



HEAD OF YEAR 7

Newsletter


Alison Moore

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to Term 3. I can't believe how quickly time has gone and our young people are already halfway through their first year at high school.

Upcoming Events – Term 3 Highlights for Year 7


Week 1 – Friday Lunch (19 July):

 Pizza Party Celebration – Invite-only event for students consistently demonstrating our school values. Congratulations to those invited!


Week 2 – Thursday 24 July (Periods 3 & 4):

 Junior Track and Field Carnival (Years 7–9)

Week 2 – Friday 25 July (All Day):

 Whole School Track and Field Carnival (Years 7–12) – Students to wear house colours and participate in a fun day of athletic events.


Week 2 – Thursday, Friday, Saturday Evening (25–27 July):

 School Musical: Thunderbolt – Come and support our talented performers in this year's school production.


Week 3 – Tuesday 30 July:

 Year 7 Immunisations – Please ensure all consent forms have been returned.

Week 4 – Thursday 8 August (7:15–8:15am, Q Block):

 International Chemistry Quiz (Years 7–12) – Good luck to all students competing!


Week 5 – Monday 12 August (Period 4):


 Brisbane Broncos Visit – The Resilience Project – A wellbeing-focused session with Past Broncos players and current NRLW players.

Week 5 – Wednesday 14 August (8am–8pm):

 Write a Book in a Day – A creative writing challenge raising funds for children's cancer research.

Week 6 – Tuesday 19th August

 Brainstorm Productions Performance – A powerful, interactive show promoting anti-bullying messages and respectful relationships.

 ICAS Science Assessment (Years 7–10) – 7:15–8:30am, for self-nominated students

This term, our school value focus is Stepping Up - which is all about courage and action. In Year 7, we're encouraging



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students to show honesty, practice self-regulation, and demonstrate perseverance when things get tough. Whether it's owning up to a mistake, staying focused in class, or giving something another go, these moments of courage really matter.

As always, we continue to recognise students who demonstrate all our school values:

- **Stepping Up**
- **Being Kind**
- **Paying It Forward**
- **Thinking Big**

Students who receive a **School Values Sticker** for showing any of these values can **redeem it every Friday at morning tea for a Zooper Dooper!**



The Resilience Project x Broncos Visit – Week 5

As part of our ongoing commitment to student wellbeing, our Year 7 students participate in weekly Connect lessons based on *The Resilience Project* (TRP). These lessons focus on Gratitude, Empathy and Mindfulness (GEM) and Emotional Literacy, aligning with the Australian Curriculum to help students build positive mental health and wellbeing habits.



We're incredibly fortunate to once again be welcoming The Resilience Project in partnership with the Brisbane Broncos in Week 5 (Tuesday 12th August, Period 4). This visit is designed to inspire and engage students in their understanding and everyday application of GEM.

Our Broncos Ambassadors—current NRLW and past NRL players—will connect with students by:

- Highlighting the importance of wellbeing and GEM practices in the professional sports world
- Sharing personal stories that build authenticity and inspire resilience
- Leading students through fun and engaging GEM-based activities

This is always a memorable and meaningful experience, and we're proud to continue this valuable partnership.



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Understanding Semester 1 Effort and Behaviour Reporting

As part of Semester 1 reporting, your child will have received an Effort and Behaviour result for each of their subjects.

These ratings are based on the *Effort and Behaviour Matrix*, which outlines the expectations across three key levels:

Excellent, Very Good, Satisfactory, Needs Attention and Unacceptable.

- **Effort** refers to how actively and independently students engage with their learning. This includes their willingness to seek feedback, ask clarifying questions, show persistence when faced with challenges, and set and pursue learning goals.
- **Behaviour** focuses on how students contribute to a respectful and productive classroom environment. This includes bringing the correct equipment, collaborating positively with peers, showing appreciation for others, and responding constructively to feedback.

 Opportunities to improve my learning EFFORT AND BEHAVIOUR MATRIX		
	EFFORT	BEHAVIOUR
Excellent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regularly asks questions to clarify understanding. Engaged, independent learner who shows initiative and enthusiasm. Seeks feedback and acts upon it to improve outcomes. Persists with learning when faced with challenges. Is purposeful in making connections between classroom learning and wider world. Monitors own progress and updates strategies in pursuit of personal learning goals. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consistently brings all equipment and uses it appropriately to further learning. Willingly shares relevant ideas, thoughts and opinions with others. Differences dealt with impartially. Shows appreciation for others and the benefits collaborative learning brings. Consistently takes responsibility to modify own behaviours.
Very Good		
Satisfactory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sometimes asks questions to clarify understanding. Engages with learning under teacher supervision. Occasionally needs teacher direction to stay on task. Accepts feedback and occasionally acts upon it to improve outcomes. Sometimes persists with learning and occasionally responds to challenges. Focused on the pursuit of learning goals. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consistently brings all equipment and uses it appropriately. Shares relevant ideas, thoughts and opinions with others in response to teacher direction. Differences dealt with impartially with teacher guidance. Shows appreciation for others. Consistently modifies own behaviours in response to teacher direction.

Encouraging your young person to reflect on their current effort and behaviour ratings is a great way to help them set meaningful goals for improvement in Semester 2. Whether it's being more proactive with classwork, contributing positively in group activities, or responding more thoughtfully to feedback, small, consistent changes can lead to significant growth.

STYMIE – Step Up and Speak Out

At The Gap State High School, we want every student to feel safe, supported and respected.

That's why we use STYMIE – an anonymous online reporting tool that allows students to report concerns like bullying, harassment, online abuse, or if someone they know is struggling.

How does it work?

Students can go to www.stymie.com.au, click "Make a Notification," and fill out a short, anonymous form. The school receives the report and follows up to support the student involved.





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We're seeing too many bystanders. This term, as we focus on Stepping Up, we challenge every student to be an upstander – someone who takes action when they see something wrong.

💬 If you see it, say it – even if it's anonymously.

Because stepping up starts with speaking up.

Let's Stay Connected

Just a friendly reminder that you're always welcome to reach out if you have any questions, concerns, or just want to chat about how your young person is going at school. Whether it's about friendships, learning, or wellbeing - I'm here to help.

You can contact me anytime at headofyear7@thegapshs.eq.edu.au.

Looking forward to hearing from you if there's ever anything you'd like to discuss.

Alison Moore

Head of Year 7