



HEAD OF YEAR 11 *Newsletter*

Rex Bertrand

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to what promises to be an exciting and important Term 3 for our Year 11 students. We ended last term on a high with the Year 11 Camp and Work Experience Program, both of which received outstanding feedback from staff and external providers. These experiences helped our students build valuable personal and professional skills, laying the foundation for a strong finish to Unit 2.

As we head into the second half of the year, our students are stepping into a key transition phase. Term 3 marks the conclusion of Unit 2 and preparation for the formal start of Year 12 work in Term 4. It's an exciting time, but also one that requires focus, consistency, and a positive mindset.

Listening To Student Voice

At The Gap State High School, we are deeply committed to empowering student voice and creating a learning environment where students feel heard, valued, and supported. One of the key tools we use to gather this feedback is Student Pulse.

Student Pulse is a weekly check-in tool that allows students to reflect on their wellbeing, sense of belonging, and engagement with school. Each week, students answer a short set of questions designed to help them think about how they're feeling, what's working well, and where they may need support.

This information is invaluable, it not only gives us real-time insight into the needs and experiences of our students, but it also directly shapes our Connect program. Based on trends in the Student Pulse feedback, we adjust the focus of Connect lessons to address topics that matter most to our Year 11s. Whether it's goal setting, managing stress, or building positive relationships, Connect remains responsive and relevant because of what our students share.

We thank our students for their honest and thoughtful input, and we encourage them to continue using Student Pulse as a way of guiding the conversations that matter most.



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This term, our wellbeing focus is on Stepping Up – taking responsibility for ourselves, our actions, and the way we interact with others. For Year 11 students, this means showing leadership in the way we engage socially – choosing respectful conversations, resolving conflict calmly, supporting peers in positive ways, and role modelling maturity in all settings. Stepping up also means taking initiative in your learning, managing time effectively, and contributing to a safe, inclusive, and productive school environment.



Students are also engaging with topics such as:

- Red Frogs: Party Safe Program
- Positive Health and Relationships
- Goal Setting and Reflection
- Hope and Empowerment (via The Resilience Project)

Student Uniform Expectations – Winter Reminder

As the cooler weather continues, we'd like to remind families that students must wear the correct school jumper each day. The school green fleece jacket and v-neck jumper are available from the uniform shop. Non-school jumpers will be asked to be removed.

A few additional reminders:

- 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



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Our school's uniform room is located in E03 and can be accessed between 8:10am and 8:30am each morning during the week. If you would like more information please find the current Uniform Policy [here](#).

Senior Jerseys – Class of 2026

We're thrilled to see the excitement building for our Senior Jerseys! Students have had the opportunity to provide feedback on jersey design and confirm their preferred names for printing. These jerseys are a symbol of leadership, responsibility, and community qualities we're proud to see emerging across the cohort.

A reminder that payment and permission processes will be communicated shortly. Students are expected to wear their jersey in line with school expectations and should continue to meet uniform requirements on days the jersey is not worn.

Most importantly, jerseys are subject to students meeting attendance and engagement benchmarks including no outstanding detentions, above 80% attendance.

Transition to Year 12 in Term 4

From Week 1 of Term 4, Year 11 students officially begin Unit 3 across their General and Applied subjects—this marks the commencement of Year 12. This transition period is a significant step in their senior journey, and it's crucial that students continue to build strong routines, revise consistently, and stay connected to their support networks.

In preparation, we will be working with students throughout this term in both their classes and Connect sessions to set goals, build wellbeing strategies, and reflect on what they've learned during Unit 2.



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End of Unit 2 – Block Exams

Our Unit 2 Block Exams will occur in Weeks 9 and 10. These assessments will provide key data on student progress and help inform appropriate support as students prepare for Year 12. More details, including exam timetables, will be shared closer to the date.

Year 11 Think Lab Day – 6 August

On Tuesday 6 August (Week 5), Year 11 students will participate in our inaugural Think Lab Day—a full-day program focused on critical and creative thinking, problem-solving, and future planning. The experience will help students apply these essential skills in real-world contexts and develop their capacity to lead themselves and others.

The day will also feature guest speakers and team-based challenges. More detailed information about the structure of the day will be shared with students and families in the coming weeks.

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:

SchoolTV – Parent Resource Hub

- [Exam Jitters](#)
- [Sleep and Study Balance](#)
- [Youth Anxiety](#)
- [Drug and Alcohol Use](#)





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STYMIE – Supporting a Safe and Respectful School Culture

At The Gap State High School, the wellbeing and safety of our students is a top priority. As part of our commitment to fostering a respectful and supportive school environment, we continue to promote the use of Stymie—an anonymous online reporting tool designed to empower students to speak up.

Stymie allows students to confidentially report concerns, including bullying, mental health issues, harassment, and other wellbeing-related matters, without fear of judgement or retaliation. Reports made through Stymie go directly to the school's wellbeing team, allowing staff to follow up promptly and sensitively in line with school policy.

We encourage all students to be upstanders, not bystanders. If they witness or experience something that doesn't sit right, using Stymie can be a first step in making a positive difference.

Students can access Stymie via the Student SharePoint page, and more information is available at: <https://about.stymie.com.au>

Together, we can create a safer and more connected school community.

Student Attendance – Celebrating a Milestone

We are incredibly proud to share that our Year 11 cohort has exceeded the school-wide attendance target of 90% so far this year. This is a significant achievement and a testament to the commitment our students have shown to their learning, their peers and their future pathways.

Consistent attendance is one of the strongest predictors of academic success and post-school outcomes. By being present and engaged each day, our Year 11s are building the habits, routines, and resilience that will support them through the transition into Year 12 and beyond.

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.



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We would like to thank families for your ongoing support in reinforcing the importance of attendance and helping students maintain healthy routines. Let's continue this momentum through Term 3 and finish the year strong!

Everyday counts—and we're proud of every student who is stepping up.

Important Term 3 Dates:

- **Week 1** – (Tuesday) Adair Donaldson, Parent as Partners
- **Week 2** – (Friday) Athletics Carnival
- **Week 3** – (Tuesday) Parent Teacher Interviews
- **Week 5** – House Week
- **Week 5** – (Wednesday) Ekka Holiday
- **Week 6** - (Wednesday) Year 11 Think Lab Day
- **Week 9/10** – Unit 2 Block Exams

Seeking Support in Term 3

Mr Jason Ashton will remain in his temporary role of Acting Head of Pathways & Performance until Week 4, Term 3. During this time, I will be Acting Head of Year 11 and can be reached via email at headofyear11@thegapshs.eq.edu.au.

We continue to be supported by Deputy Principal Gouri Sharma and Guidance Officer Sarah Toohey, who are available to assist with academic and wellbeing matters.

Kind Regards
Rex Bertrand
Head of Year 11