



**KELMSCOTT**  
SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

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**Big Picture Academy Prospectus**  
One student at a time ... in a community of learners



## What is it?

### The Big Picture Philosophy

The philosophy of Big Picture is grounded in educating “one student at a time.” It promotes and creates personalised education programs that are unique for each student.

Big Picture believes that true learning takes place only when each student is an active participant in his or her education, when his or her course of study is personalised by teachers, parents and mentors who know him or her well, and when school-based learning is blended with outside experiences that heighten the student’s interest. This education model places the student, their passions and their interests at the centre of the learning process.

Key Elements	Big Picture School ‘Snapshot’	Benefits
Highly Personalised	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Small class size, maximum of 17 students</li> <li>• Daily one-on-one help from teacher</li> <li>• Customised curriculum and highly personalised approach for each student</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High levels of student engagement</li> <li>• High attendance rates</li> <li>• Improved learning outcomes</li> </ul>
Adult World Immersion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Two days of industry internships per week</li> <li>• Authentic and meaningful work</li> <li>• No exams – students build portfolios and share their work at exhibitions each quarter</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Greater connection to the workplace</li> <li>• High employment rates after school</li> <li>• Development of industry mentors in areas of interest to the young person</li> </ul>
Community Connectedness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strong connections with community</li> <li>• Parents are partners in their child’s education</li> <li>• Parents are panellists at their child’s exhibitions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parents engaged in their children’s education and can impact a school culture</li> <li>• ‘Social capital’ benefits for the school, the family and the community</li> </ul>
Smooth Post-Secondary Transition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aim for all students to graduate and continue into higher learning or purposeful employment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pathways into tertiary education intuitions</li> <li>• High tertiary education completion and graduation rates</li> </ul>
Intellectual Rigour	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Focus on both critical and creative thinking</li> <li>• IBPLC offers University entrance</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strong numeracy, literacy and reasoning skills</li> <li>• Creative and independent thinkers</li> </ul>

### The Big Picture Academy at Kelmscott SHS

The Kelmscott SHS Big Picture Academy is for selected students who have chosen not to pursue a General or ATAR course. Students will attend the Big Picture Academy 20 hours a week, although they should spend two days per week on Internship.

Upon entry to the academy, each student will develop their individual learning plan (ILP) which will be the foundation for their work for each term and the year. Each ILP will be tailored to meet the interests and needs of the student. The ILP will outline:

- the work the student will do each term
- how the students learning goals are to be met
- how these will be achieved
- what the student will produce for their exhibition
- what support and resources the student will need.

As each student’s learning journey in the Big Picture Academy progresses, they will research suitable internships where they will be able to connect their school learning to the real world. Students should partner with mentors who consolidate the student’s learning at school, and encourage them to develop their interests at their Internship.

Depending on each student’s interests, internships will be organised. It is not designed to be like workplace learning, but to allow the students to have learning opportunities outside the confines of a classroom. It is envisaged that students will attend their internship on two days per week, preferably Wednesday & Friday.



Each student's term of study, including both in-class work and internship project, will allow them to build a portfolio of findings and information. This will relate to their predefined interest or topic for the term. At the end of each term, students will present their findings by way of an exhibition. In an exhibition students show others what they have learnt. An exhibition is a highly accountable learning assessment. The student is required to present and defend their learning to their parents, advisory teacher, mentor and other students.

## Why?

Big Picture has existed for nearly 20 years, with an ever increasing following around the world. Its effectiveness at improving student learning is clearly demonstrated, particularly with its high attendance and retention rates. In the USA, Big Picture delivers on its promise to provide students with the skills and assistance needed to gain acceptance to tertiary institutions, with 99% of Big Picture graduates being accepted into college (the equivalent of a University or TAFE in Australia).

## How?

Big Picture capitalises on its promise for personal learning. Each student has a comprehensive, individualised learning plan. These plans are crafted by students with guidance from their teacher, parents and possibly their industry internship mentor. The learning plan identifies the students' interests and strengths linked to the Big Picture Learning Goals, which then generates their authentic project work. The learning plan is reviewed and updated each term. Student literacy and numeracy needs are attended to throughout this process.

	<b>What are the Big Picture school learning goals?</b>
<b>Empirical Reasoning</b>	This goal is to think like a scientist: to use empirical evidence and a logical process to make decisions and to evaluate hypotheses. It does not reflect specific science content material, but instead incorporates ideas from physics to sociology to art theory.
<b>Quantitative Reasoning</b>	This goal is to think like a mathematician: to understand numbers, to analyse uncertainty, to comprehend the properties of shapes, and to study how things change over time.
<b>Communication</b>	This goal is to be a great communicator: to understand your audience, to write, read, speak and listen well, to use technology and artistic expression to communicate. It includes being exposed to another language.
<b>Social Reasoning</b>	This goal is to think like an historian or anthropologist: to see diverse perspectives, to understand social issues, to explore ethics, and to look at issues historically.
<b>Personal Qualities</b>	This goal is to be the best you can be: to demonstrate respect, responsibility, organisation, leadership, time management, to reflect on your abilities and strive for improvement. It includes learning to live in community.
<b>Knowing how to learn</b>	The goal is to be curious, with a drive to explore and be open to doing hard work; to understand that there are many ways of learning, knowing and making meaning in the world. It includes valuing learning from and with others inside and outside of school.

