

## CASE STUDY

**BRISBANE BOYS'  
COLLEGE**A wide-angle photograph of the Brisbane Boys' College campus. The main building is a large, multi-story structure with a central tower and a clock tower, surrounded by lush green trees. In the foreground, there is a large, well-maintained green lawn. The sky is blue with scattered white clouds.

Brisbane Boys' College in Australia uses ICAS to strengthen teaching and learning — leveraging data for direction.

**USING ASSESSMENT DATA TO GET A CLEAR PICTURE OF STUDENT PERFORMANCE**

With the vision of establishing student-centred, boy-focused learning experiences, in 2007 Brisbane Boys' College began a program to understand and leverage assessment data to inform curriculum development and classroom instruction. A key part of this program has been the school's innovative use of ICAS data to help benchmark, measure and track individual student progress.

Each year, the College participates in ICAS because it offers the widest range of subjects, assesses annually, and provides rich diagnostic data in easily accessible reports. The students' skills are assessed in Digital Technologies, English, Mathematics, Science, Spelling and Writing (availability of subjects varies by region).

“Because ICAS is skills-based, it allows staff to reflect on different aspects of each boy's ability – his relative strengths and weaknesses – giving rise to an overall picture of performance.”

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**Barry Dean**

Head of Teaching and Learning  
Brisbane Boys' College

**ABOUT THE COLLEGE**

Brisbane Boys' College is a metropolitan, independent school for boys in Queensland, Australia. Established in 1902, the day and boarding school has 150 teaching staff and caters for more than 1500 students from Prep to Year 12. The school prides itself on educating the whole child — Academic, Social, Cultural and Sporting.



## THE COLLEGE USES ICAS IN A NUMBER OF WAYS INCLUDING:

### INFORMING DIFFERENTIATED LEARNING & HIGHLIGHTING AREAS OF FOCUS

As a skills-based assessment, ICAS assesses the ability to apply learning and demonstrate understanding. For this reason, the College uses ICAS data, along with various other indicators such as GPA data, to identify its top performing students in Years 7 to 9 and inform class groupings in the following years.

Importantly, ICAS is used to strengthen every student's learning. Through ICAS, the College has been able to identify, not only top performers, but also students who may need extra assistance. ICAS has revealed, for example, students who complete school-based assessments well, but are significantly challenged in an exam scenario.

### INFORMING CURRICULUM CHANGE & DEVELOPMENT

Significantly, the College has gained understandings and strategies for leading curriculum change and improvement. This has been achieved through the continued collection, analysis and interpretation of data and evidence from a variety of sources, including internal assessments, ICAS assessments, other external assessments, and educational research.

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## LEARN MORE

Contact your nearest Macmillan office:

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**W:** [www.macmillaneducation.in/icas](http://www.macmillaneducation.in/icas)

### MONITORING PROGRESS & MOTIVATING STUDENTS

Not only does the College track individual student progress with ICAS, comparisons are made to national benchmarks and changes in the spread of results from year to year are also monitored.

Furthermore, the capacity for students to track their own progress and see tangible improvements has become a powerful motivator, inspiring them to stay engaged and extend their learning.

The College also sees ICAS as an opportunity to further develop boys' minds to be forward thinking and as another way to extend and challenge avid learners.

### REFLECTING ON INDIVIDUAL CAPABILITY

College teachers use ICAS to reflect on the different aspects of each student's ability, especially their strengths and relative weaknesses. These insights, coupled with the school's own understanding of each boy, are enabling teachers to strengthen their teaching and learning strategies by determining what individual learning experiences are required.

### INDEPENDENT VALIDATION OF INTERNAL ASSESSMENTS

The College uses ICAS to affirm student capabilities at their age group level. Students may operate above or below their expected year level and the ICAS papers account for a range of abilities in each year group.