



# HEAD OF YEAR 8 *Newsletter*

Josh Connolly

Term 2 focus: ***Being Kind***.

**Dear Parents and Carers - Welcome to Term 2, 2025!**



I hope you and your family had a relaxing Easter break and are feeling refreshed for the exciting term ahead. It's great to have our Year 8 students back, ready to continue their journey of growth and development.

The focus of this newsletter edition is to provide context around our key Term 2 priorities and highlight how parents and carers can continue to work in partnership with us to support the wellbeing and learning of our Year 8 students.

As a school, we remain committed to strengthening opportunities for parent engagement, and I'd like to take this opportunity to share our School's Wellbeing Framework with you once again. The framework recognises that:

- Parents as learners take an active and ongoing interest in their child's experience at The Gap SHS;
- The success of whole-school wellbeing initiatives relies heavily on clear communication and strong support from our parent community;
- Parents play a vital role in the shared responsibility of educating and supporting their children.

This term, I look forward to continuing to build meaningful partnerships with Year 8 families, supporting both year-level initiatives and broader whole-school priorities.



## **Year 8 Student Leadership**

Student leadership plays an important role in our school community. Striving to be a recognised leader is a priority I signaled at the end of last term to students during our Connect lessons. Our Year 8s can apply to be a Junior Leader (from mid-2025 to mid-2026) or a House Leader, and applications open very soon. There are four Year 8 School Captains and the House Leaders are selected from each of our 8 houses.



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Getting involved in student leadership and student voice opportunities at TGSHS is a powerful way for students to grow and develop key skills. I strongly encourage our Year 8 students to consider applying.

I've been genuinely impressed by the number of students who have already volunteered their time and energy at school events this year—it's a reflection of their enthusiasm and commitment. With your support, we hope to see even more students stepping up to take on formal leadership roles and proudly representing our school community.

## Year 8 Camp 2025

**Where:** [Maroon Outdoor Education Centre](#)

### **Camp Dates**

Camp 1: Tuesday 27 May to Friday 30 May (Week 6)

Classes: 8 A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H

Camp 2: Tuesday 3 June to Friday 6 June (Week 7)

Classes: 8 I, J, K

### **Forms and Payments**

Thursday 24 April (Week 1) – Hard Copy camp forms handed out to students.

Monday 28 April (Week 2) – Students given information about camp during connect

Friday 9 May (Week 3) – Camp Forms and Payment Due

### **Camp Aims:**

- Developing relationships with other students and teachers
- Developing independence and interdependence
- Demonstrating initiative
- Developing resilience to overcome challenges

**Cost:** About \$340 (TBC)

Over the four days, students will participate in a range of adventure-based experiences including: high ropes, canoeing, aquatic activities, initiatives and a teambuilding night activity.



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Students will camp out in tents for one night, and sleep in cabins for the other two nights. All meals are provided. Hot showers will be available for the cabin night and toilets will be available throughout. MOEC has a [Frequently Asked Questions](#) page on their website if you have further questions about the camp. Students will experience camp grouped with a mix of students from their Connect class, and possibly some students from another Connect class. Students will have the opportunity to choose a small group of students in their connect class to be with for camp.

## Important Dates:

### Week 1, Term 2

Camp Forms (hard copy) distributed to students.

### Week 3, Term 2

Camp forms and payment due by Friday 9 May. (Forms are to be handed in to the school office).

## Term 2 Date Claimers

- **Week 1 Wednesday** – Cross Country P3 & P4
- **Week 2 Thursday** – The Gap Experience 3:30 – 6:30
- **Week 3 Tuesday** – Parent Teacher Interviews 2:00 – 7:00
- **Week 3 Friday** – Mother's Day Breakfast 7:15 – 8:30 JAR Hall
- **Week 5 Monday to Friday** – Chappy Week (Multiple activities occurring during the week)
- **Week 6 and 7** – Camp (Maroon Dam)
- **Week 9 Wednesday** - Dad's Day (State of Origin Match)
- **Week 1-10** – Raise Mentoring (selected students) P4

## STYMIE

- At The Gap State High School, we are committed to fostering a safe and supportive environment for all students. That's why we are proud to be a Stymie School!





