



"Key traditional festivals, including Chinese New Year were celebrated by the entire School which highlighted the welcoming spirit to all cultures of the Alphington Community."

**Erin - Fan Zhang**

**Home:** Shanghai, China  
Attended AGS 2007-2008 (Yr 11-Yr 12)  
Senior Vice Captain in 2008

**Tertiary:** University of Melbourne, Commerce

**Future Career Path:** Business Management

My parents compared many secondary schools in Melbourne and decided Alphington Grammar School would best suit my personality and educational goals. It was a great choice! Not only did the teachers focus on the VCE curriculum and how to maximise exam outcomes, but they really cared about us as individuals, our welfare and happiness.

The school offers every opportunity for international students to integrate into Australian school life and awarded me the honour of being a Vice Captain in my final year. Key traditional festivals, including Chinese New Year were celebrated by the entire School which highlighted the welcoming spirit to all cultures of the Alphington Community.

Alphington Grammar provided excellent teachers and small classes, which helped me successfully achieve my dream of first preference at the University of Melbourne.

"I am extremely proud to be a graduate of Alphington Grammar School. It offered me a wonderful start in the Melbourne educational system and allowed me to broaden my knowledge of the Australian lifestyle."

**Frank - Ming Xuan Lu**

**Home:** Shanghai, China  
Attended AGS 2007-2008 (Yr 11-Yr 12)  
International Vice Captain in 2008

**Tertiary:** University of Melbourne, Commerce

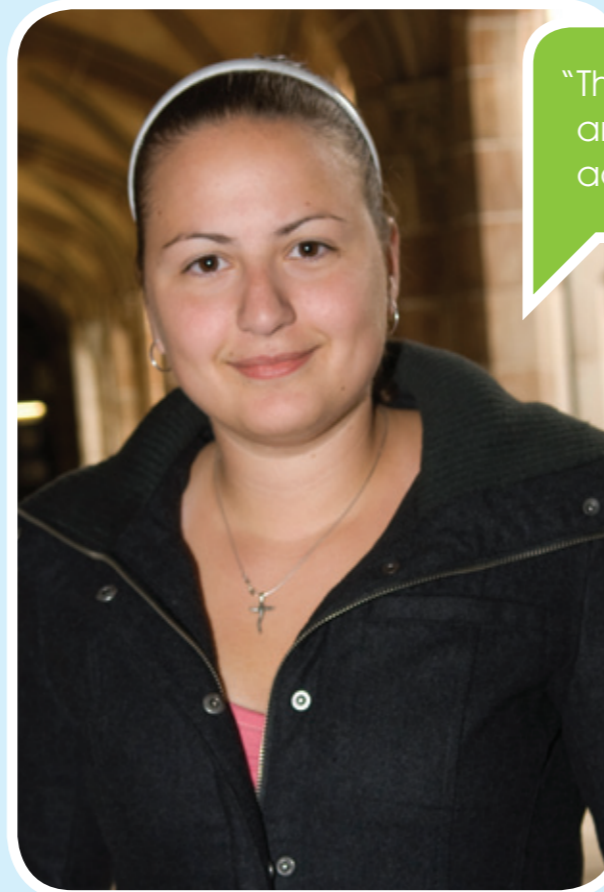
**Future Career Path:** Banking/Actuary

The Alphington Grammar Community became my second family. During my two years of VCE studies, I never felt alone as I made new friends, was encouraged to study and had the support of very patient and dedicated teachers.

Local Australian students were extremely friendly and keen to learn more about the Chinese culture. This enabled a friendly atmosphere to develop where all students expanded their knowledge about different family traditions, food and cultural interests.



I am extremely proud to be a graduate of Alphington Grammar School. It offered me a wonderful start in the Melbourne educational system and allowed me to broaden my knowledge of the Australian lifestyle. The facilities were first class and the expansive gardens offered space and opportunities in sport for all students.



"The University of Melbourne was my first preference and the senior teachers at Alphington helped me achieve this personal goal."

**Stacey Katsaros**

Commenced AGS in Year 7, 2004  
Graduated VCE in 2009, School Captain in 2009

**Tertiary :** University of Melbourne,  
Arts majoring in Psychology

Alphington Grammar has provided me with the very best opportunities in school education. I was able to excel academically, and achieve everything I had hoped for, and much more.

There is no doubt in my mind that Alphington is the major reason behind these accomplishments.

I feel compelled to acknowledge the hardworking, experienced teachers, who always put in the extra mile to help their students. Not only do they have exceptional ability to teach, they also offer an incredible amount of support and friendship towards all students. This mutual respect is a wonderful motivator.

AGS offers its students many social opportunities. I realized being involved in sporting teams, including swimming, athletics and cross-country, was a great way to follow your passion and also make friends across year groups with students who shared common interests. School Camps were another highlight over the years which ranged from outdoor experiences in the Victorian bush to Mount Buller Ski trips.