### *Finding students interests:*

A student's interests and passions will be the focus for what they do at school. Some students will already know their passions and interests. Others will have to discover them. It can take time. Seeking passions is a great opportunity for a student to learn about themselves. New experiences can alert them to new interests, so a large part of being in the Big Picture Academy is trying out new things. Some students will have an interest that might not seem like something for school, but that shouldn't stop them. As Big Picture is a personalised education setting, opportunities exist that wouldn't in mainstream education.

### *One student at a time:*

*One of the key ideas in Big Picture is: One student at a time. What does that mean?*

It means that we assume that each student is unique. Their interests are unique. Their learning style is unique. Because of this we should create individual learning for each student. By discovering their passions, students will be able to build individual learning plans with their advisory teachers that will provide them a variety of learning opportunities. To foster each student's creativity and learning, they will work with their mentors and advisory teachers to learn deeply from real work.



## What is the commitment?

As the African Proverb states... "It takes a village to raise a child". This is a key focus to Big Picture Education. We are all invested in a students learning. That is the student, parent, mentor, teacher and school all have a role to play to ensure that learning takes place.

### **Students:**

It is envisaged that students will be enrolled for the duration of the school year, however, should a student wish to "opt-out" of the Big Picture Academy, this can only occur in the first 5 weeks of Term 1. As each student is unique, some may find the Big Picture Academy has made them more engaged in learning and they wish to undertake further studies or employment beyond school. Other students may like to continue their learning through the Big Picture Academy into Year 12, with the added opportunity of Murdoch University portfolio entry.

Kelmscott SHS has recently taken on the International Big Picture Learning Credential. This is a formal, personalised assessment which "portrays a student's distinctive learning, achievement, competencies and potential" ([www.bigpicture.org.au/what-international-big-picture-learning-credential](http://www.bigpicture.org.au/what-international-big-picture-learning-credential)). Murdoch University has recently accepted the IBPLC as an official entry pathway.

### **Parents:**

Parents and guardians are viewed as partners of the school in the provision of a supportive learning environment for students. As such, it is expected that parents will be involved in the initial selection process, participate in the development of learning plans as well as attending the end of term exhibitions. With parents and teachers working closely with students, it is more likely that they will have a successful and supportive pathway to further education.

## Academy Expectations

- All students are required to apply in writing
- All applications need be countersigned by parent/guardians

### ***As part of their Big Picture learning journey, students will...***

- Write narratives as well as engage in different types of writing such as essays, research papers and rationales as required
- Maintain a learning journal
- Engage in diverse reading
- Persist with their work and work consistently
- Engage in academic rigour and deep thinking

### ***Big Picture Education is a team effort...***

- Learning through internships will be pursued and supported
- Students and parents will participate in up to four exhibitions per year
- Parents need to attend learning discussions for the development of student learning plans
- Parents need to maintain reliable communication with the advisory teacher

### ***During their participation in the Big Picture Academy, students will...***

- Be responsible in the school environment
- Maintain a high level of respectful behaviour within the advisory.





## Big Picture School Distinguishers

All Big Picture schools share common characteristics that are called 'distinguishers' (or principles). These distinguishers exist as a comprehensive whole. They are interrelated and inform one another; no one distinguisher is more important than another and none work in isolation. It is the combination of the distinguishers, the degree to which Big Picture Schools employ them and intensive conversations of reflection and action, which results in the powerful success of the design.

### 1. **Academic rigour: 'Head, heart and hand':**

Powerful learning goals are set for each student:

- Quantitative Reasoning
- Empirical Reasoning
- Social Reasoning
- Communication skills
- Improving Personal Qualities
- Knowing how to learn

### 2. **Learning in the community:**

We build in adult world immersion-learning. Each student works two days a week in an interest based internship with a mentor from the community on an intellectually rigorous project connected to their learning goals. This is known as Learning through Internship (LTI).

### 3. **One student at a time:**

Students all have a personal learning plan which is based on their specific interests. It is developed with input from the students, their advisor and parents. It includes an individual project.

### 4. **Authentic assessment:**

Each Term the students exhibit their work, providing evidence of achievements of their learning goals and reflecting on the process of their learning.

### 5. **Collaboration for learning:**

Students work in one-on-one or small group learning environments around their interests both inside and outside the school. Through the LTI the community plays an integral role in the education of the students.

