



Rona Street  
 Peakhurst NSW 2210  
 Subscribe: <https://grcpeakhurst.schoolzineplus.com/subscribe>

Email: [peakhurst-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:peakhurst-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au)

Phone: 02 9153 9966

Fax: 02 9534 6346



5 March 2021

## From the Principal

Welcome to our first newsletter for 2021 and a special welcome to our new families who are joining the school community this year.

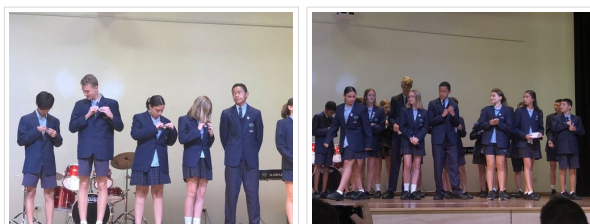
We have had a great start to the year with students and staff settling back into routine and their new timetables after the summer holiday period. We are still functioning under the NSW government and department of education COVID -19 guidelines, which are easing each week. There is still a limit on numbers allowed at parent functions. Unfortunately, we have had to make alternate arrangements for events such as our annual Open Night and Year 7 meet the teacher and we thank you for your understanding around this. Under the guidelines, the school swimming carnival was able to go ahead for competitors only. Thank you to Ms Yates for her organisation of the event and to Mr Morley, Ms Johnson and the Year 10 PE elective students for their work on the day. Congratulations to all students who participated and also to the 31 students who are now going on to represent the school at zone level.

In November 2020, the NSW Government announced the COVID intensive learning support program (CILSP) and funding support for schools to deliver targeted, intensive tuition for students who have been disadvantaged by the move to remote and/or flexible learning. This program allows schools deliver intensive small group tuition for students with the greatest need in 2021, helping to close the equity gap for disadvantaged students in schools. Identified students will benefit from high-quality literacy, numeracy or specific subject area small group tuition that best meets their learning needs, led by teachers, working in partnership with classroom teachers. The small group tuition will take place at school in the library during school hours. We are currently analysing a wide range of data including school reports, previous NAPLAN results, Year 7 Best Start, Check In Assessments and class formative assessment tasks as well as feedback from teachers to identify students with greatest need. We will contact you to

advise if your child has been identified and what the support for them will entail.

Last Friday, at our formal school assembly, we held the SRC Induction Ceremony. Congratulations to all students who have been elected as office bearers. Election to such a prestigious leadership position in the school highlights the level of respect that their peers and staff have of them. The SRC will be ably lead by the school captains – Cameron A and Alivia B and the Vice-Captains – Arden-Lee H and Chloe S.

I look forward to working with the SRC body, seeing them all work together as a team, organising activities, listening to the voice of their peers and seeing them develop their leadership skills. Thank you to Ms Osmond for her coordination of the Induction Ceremony and for her leadership of SRC.



In 2020, some of Year 10 students, led by Brenden L and Skye S, were involved in applying for and being successful in achieving a sustainability grant. This funding has resulted in the installation of three water cooler refill stations around the school. They are located at the front of the Administration Building, in the Canteen area and outside the school hall. This initiative is to provide cooled, filtered water and support the idea of reducing use of disposable plastic bottles. Congratulations to Brenden, Skye and their team for their initiative, their research and their liaison to allow this project to come to fruition.



**Ms Diane Wilson**  
**Principal**

## Deputies' Report

Welcome to Georges River College Peakhurst Campus for 2021. In particular, we would like to welcome the new parents to our school, especially our new Year 7 parents. We trust that over the next four years, we can develop a positive relationship with you to ensure the best learning outcomes for your child are achieved.

Positive Behaviour for Learning, known as PBL, is an integral part of Georges River College Peakhurst Campus, placing a focus on our core values of Respect, **Responsibility and Excellence**. This year we have continued our morning **Peakhurst Expectations and Knowledge or PEAK Learning (PL)**. A key part of PEAK Learning is the explicit teaching of our core values, social/emotional skills, and study skills. Tuesday, Thursday and Friday morning, students begin their day by participating in Peak Learning workshops designed to explore the main skills and themes of PEAK. This year, to further enhance our core values, social cohesion, inclusivity and student leadership, all PEAK Learning groups are vertical, comprising of students from all year groups and from our support unit representing each House Group. To support this, the first few weeks of PEAK Learning lessons have focused on getting to know your games and activities. The last week, PEAK Learning has been skills to break down Assessment Tasks.

