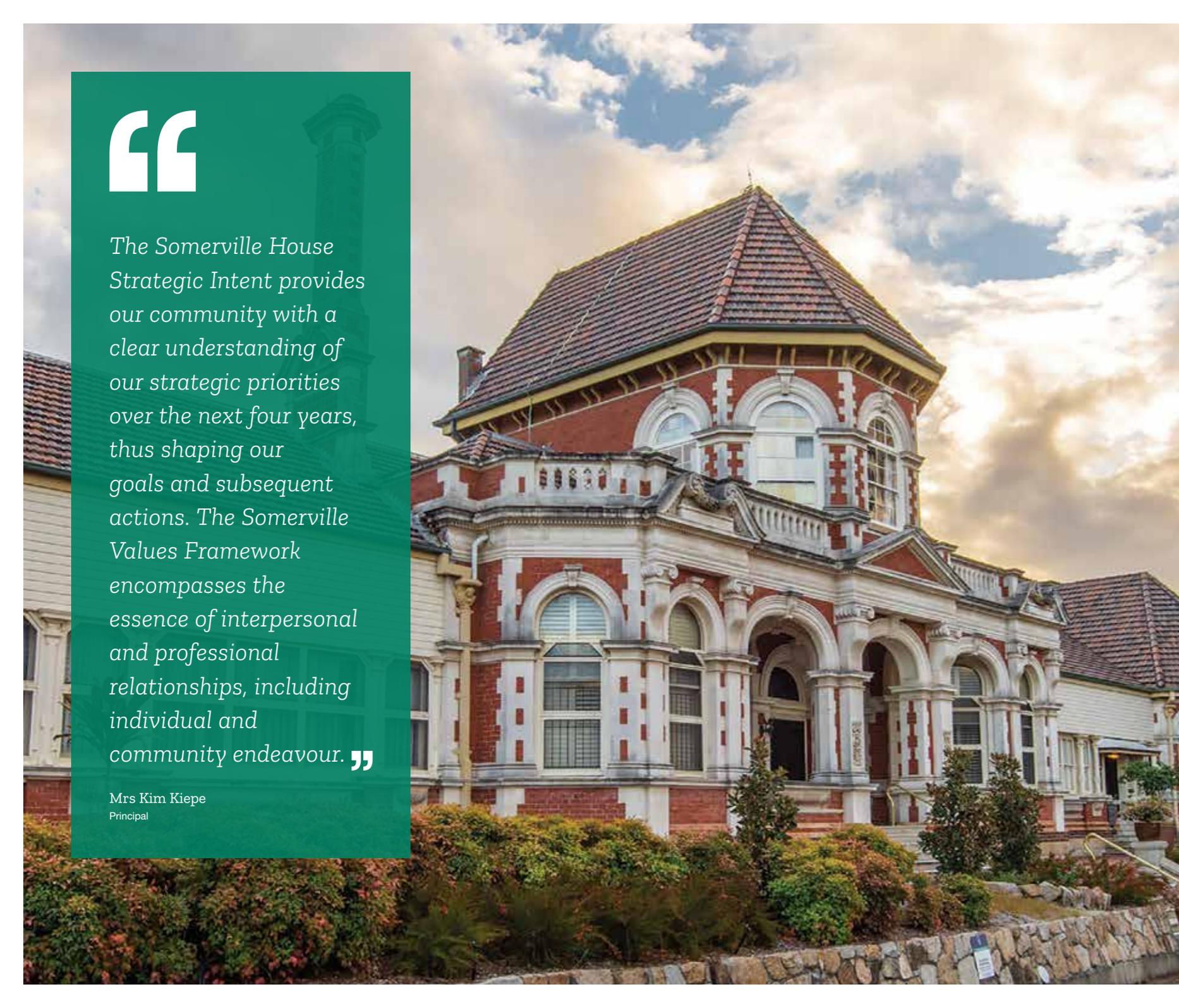




**SOMERVILLE
HOUSE
STRATEGIC
INTENT 2020 to
2023**



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The Somerville House Strategic Intent provides our community with a clear understanding of our strategic priorities over the next four years, thus shaping our goals and subsequent actions. The Somerville Values Framework encompasses the essence of interpersonal and professional relationships, including individual and community endeavour.”

