



# HEAD OF YEAR 11 *Newsletter*

MIKAELA MCGREEVY

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to 2026! I sincerely hope that you were able to have a fantastic holiday break and are refreshed for the new year ahead.

## TERM 1

### Paying it Forward in Term 1

As we commence the new school year, Year 11 students begin an important stage in their senior schooling journey. This period brings increased responsibility, new academic demands and opportunities for personal growth. We start our school year by focusing on *Paying it Forward* by encouraging a positive culture within our school community.

*Paying it Forward* involves offering kindness, assistance or encouragement without expectation or return. For our students, this may mean welcoming new peers in their new subjects, starting study groups, or supporting others during challenging moments. These small acts help foster a respectful learning environment where every student feels valued and motivated.



As parents and caregivers, reinforcing this mindset at home can make a meaningful difference. Encouraging students to approach the year with empathy, initiative and generosity helps build a positive culture that benefits the entire class, cohort and community.

Together, we can help our Year 11 students begin the year with confidence, connection and a spirit of community-minded leadership.



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## WELCOME WEEK

We are welcoming our Year 11s back on the first day of this year to step up QCE pathway with success.

Students will be engaging in the following activities across the week:

- Wellbeing - Gratitude, empathy and mindfulness strategies for the year ahead
- Pathways and Performance Department will present on QCE, ATAR, VET, QCAA Assessment expectations
- Creating Vision Boards for 2026
- Learning strategies for success
- Setting up computers in Onedrive, Daymap and Outlook

We also reviewed our Stress Bucket from Year 9. Headspace presented to the cohort in 2024 regarding how a stress bucket works. As we have grown and face new challenges and opportunities, we have reviewed our stress bucket for the year ahead.

WHY? It is important that we look at the strategies that work for us prior to the school year building up. It is crucial that we highlight the good habits we have in place and want to continue throughout the year.

To explain how it works, feel free to watch the following video: [Stress Bucket](#)

## ADAIR DONALDSON

We will be welcoming back Adair Donaldson this year to present to our whole school. He will be speaking to our cohort on the 30<sup>th</sup> March. We will be hearing about the legal implications of ethics and choices. I will provide a snapshot of our presentation in our upcoming newsletters.



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## CONNECT – TERM 1

### Through **Positive Health and Relationships**

Students will explore how their choices and behaviours impact others. Paying it forward in this space means offering encouragement, practising empathy and looking for opportunities to support peers.

### Through **Academic Planning**

Students will have assessment calendars released by the end of Week 3. When students manage their workload well - not only does it reduce stress for themselves, but it also contributes positively to group work, classroom routines, and overall focus. Each step toward organisation pays forward into calmer days and more confident learners



### Through **GEM in Action**

Gratitude is one of the simplest and most impactful ways to pay it forward. A sincere 'Thank you', a helpful gesture, or recognising a classmate's effort can create a powerful chain reaction of positivity. Gratitude inspires more gratitude - it's a cycle that strengthens our school culture

### Through **Leadership**

Leadership is not just about leading from the front - it's about lifting others up. This term, we are encouraging students to view their leadership as an ongoing cycle of paying it forward: noticing needs, offering help, and acting with integrity. With school camp approaching in Term 2, we are getting ready for experiences that rely on teamwork, cooperation and consideration.

Kind Regards,

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