We began our year with a whole school assembly where some core PEAK expectations were shared with all students and staff. This included:

- **Demonstrating excellence by attending all classes.** Students are expected to: arrive before 8:40am; attend each day; and be on time to each lesson. Students were also reminded to have a drink and use toilets during breaks, and to avoid hanging around local shops before schools. Irregular attendance, whether it be whole day absence, partial absences, truancy or late arrival to class can all significantly impact a student's learning and achievement.
- **Demonstrating responsibility by wearing the correct school uniform.** Students are expected to wear the correct school uniform and completely covered, black, leather school shoes on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. Students are expected to wear the school sports uniform and

supportive sports shoes on Wednesdays and for PE practical lessons. When out of uniform, students are expected to collect a uniform slip from their PL teacher, and attend a reflection at recess or lunch. Visit our website for details of correct school uniform.

- **Demonstrating responsibility by keeping mobile phones off and away.** Students are expected to turn their phone off, and keep it away all day. Students can use their phone in class, under the direction of their teacher, for learning purposes only. Items linked to phone use such as earphones and speakers should not be brought to school. If students are failing to cooperate with this expectation, they may be asked to hand over their phone.
- **Demonstrating respect by maintaining personal space.** Students are expected to be mindful of personal space when in class, moving between classes and in the playground. Students must keep their 'hands-off' at all times, and games or play fighting that breaks this expectation is not accepted. This unsafe behaviour can cause accidents or lead to more aggressive interactions, which will not be tolerated.
- **Demonstrating responsibility by being organised and prepared for lessons.** Students are expected to have their homework diary, pencil case and workbooks for each period of learning in their bag each day. Bringing completed homework and assessment tasks is also the responsibility of every student.
- **Demonstrating respect by cooperating with staff, school expectations and procedures.** Students are expected to: know and always demonstrate our core values; speak politely and with manners; and be an up-stander by telling peers to stop or walking away when they may not be cooperating. Students who regularly demonstrate our values will receive PEAK merits, be in the running for twice per term voucher draws, and invited to twice per year rewards excursions. Students who fail to demonstrate our values may be issued a warning, reflection, or receive a call home.

At GRC Peakhurst Campus, we are committed to developing and nurturing a culture of high expectations in all that we do. In order to support and reap the benefits of a culture of high expectations we need our students, parents and staff to continue to strengthen our shared commitment to excellence and improvement. Students have only one opportunity to succeed at school and it is everyone's responsibility to ensure that each child receives the very best opportunity to succeed. If we want our students to achieve outstanding results, we need to place great value and importance on learning, whilst acknowledging and celebrating student achievement.

Some simple strategies for students, parents and carers that can assist learning are:

- Using the school diary to write down and plan homework and assignments everyday

- Developing a strong understanding of the assessment program
- Setting aside time each day to complete homework and assignment work
- Reflecting and talking to your child about learning and how to improve their achievements and results
- Focusing on and preparing for assessment tasks, including exams
- Encouraging your child to collaborate with others and to compete to do their very best
- Constantly behaving in a way that supports learning
- Parents providing firm boundaries around the use of technology beyond school work.
- Assisting your child to do their best work all the time.
- Helping your child to try new ideas and strategies and to enjoy the journey of learning!

All year groups have been provided with their 2021 Assessment Guide. This guide contains important and valuable information on assessment procedures and outlines specific assessment tasks for each subject area. The assessment guides are also available on the schools website and SENTRAL Parent Portal. In addition to assessment tasks and set homework activities, students are expected to consolidate what has been learnt during lessons at school through regular revision and independent learning.

Some students take a long time to realise that there are actually two types of work in secondary school. There is the obvious work, the work your teacher specifically tells you to do and that is compulsory: homework, working on assignments, preparing for tests and assessments. But students who get good results in school take a larger measure of responsibility for their learning. This means that the nights where they do not have as much compulsory work, they independently review and revise. These are the additional things you do, if you have no other school work to do that night, to improve your understanding of your subjects. It is what students who get good marks are doing, they are not just talking about it to their friends. Examples include:

- Reading
- Reviewing what you have been learning at school that week
- Extra practise on questions you find hard
- Research on an area you are interested in learning more about
- Making a mind map of what you have been learning
- Making study notes on a topic
- Improving your touch typing skills
- Reading ahead in your textbook
- Doing work from a different textbook or study guide for one of your subjects (check the school library, local library and bookshops)

This means in secondary school you can never say 'I have nothing to do' – this really just means 'I have nothing compulsory to do at the moment!'

To support our students with their assessment tasks and homework, a Homework Centre operates each Tuesday and Wednesday afternoon in the school library. Tuesdays 3.00pm – 4.15pm and Wednesdays 2.30pm - 3.45pm. We encourage parents to remind their child / children of this excellent resource.