### 6. **Learning in advisory:**

Students are in an advisory with up to 16 other students with one teacher advisor. The teacher advisor manages students' learning plans and ensures that all learning goals are covered in these plans.

### 7. **Trust, respect and care:**

One of the striking things about Big Picture Schools is the ease with which students interact with adults. There is a culture of trust, respect and care between students and adults, as well as among students themselves.

### 8. **Everyone's a leader:**

In Big Picture Schools, leadership is shared between the principal, staff, students and family and relevant community partners. Opportunities for leadership are provided and created for everyone.

### 9. **Families are enrolled too:**

Big Picture schools aim for real family engagement. Parents and families are regarded as essential members of the learning team, starting with the application process, through to learning plan development, exhibitions and graduation.

### 10. **Creating futures:**

All students are expected to graduate from school to further learning. They are prepared for and connected to opportunities for learning at University and/or TAFE.

### 11. **Teachers and leaders are learners too:**

New ideas are constantly required as the learning cycle is constantly being reviewed. Teachers and leaders need to deal with new ideas and learn new ways of working and develop reflective practice and find ways of sharing this learning with others.

### 12. **Diverse and enduring partnerships:**

A Big Picture School has a strong focus on building and creating external partnerships. These include partnerships with the family, mentors, local councils, businesses, corporations, Universities, TAFEs and other training providers. These partnerships enable students the opportunities to pursue their learning and achieve their goals.



**Big Picture Academy**  
YEAR 11 APPLICATION, 2026

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Before you complete this application, make sure you have read the information provided with this application form explaining the Big Picture Academy at Kelmscott Senior High School, the Big Picture Philosophy, Learning Through Internship and the expectations of each Big Picture student.

The Big Picture Program's philosophy is "One student at a time in a community of learners." It is important that you understand what is required from you as a student in the program. Please read the following expectations and tick each box indicating that you are willing and able to commit to the expectation.

**Expectations of a Big Picture Student**

- Show respect for others and yourself.
- Take responsibility for your learning.
- Continuously work to improve your skills, knowledge and abilities.
- Complete all set learning tasks and project work.
- Plan and manage your time over the term, the week and each day.
- Identify and explore your interests—through projects, speaking to people in the community and Internship placements.
- Build a portfolio of your work.
- Maintain a learning journal, making at least two entries per week.
- Write a personal narrative at the end of each term, reflecting on your learning, experiences and personal growth.
- Investigate and develop a plan for your education and future pathway post Year 10.
- Participate in all excursions and school based activities.
- Present your learning at your exhibitions at the end of each term.

**Why have you chosen to apply to join the Big Picture Academy?**

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**What goals do you intend to set yourself as a learner?**

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**Which of your personal qualities and behaviours would you aim to improve or develop through your involvement in the Big Picture Academy?**

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**Describe a time when you have taken responsibility for yourself or others?**

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**What or career goals do you wish to pursue through this program?**

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**What interests are you interested in pursuing through the Internship program?**

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**What are two things that you are proud about from your school life?**

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**What are two things that you are proud of from your life outside of school?**

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**Student Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent/Carer Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_



Kelmscott Senior High School  
**Big Picture Academy**

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**Year 11 Application, 2026**  
PARENT/CARER SECTION

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you for taking the time to assist your child to complete their application to join the Big Picture Academy at Kelmscott Senior High School. Hopefully you will be/have been able to attend an information session on course selection and have read the information provided with this application form explaining the program, the Big Picture Philosophy, Learning Through Internship and the expectations of each Big Picture student.

In Big Picture, families are enrolled too. Parents and carers are active participants in their child's learning; they encourage and support their child to set and work towards their learning and personal goals and they are involved in assessing student learning and progress at exhibitions.

Please read the following expectations and tick each box indicating that you are willing and able to commit to the expectation.

**Expectations of a Big Picture Family**

- Ensuring that my child is at school on time each day.
- Contacting the Teacher/Advisor directly whenever my child is sick or unable to be at school.
- Ensuring that my child is appropriately attired for school and internships.
- Attending my child's Exhibition at the end of each term.
- Participating in events hosted by my child's Advisory.
- Coordinating transporting for my child to and from their Internship workplace.
- Supporting the program, and my child, by seeking out possible mentors.

**How do you believe the Big Picture program will benefit your child and their education?**

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**What key personal qualities, such as resilience, persistence, confidence and positivity, do you hope that your child will develop from their time in the Big Picture Academy?**

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**How do you believe the Big Picture program will benefit your child and their education?**

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**Student Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent/Carer name/s:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature/s:** \_\_\_\_\_





## Want to find out more?

Attached with this information booklet, is the Big Picture Academy: Year 11 Application, 2026.

Should you be interested in applying for this rewarding educational program please complete and post it to the school as soon as possible.

If you require any further information about the Big Picture Academy at Kelmscott Senior High School, please contact **Karen Dolman** or **Derek Edmondson** (Big Picture Advisory teachers) at the school on 9495 7472.

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