Mrs Kim Kiepe
Principal

OUR PURPOSE

Somerville House aims to provide an exemplary educational environment by supporting each student's personal growth.

OUR VALUES

Our values are at the heart of the Somerville House philosophy. Our values give purpose and meaning to our lives. The Somerville Values Framework is made up of six values, which guide the way we interact with each other, thus influencing every aspect of school life.

Courage

We want our students to have the courage to think differently and the courage to make decisions in their daily life and take responsibility for their actions.

Compassion

We know that kindness is the key to a happy school and we want our students to show active care and advocacy for all people of the world.

Inclusion

We acknowledge that we are a diverse community and must have regard for the feelings, wishes and rights of others in everything we do.

Gratitude

We believe in the positive effects of showing appreciation, as it creates a ripple effect in the community.

Integrity

We understand the importance of being true to our beliefs and values, knowing that it is important to do the right thing and act with the highest moral standards.

Respect

We appreciate and value the individual differences in the people of the world and we show concern for the wellbeing of others. We learn in a safe and supportive environment, while respecting our natural environment and cultural heritage.

OUR VISION

Educating girls to be fearless leaders of change, developing excellence, confidence and connection to their individual purpose.

OUR STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

This Strategic Intent guides our future to 2023 and captures our strategy through the four key priorities of:

- Striving for Academic Success
- Sustaining Personal Growth
- Supporting Service Learning
- Serving as Responsible Custodians.

These four priorities reflect our aim to have a steadfast commitment to bringing strategy to life. Aligned with this outlook, we acknowledge the importance of preparing our girls for the future workforce of the 2030s.

An aspiration within each priority, allows for the underlying key actions to facilitate the development and delivery of projects and exciting new initiatives, all designed to meet our school purpose of providing an exemplary educational environment.

Ultimately, our priorities will continue to build on the mission and the strong foundation and traditions of our founder, Miss Eliza A Fewings.





The ethos of the School was firmly established in 1899 and drives the beliefs of the School. The staff are still dedicated, hardworking, enthusiastic and caring. These are the things that really matter.”

Dr Pamela Davenport
Commemoration Day 1999 Centenary Year



Striving for Academic Success

Somerville House will be known for creating a culture that promotes learning through the provision of an outstanding educational program based on academic scholarship.

We will achieve this by:

- Expecting excellence in academia, cultural pursuits, sport and leadership
- Creating a future-focussed curriculum and transferable skills for a digital and global society
- Developing an exceptional teaching and learning culture
- Supporting creative and critical thinking, research skills and cognitive flexibility.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 1

At Somerville House we will:

- Maintain a growth mindset whereby academic excellence is an expectation
- Nurture a creative and innovative culture, centred on education
- Develop research-based learning where innovative pedagogy is maintained
- Encourage staff to seek school support for worldwide professional learning opportunities.

A 2023 outcome:
Consistent and reflective teaching approaches

“

The overriding feeling having had my daughter at the School for 12 years is that she has been carefully and gently nurtured into becoming a respectful and honourable member of the community and can declare with pride that she is a 'Somerville Girl'.”

Year 12 Parent, 2018



Sustaining Personal Growth

Somerville House will be known for developing the capabilities and contribution of students and staff, with the Christian faith serving as a strong foundation.