Students can only excel at school if they are present in class. Parents do students no favours allowing them to stay home if they are not genuinely sick. GRC Peakhurst Campus asks for parent support in ensuring that your child is at school each day unless they are sick. This includes all school events such as carnivals, excursions and special events. Please refer to the Department of Education's Compulsory School Attendance procedures below.

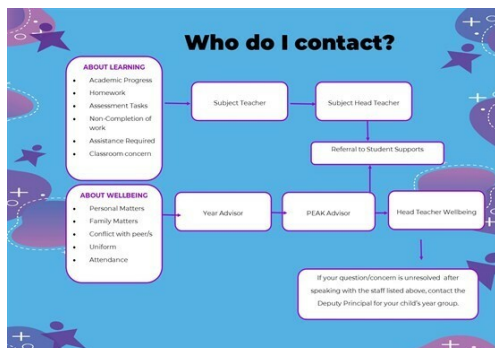
The great majority of students at GRC Peakhurst understand the importance of creating a safe and positive learning environment and work with their teachers towards this. However, from time to time, some students, through their actions, impact on the learning of others and themselves. There are consequences to poor behaviour and this is an important lesson for students to learn while at school. We cannot expect students to develop into well balanced adults if they have never learnt from their mistakes. When students are not accountable for their behaviours, the situation will only become more serious as they grow older and ultimately affect them, their families and their future.

Over 850 students now attend GRC Peakhurst Campus. Many of these students access local bus services to travel to and from school. We regularly remind students at school assemblies to ensure they are using their Opal Cards to tap on and tap off when using these services. The NSW Department of Transport and local bus companies use the data from students tapping on and off to gauge the number of students using the services. Unfortunately, the data being gathered is not always reflective of the number of students using the services as students often fail to tap on and tap off. We therefore also encourage parents to ensure their child is carrying an opal card and using it to tap on and off when using bus services. We believe that if we can encourage a majority of our students to tap on and off when using these services, the data collected by the Department of Transport will better reflect the large numbers of students using the buses and therefore increase the chances of extra buses and services being provided to our students in the future.

GRC Peakhurst Campus uses an integrated web based Student Management and Wellbeing software system called SENTRAL. This system has a 'parent portal' facility that will provide parents with information about their child. Parents are able to access their child's timetable and academic report information, read daily student announcements and access the school's public calendar. Year 7 parents and parents of new students in Years 8, 9 and 10 in 2021 should have received a letter from the school outlining instructions on how they can access the parent portal. All other students had letters posted home in previous years. If you are having difficulty accessing the parent portal, please contact the school for assistance. We are confident that you will see the benefits of the parent portal as

we continue to progress this initiative. We value our partnership with you in your child's education and are supportive of regular communication. For this to be successful, please ensure that the office has your current mobile phone number and email address. The graphics below indicate whom you should contact when you have a learning or wellbeing concern for your child.

We look forward to a term of excellence from our students!



**EVERY DAY COUNTS...**  
A day here or there doesn't seem like much, but...

| When your child misses just... | that equals...    | which is...       | and therefore, from Kindy to Year 12, that is... | This means that the best your child can achieve is... |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--|---|
| 1 day each fortnight           | 20 days per year  | 4 weeks per year  | Nearly 1 1/2 years of school                     | Equal to finishing Year 11                            |
| 1 day a week                   | 40 days per year  | 8 weeks per year  | Over 2 1/2 years of school                       | Equal to finishing Year 10                            |
| 2 days a week                  | 80 days per year  | 16 weeks per year | Over 5 years of learning                         | Equal to finishing Year 7                             |
| 3 days a week                  | 120 days per year | 24 weeks per year | Nearly 8 years of learning                       | Equal to finishing Year 4                             |

Give your child every chance to succeed... **Every day counts!**

**Kim Osborne - Deputy Principal Year 7**  
**Scott Wilson - Deputy Principal Year 8**  
**Sophia Favuzzi - Deputy Principal Years 9 & 10**

## Year 7 Student Advisor Report

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself and officially welcome all Year 7 students to High School! My name is Stoyan Koteski and I am the Year 7 Advisor for 2021. My role is to assist our Year 7 students and families with any queries or concerns you may have as the year progresses and be here to support our students as they begin their journey here at Georges River College, Peakhurst.

Throughout Week 3 and 4, our Year 7 students participated in the Best Start Program, which was an online test, assessing Numeracy and Literacy. The purpose of these tests is to assist our teachers when creating resources and teaching new content to Year 7, with the aim to assist our students to feel comfortable and confident with the High School Curriculum.

