

Brighton Secondary College unveils new arts and technology complex to rival private schools

FIONA SEXTON • BAYSIDE LEADER • MARCH 19, 2014 11:26AM



Science teacher Dr Andrew Hill in one of the new laboratories at Brighton Secondary College, which was officially opened today. Picture: Chris Eastman Source: News Corp Australia

BRIGHTON Secondary College now has a science, arts and technology complex to rival those of nearby private schools.

School leaders and guests including Education Minister Martin Dixon this morning officially opened the \$6.5 million da Vinci Centre.

Spread across two levels, the spacious wing includes four state-of-the-art science labs, interactive whiteboards, breakout study spaces and rooms, cutting-edge architecture and open-plan art and design classrooms.

[Interactive Gallery](#) Brighton Secondary College's new wing

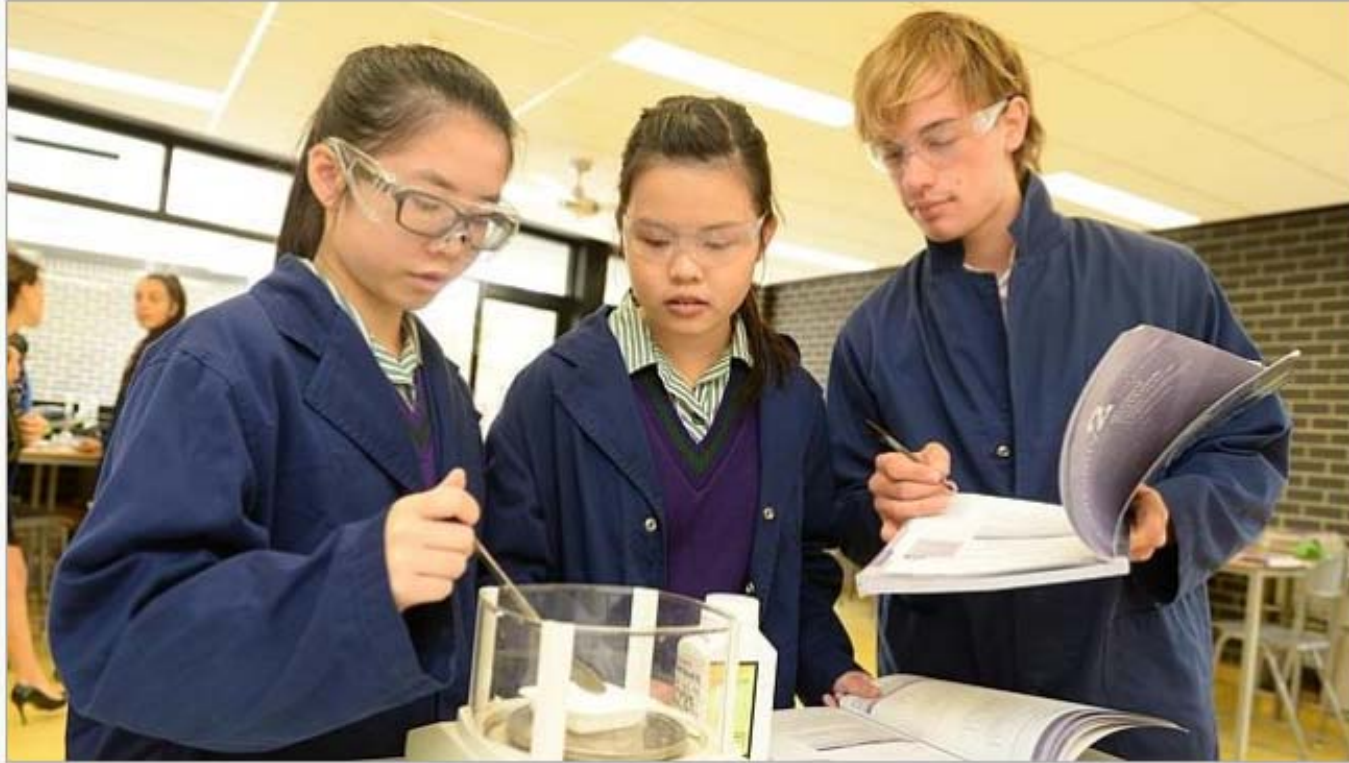


Brighton Secondary College officially opened its new Da Vinci science and technology centre, with State Education Minister Martin Dixon and Principal Julie Podbury with College Vice Captains Joel Fowler and Chelsea Doyle (front). Picture: Chris Eastman

The labs replaced an antiquated, run-down 60-year-old block.

The centre was built with \$5 million in State Government money following a 2010 Bayside Leader and school community campaign for funding, which was successful after years of knock-backs by both sides of politics.

The remaining \$1.5 million was raised by the school community.



Year 12 chemistry students Shirley (L) Ha My Ngoc and Andy in one of the new laboratories. Picture: Chris Eastman Source: News Corp Australia

Principal Julie Podbury said she felt "incredibly proud".

"I'm just so pleased my children and staff have the facilities they deserve," Ms Podbury said.

She said the students loved the new wing.

"There's a level of industry and study I've not seen since I first came to this school (18 years ago)," she said.

"We have students (come here to study) during school holidays, after school till 6-7 o'clock."

Veteran school council president David Marshall, a key campaigner for the science wing in 2010, told guests the centre was not just for current students.

"I am sure many students currently in primary schools within the area will be keen to come to Brighton Secondary College as there are continual improvements to buildings and facilities," Mr Marshall said.

He later told the *Leader* he would this year start lobbying both parties hard for a further \$8 million to build a north wing for years 7 and 8 students.

"It will complete the school," Mr Marshall said, who said he wanted a funding commitment to start building between 2014-2017.

In 2010 the Liberals promised to provide a further \$5-\$7 million for other building works at Brighton Secondary if they won a second term of government at the State Election this November.

Fiona Sexton, Editor

Bayside Leader

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