We will achieve this by:

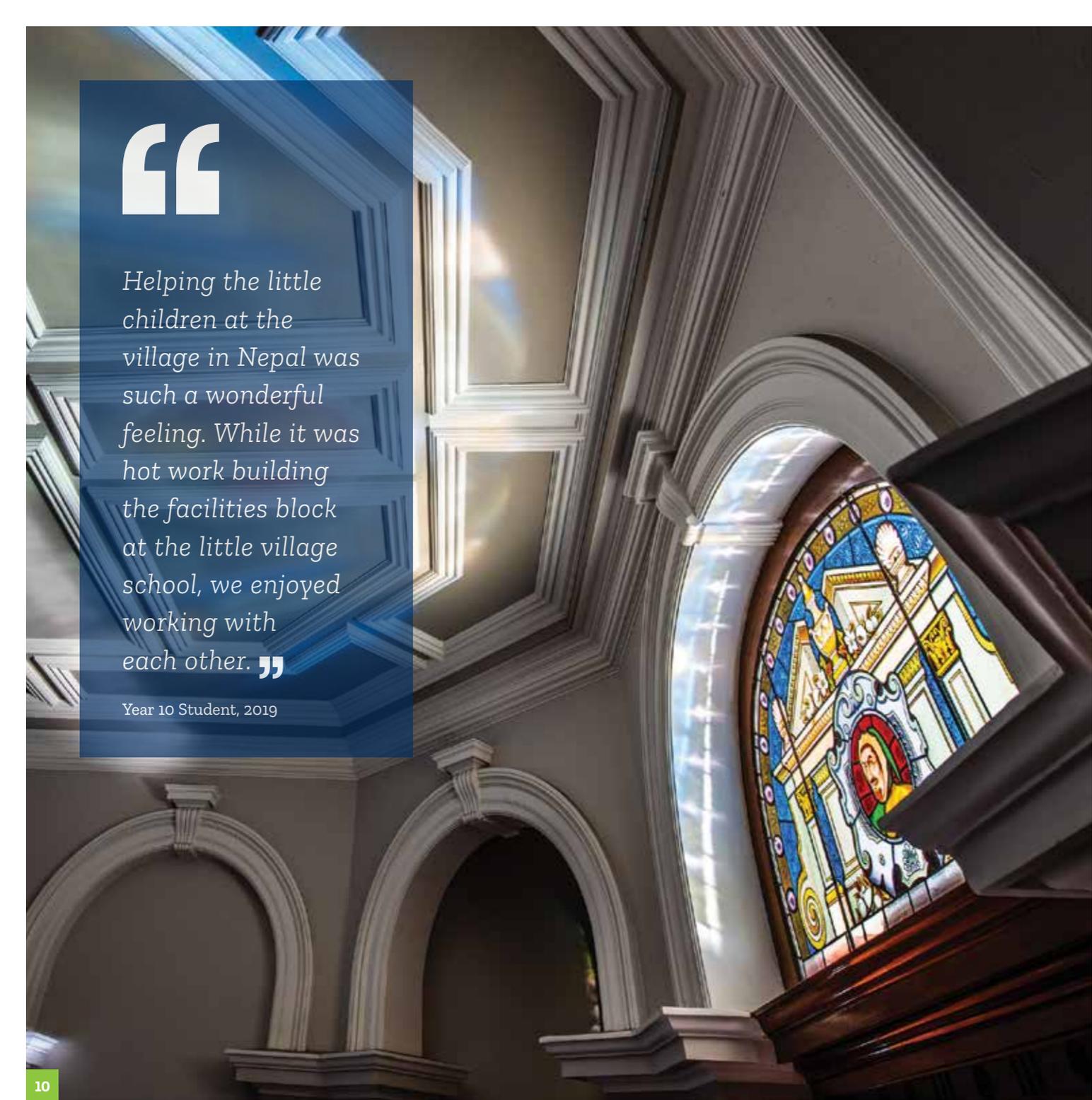
- Celebrating our Christian faith and foundations
- Enhancing social and emotional wellbeing
- Engaging co-curricular participation and performance
- Integrating leadership opportunities for students and staff.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 2

At Somerville House we will:

- Encourage students to act with emotional intelligence in life and leadership
- Develop the whole student through individual care and support, within a Christian ethos
- Provide academic and social support to ensure each student develops personal resilience
- Help students improve their confidence through high levels of participation in sport, music, performing arts and cultural activities.

