



HEAD OF YEAR 9

Newsletter

Ruth Donovan

TERM 2: BEING KIND

Dear Parents and Carers,

While I know we all enjoyed those amazing public holidays earlier this term, it's nice to be back into the swing of things with some full weeks under our belt now. As 'Being Kind' is our focus this term, now is a great time to be having conversations with your young person regarding how they're travelling regarding being kind to others and themselves.

Make sure to check in with your students around their due dates and encourage them to attend tutorials where they need further support with content and assessments. Now is also the time to encourage your teenager to ask for help from their teachers in class if they're feeling confused or overwhelmed by a task.

CONNECT UPDATES

Guest Presenter:

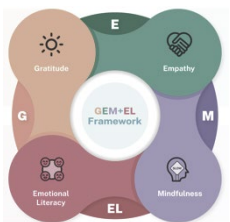
Adair Donaldson



On Tuesday the 29th of April, we had our guest presenter, Adair Donaldson, speak to the cohort. Adair covered some very serious content regarding the importance of being mindful regarding our digital behaviour. He also discussed with students legal definitions and guidelines around consent including the sharing and use of other people's private information, photos and videos. Finally, he talked about the importance of accountability and 'owning' our mistakes. Adair was able to provide some great examples of cases he's worked on or referenced in his work as a lawyer where people who have genuinely attempted to make things right have had their remorse taken into account when facing court/legal action. It was so great to hear from him the opportunities we all have to be kind and support those around us with our behaviour and language when speaking about things we see that have or could cause someone harm.

GEM Focus:

Empathy



As this term's focus for our school is on 'Being Kind', Year 9 have been focusing on Empathy during Connect. We have also been focusing on this in my conversations with students as well. In particular, we have been learning about how seeking to understand others' perspectives can help us to practice developing empathy.

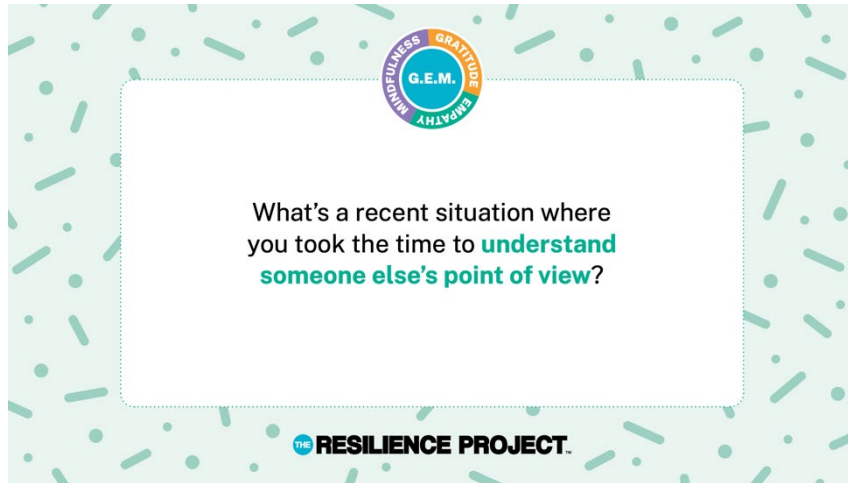
On the next page, I have included an example of a 'Gem Chat' which we do as we mark the roll in Year 9 Connect. Why not have a go with your teenager and discuss how understanding each other's points of view can support us not only now at school but into the future in our workplaces and general lives?



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KEY REMINDERS



Away for the Day: Mobile phones and devices are away for the day. Students need to head to the office and hand them in if they choose to use them as directed by staff. Repeated referral to the office will mean myself or Cameron Drew (Deputy Principal) will follow through with further supports.



Uniform Requirements: Now that we are in Term 2, students may be wanting to wear warmer clothes to school. School jumpers come in knit and zip up options with school scarves available as well. If you would like further information on uniform expectations, please make sure to have a read of the Uniform Policy for 2025 at the link below.

<https://thegapshs.eq.edu.au/SupportAndResources/FormsAndDocuments/Documents/Enrolments/Enrolment%20Application/Uniform%20Policy%202025.pdf#search=Uniform%20Policy>



Uniform Mishaps: We have all had those mornings where everything goes wrong. Students are welcome to present to E03 each morning between 8:10 to 8:30 where a Head of Year will help them with their uniform. If there has been an accident or issue at some point during the school day, we encourage students to seek help from our E Block Staffroom.



Assessment and Tutorials: Please make sure to check your student's assessment due dates on DayMap. As our focus this term is on being kind, looking after ourselves coming into assessment is the ultimate self-care. If your student is feeling overwhelmed or in need of help, tutorials are a great starting place to access expert support from our teachers. I have input the schedule below for you as a reminder of what we have on offer for your student in year 9.



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With Term 3 fast approaching, I'm looking forward to hearing more about the great work of our students as they finish up their assessment and head into the school holidays.

As always, please don't hesitate to contact me if there is anything I can do to support your child.

Kind regards,

Ruth Donovan
Head of Year 9



Subject Tutorials Semester 1 2025

If there is no tutorial scheduled below, students are able to request tutorials from their own teacher at a time that suits both (before school, after school or at break times).

BEFORE SCHOOL

Subject	Years	Day	Time	Location
Geography, Junior History	7-12	Monday	7:30am – 8:30am	J1116
Media / FTVnM Open Lab (email teacher prior to attending)	9-12	Wednesday - Friday	7:40am – 8:30am	M04
10PCH Physics Chemistry	10	Wednesday	7:45am – 8:30am	Q30
Mathematics	7-12	Wednesday	8am -8:30am	S02
Physics	11-12	Wednesday	8am – 8:35am	S02
Psychology	10-12	Thursday	7:30am – 8:30am	EL31
Chemistry	11-12	Thursday	7:45am – 8:30am	Q30
Science	7-10	Thursday	8am – 8:30am	Q30
Mathematics	7-12	Friday	8am-8:30am	S02

BREAK TIME TUTORIALS

Subject	Years	Day	Time	Location
AMEB Theory (AMPed Students)	7-9	Monday	Morning Tea	N02
Chinese	7-10	Monday	1:20pm – 1:50pm	C04
German	10-11	Monday	1:20pm – 1:50pm	C06
Chinese	11	Wednesday	Morning Tea	C04
Media / FTVnM Open Lab	7-12	Thursday	Morning Tea	M04
Humanities	7-9	Thursday	Morning Tea	J1116

AFTER SCHOOL

Subject	Years	Day	Time	Location
Chinese	12	Wednesday	2:30pm – 3:30pm	C06
Biology	10-12	Wednesday	2:40pm – 3:30pm	Q26
Earth and Environmental Science	10 -12	Wednesday	2:40pm – 3:30pm	Q26
Humanities	7-9	Thursday	2:30pm – 3:15pm	J1116
English	7-12	Thursday	2:45pm-3:45pm	F05
Media / FTVnM Open Lab (email teacher prior to attending)	9-12	Thursday	2:45pm – 3:45pm	M04