



HEAD OF YEAR 11 *Newsletter*

Jason Ashton

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to Term 2 after what I hope was a restful break for your child. We look to hit the ground running as we rapidly approach our first QCE checkpoint with Unit 1 finalised in Week 6 of this term. Many of your child's subjects have started progress on assessments towards this date at the end of last term and will continue this in Week 1. This is a great time for us to take stock of your child's progress so far:

- How did your young person achieve against their goals for their subjects?
- How did they manage with an increased workload?
- How was their school/life/work balance?
- Did they have the tools to regulate their themselves emotionally and academically?
 - If your young person found the last term challenging emotionally, Beyond Blue (<https://www.beyondblue.org.au/mental-health/parenting>) has some excellent tips for how to support young people.

Subject Changes:

If your child has identified that their current subjects are not suited to them, or if they have had a change in career pathway, please reach out to start the subject change process with our Guidance Officer (Sarah Toohey). Having the appropriate conversations early will enable us to ensure a smooth transition for changes in subjects come the close of Unit 1.

Any desired subject changes must be completed by Friday of Week 9 (20th of June). Please note that the next available juncture for subject changes will be at the end of Unit 2 (Term 4 2025).

Student Uniform:

The Gap State High School believes that a robust and consistently enforced uniform policy develops pride in our school and a sense of unity. We ask for your cooperation by knowing and complying with the uniform policy. Please understand that wearing the uniform correctly involves all uniform items being fit for purpose and compliant with workplace health and safety requirements.



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Some common uniform considerations are:

- Jewellery – two earrings in each ear are allowed. Hoops that are large enough for a finger to fit through, do not meet workplace health and safety requirements. Sleepers and studs are allowed. A watch is also allowed. All other jewellery must be away.
- Short-sleeved shirt options can be worn out, with or without a tie. Any long-sleeved shirt options must be tucked in and worn with a tie.
- Hair that touches your collar must be tied back

Our school's uniform room is located in E03 and can be accessed between 8:10am and 8:30am each morning during the week. To borrow items or obtain a uniform pass, please visit E03 between these times. This is an opportunity for your child to show initiative and seek support, a failure to comply will result in being assigned a lunch detention. We are here to support students but it requires them to be proactive by attending the uniform room before school. If you would like more information please find the current Uniform Policy [here](#).

Seeking Support in Term 2:

My final message is regarding a temporary change in role for myself at the beginning of next term (Weeks 1-5) as I will be Acting Head of Pathways & Performance. While I will still be here at the school during this time and working with your child in a slightly different capacity, I have the great pleasure to share that Mr Tim Hottes will be Acting Head of Year 11. Tim will already be known to many of the Year 11s through teaching in the HPE department and assisting on our previous Camps. Tim can be reached via (Headofyear11@thegapshs.eq.edu.au) if you have any questions or concerns during this time. Our Deputy Principal – Gouri Sharma and Guidance Officer – Sarah Toohey will remain available to provide any support you may need.

I wish you and your family a safe and successful Term 2.

Kind Regards,

Jason Ashton

Head of Year - 11



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Important Term 2 Dates:

- **Week 1** (Monday & Friday)- Public Holidays
- **Week 1** (Wednesday)- Whole School Cross Country
- **Week 1** (Thursday) – Anzac Day
- **Week 2** – Adair Donaldson Presentation
- **Week 2** (Thursday) – The Gap Experience (Open Night)
- **Week 3** (Monday) – Public Holiday
- **Week 4** – House Week
- **Week 4** (Thursday) – Year 11 & 12 RYDA Excursion
- **Week 5** – Year 11 Unit 1 Exam Block begins
- **Week 5** – Chaplaincy Week
- **Week 6** – End of Unit 1
- **Week 9** – NAIDOC Week
- **Week 10** – Year 11 Camp/Work Experience

