Hamilton Secondary College – Space School

https://www.hamcoll.sa.edu.au/space-school/

Our Space Centre, Mission to Mars program and Planetarium provides students with an exciting and unique educational experience. The Space program is supported by a growing number of industry partners who share our vision and goal to be a global leader in space education.

Mike Roach Space Centre

The Space Centre has four main areas which support our space science program – a simulated Martian crater and landscape with seven different geological zones, a Mission Control Room, a Briefing Room, and a Space laboratory. It has been designed to provide an immersive, hands-on learning experience. The briefing room is an audio-visual experience where students watch an introductory video about some of the issues that they need to overcome in moving humans to Mars. Students will role play space scenarios with teams taking turns to operate as astronauts dressed in full space suits collecting samples on the Mars surface, and scientists monitoring data and problem solving in Mission Control. The design simulates real-life Martian explorations in the same way that NASA sends space probes to land in craters, as they are prime locations to gather samples. The samples and data gathered are then analysed by students in an 'Escape Room' based practical for a full Mission to Mars.

Hamilton Space School Planetarium

Hamilton Secondary College has the only school-based Planetarium in the Southern Hemisphere as part of a recent $9.165 million school facilities upgrade. The real-life context for curriculum and the immersive pedagogical experience that the Planetarium can provide has strengthened and broadened our college's capacity to support students, teachers and parents to see relevant and accessible academic and vocational pathways in STEM and in the Space sector in Australia.

Space & STEM Academy

Our special Interest Space Academy to support students who have a strong passion and aspirations to work in the space sector, with a tailored, challenging curriculum to further develop their skills and interest started in 2022 and a second intake has started in 2023. This is complemented by an additional space focused STEM curriculum across the mainstream Australian Curriculum and SACE subjects allowing all our students to have a strong understanding of the future of space in Australia. We have further supported them by giving them access to space industry links with relevant space-related learning and mentors.