



# Hills Grammar

## Hills Grammar | 2024

### The Learning Centre



## Welcome

Welcome to The Learning Centre at Hills Grammar - a place where professionals, students, and community members meet together to learn, connect and thrive.

The Learning Centre provides a vibrant, welcoming, and collaborative space for local, national, and global communities to share understandings, experiences, and expertise.

In keeping with the school's vision, The Learning Centre seeks to provide extraordinary learning opportunities that inspire individual and collective growth. We partner locally, nationally, and internationally with community organisations and educators, providing a live and virtual meeting space where innovative ideas and blue-sky thinking can thrive.

Throughout this year, and into the future, The Learning Centre will develop and invite engagement in a range of programs and initiatives across our community through four hubs:

Leadership | Research and Practice | Teacher Excellence | Innovation, driven and inspired by our HG School Values.

To view the current program and see our exclusive guest speakers as well as register your interest, [click here](#). We welcome your participation and contribution as we explore and enjoy our love of lifelong learning together.



## The Learning Centre | The Educator Series | Leadership in Learning: A Cognitive Psychology Approach (NESA Accredited)

### Sarah Warby | Leader Of Professional Growth

Sarah is our Leader of Professional Growth at Hills Grammar and has extensive training in both mentoring and coaching.

An experienced English, History and Languages Teacher with a history of working in educational innovations focusing on whole school and faculty management and enhancement. Sarah has lead faculties and whole school executive across Skilled in Programming, Scope and Sequence development, Event Management, Educational Technology, and Academic Writing. She is an education professional with a Master of Teaching focused in Secondary Education and Teaching and is a qualified International Baccalaureate Literature Teacher. Currently studying a Masters of Cognitive Psychology and Educational Practice, with a focus on Educational Leadership and Research.

### Session Information

An understanding of neuroscience and cognitive psychology is key for supporting growth in educational outcomes for students and motivation for staff. It helps us to know how the brain manages and affects learning, motivation, and thinking. Teachers can use this knowledge to make lessons more engaging and effective. Using neuroscience, we can also create better learning environments and improve our educational leadership. This approach blends science with practical strategies to make leading learning effective as well as affective.

This session includes a digital package - The Cognitive Psychology Essentials Pack – A signature collection of globally published educational research on learning and leadership.

**Venue** | Learning Lounge

**Date** | Thursday 29 February

**Time** | 4.00pm – 5.00pm AEDT

**Audience** | For teachers and educators in Early Childhood, Junior/Primary, Middle, and Senior/High Schools

**Cost** | Free

[Click here](#) to RSVP

NESA Accredited | Proficient Teacher | Standard 1.1.2



The Educator Series

## The Learning Centre | The Educator Series | High Impact Leadership

### Karen Yager | Principal

A progressive and creative leader, Karen brings more than 26 years' experience to our School, most recently as Deputy Headmaster K-12 at Knox Grammar. Her work in the education and academic world has been recognised with numerous awards, including the NSW Professional Teachers Council Award for Outstanding Service to Education in 2019.

With an emphasis on developing each student's unique strengths, agency and voice, Mrs Yager will continue to nurture, grow and inspire our Hills Originals to achieve their potential for greatness.

Karen commenced as Hills Grammar's fifth Principal in January 2022 and is enjoying meeting the Hills Grammar community – students, staff and families.

### Session Information

This workshop empowers educators to lead with inclusivity, diversity, and community engagement. Gain skills in pedagogical development, knowledge management, and effective school administration. Ideal for educators of all levels, this workshop offers practical strategies for impactful leadership and professional growth. Enhance your ability to drive positive change and shape the future of education with innovation and excellence to advance leadership in teaching, cultural literacy, and administration in educational settings. Gain skills in pedagogical development, knowledge management, and effective school administration. Ideal for educators of all levels, this workshop offers practical strategies for impactful leadership and professional growth. Enhance your ability to drive positive change and shape the future of education with innovation and excellence.

This session includes a digital package - The High Impact Leadership Essentials Pack – A signature collection of globally published educational research on learning and leadership.

**Venue** | Learning Lounge

**Date** | Tuesday 19 March

**Time** | 4.00pm – 5.00pm AEDT

**Audience** | For teachers and educators in Early Childhood, Junior/Primary, Middle, and Senior/High Schools

**Cost** | Free

[Click here](#) to RSVP



## The Learning Centre | The Educator Series | Exploring Teacher Career Stage Learning in the School Context: A Case Study Approach (NESA Accredited)

Dr Chris Furner, PhD | Director Of Professional Learning Pre-K-12

Chris has held a number of teaching and leadership positions across State and Independent schools. A career highlight has been the completion of a PhD on how to boost teacher and leadership learning across all career stages as a means to improve practice, support staff wellbeing and resilience and accelerate student learning outcomes. She enjoys developing whole-school staff development initiatives and professional learning and leadership programs that inspire and encourage teachers and leaders as they serve their school communities.

