

Brilliant Futures

The Inquiry Year Program

Year 8 Program

We encourage full participation in the QACI Brilliant Futures program. We understand that students may already be involved in a range of extracurricular activities, and QACI Brilliant Futures is designed to complement these commitments.

As a member of the program, students are expected actively engage in:

- At least one face-to-face engagement each term
- The Term 1 Global Explorations online course
- The Brilliant Futures Inquiry Project, including meeting deadlines for checkpoint submissions throughout the journey
- Sharing their final Brilliant Futures project at Graduation*, celebrating their learning journey and achievements as part of the program.

**Please note that Graduation is a celebration and is not included as a Term 4 engagement.*

KEY DATES 2026

TERM 1	
Thursday 5 February 3:45pm Registration 4pm - 5:30pm	Global Explorations Launch <i>Global thinking starts with data, curiosity, and connections.</i> Through this learning journey, students will develop international mindedness, data literacy skills, critical thinking, and teamwork. We begin with a face-to-face introductory workshop, move through four weeks of interactive online learning, and culminate in a high-energy collaborative challenge morning at QACI.
Online Emailed Monday 11 February 4-week course	Global Explorations Online Students will engage in weekly short learning activities (about 60–90 minutes) to build skills and understanding in topics such as maps, global data and nutrition, artificial intelligence, and languages. At the end of each week, they complete a short quiz to check their learning and prepare for the collaborative challenge <i>*Brilliant Futures students are expected to complete at least one face-to-face engagement as well as engage in the online course.</i>
Saturday 14 March 9:30am Registration 10am - 12:30pm	Global Explorations Collaborative Challenge Students work in teams to bring together their new learning through fun and competitive activities.
TERM 2	
Thursday 24 April <i>(tentative date)</i> 4pm - 5:30pm	World Book Day Activity As part of World Book Week, the English Department will facilitate an exciting workshop, giving Brilliant Futures students a taster of the engaging learning that happens in our English classrooms.
Saturday 16 May - Sunday 17 May Depart QACI 8am Return QACI approximately 3pm	Brilliant Futures Camp A 2 day/1 night camp experience at YMCA Campaing (Warrawee), Joyner The camp is designed to be exciting, inspiring, and adventurous. Through outdoor activities, team challenges, and creative workshops, students will step beyond their comfort zones, build confidence, and strengthen connections with their peers in a supportive and relaxed environment. Launch of the Brilliant Futures Project. <i>* \$175 Camp levy cost in addition to annual Brilliant Futures registration fee.</i>

KEY DATES - BRILLIANT FUTURES PROJECT (Term 2)

In this Year 8 project, students will explore the story behind an issue linked to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. From the journey of clean water in a community, to the impact of fast fashion, to how renewable energy is transforming lives, students will investigate and share what they discover. They'll ask critical questions, compare perspectives, and evaluate the significance of their chosen topic. The project will finish with students presenting their findings as a short presentation or digital artefact for peers, parents, and the school community. This project is in THREE phases: Proposal, Research and Communication.

Wednesday 3 June <i>Online</i>	Project Phase 1: Project Proposal Online Submission
Wednesday 17 June <i>Online</i>	Project Phase 1: Project proposal feedback from mentor team

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TERM 3

Saturday 25 July Registration 9:30am 10am - 12:30pm	Project Phase 2: Research Workshop The session will run in two parts: Firstly, students will become Research Detectives as they learn how to find reliable sources, keep a clear research log, and recognise bias or perspective. · Secondly, they will move on to Joining the Dots, where they compare viewpoints, identify patterns, and begin shaping their findings into a clear argument or standpoint.
Thursday 6 August <i>(Tentative Date)</i> Registration 3:45pm 4pm - 5:30pm	Music Technology Workshop Students will explore digital tools for music-making, using iPads to experiment with creating, editing, and composing their own sounds and songs.

KEY DATES - BRILLIANT FUTURES PROJECT (Term 3)

Wednesday 26 August <i>Online</i>	Project Phase 2: Research Log Submission
Wednesday 7 September <i>Online</i>	Project Phase 2: Research Log feedback from Mentor Team.

TERM 4

Saturday 17 October Registration 9:45am 10am - 12:30pm	Project Phase 3 : Communication Workshop The session will run in two parts: · Firstly – Designing the Story: Students explore ways to share their research and decide on the best format for their artefact. Then – Skills in Action: With support from QACI mentors, students join mini-workshops to learn the skills they need to start creating their artefact.
Thursday 15 November Registration 3:45pm 4pm - 5:30pm	Maths Investigation The Maths Department will facilitate an engaging workshop, giving students a taster if collaborative inquiry through a mathematics investigation.
Thursday 15 November <i>(online or in person)</i>	Project Submission Some projects can be submitted online (such as digital posters, podcasts, or mini-documentaries). Physical artefacts should be submitted prior to the Maths Investigation. Students delivering live presentations will need to provide any supporting resources and a script or outline of their presentation.
Tuesday 24 November Registration 3:30pm 3:45pm - 6pm	Brilliant Futures Graduation 3:30pm – 4:45pm Project Presentation rehearsals and/or set up 5pm – 6pm Graduation including Project Presentation (Parents/Caregivers)