



GIRTON GRAMMAR SCHOOL'S NEW FEE MODEL

6 MAY 2024

What's happening?

From 2025, Girton Grammar School will begin to implement a new fee model, which will comprise two pivotal changes to the current fee system:

1. Girton will transition to a **tiered fee structure**, which will start at a lower price point and increase incrementally throughout a student's educational journey.
2. The school will introduce new **fortnightly and monthly fee payment options** in addition to the current options of paying annually or in four instalments.

Initiative 1: Tiered fee structure

FIGURE 1: TIERED FEE STRUCTURE (BASED ON 2024 TUITION FEES)

Year level	Year of implementation*	New annual fee†	Current annual fee†	Variance	
JUNIOR SCHOOL					
Prep	2025	\$8,450	\$12,300	-\$3,850	-31%
Year 1	2026	\$9,150	\$12,300	-\$3,150	-26%
Year 2	2027	\$9,850	\$12,300	-\$2,450	-20%
Year 3	2028	\$10,550	\$12,300	-\$1,750	-14%
Year 4	2029	\$11,250	\$12,300	-\$1,050	-9%
Year 5	2030	\$11,950	\$12,300	-\$350	-3%
Year 6	2031	\$12,650	\$12,300	\$350	3%
SENIOR SCHOOL					
Year 7	2025	\$13,350	\$15,424	-\$2,074	-13%
Year 8	2026	\$14,150	\$15,424	-\$1,274	-8%
Year 9	2027	\$14,950	\$15,424	-\$474	-3%
Year 10	2028	\$15,750	\$15,424	\$326	2%
Year 11	2029	\$16,550	\$15,424	\$1,126	7%
Year 12	2030	\$17,350	\$15,424	\$1,926	12%

* Existing Girton Senior School students will remain on the current flat fee structure through to graduation. Existing Junior School students will remain on the current flat fee structure until they enter Year 7. This includes new students who commence at the school before the tiered structure is implemented for their year level.

† Amounts are based on 2024 tuition fees (including the prompt payment discount) and are subject to increase in line with annual fee reviews prior to implementation and in each subsequent year after implementation.

Initiative 2: Fortnightly and monthly payment options

FIGURE 2: FORTNIGHTLY AND MONTHLY PAYMENT OPTIONS	
Option	Requirements
Annual payments (unchanged)	The full annual fee is due on the last business day of November (year prior to tuition). Annual payments submitted by the due date will receive a prompt payment discount of \$1,000 and an additional 2% discount.
Four instalments (adjusted)	The annual fee is paid in four instalments of 25% due on the final business days of November (year prior to tuition), February (year of tuition), May (year of tuition) and August (year of tuition). Each instalment submitted by the due date will receive a prompt payment discount of \$250.
Monthly payments (new)	The annual fee (less the prompt payment discount) is paid via direct debit split across 12 monthly payments, commencing on 23 September of the year prior to tuition and ending on 23 August of the year of tuition. If one or more payments are missed and the account is not paid in full by the instalment due dates (see 'Four instalments' above), the prompt payment discount of \$250 will be reapplied to the account for each instalment deadline missed.
Fortnightly payments (new)	The annual fee (less the prompt payment discount) is paid via direct debit split across 24 fortnightly payments, commencing on 19 September of the year prior to tuition and ending on 7 August of the year of tuition (six payments per school term). If one or more payments are missed and the account is not paid in full by the instalment due dates (see 'Four instalments' above), the prompt payment discount of \$250 will be re-applied to the account for each instalment deadline missed.

Questions and answers

What are the benefits of Girton's new fee model?

Girton's new tiered fee structure aims to provide a system that is cost-effective and more consistent with those used by other independent schools, while maintaining the high standards and unique educational experience for which our school is renowned. Additionally, the new fortnightly and monthly payment options will provide families with more flexibility, potentially enabling them to align fee payments with their income and optimise their cashflow.

Ultimately, these initiatives aim to benefit all students and families by building on the school's continued enrolment growth in line with capacity, which will support our strategic aims to deliver exceptional educational outcomes and the state-of-the-art learning spaces detailed within our Master Plan.

When will the new fee model come into effect?

In 2025, the tiered fee structure will be initially implemented for students entering Preparatory and Year 7 (including current Year 6 students moving to the Senior School). The model will be expanded to other year levels between 2026 and 2031, as follows:

- 2025: Preparatory and Year 7
- 2026: Year 1 and Year 8
- 2027: Year 2 and Year 9
- 2028: Year 3 and Year 10
- 2029: Year 4 and Year 11
- 2030: Year 5 and Year 12
- 2031: Year 6

Existing Girton Senior School students will remain on the current flat fee structure through to graduation, while existing Junior School students will remain on the flat fee structure until Year 7, when they will transition to the new tiered fee structure. Any new students who commence at Girton prior to the implementation of the tiered fee structure for their year level will also remain on the existing flat fee structure.

The new fee payment options will be available for 2025 tuition fees (see below for more information about requesting these options).

Will any existing enrolments be negatively impacted by the new fee structure?

The revised fee structure has been designed to prevent any adverse impacts for current enrolments or those entering the school in 2025. Students currently enrolled from Years 7 to 11 will remain on the existing flat fee structure through to graduation, while students currently enrolled from Preparatory to Year 6 will remain on the existing flat fee structure until they reach Year 7, at which point they will move to the new tiered fee structure.

