



HEAD OF YEAR 7

Newsletter

JARROD HENRY

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been another full and productive few weeks for our Year 7 cohort. Thank you for your continued support as we move through a busy and exciting term together.

Thank You – Parent Information Night & P&C Wine and Cheese Evening

A sincere thank you to the many parents and carers who attended our recent Parent Information and Wine & Cheese evening. It was a fantastic opportunity to connect, share important information, and begin building strong partnerships to support your children throughout their first year of high school.

We greatly value these opportunities to engage with you and are looking forward to hosting more events throughout the year.

Reminder of Key Year 7 Staff:

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

NAPLAN – Weeks 7–8

Over the coming weeks, students will be completing NAPLAN assessments in Writing, Reading, Conventions of Language and Numeracy.

To help your child feel prepared and confident, please ensure they:

- Bring a **fully charged laptop each day**
- Bring their **charger**
- Bring **corded earphones** (Bluetooth earphones are not permitted)



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We encourage all students to participate positively and simply do their best. NAPLAN is one measure of learning and growth, and we are proud of the effort our students have shown in preparing.

Paying It Forward – Clean Up Australia (Week 6)

As part of our Term 1 value focus, **Paying It Forward**, students participated in our Clean Up Australia initiative in Week 6. This was more than just a tidy-up activity — it was an opportunity for students to put our school values into action.



Students worked collaboratively across the school grounds, showing initiative, teamwork and genuine pride in improving our environment. Many went above and beyond, taking ownership of areas that needed extra attention and encouraging others to contribute positively.

Importantly, this experience prompted meaningful conversations about environmental responsibility, community pride, and the impact of small actions. Paying it forward is not always about large gestures — often it is about the everyday decisions we make to contribute positively to those around us.

We were incredibly proud of the maturity and commitment shown by our Year 7 cohort and hope this mindset continues both within our school and in the wider community.

Student Devices & Safe IT Use

Student devices have now been handed out, and students are settling into routines around digital learning. This is an excellent time to have conversations at home about appropriate and safe technology use — both on school devices and personal devices.

Some key points to discuss with your child:

1. Digital Footprint

- Everything posted online leaves a trace.
- Comments, images and messages can be screenshotted and shared.
- Future schools, employers and community members can access online content.



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2. Respectful Online Communication

- The same behavioural expectations apply online as in person.
- Avoid posting or sharing when feeling emotional.
- If something would not be said face-to-face, it should not be said online.

3. Screen Time Balance

- Establish device-free times (e.g. before bed).
- Encourage balance between online and offline activities.
- Monitor gaming and social media use.

Connect Program – Emotional Literacy & Positive Interactions

In upcoming Connect lessons, students will focus on:

- Increasing emotional literacy (understanding and naming emotions)
- Developing positive peer interactions
- Strengthening communication skills
- Managing conflict in respectful ways

It would be wonderful if these conversations could continue at home. Simple questions such as:

- “What emotion did you notice most this week?”
- “How did you respond when something didn’t go your way?”
- “What makes a good friend?”

These small discussions help build emotional awareness and resilience.

Year 7 Camp

We are very much looking forward to Year 7 Camp later this term. Camp is a valuable opportunity for students to build friendships, resilience and independence.



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Camp 1

 Wednesday 25 March – Friday 27 March (Week 9)

Classes: 7C, 7D, 7G, 7I, 7J, 7K*

Camp 2

 Monday 30 March – Wednesday 1 April (Week 10)

Classes: 7A, 7B, 7E, 7F, 7H

For any camp enquiries, please email: year7camp@thegapshs.eq.edu.au

Kind regards,

Jarrod Henry

Head of Year 7

The Gap State High School

Email: headofyear7@thegapshs.eq.edu.au