A 2023 outcome:
Knowledge and skills to future-proof careers



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Helping the little children at the village in Nepal was such a wonderful feeling. While it was hot work building the facilities block at the little village school, we enjoyed working with each other.”

Year 10 Student, 2019

Supporting Service Learning

Somerville House is committed to developing each student's growth through providing extensive opportunities to develop confidence and a global world view.

We will achieve this by:

- Providing meaningful community service and civic engagement experiences
- Engaging in real world experiences outside the classroom
- Developing positive local and global partnerships
- Nurturing strong school spirit and a sense of belonging.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 3

At Somerville House we will:

- Provide structured and rigorous programs to meet the philosophy of service learning
- Design experiences that will extend our students' understanding of life beyond the classroom
- Enhance students' emerging sense of achievement and pride in their contribution
- Enrich the lives of those who give service to others.

A 2023 outcome:
Global reach in our programs



Our purpose as School Council members is to focus on developing our resources and facilities to support an exemplary educational environment. The generosity of our school community has enabled a substantial enhancement of campus facilities throughout the past decade.”

Mr Jim Demack, 2019



Serving as Responsible Custodians

Somerville House is committed to best practice in ethical resource management and stewardship of the physical environment, resources and programs.

We will achieve this by:

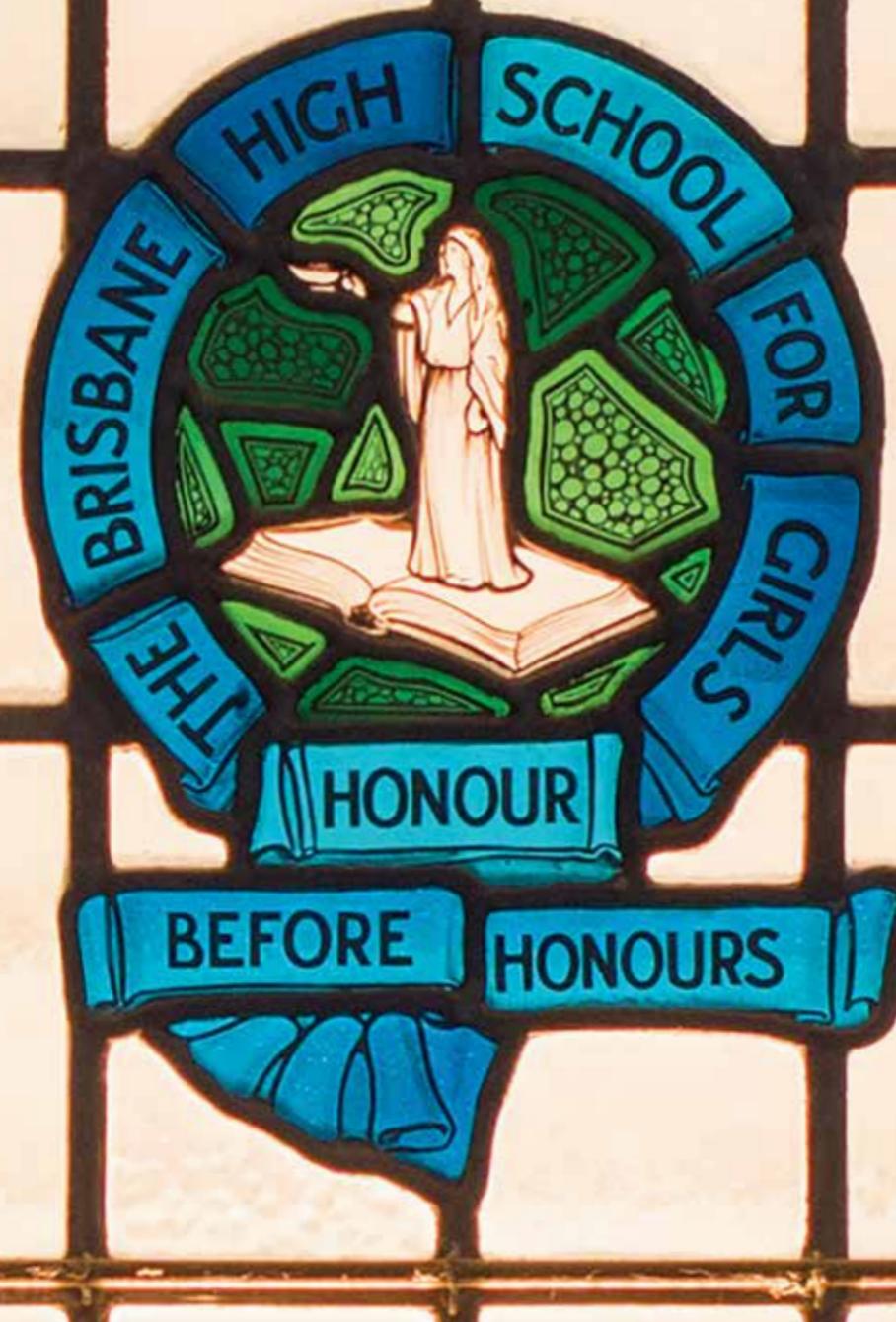
- Investing in workforce excellence through professional training and support of staff
- Considering innovative design of our digital and technology landscapes
- Developing world-class facilities and inspiring learning environments
- Ensuring the School is in a strong financially secure position
- Maintaining contemporary governance practices over decision making, risk management and compliance regulations.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 4