### Session Information

This workshop enhances your understanding of teacher learning throughout various career stages, drawing upon a case study approach. We will delve into the nature of effective professional development, including the 8 Principles outlined by NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA). The workshop also aims to deepen your knowledge of the role of leadership in fostering teacher learning. Additionally, you will develop skills to apply this knowledge in enriching the strategic planning and delivery of teacher learning within your school or system, aligning with school or system priorities. This comprehensive approach ensures a well-rounded consideration of teacher development and leadership.

This session includes a digital package - The Teacher Learning Essentials Pack – A signature collection of globally published educational research, reports and PhD Case Study data on teacher learning, school context and leadership.

**Venue** | Learning Lounge

**Date** | Thursday 13 June

**Time** | 4.00pm – 5.00pm AEST

**Audience** | For teachers and educators in Early Childhood, Junior/Primary, Middle, and Senior/High Schools

**Cost** | Free

[Click here](#) to RSVP

NESA Accredited | Proficient Teacher | Standard 6.2.2



## The Learning Centre | The Educator Series | Leading People (NESA Accredited)

**David Hamper | Deputy Principal And Head Of Senior School**

Joining Hills Grammar in May 2022 David brought 25 years of experience to the School. He has held a number of senior roles in diverse independent schools across Sydney with portfolios including teaching and learning, wellbeing, innovation, staff development, human resources and school operations.

David has also held a number of special advisory appointments including in curriculum design and assessment with state and national curriculum authorities, teacher education with universities in Australia and the United States and in teacher professional learning with a number of professional associations. He is a prolific writer having authored, edited and contributed to numerous books, journal articles and atlases across diverse topics from the humanities and within professional domains.

### Session Information

Join our 'Leading People' workshop to sharpen your leadership skills in education. Learn to create and sustain effective teams, focusing on staff performance and improvement, in schools. Additionally, explore ways to enhance the abilities of your colleagues, encouraging leadership and contributing to wider improvements in planning and administration. This workshop is ideal for both seasoned and aspiring leaders aiming to promote excellence in their educational settings.

This session includes a digital package - The Leading People Essentials Pack – A signature collection of globally published educational research on learning and leadership.

**Venue** | Learning Lounge

**Date** | Tuesday 25 June

**Time** | 4.00pm – 5.00pm AEST

**Audience** | For teachers and educators in Early Childhood, Junior/Primary, Middle, and Senior/High Schools

**Cost** | Free

[Click here](#) to RSVP

NESA Accredited | Proficient Teacher | Standard 7.4.4



## The Learning Centre | The Educator Series | Understanding Dyslexia in Theory and Practice and Useful Tools (NESA Accredited)

Rachael Ingram | Junior Learning Enrichment Coordinator

Rachael Ingram is an experienced classroom teacher and learning support teacher who is currently working as the K-6 Learning Enrichment Coordinator at The Hills Grammar School. She understands both professionally and on a personal level, having experienced learning disabilities herself as a child, the key role the classroom teacher and learning support team play in ensuring that every student is able to access and engage in rich learning experiences that cater to their varying needs. For this reason, Rachael created a NESA approved online training course in 2018 on Practical Ways to Differentiate in the Primary Classroom. Prior to working as a learning support teacher, she also taught as a classroom teacher at Tara Anglican School for Girls where she completed her ISTAA Experienced Teacher Accreditation. She also worked as a Learning Support Teacher at Knox Preparatory School and One-School.

### Session Information

Specific Learning Disabilities in Reading (often referred to as Dyslexia) is a term that refers to difficulty in acquiring and processing language that is typically manifested by the lack or proficiency in reading, spelling and writing. This is a common condition, approximately 5-10% of people have this, that makes it hard to work with language. It is important as educators to know that Dyslexia is not an intelligence deficit nor is it a result of laziness. People with Dyslexia do not outgrow it but there are a range of strategies that educators can equip students with to help them improve their reading skills and manage these challenges. In this workshop we will explore some myths and facts about Dyslexia, common signs and symptoms and how it is usually diagnosed.

In addition to a range of practical classroom adjustments, there are some amazing innovative tools and assistive technologies (AT) to support students with Dyslexia which are also beneficial for other students in the classroom.

This workshop aims to develop the understanding and skills of teachers working with students with Dyslexia to support inclusive practice and improve student learning. We will explore the underlying processes and causes of Dyslexia as identified by extensive neuroscience research on the differences in brain function of people with Dyslexia. Teachers will be able to incorporate this knowledge to implement informed and effective instructional practice and evidence-based interventions while highlighting the incredible strengths associated with Dyslexia to promote positive and successful life-long learners.

This session includes a digital package - The Understanding Dyslexia Essentials Pack - A signature collection of globally published educational research on dyslexia, accompanied by practical classroom templates and resources for teachers to use immediately.

