



HEAD OF YEAR 11 *Newsletter*

Jason Ashton

Dear Parents and Carers,

A warm welcome back to the final 'regular' Term 4 for your student's schooling. Term 4 is a short one for our Year 11s and we have a lot of important events occurring.

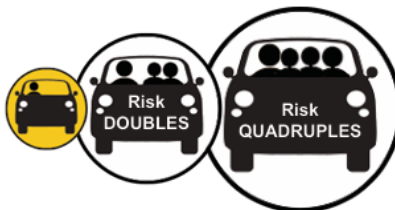
Unit 3 and Subject Changes

The start of Term 4 in Year 11 marks the beginning of Unit 3 which can be referred to as the start of 'Year 12' Curriculum. This is a significant milestone as Unit 3 grades contribute to the calculation of ATAR results for those students pursuing this pathway. In short, for those students pursuing an ATAR score at the end of Year 12, every mark counts moving forward. After Unit 1 & 2 many students may have had changes in their goals or pathway, which may require changes to subjects for Unit 3 and beyond. If you are having conversations at home about potential subject changes – please direct your student to contact Mrs Georgia Simmonds (Head of Pathways & Performance) or Mrs Sarah Toohey (Guidance Officer) who will be best placed to assist in beginning the subject change process. Please note that subject change requests will close to students at the end of Week 2.

Driver Education

In discussions with students in our cohort, we have a great mix of students at different stages in their driving journey. Some studying for their Learners, through to others who have begun driving independently on their Provisional license. In an effort to support our students to become safe and informed driver's on the road, there will be a range of opportunities over the coming 12 months to engage in driver education sessions. The first of these will be a session provided by RACQ.

"Carrying passengers under the age of 21 (who are not family members) increases the risk of a young driver crashing significantly. Research tells us that crash risk grows exponentially as young passengers are added."





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During Term 4, your young person will commence this journey with the RACQ Driver Distraction road safety program that educates young drivers and passengers about this leading cause of incidents and crashes on our roads. The interrelated concepts of feelings, friends, or people more broadly and phones as they relate to travelling in a vehicle will be explored. Several proactive strategies are to be discussed, specifically in relation to cognitive overload. There is not cost associated with this program. More information specific to this session will be communicated home in the coming weeks.

Senior Jersey

The excitement regarding the 2026 Senior Jerseys is well and truly brewing! Please refer to previous communications regarding Senior Jersey's for payment dates and eligibility criteria. Communication via email and Assemblies in the coming weeks will provide details to students about ways to ensure they meet eligibility criteria for a Senior Jersey if they have not already received an eligibility form. This is a great opportunity for students who are not currently eligible to demonstrate our school values of "Stepping Up" and "Thinking Big". They can do this by organising a time to meet with me to discuss their current eligibility and how they may be able to rectify this during Term 4.

End of Year Social Event

To celebrate the wonderful achievements and hard work of our students through 2025 – we will be hosting an End of Year Social Event for Year 11 students. More information regarding this event will be distributed to parents over the coming weeks. This is the second time we have had an End of Year event for Year 11s and is poised to be a fantastic evening. On the evening of Thursday 13 November, Week 6 (Year 11 last week of lessons before commencing Exam Block), Friday's Riverside has been privately hired for our event. It is a school event and will be supervised by teachers. Part of the package on the night will include cocktail food, non-alcoholic drinks and DJ for entertainment.