At Somerville House we will:

- Develop opportunities for academic staff to be involved in educational research to support strategic imperatives
- Work with the Somerville House Foundation to develop the next fundraising campaign
- Support investment in facilities and resources to deliver the best learning outcomes
- Continue to embed new governance policies and procedures.

**A 2023 outcome:
Digital solutions for improved communication, efficiency and analytics.**



“

Another way of helping was to be loyal to their school outside: never by word or deed to degrade it, but uphold its honour in all public places. A school of this size should be able to make its influence felt in the State. This could only be done by every individual girl realising her own responsibility.”

Miss Eliza A Fewings
The Brisbane High School for Girls Magazine, December 1901

TRADITION AND PRIDE



In 1899 Miss Eliza A Fewings founded a school designed to educate young women and equip them to take a leading role in the creation of an emerging nation. The School began as The Brisbane High School for Girls and its first home was the City Tabernacle, on the corner of Wickham Terrace and Edward Street. In 1912, the School moved to 'Erneton' in Wickham Terrace, a gracious old home that could accommodate both day students and boarders.

In 1918 ownership of the School was transferred to the newly formed Presbyterian and Methodist Schools Association (PMSA) and in 1919 Cumbooquepa, South Brisbane was chosen as the ideal location for the School. It wasn't until 1920 that the School became known as Somerville House, named to honour Mary Somerville, a distinguished Scottish scientist, mathematician and scholar.

Since its foundation, Somerville House has epitomised the essential elements of an exemplary school: intellectual rigour,

teaching excellence, a caring Christian community, a wealth of opportunities and a stimulating environment fostering innovation and growth.

The strengths and wisdom of the past are retained, while preparing students to be confident and highly capable individuals of the future.

Miss Fewings had a vision for her fledgling school. It was to be a place of accomplishment, where scholarship was valued within an environment of respect, social grace, and co-operative aspiration. Miss Fewings wanted 'her girls' to take hold of the opportunities life presented and (for them) to have a positive influence on society.

Somerville House has offered a residential campus for 120 years, since Miss Fewings started her school with 31 boarders. We remain committed to providing a quality boarding program as an educational experience that enriches a student's life.



A school of the Presbyterian and Methodist Schools Association.
The PMSA is a mission of the Presbyterian and Uniting Churches.

CRICOS Provider Code: 00522G



17 Graham Street,
South Brisbane
Qld 4101, Australia

PO Box 3357,
South Brisbane
Qld 4101, Australia

+61 7 3248 9200
admin@somerville.qld.edu.au

somerville.qld.edu.au