school, getting a head start in their working lives.

In 2014, all eligible students who undertook VET courses also completed their SACE, which is an excellent outcome for vocationally focused students.

**INDIVIDUAL ATTENTION**

The size and nature of Penola High School ensure that all students are individually known by all staff, whether they are taught by them or not. Each member of staff takes a personal interest in the education and wellbeing of all students and information about how individual students’ best learn is regularly shared amongst teachers in a targeted and professional manner. Staff work together to support the aspirations of each student, both inside and outside the classroom, ensuring the best possible outcomes for our young people in the years beyond school.

**DEDICATED STAFF**

The teaching and support staff at Penola High School are second to none. Each member goes above and beyond what could be reasonably expected to ensure the best learning and social outcomes for our students. The knowledge our staff has of each of our students ensures that interactions between the two parties are respectful and effective, and everyone has their needs attended to, both inside and outside the classroom. The school community has expressed its appreciation of our dedicated teaching staff through nominating more than a third of them for SA Public Teaching Awards over the last two years and many of our support staff have been acknowledged in the same way.
COMMITMENT TO THE WHOLE STUDENT
At Penola High School, we are dedicated to educating our students for all aspects of their lives. We take a strong interest in their social and emotional development as well as making sure that they have the best academic and vocational instruction available. Our students develop skills in mentoring and supporting each other across year levels and leadership skills are honed through a very active Student Representative Council. Through the organisation of service-focused trips overseas for interested students, Penola High School is further expanding this caring culture.

COMPREHENSIVE TRANSITION PROGRAMME
Penola High School recognises the importance of ensuring that Year 7 students are thoroughly prepared for life in a secondary school, and places great emphasis on ensuring students are comfortable with their new environment well before the start of the new school year. The programme includes regular visits to our feeder primary schools by targeted staff; considerable time spent at Penola High by Year 7 students and the careful collation of data from our feeder schools, which enables us to prepare thoroughly for each student’s future learning opportunities. We are particularly focused on Literacy and Numeracy levels and social needs and these inform our preparation for our new Year 8 students. Transition culminates in a Year 8 Camp, which focuses on team building, early in Term 1.