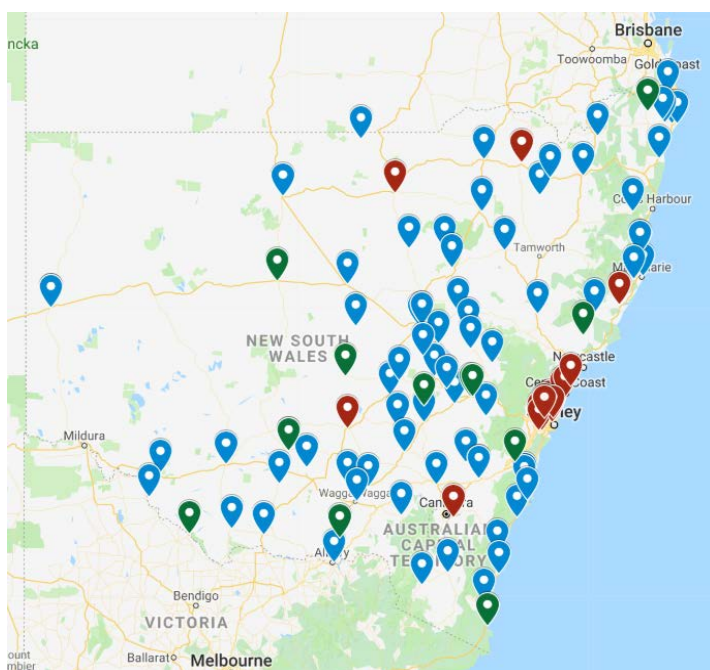


# Igniting new ways of learning

Information at a glance



- Aurora College, the state's first virtual secondary school, commenced classes on Monday 2 February 2015. The school is a NSW Department of Education priority and a key deliverable of the Rural and Remote Education – a Blueprint for Action. It is a gazetted 'stand-alone' school.
- Aurora is providing innovative, flexible learning in a whole new context, by allowing students to connect locally and learn globally.
- To be eligible for enrolment in Aurora College, students must also be enrolled in a NSW Government school which is classified as a rural and remote. Enrolment information can be found on the Aurora website at <http://www.aurora.nsw.edu.au/learn/enrol/>
- Aurora provides a mix of online and residential school classes. Students connect with their teachers and classmates in timetabled lessons through a virtual learning environment, which comprises web conferencing software, a learning management system, and a range of cutting-edge online communication and collaboration tools. The school also has its own digital resource repository and one of the state's first fully digital school libraries.



- In 2019, Aurora College 'shares' students (blue and green markers) with more than 100 rural and remote schools.
  - Aurora's teachers (green and red markers) are located in 31 locations across the state. Most are based in their local school with a reduced load so they can also teach an Aurora class.
  - Aurora's teachers were selected through an EOI process and were chosen on the basis of their subject expertise and their capacity to deliver engaging and innovative lessons in a virtual environment. All Aurora teachers and executive staff have completed the GERRIC mini-Certificate in Gifted Education course.
- Aurora's coordinating office is located at Mowbray Public School and is staffed with a Principal, Deputy Principal, Head Teacher Teaching and Learning, Head Teacher Secondary Studies, School Administrative Manager and a Learning Technologies Support Officer.

## Stages 4 and 5 curriculum

- Aurora offers selective classes in English, Mathematics and Science to gifted and talented Year 7-10 students from rural and remote areas across NSW.
- Students are chosen in the same way as students in all other selective classes in NSW government schools.
- Students who did not qualify and/or did not apply for entry in Year 7 have the opportunity to apply for the selective stream in Years 8, 9 and 10, providing there are vacancies available.

## Stage 6 curriculum

- Stage 6 government high school students in rural and remote communities may apply to study one or more subjects with Aurora College.
- In 2020, students may choose to study the following Year 11 courses: Chemistry, Physics, Mathematics Advanced, Mathematics Ext 1, English Advanced, English Ext 1, Agriculture, Japanese Beginners, Korean Beginners, Italian Beginners, Software Design and Development, Geography and Economics.
- In 2020, students may choose to study the following Year 12 courses: Chemistry, Physics, Science Ext, Mathematics Advanced, Mathematics Ext 1, Mathematics Ext 2, English Advanced, English Ext 1, English Ext 2, Agriculture, Japanese Beginners, Korean Beginners, Software Design and Development, and Economics.

## Stage 3 curriculum

- Throughout 2019 and 2020, Aurora College is piloting a virtual Opportunity Class in areas of the state where a 'terrestrial' provision does not currently exist.

## Residential school program

- Aurora College holds two residential schools per year. In 2020, the residential schools will be held in Sydney from 2 March to 6 March (Term 1, Week 6) and in Canberra from 26 October to 30 October (Term 4, Week 3).
- Residential schools give students the opportunity to meet and work with their peers and teachers.
- The program includes lessons, tutorials, master classes, mentoring sessions, excursions and programs from the Australian Business Community Network.

## Masterclass and Mentor programs

- Aurora College offers students expanded career options through innovative partnerships with business and with scientific, cultural and tertiary education institutions.
- Mentoring opportunities and master classes are key features of both the online and residential school programs. These initiatives provide students with access to people who are leaders in their chosen field.
- The Masterclass and Mentor programs are managed by a full-time non-teaching Head Teacher Teaching and Learning, operating from the college's coordinating office.

## Key information

- As a gazetted school, Aurora must meet all policy and legislative requirements for government schools and work within a fixed, approved budget.
- Aurora teachers receive ongoing support and targeted professional learning to establish best practice teaching and learning in a virtual learning environment. Aurora College values opportunities to share expertise and experiences with all schools.
- Students entering the selective stream need to be accommodated in their home school. This includes 'aligning' their school timetable matrix with that of Aurora College. Further information can be found on our partner school information page <http://www.aurora.nsw.edu.au/partner-school-information/>
- Students applying for entry in Stage 6 must do so with the approval of their principal. The Aurora College Enrolment Principles outlines the principles and processes that will be applied when students seek to enrol in one or more Stage 6 courses with Aurora College.
- Students are supported in their home school by an Aurora College Coordinator funded by Aurora College. Aurora's budget also includes an allocation for assistance to families in need, including assistance with the cost of residential schools.