All students participated with great maturity and completed the tests to the best of their ability. I am extremely proud of everybody's effort throughout those assessments.

As our first Term continues at full steam ahead, we have our Year 7 Foundation day on Thursday 4th March – Friday 5th March, 2021 (Week 6). Day One of The Foundation Day program will include Peer Support activities and lunch with guest speakers and a performance by Backflips Against Bullying. These activities are designed to develop students' social and emotional learning. Day Two of Foundation Day includes a day trip to Symbio Wildlife Park for students to have an interactive experience with different species of animals. Students will then attend 'The Tops' Conference centre where they will be provided lunch and participate in a range of team building activities. This will aim to develop students' communication, cooperation and teamwork skills, whilst continuing to foster stronger connections with their peers.

There are many new and exciting experiences that our Year 7 students are learning as the Term rolls on. I would like to remind our students to remember to bring their diary to school each day. Our diaries are required during each lesson to record homework and assessment tasks. Students can also refer to their diary for bell times, school rules and policies, uniform requirements and behaviour expectations.

GRC Peakhurst runs a Homework Centre program every Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons in our school library, which is supervised by a Teacher. I encourage all students to attend to complete their homework or assessment tasks. The Homework Centre is an excellent opportunity to get ahead of your work load and discuss any questions you have with the teacher in charge. We also provide a light snack beforehand!

Should you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact me.

**Stoyan Koteski**  
**Year 7 Student Advisor**

## Year 8 Student Advisor Report

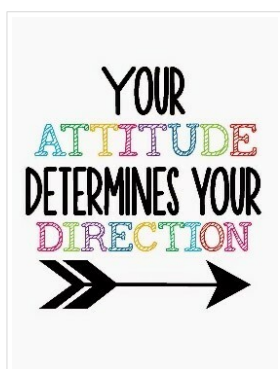
Welcome to 2021 year 8 students and their families, I hope you all had a wonderful break and have moved into the New Year ready and full of excitement to learn new things and make new friends. A reminder for 2021 to all year 8 students regarding the importance of using their school diaries of which are required during each lesson to record homework, messages and assessment tasks. Students can also refer to their diary for bell times, school rules and policies, uniform requirements and behaviour expectations. Remember whilst studying for exams, to get enough sleep and don't leave revision to the last minute we cannot retain the required information needed 1 hour prior.

GRC is a proud uniform school. School uniforms promote school spirit. They provide students with a sense of unity and encourages unity that promotes a connected community of respectful and responsible learners. The recent cooler weather presents challenges with uniforms, however, logo fleecy jumpers and hoodies along with coloured socks and joggers are not part of our school uniform, fleecy jumpers can be purchased at the front office and are very warm. If there are

concerns regarding uniform requirements, information can be found on the school website. Congratulations on a fantastic effort in maintaining your uniform.

GRC Peakhurst Homework Centre program in 2021 at this stage operates every Tuesday and Wednesday afternoon. Tuesday (3-4.15) and Wednesday (2.30-3.45) afternoons in our school library, which is supervised by two Teachers. I encourage all students to attend the homework centre as it provides the opportunity to complete tasks, stay ahead of your work load and discuss any questions you have with the Teacher in charge.

Further details of future events will be forwarded to parents and students as we embark on new adventures through these changing times. Should you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact me.



**Michelle Seinor**  
**Year 8 Student Advisor**

## Year 9 Student Advisor Report

Welcome back to all our Year 9 students and their families and to all our new students; welcome to the GRC Peakhurst school community. We hope you enjoyed your school holiday break and are ready for an exciting and busy term ahead. I would like to start by introducing myself, my name is Mariam Haidar, and I am the current Year 9 Advisor as

Ms Testa has taken on the role of relieving Head Teacher Administration. It has been a busy start to the year and I am glad to see Year 9 settling well into the school year and ready to start their assessments for all their subjects.

### Assessments

Students have been given their assessment booklets. In the booklets are clear outlines of each KLA subject outcomes and dates of assessment tasks. Students are encouraged to use the booklet to plan ahead and organise themselves to complete assessments tasks by the due date. Students will have started their elective subjects which they chose last year as well as their core subjects. It is important to be aware of upcoming due dates and getting into positive study habits. Organisation is key and will allow you stay on top of your studies and help limit stress. Use your school diary to write down upcoming exam's and assignments. Create a study plan when you get home, it helps to go over your timetable each night and go over what you learnt that day. Homework centre is also available on Tuesday's from 3pm and Wednesday from 2:30pm. Homework Centre is held in the library with teachers available to help and

an afternoon snack is provided. A reminder that all assessment tasks can also be found on the school website. The link is below:

<https://peakhurst-h.schools.nsw.gov.au/learning-at-our-school/assessment-and-reporting/year-assessment-tasks/y0.html>

### School Uniform

As the term continues, the weather will start to change and get cooler. It is important students are always in their full school uniform. All Autumn and Winter pieces are available for purchase and parents are encouraged to purchase uniform early so that students are prepared for the weather changes. A reminder that sport uniform is to be worn on Wednesdays and the days you have PE practical, check with your teachers which days have been allocated for practical lessons.

