



# HEAD OF YEAR 8 *Newsletter*

Josh Connolly

Term 2 Focus: *Being Kind*.

**Dear Parents and Carers – Can you believe we are halfway through the school term!**

I just want to take a moment to say a big thank you for your ongoing support and partnership. The role you play in your child's school experience, whether it's helping with routines at home in the morning, encouraging participation, or staying connected with us, really does make a difference.

This term, we've been focussing on lifting student engagement in many of our schools' programs, supporting wellbeing, and encouraging leadership across the cohort. It's been great to see so many students stepping up - whether that's by getting involved in events, showing initiative in the classroom, or putting themselves forward for leadership roles.

What's also been great is the support we've seen from families. Whether you've attended Parent Teacher Interviews or The Gap experience, had a chat with a teacher, or simply helped your child manage their commitments, it's all part of creating a strong, supportive community around our year 8's.

Over the next few weeks, we'll keep building on this momentum during our camp weeks and beyond. We're really focused on making sure our Year 8s feel confident, connected, and supported to keep growing both academically and personally. Thanks again for everything you do - we're lucky to have such a great community behind our students.

## Year 8 Student Leadership

On Monday, leadership speeches were delivered during Connect, and all candidates did an amazing job presenting themselves with confidence, pride, and a clear commitment to making a positive impact. It was fantastic to see the range of ideas shared, the courage shown by each student in stepping up, and the genuine desire to represent their peers and strengthen our school culture. Shortlisting is now underway, and students will be informed of the outcome in due course. This process has been challenging due to the high calibre of applicants and the thoughtful way they approached their applications. We look forward to announcing the successful candidates soon and seeing them bring their ideas to life through their new roles. Leadership opportunities like these help students build confidence, communication skills, and resilience - all of which are key to their growth both in and out of the classroom.





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## STYMIE

- At The Gap State High School, we are committed to fostering a safe and supportive environment for all students. That's why we are proud to be a Stymie School!
- What is Stymie? Stymie is an anonymous online reporting tool that empowers students to speak up about concerns such as bullying, mental health challenges, or the safety of themselves and others—without fear. It helps build a culture of care, kindness, and support within our school community.
- Your feelings matter. Your happiness matters. Your voice matters. Your safety matters. Your story matters. Every single day. For more info visit: <https://about.stymie.com.au/>



## Social Media and Suicide - Michael Carr-Gregg

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'Parents think their children are cocooned in their rooms, but they're not really there at all. They are busy exploring an entirely new world, wandering its streets, learning its languages and customs'

<https://thegapshs.eq.schooltv.me/newsletter-article/7292/46>



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## CONNECT