2025 Connect Program

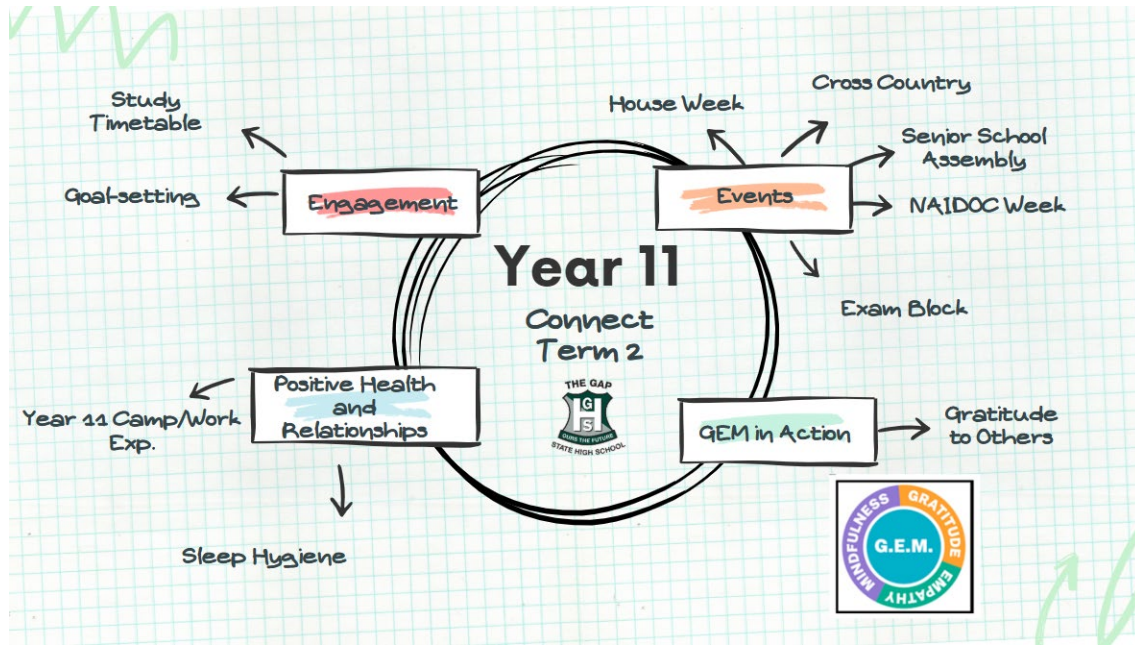
Our Connect program has continued to be guided and shaped by the needs of our students. The program has roots in the G.E.M principles of The Resilience Project with a focus on equipping our students with the skills and knowledge to continue improving their personal wellbeing. Students engage with the Connect Program through the three key domains of Engagement, Positive Health and Relationships and GEM in Action – with our key focus for **Term 2: Being Kind.**

Please see below for the areas we will be addressing through Connect in Term 2. As always, if you would like further information on any of these areas to discuss further with your child at home please reach out.



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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:

Exam Jitters: (<https://thegapshs.eq.schooltv.me/newsletter/exam-jitters>)

Sleep: (<https://thegapshs.eq.schooltv.me/newsletter/sleep>)

Youth Anxiety: (<https://thegapshs.eq.schooltv.me/newsletter/youth-anxiety>)

Drug and Alcohol Use: (<https://thegapshs.eq.schooltv.me/newsletter/drug-alcohol-use>)



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2025 Student Attendance Process

As we enter into the Senior years, your child's attendance at school every day is more important than ever. To give our students the best possible chance of reaching their potential, students need to be in class as much as possible. To help support ensuring our attendance records are accurate, please see our current attendance process for students below for late arrivals and early departures from school in accordance with the School Attendance Policy (more information regarding attendance can also be found [here](#)):

Learners *who* Flourish

Late Arrival

- 1 Parent / guardian must call or SMS**
Please notify at least 10-15 minutes prior with students name, connect class and reason
- 2 Student MUST sign in at the Office**
When you arrive sign in at Lower Administration to receive slip to provide to classroom teacher

Early Departure

- 1 Parent / guardian must call or SMS**
Parent to notify the office at the beginning of the day
- 2 Student to collect a LEAVE REQUEST**
Students can collect a leave request before school or at breaks.
- 3 Student to collect LEAVE PASS**
Students can collect a pass at the time of departure from Lower Administration.