

School Information

Years 9 to 12



Learning, Responsibility and Self-Esteem

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About TLK Alesco School

Make A Fresh Start

TLK Alesco School is a registered and accredited non-denominational, independent school, specifically designed for the inclusion of young people who may feel isolated or lost in a traditional school setting. The school provides youth an opportunity, and for many a second chance, to develop their capacity to learn and gain a sense of meaning and purpose within a supportive and inclusive environment.

The school offers an alternative education option to youth who:

- Are eligible for enrolment in Stage 5 (Years 9 to 10) or Stage 6 (Years 11 to 12)
- Believe they are unsuited to continue their education in a traditional setting and
- Are ready and willing to take control of their learning and future.

The school provides an established and proven model for young people on the Central Coast, offering exactly the same curriculum for Year 9 and 10 mandatory subjects that would be studied in a mainstream school, with the opportunity to progress to Years 11 and 12 to complete the Higher School Certificate. The difference, however, is in how the school delivers education, which includes encouraging freedom of thought, independence, mutual respect and responsibility. In this, every individual has a significant role to play within a setting that supports the core values of acceptance, understanding, empathy, safety, commitment and opportunity. Smaller class sizes (of approximately 16 or less) provide for an individualised approach to learning, including relevant support in areas where a student may lack confidence.

Student's choosing to enrol at the school will do so for various reasons, which may include:

- Feeling isolated or lost in a traditional school setting
- Social disadvantage or isolation
- Low Academic level and/or
- Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander heritage
- English as a second language
- Learning difficulties/disabilities
- Mental Health difficulties/disabilities and/or
- Behavioural difficulties
- School attendance difficulties.



TLK Alesco School provides education and training for a sustainable future, designed to encourage young people to realise their capability and endless potential.

Aim of School

To nurture student learning, responsibility and self-esteem within a creative and rewarding learning environment that delivers pathways and accredited school education for young people seeking an alternative to traditional educational models.

History of Alesco

A number of Alesco schools have been independently established across New South Wales, each providing an educational option for students who are not able, or are not seeking, to complete mainstream schooling, the first of which commenced in 2002 under WEA Hunter, Newcastle. The name Alesco is taken from the Latin term, to grow or mature.

TLK Alesco School (formally known as Alesco Learning Centre Central Coast) was established in 2011 thanks to the hard work, dedication and support of many people, both within Tuggerah Lakes Community College Incorporated and from other organisations.

Connection with Tuggerah Lakes Community College Incorporated

TLK Alesco School operates independently from other Alesco Schools as a division of Tuggerah Lakes Community College Incorporated, a not-for-profit provider of adult and youth education on the New South Wales Central Coast.



Strengths of TLK Alesco School

Key Strengths

The school's strengths are demonstrated in the provision of specialised services to students, including:

- A small school environment
- An opportunity for a fresh start
- Acceptance of individuality
- The opportunity to make choices about the student's role
- No school uniforms or school bells
- The ability to stay and continue as a student until finishing school
- Availability of workplace and study options and
- Additional assistance and support for students requiring literacy help.

Students are encouraged to achieve their personal best in a relaxed, creative and rewarding learning environment, where opportunities and experiences are provided that foster the skills, values and attitudes needed both in life and for future employment, including creative and flexible thinking, emotional strength, moral integrity and a willingness to engage in life.

Unique Opportunities

The school provides unique opportunities including:

- Teachers who are approachable, interested and accessible
- Encouraging students to be totally honest in every aspect. In return, staff will be totally honest with the students in a tactful and caring manner. Teachers will listen to students and respond in a non-judgemental manner. This will in turn promote respect between staff and students, inspiring the students to be responsible for their actions
- Stronger support available for those students who need it

- Students and teachers using/speaking on a first name basis
- A smaller class/school size supporting strong relationships with students and personalised attention and assistance
- A program differentiated/customised to the student's capabilities.

The school believes in the importance of keeping open lines of communication with parents/guardians/carers and the greater school community in order to serve the best interests of the child. The School applies an ethical, open and transparent approach when communicating with students, their families, the broader community and stakeholders. Communications also comply with privacy and legislative requirements.



Accredited Programs and Support

The school is registered and accredited to offer students New South Wales Curriculum Subjects.

Stage 5 (Years 9 and 10)

Year 9 and 10 are both full year programs. Like other schools, students will be required to participate in all learning activities and complete assessment tasks to achieve the Record of School Achievement at the end of Year 10.