**Venue** | Learning Lounge

**Date** | Thursday 22 August

**Time** | 4pm - 5pm AEST

**Audience** | K - 6 / Primary / Junior School Teachers and Educators

**Cost** | Free

[Click here](#) to RSVP

NESA Accredited | Proficient Teacher | Standard 1.1.2



The Educator Series

## The Learning Centre | The Educator Series | Enabling Comprehension: Strategies for Every Classroom Across the Curriculum (NESA Accredited)

**Jacqueline Smith | Head Of Learning Enrichment**

Jacqueline Smith is an educational leader and life-long learner. Jacqueline has been joyfully serving teachers, students and families throughout Australia for almost two decades. She is passionate about sharing and applying evidence-based practices to improve student engagement and teacher efficacy and has a well-developed expertise in cognitive development. Jacqueline is a former National Director for improving literacy education and has additional training in Dyslexia and Developmental Language and Literacy from Curtin University and IMSLE. The last ten years of her contribution to education have been dedicated to coaching and mentoring principals, teachers and parents to improve and sustain instructional practices. She is committed to supporting children struggling with literacy development and has worked with tertiary institutions to review and refine higher-education curriculum to ensure teachers graduate with the knowledge and skills to confidently teach reading and writing. Jacqueline values the relationship between school and home and is honoured to contribute to the exceptional work of Hills Grammar in supporting student learning and preparing children for life beyond school.

### Session Information

This dynamic workshop is designed to empower teachers with effective strategies and insights for understanding and supporting student comprehension. Delve into current, proven methods to enhance participation and learning for students, fostering a truly inclusive classroom environment. Gain valuable skills in managing diverse learning settings to promote engagement and ensure that every student feels valued and understood. Additionally, this workshop provides practical formative assessment techniques to quickly and easily measure comprehension in real-time. This is an essential opportunity for teachers committed to supporting literacy and impacting student understanding within their own subject areas.

This session includes a digital package - The Enabling Comprehension Essentials Pack - A signature collection of globally published educational research and practical strategy templates for teachers to use across subjects in their classrooms tomorrow.

**Venue** | Learning Lounge

**Date** | Tuesday 3 September

**Time** | 4pm – 5pm AEST

**Audience** | 7-12 Middle / High School Teachers and Educators

**Cost** | Free

[Click here](#) to RSVP

NESA Accredited | Proficient Teacher | Standard 1.1.2



The Educator Series

## The Learning Centre | The Educator Series | The Importance of High Expectations

### Karen Yager | Principal

A progressive and creative leader, Karen brings more than 26 years' experience to our School, most recently as Deputy Headmaster K-12 at Knox Grammar. Her work in the education and academic world has been recognised with numerous awards, including the NSW Professional Teachers Council Award for Outstanding Service to Education in 2019.

With an emphasis on developing each student's unique strengths, agency and voice, Mrs Yager will continue to nurture, grow and inspire our Hills Originals to achieve their potential for greatness.

Karen commenced as Hills Grammar's fifth Principal in January 2022 and is enjoying meeting the Hills Grammar community - students, staff and families.

### Session Information

This workshop focuses on the crucial role that high expectations play in student achievement and development. Through a blend of research findings and practical classroom examples, we will uncover how setting high standards can significantly boost student engagement and motivation. Participants will gain valuable insights into effective methods for establishing and conveying high expectations, while also ensuring a nurturing and inclusive educational atmosphere. Ideal for teachers and educational professionals, this workshop provides essential tools and strategies to elevate student performance and foster an environment where every learner can thrive.

This session includes a digital package - The Importance of High Expectations Pack - A signature collection of globally published educational research and reports on student learning.

**Venue** | Learning Lounge

**Date** | Tuesday 17 September

**Time** | 4pm - 5pm AEST

**Audience** | For teachers and educators in Early Childhood, Junior/Primary, Middle, and Senior/High Schools

**Cost** | Free

[Click here](#) to RSVP



## The Learning Centre | The Educator Series | The Power of Student Agency

David Hamper | Deputy Principal And Head Of Senior School

Joining Hills Grammar in May 2022 David brought 25 years of experience to the School. He has held a number of senior roles in diverse independent schools across Sydney with portfolios including teaching and learning, wellbeing, innovation, staff development, human resources and school operations.

David has also held a number of special advisory appointments including in curriculum design and assessment with state and national curriculum authorities, teacher education with universities in Australia and the United States and in teacher professional learning with a number of professional associations. He is a prolific writer having authored, edited and contributed to numerous books, journal articles and atlases across diverse topics from the humanities and within professional domains.

### Session Information

In this workshop, we will delve into the successful strategies underpinning the Hills Grammar Passport for the Future Initiative. You'll gain insights into how this program has fostered student independence, creativity, and decision-making through engaging case studies. Moreover, this workshop is not just about learning from others; it is an opportunity for you to workshop your innovative ideas for enhancing student agency in your classrooms. Whether you are looking to inspire self-directed learning or cultivate a culture of student empowerment, this workshop is an invaluable platform for sharing experiences, brainstorming solutions, and learning from fellow educators committed to making a difference in their students' lives.

This session includes a digital package - The student Agency Essentials Pack – A signature collection of globally published educational research on student agency and voice.

**Venue** | Learning Lounge

**Date** | Term 4, Week 2, 24 October

**Time** | 4.00pm – 5.00pm AEDT

**Audience** | For teachers and educators in Early Childhood, Junior/Primary, Middle, and Senior/High Schools

**Cost** | Free

[Click here](#) to RSVP