



HEAD OF YEAR 9

Newsletter

TARA NORTON

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we reach the midpoint of the term, I would like to sincerely acknowledge the positive way our Year 9 cohort has demonstrated our value of *Paying It Forward*.

Throughout Aqua Fun Day and House Week, students showed what it means to contribute to something larger than themselves. They encouraged one another to participate, celebrated effort, and strengthened House spirit through teamwork and shared enthusiasm. Importantly, they reinforce the sense of belonging and connection that underpins our vision of *Learners Who Flourish*.

These experiences are more than calendar events. They are meaningful moments of connection that build wellbeing - the joy and energy of participation and the deeper fulfilment that comes from service, empathy and contribution. It has been pleasing to see students stepping up with leadership, zest and social intelligence, while also demonstrating gratitude and kindness. In doing so, they have strengthened not only their own wellbeing, but that of the wider Year 9 community.

At our recent assembly, the cohort was commended for their collective effort in House participation. Year 9 currently holds the position of second highest House point earners across the school - an outstanding achievement. Only the Year 11 cohort has accumulated more points at this stage. Students were challenged to continue exceeding expectations, to demonstrate perseverance and teamwork, and to strive for the top position through consistent participation and positive contribution. This challenge was framed not simply as competition, but as an opportunity to further strengthen pride, unity and shared accomplishment.

Students were also encouraged to continue taking pride in the way they wear their uniform. Presentation reflects self-respect, belonging and commitment to our community standards. When students wear the uniform with care and consistency, they contribute to a culture of high expectations and collective pride.

As we now move into the assessment phase of the term, our focus shifts towards perseverance, self-regulation and academic growth. Assessment periods can present





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challenge and uncertainty. We often speak with students about the importance of leaning into this discomfort - recognising that growth occurs when they are prepared to work through the Learning Pit rather than avoid it.

During this time, we are encouraging students to intentionally draw upon their character strengths. In particular:

- **Perseverance** - sustaining effort and following tasks through to completion
- **Self-regulation** - managing time, emotions and distractions effectively
- **Hope** - maintaining optimism and a forward-looking mindset
- **Perspective** - recognising that challenge is temporary and part of learning
- **Love of Learning** - engaging with curiosity and purpose

Resilience is developed through practice. When students approach assessment with a growth mindset, seek feedback, and remain focused on progress rather than perfection, they build both competence and confidence. This strengthens their capacity as self-regulated learners and supports their long-term academic and personal development.

We greatly value the partnership between school and home during this period. Encouraging consistent routines, acknowledging effort, and having conversations that focus on growth can make a significant difference to a young person's sense of capability and belonging.

Year 9 continues to show that they are capable of thinking big, stepping up and paying it forward. We look forward to seeing them apply the same courage and character to their academic goals in the weeks ahead.

Thank you for your continued support of our Year 9 students and our shared commitment to their wellbeing and learning.

Kind regards,

Tara Norton