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Important Term 4 Dates:

- 7 October (Week 1 – Tuesday) – First day of Term 4
- 7 – 10 October (Week 1 – Tues – Fri) - Mental Health Week
- 20 – 24 October (Week 3 – Mon – Fri)- House Week **Go Irwin!**
- 20 October (Week 3 – Monday) – RACQ Driver Distraction Presentation
- 22 October (Week 3 – Wednesday) - Senior Excellence Awards Evening
- 31 October (Week 4 – Friday) Year 11 Biology Excursion & World Teachers Day
- 13 November (Week 6 – Thursday) – Year 11 End of Year Celebration Event
- 17 – 28 November (Week 7-8) – Year 11 Exam Block Dates

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:

Shaping Healthy Masculinity: https://thegapshs.eq.schooltv.me/wellbeing_news/special-report-shaping-healthy-masculinity-au

Confidence & Motivation: <https://thegapshs.eq.schooltv.me/newsletter/confidence-motivation-au>

Surviving Year 12: <https://thegapshs.eq.schooltv.me/newsletter/surviving-year-12>



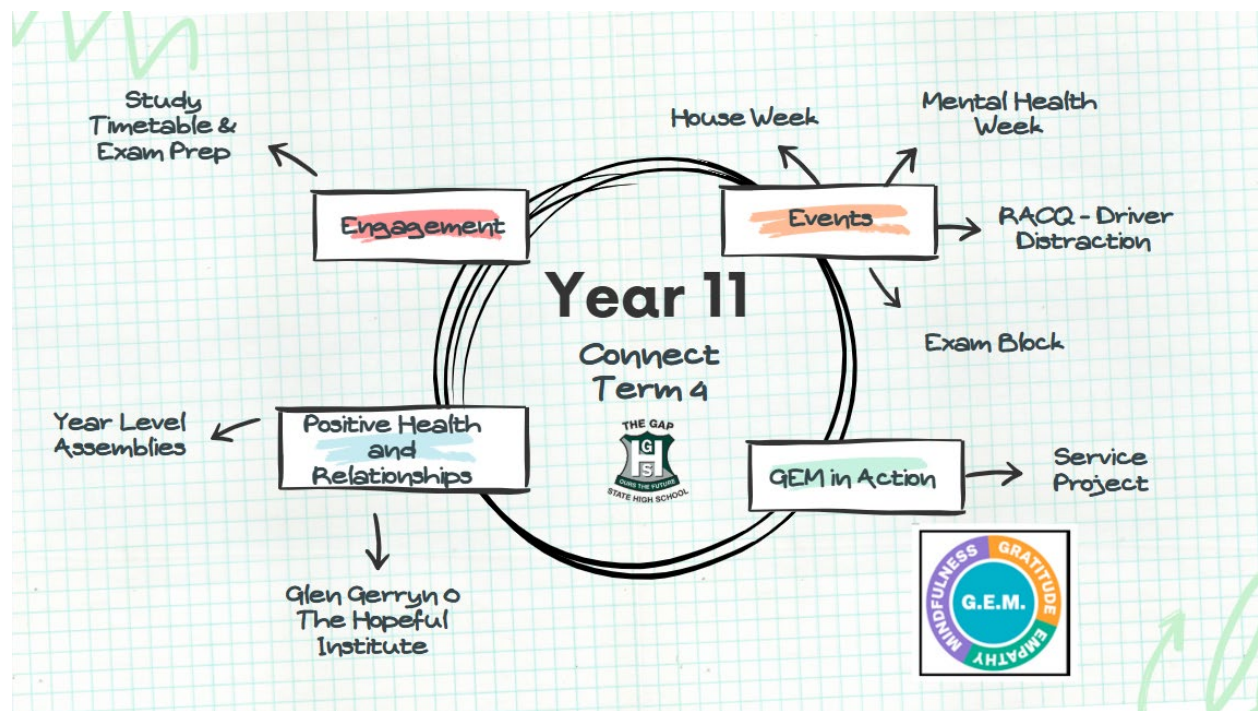
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2025 Connect Program – Term 4

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.

As Term 4 begins, our Year 11 students are being challenged to *Think Big*—to stretch their imaginations, set ambitious goals, and explore the possibilities that lie beyond the classroom. This term is all about cultivating a mindset of growth and vision.



Wishing you all a safe and happy Term 4 ahead, as always please let me know if there is anything I can do to support your student.

Kind Regards,

Jason Ashton

Head of Year 11