



HEAD OF YEAR 7

Newsletter

JARROD HENRY






Dear Year 7 Parents and Carers,

Welcome to the 2026 school year and to The Gap State High School community. It is a pleasure to welcome you and your child to Year 7 – an exciting and significant milestone as students transition into secondary schooling.

My name is Jarrod Henry, and I am proud to be the Head of Year 7 this year. Alongside our dedicated teaching and support staff, I oversee the academic progress, wellbeing, engagement, and overall care of our Year 7 cohort. This role also involves working closely with families to ensure each student feels supported, challenged, and connected as they settle into life at The Gap SHS.

Key Year 7 Staff:

We are fortunate to have an amazing Year 7 support team who work to support student wellbeing. These staff are below:

HEAD OF YEAR	DEPUTY PRINCIPAL	GUIDANCE OFFICER	PATHWAYS & PERFORMANCE	STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES
				
JARROD HENRY	MELISSA ROBERTSON	KELSEA THOMPSON	MATT HEIDECKER	SIMON DORMAN

Starting Secondary School

The transition into Year 7 brings many new experiences – changing classrooms, multiple teachers, increased independence, and new routines. It is completely normal for students to experience a mix of excitement and nerves during this time. Our focus in the early weeks is on helping students build confidence, establish positive routines, and develop strong relationships with peers and staff.



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We encourage families to maintain open communication with us during this transition period. Working in partnership allows us to support students effectively and address any concerns early.

School values:

At The Gap State High School, our culture is guided by four core school values: Thinking Big, Stepping Up, Paying it Forward, and Being Kind. These values underpin our expectations for behaviour, learning, and relationships across the school.



Students are encouraged to *Step Up* this term by increasing individual responsibility for their learning and organisation. This includes arriving prepared, following routines, maintaining strong attendance, and taking ownership of their actions. Developing these habits early supports long-term success.



Thinking Big encourage students to approach learning with a growth mindset, to reflect on their progress, and to challenge themselves. Through the GEM principles and regular reflection, students are learning to set goals, seek feedback, and use their voice in shaping their learning journey.



Paying it Forward means using our strengths to support others and contribute positively to our community. In practice, this includes helping peers, showing gratitude, being inclusive, contributing to teamwork, and taking pride in our shared spaces. These small, consistent actions help build a strong sense of belonging.



Being Kind remains central to our work with students. We promote respectful relationships, empathy, and inclusion. Students are encouraged to look after their own wellbeing, support others, and seek help when needed through our support pathways.



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Connect program yearly overview:

Our Connect program is a weekly wellbeing education program designed to support students' personal, social, and emotional development. Through Connect, students build skills that help them thrive both at school and beyond.

Across the year, students will explore key areas including:

- Resilience and emotional literacy
- Gratitude, empathy, and mindfulness
- Positive relationships and help-seeking
- Goal setting, organisation, and study habits
- Managing stress, wellbeing, and online interactions
- Developing confidence, identity, and leadership

Lessons are based on evidence-informed programs such as The Resilience Project and are supported by guest speakers and practical activities. Students also participate in reflection, goal setting, and wellbeing initiatives throughout the year.

Sports Uniform Information:

Students are required to wear their formal uniform on all days outside their rostered sports uniform day. The table below shows when each class is permitted to wear their sports uniform:

7A - Moore	Monday	Wednesday
7B - Blanco	Wednesday	Thursday
7C - Sully	Tuesday	Friday
7D - Moore	Tuesday	Friday
7E - Begley	Tuesday	Wednesday
7F - Heyward & Norton	Tuesday	Friday
7G - Heyward	Wednesday	Friday
7H - Sully	Thursday	Friday
7I - Woodill	Wednesday	Thursday
7J - Heyward	Wednesday	Thursday
7K - Hottes	Wednesday	Thursday



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Key Dates and Upcoming Events

You will receive information about the following events over the next few weeks.

- *Swimming Carnival*: Tuesday 10th February (Week 3)
- *Year 7 Parent Information Evening*: Thursday 5th February (Week 2)
This evening will provide important information about Year 7 expectations, routines, and support structures and allow you to ask any questions that you may have. We strongly encourage all families to attend.
- *Year 7 Camp*: Camp will run in two separate groups across Week 9 and Week 10.
Further communication and permission forms will be handed to students in Week 2.

Communication and Contact

We value strong communication between home and school and encourage families to reach out if they have any questions, concerns, or information to share.

You can contact me in the following ways:

- Email: headofyear7@thegapshs.eq.edu.au
- Phone: Contact the school reception on 3511 3888 and ask to speak with the Head of Year 7

Looking Ahead

Year 7 is a foundational year where students develop the skills, habits, and attitudes that will support them throughout their secondary schooling. We place a strong emphasis on organisation, responsibility, respectful behaviour, and consistent effort, while also encouraging students to become involved in extracurricular opportunities and broader school life. We look forward to watching them grow in confidence, independence, and character.

Thank you for your support as we begin the year together. We look forward to working closely with you throughout 2026.

Kind regards,

Jarrod Henry

Head of Year 7 - headofyear7@thegapshs.eq.edu.au