How will enrolment growth impact school capacity and class sizes?

Girton currently has some capacity for enrolment growth across both the Junior and Senior School campuses. While the new fee model is anticipated to increase enrolments further, Girton will continue to maintain its current class sizes by adding more streams wherever possible.

Why has the school decided to make these changes now?

The changes to Girton’s fee model were raised with the Board in response to advice from the school’s demographers, Education Geographics, who advocated for Girton’s adoption of a tiered fee structure to align more closely with the systems used by the majority of Australia’s independent schools. This prompted a full review of Girton’s fee model, discounts and payment options by members of the school’s leadership team, from which the two initiatives have been adopted by the Board.

How will the tiered fee structure be applied to existing students?

All existing Girton Senior School students will remain on the current flat fee structure through to graduation. All existing Junior School students will remain on the current flat fee structure through to Year 6, and transition to the tiered fee structure at Year 7.

How will the tiered structure be applied to new students entering the school?

New Junior or Senior School students who commence at Girton after the tiered fee structure has been implemented for their year level (see Figure 1) will follow the tiered structure for the duration of their enrolment.

New Junior School students who commence at Girton before the tiered fee structure is implemented for their year level (e.g. any students entering Years 1 to 6 in 2025) will remain on the current flat fee

structure until they reach Year 7. New Senior School students who commence at Girton before the tiered structure is implemented for their year level (e.g. any students entering Year 8 or higher in 2025) will remain on the existing flat fee structure until they graduate.

While some families may have children on different fee structures, depending on when their children commence at Girton, this system ensures the same fee structure is applied to every student enrolled at a given year level. Examples have been provided on page 5.

Will current discounts still be available under the new fee model?

Yes, the prompt payment discount of \$1,000 will be available for all payment options, and will be automatically applied where accounts have been paid in full by the relevant instalment deadlines, which are the final business days of:

- November (year prior to tuition)
- February (year of tuition)
- May (year of tuition)
- August (year of tuition).

In addition, families who choose to pay annually will continue to receive a further 2% discount where their accounts are paid in full by November of the year prior to tuition. Full payment of accounts includes tuition fees and incidental expenses (co-curricular expenses, camps and other accrued expenses).

How and when will families be able to transition to fortnightly or monthly payments?

New and existing families seeking to take up fortnightly or monthly payments for 2025 tuition fees should request to do so by 30 August 2024 by contacting the Business Office via accounts.receivable@girton.vic.edu.au.

New and existing families who wish to take up fortnightly or monthly payments for 2025 after the 30 August deadline will need to make a larger initial payment to make up for any instalments that would have already been due.

What process will be followed if I miss a fortnightly or monthly payment?

The Business Office will notify parents and carers if a payment has been missed, requesting that they are brought up to date. Where accounts have not been paid in full by the relevant instalment dates (the final business days of November, February, May and August), the prompt payment discount of \$250 for each instalment due date missed will not apply. Any questions about specific scenarios or hardship should be directed to the Business Office.

Where can families who are interested in enrolling find more information about the new fee model?

If you know of any families who are considering enrolling their children, please encourage them to contact our Registrar, who will be able to assist with queries about the new fee model.

Examples

Example 1: Existing family with children currently in Years 9 and 11 at Girton

- The existing Girton student moving into Year 12 in 2025 will remain on the current flat fee structure through to graduation.
- The existing Girton student moving into Year 10 in 2025 will also remain on the current flat fee structure through to graduation.

Example 2: Existing family with one child in Year 7 at Girton and a second child in Year 4 at another school enrolling at Girton in 2025

- The existing Girton student moving into Year 8 in 2025 will remain on the current flat fee structure through to graduation.
- The new student entering Year 5 at Girton in 2025 will follow the current flat fee structure until they enter Year 7, at which point they will transition to the tiered fee structure. (This is because the tiered structure will not be implemented for students entering Year 5 until 2030.)

Example 3: Existing Girton family with one child in Year 10 at Girton, a second child in Year 8 at Girton, and a third child in Year 6 at another school enrolling at Girton in 2025

- The existing Girton student entering Year 11 in 2025 will remain on the current flat fee structure through to graduation.
- The existing Girton student entering Year 9 in 2025 will remain on the current flat fee structure through to graduation.
- The new student entering Year 7 at Girton in 2025 will follow the new tiered fee structure through to graduation.

Example 4: Future Girton family with one child in Year 3 at another school and a second child in kindergarten, both enrolled to commence at Girton in 2025

- The new student entering Year 4 at Girton in 2025 will follow the current flat fee structure until they enter Year 7, at which point they will transition to the tiered fee structure. (This is because the tiered structure will not be implemented for students entering Year 4 until 2029.)
- The new student entering Preparatory at Girton in 2025 will follow the new tiered fee structure through to graduation.

Example 5: Future Girton family with one child in Year 6 at another school and second child in kindergarten, both enrolled to commence at Girton in 2025

- The new student entering Year 7 at Girton in 2025 will follow the new tiered fee structure through to graduation.
- The new student entering Preparatory at Girton in 2025 will follow the new tiered fee structure through to graduation.