



HEAD OF YEAR 8

Newsletter

Jarrod Henry

Dear Parents and Carers,

I've stepped in as the Head of Year 8 for the remainder of the Year while Rex Bertrand is away. Both Rex and Josh have done a fantastic job with this cohort of students, and we are seeing great growth as a collective. They have embraced challenges, strengthened friendships, and continued to demonstrate what it means to be part of The Gap SHS community — living our values of Thinking Big, Stepping Up, Paying It Forward, and Being Kind.

Below is an overview of what's happening across the final few weeks of Term 4, including celebrations, upcoming events, and key reminders for families.

Term 4 Value Focus – Thinking Big

Our Term 4 value focus is *Thinking Big* – encouraging students to set ambitious goals, challenge themselves, and approach learning with curiosity and courage. Thinking Big means not being limited by what's comfortable or familiar, but instead seeking out opportunities to grow, learn, and contribute to something greater than themselves.



For our Year 8 students, this looks like:

- Setting personal goals for improvement in learning, behaviour, and relationships.
- Taking on new challenges – whether that's presenting in class, trying a new sport, or stepping into leadership opportunities.
- Showing persistence when things get hard, and viewing setbacks as opportunities to learn.
- Supporting their peers to also Think Big by celebrating others' successes and encouraging positive risk-taking.

This value aligns perfectly with our school vision of developing confident, capable and compassionate young people who strive to make a positive impact.



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Wet 'n' Wild End of Year Celebration – Tuesday Week 9

(2nd December 2025)

To celebrate a fantastic year of learning, participation, and growth, eligible students have been invited to join us for our Year 8 Wet 'n' Wild Celebration Day on Tuesday Week 9. This event recognises those who have consistently demonstrated our school values, maintained positive engagement in class, and upheld school expectations. Eligibility required that students had no outstanding detentions, were up to date with fees, and regularly contributed to our positive school culture.

It's always a highlight of the year — a well-earned reward for students who have worked hard both inside and outside the classroom. Staff and students alike are looking forward to a fun and memorable day celebrating effort, resilience and teamwork.

If you are yet to receive an invitation and feel that your child has met these criteria, please reach out to me.

Weeks 8–10: End of Year Process

The final weeks of term are designed to provide structure, continuity and purpose as we wrap up the academic year:

Week 8 – Assessment and Final Learning: Students will complete any remaining assessments, projects or class tasks. Teachers will provide opportunities for revision, consolidation, and reflection on learning goals. This is an important week for ensuring all results accurately reflect each student's achievement.

Week 9 – Feedback and End-of-Year Activities: With major assessments finalised, students will shift their focus to reflection and feedback. They will review their learning progress, participate in end-of-year activities, and engage in lessons that strengthen collaboration, problem-solving and creativity.

Week 10 – Enhancement and Supervised Activities: Attendance during Week 10 will be recorded as not required; however, supervision will still be provided for students attending school. Those who attend will engage in a range of enhancement activities aimed at creativity, teamwork, and wellbeing creating a relaxed but meaningful way to finish the school year.



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Connect Program – Emotional Literacy and Gratitude

Our Connect Program for the remainder of Term 4 is focused on strengthening emotional awareness, gratitude and connection which are vital elements of wellbeing as students prepare for Year 9. Through activities and discussions, students are learning to identify and understand their emotions, recognise their personal strengths, and practise strategies for gratitude and reflection.

This focus helps students to build empathy and resilience, while reinforcing the positive habits that support mental health and respectful relationships. We'll also take time in Connect to celebrate our junior award winners during our Junior Assembly, recognising those who have demonstrated commitment, kindness, and excellence throughout the year.

Junior Excellence Evening – Thursday Week 8 (27th November 2025)

The Junior Excellence Evening is one of the most special events on the school calendar, and we are thrilled to celebrate our Year 7–9 students who have excelled academically, demonstrated outstanding effort, or made significant contributions to the school community.

The evening will be held on Thursday, Week 8 (27th November) in the school hall. We encourage families to attend and join us in recognising the hard work and dedication of our students. These moments of celebration highlight not only individual achievement but also the collective culture of excellence we are building within the school.



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Stymie Focus – “Not by rules. Not by policies. By YOU.”

This term, our Stymie initiative continues to empower students to take an active role in shaping a safe and supportive school environment.

“Here’s the reality: 85% of bullying or harm happens with others watching. The difference? Whether YOU choose to #saysomething. You’re not just attending school. You’re creating it. Every single day.”

We have encouraged all students to reflect on this message and to have meaningful conversations at home about the type of school community we want to build — one based on kindness, respect, and courage.



Stymie is an anonymous, confidential online platform that allows students to report instances of bullying, harassment, mental health concerns, or safety issues — for themselves or someone else. Students can go to www.stymie.com.au, click “Make a Notification,” and fill out a short, anonymous form. The school receives the report and follows up to support the student involved.

Final Message

It’s been a wonderful year of growth for our Year 8s filled with achievements both big and small. From academic progress and sporting success to acts of kindness and leadership within the cohort, our students continue to make us proud.

Thank you to all parents and caregivers for your support throughout 2025. Your encouragement, communication and partnership play a huge part in helping our young people thrive.

Mr Jarrod Henry
Head of Year 8