



HEAD OF YEAR 9 Newsletter

Ruth Donovan

TERM 4: THINKING BIG

Dear Parents and Carers,

I can't believe we have made it to the last few weeks of 2025. At our assembly a few weeks ago, I highlighted to our Year 9s how proud I am of all their efforts this year. It has been fantastic to see so many of our students thinking big about their school/home life balance and planning to ensure they are able to have success in their academics while also looking after their wellbeing.

So many teachers have been speaking to me lately of the ways our students have enacted our school values both in the classroom and outside this year. I've heard stories of students supporting classmates with their learning needs, volunteering to clean up school areas that are experiencing issues with litter and expressing gratitude to their teachers for the work they are doing to support them. Every single one of us creates the school culture we want to see and I'm so grateful to get to work with a cohort of students who are investing in a positive, supportive, and kind environment.



YEAR 9 UPDATES

GEM Focus

Gratitude

In Connect this term, students have been focusing on Gratitude. As we come into the end of the year, it is a great time to reflect on what we have to be grateful for in 2025.



I hope some of you have been able to try the Gratitude Wall activity from my first Newsletter this term with your family. If you haven't, here's a great activity to try if you want something a bit more casual to start embedding gratitude into your everyday life.

TRY IT AT HOME FAMILY ACTIVITY: 20 QUESTIONS GAME

YOU WILL NEED:
• Time together as a family.

WHAT TO DO:

- Get together as a family. This may be after dinner or just sitting together in the living room.
- One family member chooses a thing, person or experience.
- The rest of the family have 20 Yes/No questions to ask to try to guess what the person is thinking of. For example: Chocolate.
 - » Is it a person: No
 - » Is it a food: Yes
 - » Is it a thing: Yes
 - » Is it a luxury food: Yes
 - » It is technology based: No
- You can ask for one clue within the 20 questions if the family agrees that they need one.
- Continue the game for as long as you like, or until everyone has had a go at thinking of one thing they are grateful for.

Family gratitude habit builder:

Every night at dinner, have each person describe the favourite part of their day and explain why.

We would love to see what you are doing at home. Please share some photos or let your child's teacher know what you have enjoyed.



For more activities to complete as a family, check out theresilienceproject.com.au/at-home



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Year 9 Boat Cruise



Boat Cruise is in its final stages of planning before the day is finally here! Thank you to all the parents who have been working with me to support their student's attendance. Just a quick reminder below regarding some key information from the email I sent out earlier in the term.

Event Details

Date: Thursday, 4th December 2025

Drop-Off Time: 5:30PM sharp (Staff on-site from 5:00PM)

Return/Pick-Up Time: 9:45PM - At the end of the cruise, students must be picked up by a **parent or designated adult**.

Location: Brisbane Cruises – Commercial Hub, Hamilton Recreational Pontoon. We will meet at the park next to the pontoon.

Address: 449 Kingsford Smith Dr, Hamilton QLD 4007

Transport: Students must arrange their own transport to and from the venue.

Dress Code: Smart Casual

Upon arrival, students must present to the teacher in charge of marking their connect roll. The school code of conduct remains in effect throughout the event. Students are expected to uphold our school values in all interactions with cruise staff, school staff, and fellow students.

Project Rock It

Earlier this term we had Project Rock IT in to work with our students on understanding privilege and prejudice. We explored how we all experience different privileges and prejudices in our lives in some way and discussed ways we can use privilege to support others experiencing prejudice. We also gained some valuable insights into how to use empathy to remain true to our own values while practicing empathy and kindness for others. Students were provided with some ways to get support if they are struggling with any issues or prejudices including internal and external support services.



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Project Rock IT also run free parent webinars throughout the year. Informed by the latest findings from the [Australian Youth Digital Index](#), each session tackles the real life challenges young people face online, from mindless scrolling to the hidden impact of algorithms. Details for registration below.

Webinar Topic: *Young People and The Algorithm*

Date: Tuesday, 18 November

Time: 7:00 pm AEDT

Location: Online | Free to attend

Perfect for: Parents, educators, and carers

Hosted by: Lucy Thomas OAM - CEO and Founder and Daniel Donahoo - Head of Projects, PROJECT ROCKIT

Link to Webinar:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_q5NlbvYTTqWCbWMpdV0vUA?_hsenc=p2ANqtz-9_8_w8zSXlipDGAFhoC9dzW8taUH-wYFGzDRZNdLJ2fXJ-ceFfABu_5cOc1dLwvbRWjn_gWyETeHH7YNKB0kdLNoA39w&_hsmi=16232525#/registration

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.



Wellbeing Support: As always, we are here to support your student. Our support team can provide a variety of supports to your student as they are working towards achieving their best in their subjects. Below you will find a reminder about key staff they can reach out to for help with assignment understanding, assessment scheduling, wellbeing and mental health, and other general supports.

Please encourage your teenager to reach out for support. Sharing stories with them of when you have had success with receiving support to improve your own work or mental health can help to reduce stigma and empower them to feel safe in speaking to one of us here at school.

KEY SUPPORT STAFF

Staff Member	Role	
Ruth Donovan	Head of Year	General Year Level Support
Kelsea Thompson	Guidance Officer	Social and Emotional Wellbeing Support
Georgia Simmonds	Head of Pathways and Performance	Academic Support
Cameron Drew	Deputy Principal	Year Level Oversight



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DATE CLAIMERS

Week 6 – Remembrance Day – Tuesday, 11th of November

Week 6 – TULA Concert – Friday, 14th of November

Week 8 – Year 9 Accelerated Music Concert – Monday, 24th of November

Come along and support the amazing work of our Year 9 students at 6:30pm in the Auditorium as they celebrate their year of learning.

Week 8 – Junior Excellence Night – Thursday, 27th of November

Join us for a night celebrating the learning of all our Junior School students from Year 7-9. More information regarding this event will be sent out to parents and students soon.

Week 9 – Year 9 Boat Cruise – Thursday, 4th of December

I am wishing you all a wonderful break over the holidays. It has been an absolute privilege to work with you all this year. I have been so grateful to you all for your communication, advocacy and advice regarding supporting your teenagers.

Kind Regards,

Ruth Donovan
Head of Year 9