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- What is Stymie? Stymie is an anonymous online reporting tool that empowers students to speak up about concerns such as bullying, mental health challenges, or the safety of themselves and others—without fear. It helps build a culture of care, kindness, and support within our school community.
- Your feelings matter. Your happiness matters. Your voice matters. Your safety matters. Your story matters. Every single day. For more info visit: <https://about.stymie.com.au/>



## **SCHOOL TV - AN ONLINE MENTAL HEALTH & 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 Year 8s:
- **Online Gaming**  
<https://thegapshs.eq.schooltv.me/newsletter/online-gaming>
- **Confidence and Motivation**  
<https://thegapshs.eq.schooltv.me/newsletter/confidence-motivation-au>
- **Social Media and Digital Reputation**  
<https://thegapshs.eq.schooltv.me/newsletter/social-media-and-digital-reputation>

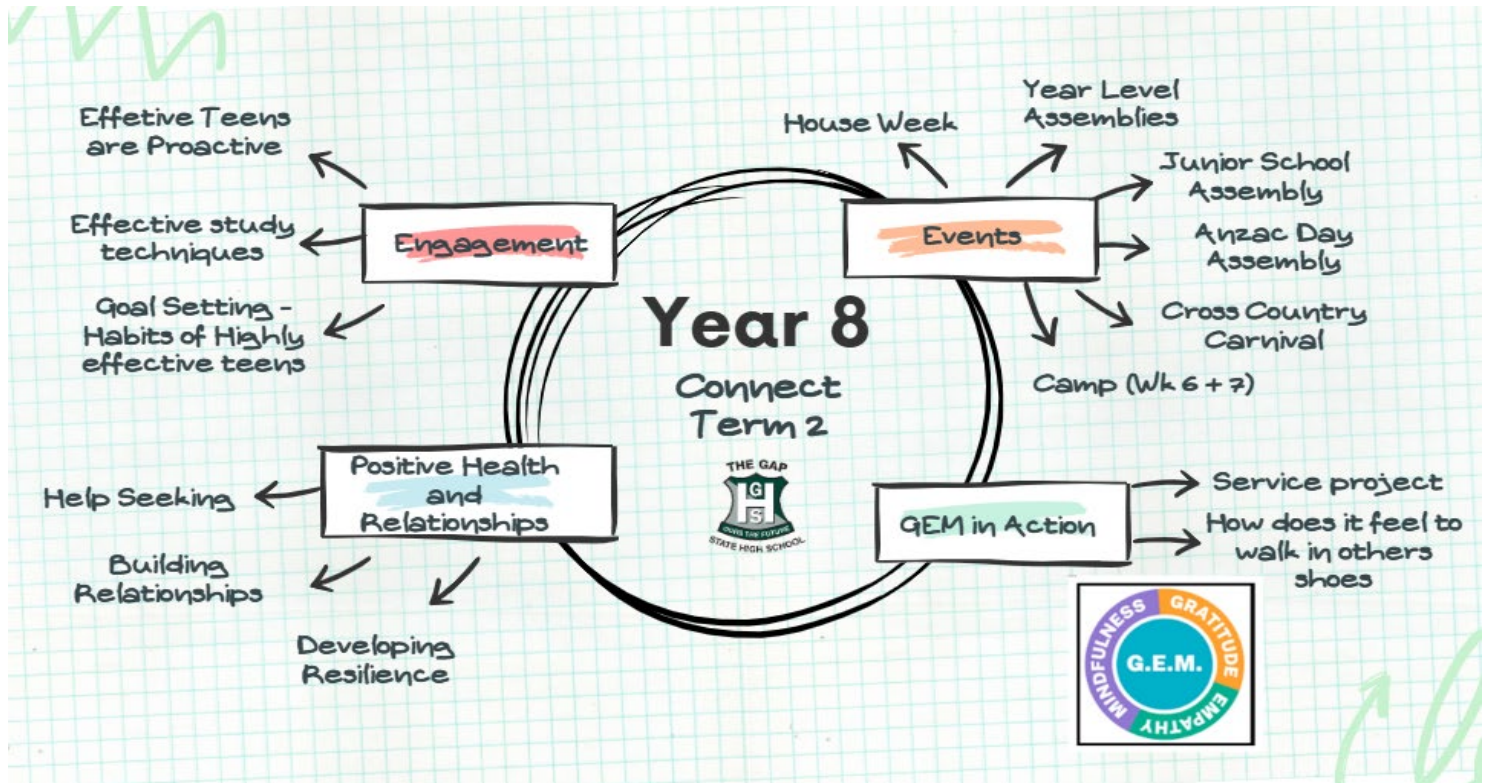




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## CONNECT



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RESILIENCE  
PROJECT

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