I was extremely honoured to be elected School Captain in my final VCE year. This was a culmination

of many positive experiences in student leadership throughout my secondary education. It was an absolute pleasure representing the student body in the very significant 20th Anniversary Year of the school, and working with fellow captains to enhance school spirit and assist in promotional activities during the year.

The University of Melbourne was my first preference and the senior teachers at Alphington helped me achieve this personal goal. I am really enjoying tertiary life in the Arts Faculty, and have no doubt that my confidence was nurtured and my study skills extended, by the positive environment throughout the school. I am still amazed at the way the students and teachers greet new families and warmly invite them into the close community that will always be our school.



**Alphington**  
GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Old Heidelberg Road Alphington VIC 3078 AUSTRALIA

Tel: +61 3 9497 4777 Fax: +61 3 9497 3479

CRICOS Number: 018421J Provider Number: 01376D

Email: [ags@alphington.vic.edu.au](mailto:ags@alphington.vic.edu.au)

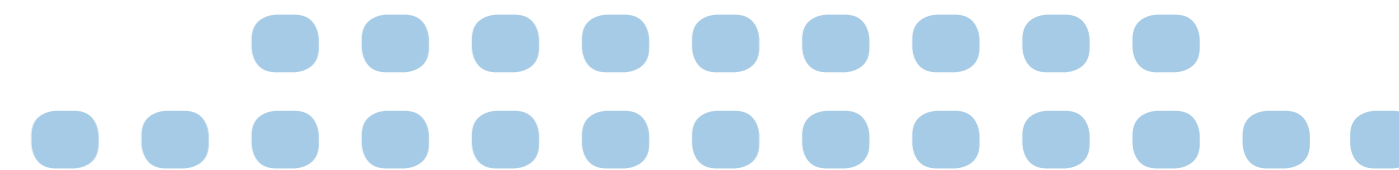
[www.alphington.vic.edu.au](http://www.alphington.vic.edu.au)



**Alphington**  
GRAMMAR SCHOOL



**A GLOBAL COMMUNITY**  
WHERE DREAMS DO COME TRUE





### Charalabidis Family

**Nicole Charalabidis**  
Commenced AGS in Prep, 1999

**John Charalabidis**  
Commenced AGS in Prep, 2004

A strong sense of community attracted our family to Alphington Grammar School.

Our children started at Alphington in Prep level to develop a love of learning and build strong friendships from a young age. We have never been disappointed by our decision.

The Australian/Greek cultural connection is very important to our family and this is a major focus of the school. Inclusive Greek language

"It is a very personalised learning environment where the majority of the students across all year levels know each other by name!"

and culture lessons are a benefit for all the students, irrespective of their background. We are proud that so many children embrace this knowledge and apply key values to their contemporary world.

Our children benefit from small class sizes, which encourage greater interaction with their peers and the teacher. It is a very personalised learning environment where the majority of the students across all year levels know each other by name!

Since 1999, we have been very satisfied that AGS meets the educational needs of our children from a curriculum perspective and their social needs from a community and cultural perspective.

"We are strong supporters of the school owing to the impressive curriculum, positive student/teacher ratios and Greek language component."

### Papadakis Family

**Alexandra Papadakis**  
Commenced AGS in Prep, 2002

**Peter Papadakis**  
Commenced AGS in Prep, 2004

**Ross Papadakis**  
Commenced AGS in Prep, 2009

We love that Alphington Grammar is a growing school that is continually reviewing and developing its programmes whilst building modern facilities for current and future children.

We are strong supporters of the school owing to the impressive curriculum, positive student/teacher ratios and Greek language component. Our children thrive in this environment, which builds confidence and an inner belief to strive even further in their personal goals.



Our Greek/Australian family heritage has strengthened as a result of the interesting and relevant programmes our children have undertaken through Junior and Middle School. This partnership between home and school is a very important link to success for our children. We are delighted that all our children have begun to appreciate and understand their culture and show pride

in their heritage.

Peter has commented that, "Opportunities are open in both academic and sport. If you have a problem, you can talk to someone about it and they will listen."



### Tsironis Family

**Vasili Tsironis**  
Commenced AGS in Prep, 1997  
Graduated VCE in 2009

**George Tsironis**  
Commenced AGS in Prep, 2001

**Sophia Tsironis**  
Commenced AGS in Pre-Prep, 2010

This is our fourteenth consecutive year as Alphington Grammar School parents. Our oldest son completed VCE in 2009

after undertaking all his primary and secondary education at Alphington Grammar. Sophia, commenced her educational journey in Pre-Prep in 2010.

We have developed strong relationships with many teachers over this period and admire the level of open communication between the school and family. Staff are always accessible and approachable and really value every child.

"Staff are always accessible and approachable and really value every child."

All students are members of a warm community. I will never forget approaching school for a Parent Teacher evening. When I arrived I could see about fifteen children of all ages, girls and boys, playing on a basketball court as one big extended family. That moment, witnessing that scene, was all the affirmation I needed that we had chosen the right school for our family.