Stage 6 (HSC Years 11 and 12)

The school offers a defined range of Preliminary and Higher School Certificate courses, which enables students to leave with a full Higher School Certificate (HSC). In addition, students complete a Vocational and Education Training (VET) Certificate II course, allowing them to graduate with not just their HSC, but also a nationally recognised and accredited qualification.

Literacy Support

TLK Alesco School is committed to the improvement of student literacy. The school's literacy specialist maintains current and flexible training programmes so that the teaching of literacy can be individualised to each student and support can be provided along the way.





Subjects

| Year 9 | Year 10 | Years 11 – 12 (HSC) |
|---|--|--|
| 12 months | 12 months | 2 years |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> English Mathematics Science PDHPE – Personal Development, Health and Physical Education Geography History ICT - Information, Communication and Technology | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> English Mathematics Science PDHPE - Personal Development, Health and Physical Education Geography History IST – Information, Software and Technology | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Standard English General Mathematics Geography Modern History Community and Family Studies Certificate II in Community Services |



Personal Skills

The school's approach includes a focus on relationship building to develop student trust and hope. These can be built on to further develop skills for life and learning. We source external resources through networking and partnerships to provide programs to assist students in other areas of need. Just some of these service providers include:

- Tuggerah Lakes Community College (trading as TLK Community College)
- Headspace
- CYPMH (Childrens and Young Peoples Mental Health)
- RAPPT (Reconnecting Adolescent and Parent Team).



Professional Skills / Careers

At TLK Alesco School, we are aware that students will be starting to think about what they would like to do when they finish their schooling. We have implemented within our educational program a comprehensive list of opportunities to build skills and experiences. Including:

- Regular industry visits to allow students to experience a broad range of occupations and workplace options
- Arranging to attend training organisation open days and information sessions
- Visits to training organisations and/or workplaces in areas of interest to students
- Information sessions regarding different aspects of job seeking, including apprenticeships.



Facilities

Based at Berkeley Vale, New South Wales, the school's premises are located to serve the greater Central Coast Region, within both the Wyong and Gosford Local Government Areas. Our Campus is housed in a pleasantly appointed, sustainably built, straw bale, eco-design building, in a beautiful bush setting. The building comprises of four classrooms, kitchen, reception area and offices, grassed and covered area for breaks, storerooms and toilets. The facility is also used for vocational and adult community education, evening and weekend classes.



Staff

Principal

Student Wellbeing Co-ordinator / Head Teacher

Full-time teachers covering all key learning areas

Literacy Support

Administration Officer

We are a community of learners committed to best practice and a school where vision and innovative teaching and learning are the norm. We believe in preparing students who confidently engage in learning experiences that foster the skills, values and attitudes needed in today's world and in the active pursuit of a sustainable global future. Our staff are well suited to our wonderful array of students.



Hours of Operation

Student Hours: 9.15am – 2.15pm

Year 9 and 10 Monday to Thursday

Year 11 and 12 Monday to Friday

Office hours: Monday to Friday – 9:00am – 2:30pm

TLK Alesco School Terms generally correspond to New South Wales School Term dates. There are some variations according to the grade the student is in.



Students will be notified of pupil free days, staff development days or school excursions throughout the year as they arise. The school provides written information when the regular school hours are disrupted.



How to Enrol

All enrolments are processed via an *Application for Enrolment Form* followed by an interview. The form can be downloaded from the school's website at www.tlkalesco.nsw.edu.au or sent to you by contacting the School during office hours on (02) 4346 0800.

Applications may be submitted at any time. Interviews are generally conducted in the order in which applications are received.

| | |
|--------------|---|
| From October | Interviews conducted for the following year |
| Late January | Second round of interviews (if needed) |

Interviews will be conducted throughout each year as places become available.

Students will not be enrolled at TLK Alesco School without attending an interview. A parent or care giver is required to join their student for the interview.

We will ask questions about previous schooling and why you want to attend TLK Alesco School. We will ask about any relevant health history or behavioral incidents. We may also ask about your support networks or peer networks.

An interview is not a guarantee of enrolment. There may be instances where those accepted will be placed on a waiting list until a place becomes available.



Tuition Fees

Tuition fees are \$100 per year, which is requested at interview.

Success relies on the individual's desire to make it happen.

Please note: the contents of this document are subject to change without notice.