



# HEAD OF YEAR 11 *Newsletter*

Jason Ashton

Dear Parents and Carers,

It is with great pleasure that I am able to share with you all that I have returned to the Head of Year 11 role after a short stint with our Pathways & Performance department. My many thanks to Mr Tim Hottes and Mr Rex Bertrand for their support and care of our Year 11 students during this time. I encourage you to reach out to me with any questions or concerns that you may have for your student via [HeadOfYear11@thegapshs.eq.edu.au](mailto:HeadOfYear11@thegapshs.eq.edu.au). I am thrilled to be back working with our students in this important transition time as we head towards to commencement of Unit 3 studies.

## **Unit 2 – Exam Block**

Year 11 students will commence Exam Block at the beginning of Week 9 Term 3 (Mon 8 September) through until the end of Week 10 Term 3 (Fri 19 September). Detailed information regarding Exam Block expectations, Exam Timetable and AARA requirements will be communicated to students and families by our Pathways & Performance department in the coming weeks as this becomes available. If you have any questions or concerns regarding the upcoming exam block, please reach out to our Pathways & Performance team via [Pathways&Performance@thegapshs.eq.edu.au](mailto:Pathways&Performance@thegapshs.eq.edu.au).

## **Unit 3 – Subject Changes**

As we near the end of Unit 2, it is an important checkpoint to consider any changes that may need to be made to your student's pathway through Senior School. Due to QCE and QCAA requirements, subject changes can only occur at certain junctures through Year 11 and 12, with the close of Unit 2 marking the last opportunity for students to change subjects whilst minimising impact on QCE Points and possible ATAR calculations. Should your student be interested in possible changes for Unit 3 + 4 subjects, the best place to seek support is through the following avenues:

Mrs Georgia Simmonds – Head of Pathways & Performance (Year 11)  
[Pathways&Performance@thegapshs.eq.edu.au](mailto:Pathways&Performance@thegapshs.eq.edu.au)

Mrs Sarah Toohey – Guidance Officer (Year 11) [stooh11@eq.edu.au](mailto:stooh11@eq.edu.au)



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## Support – Juggling Commitments

As we are coming to the close of Unit 2 assessment, it can be a very stressful time for our students. Managing study requirements, sport, part-time work and social commitments can be a difficult juggling act, and some of our students may need extra support in ensuring that they are maximising their opportunities to be successful in all avenues of their life. If you or your student are concerned about how they may be managing these things – please reach out to us for support. Please see below for the best place to access support for the following areas:

Academic Tracking & Exam skills – Mrs Georgia Simmonds (Head of Pathways & Performance) [Pathways&Performance@thegapshs.eq.edu.au](mailto:Pathways&Performance@thegapshs.eq.edu.au)

- Social & Emotional Wellbeing – Mrs Sarah Toohey (Guidance Officer) [stooh11@eq.edu.au](mailto:stooh11@eq.edu.au)
- General Wellbeing, Balancing Life Demands & Study Skills – Mr Jason Ashton (Head of Year) [jjash0@eq.edu.au](mailto:jjash0@eq.edu.au)

## Connect Program

The upcoming weeks though our Connect program has a focus on preparing our students for the next phase of our Senior Schooling journey. A focus on Exam skills and our Resilience Project - G.E.M themes to provide students some supports to excel academically and also with their Wellbeing during stressful periods. As always, if you would like some extra resources or supports to assist you in working with your student at home, please reach out. The themes for our Connect lessons over the next few weeks are below:

Week 6 – Empathy & Study Skills

Week 7 – Senior School Assembly

Week 8 – Engagement – Mindfulness & Exam Preparation

Week 9 & 10 – Exam Block





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## Senior Jerseys – 2026

It has been fantastic to see the student-led work on the design process for our Senior Jerseys take place over the past term. We now have some final designs that have allowed us to undertake the process of finalising quotes.

More information regarding sizing and ordering of jerseys will be communicated with families over the coming weeks.

## SchoolTV – An online mental health and wellbeing platform for parents

SchoolTV is all about supporting schools and their communities with the challenges of raising happy, confident, resilient and mentally healthy young people. I strongly encourage all families to access and use this valuable resource as a tool to continue education around the issues impacting young people. Below are some links to resources on our SchoolTV site that focus on topics that may be relevant to our students:

### SchoolTV – Parent Resource Hub

- [Exam Jitters](#)
- [Confidence & Motivation](#)
- [Shaping Healthy Masculinity](#)
- [Drug & Alcohol Use](#)



Wishing you all a happy and healthy end to Term 3.\

Kind Regards,

Jason Ashton

Head of Year - 11