We know there have been many technological changes affecting teaching and learning practices in the last decade. However, we also know that the attention to the individual, respect for every student, sense of community and strong Australian/Greek affiliation will remain constants at Alphington Grammar.

We believe the favourable size of the school ensures everybody is included, considered and cared for both academically and personally.

"This level of personalised teaching is a major strength of Alphington Grammar School."

### Vasili Tsironis

Commenced AGS in Prep, 1997. Graduated VCE in 2009

**Tertiary:** RMIT University, Mechanical Engineering

**Future Career Path:** Aeronautical Engineering

I am extremely grateful to all my teachers for their encouragement and support over thirteen years. I am particularly thankful for the extra assistance including personal tutorials that I was given in key subjects to assist my understanding of the specific material.

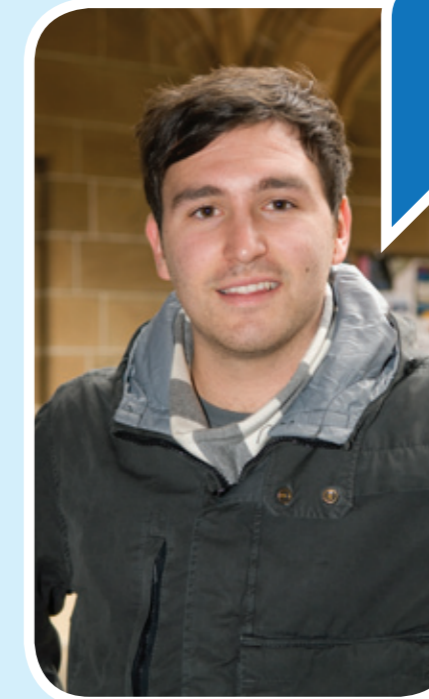
This level of personalised teaching is a major strength of Alphington Grammar

School. It encourages all students to stay focussed, maximise opportunities and manage time appropriately. These skills have assisted me at University and generally in life.

I am currently studying an Associate Degree in Mechanical Engineering at RMIT and on completion, plan to specialise in Aeronautical Engineering.



As you can imagine there were many influential teachers over the years. Too many to mention. However, some have left a lasting impression and have helped mould the person I am today.



"What makes Alphington so successful is that, surprisingly enough, most students really enjoy being at school."

### Victor Dislakis

Commenced AGS in Yr 7, 2002  
Graduated VCE in 2007  
School Captain in 2007

**Tertiary:** University of Melbourne, Engineering

Switching from a state school of over 1000 students with 30 children per class to Alphington Grammar was quite daunting. The contrast was stark. Almost immediately, however, I felt I had been there all my life. Every student becomes a member of an extensive network of friends extending across different ages and genders.

Going beyond the realms of the schoolyard, many of my Alphington friendships have extended into the next chapter of my life. Students, past and present, really are connected by a unique bond that is the "Alphington Experience".

Alphington Grammar is a serious place of learning. What makes Alphington so successful is that, surprisingly enough, most students really enjoy being at school. Many students have continued

their education from Pre-Prep to Year 12 and it is no coincidence that this trend is increasing. It really is a great place to be, and you realise that no more so than when you actually leave.

I now study Engineering at Melbourne University and may continue to a Masters degree in 2012. At university, I am in charge of my own destiny and help is there if I seek it out. This is an extreme contrast to my secondary school years. The encouragement and personal extension opportunities at Alphington were amazing and gave me the inner strength to push through the tough obstacles which may lie ahead in my academic or professional life.

"My strongest memories of Alphington Grammar centred around the helpful teacher guidance, the secure environment and proud community spirit."

### Renee Dislakis

Commenced AGS in Yr 7, 2004  
Graduated VCE in 2009  
School Vice Captain in 2009

**Tertiary:** University of Melbourne, Environments

The moment I started at Alphington Grammar in Year 7 level, I felt I belonged to a rich community. Accepted by all students, teachers and staff. I quickly settled in amongst the closely knit "family" and life-long friendships evolved.

Along with my classmates, I was given equal opportunity to reach, surpass, excel and project my goals and aspirations. I was personally rewarded with being captain of sporting teams; peer support leader; and Vice Captain in my final VCE year. I was particularly proud and honoured to represent not only a strongly academic and highly

regarded school but also one with strong community focus, where fellow students really enjoyed their school days and even looked forward to the new week at school!

I was extremely fortunate to join a select Alphington Grammar group expedition to Vietnam. This was an amazing experience. It was there that I further developed my confidence and leadership skills, which allowed me to assist underprivileged Vietnamese communities and really connect with them in a meaningful way.

My strongest memories of Alphington Grammar centred around the helpful teacher guidance, the secure environment and proud community spirit. However, the unique people, and simple pleasure of spending my school days with everlasting friends with shared



values and experiences will remain a major highlight.

I thoroughly enjoy meeting up with some Alphington friends at Melbourne University and chatting about our future dreams, studies and travel. We always seem to reminisce about our school days, and do so with many smiles and fond memories.