### On Time and Absence

It is essential that all students are at school before 8:40 am ready for PL. On the occasion that students are late make sure you have a reason and sign in at the front office. If students are away, they are encouraged to bring in a note the next day to explain the absence. This ensures that student's attendance is explained and not affected.

I would like to wish Year 9 students a successful and productive Term and year ahead. If parents have any questions or queries, please contact me and I will be happy to help them. If students have any concerns, feel free to come and see me in the CAPA staffroom in C block. I am looking forward to getting to know all students and work with them as the year progresses.

**Ms Mariam Haidar**  
**Year 9 Student Advisor**

## Year 10 Student Advisor Report

Welcome back to 2021 and a special welcome to all our new students and their families. I hope everyone was able to enjoy their well earned break and are ready for a productive and enjoyable final year at GRC Peakhurst!

Students have received their assessment booklets which include clear outlines of each KLA subject outcomes and assessment tasks. Students are encouraged to use this booklet to plan in advance and assist in organising themselves to complete their assessment tasks by the due date. To ensure all students are successful in attaining their ROSA (Record of School Achievement), it is imperative students are consistently on task, in class and organised to ensure assessment tasks are submitted by the specified due date.

This year, students will have many opportunities to participate in a range of TAFE courses and work experience placements. Please make sure students are checking their emails and listening to daily announcements from Ms Arfanis to avoid missing out.

It is imperative that your child attends school and is on time. Please make sure that your child has a note signed and is brought back to school on the return of their absence.

The formal will take place at the end of Term 4. I will be handing out an Expression of Interest note during our Year Meeting

in week 6. For those who plan on attending can we ensure the permission note is returned to Mrs Tzoumas in the TAS staffroom and a \$50 deposit paid to the front office to ensure we can plan a fantastic night to celebrate your time at GRC Peakhurst. If students have misplaced their note, please come and see me in the TAS staffroom.

I would like to wish all Year 10 Students a successful and productive start to the 2021 academic year. If parents have any question or queries, please contact me and I will be happy to answer your questions and assist. If students have any questions or concerns they can find me in the TAS staffroom in A block.

**Fotini Tzoumas**  
**Year 10 Student Advisor**

## FACULTY NEWS

### CAPA

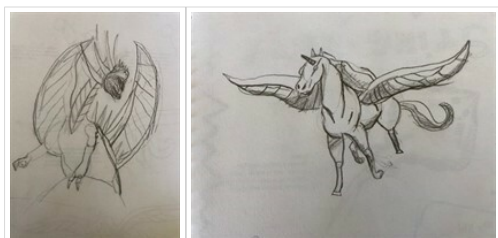
#### Visual Arts

Hi all and welcome to a flying start to 2021.

All our wonderful staff from previous years are with us with the exception of Ms Milgate who has accepted a part time position at St George Girls HS.

In her place we welcome back a valued colleague and talented teacher - Mr Abbott, who we are delighted to have on staff.

**Year 7** have been given a drawing test, copying a Dragon - to establish a base line from which each child will be given differentiated drawing instruction to move them forward with their skills and artistic ability.



**Year 8** have graduated to drawing faces, in a similar manner to year 7 they too have been given at test to establish the base line from which their skills can be developed.

**Year 9** are studying Art in Public Places - Street Art

They have begun with a series of 'Tags' (quick signatures) and developed them into 'Pieces' (elaborate letter-based art works). This will be followed by the study and creation of large public works such as murals.

**Year 10** are beginning their design of sculptural works based on the environment and site specific art works like those of Goldsworthy and Christo.

Looking forward to a wonderful 2021, please keep track of us through social media and the website and feel free to contact us with any ideas or concerns.

### Performing Arts

#### Dance

Dance is back for 2021! We started the year off with our dance auditions on the 10th of February. There were 45 keen dancers who attended our auditions and worked extremely hard to show off their skills and talents. The dancers went through a full body warm up then showed off their technique such as kicks, spins, splits and leaps. The majority of the auditions were spent learning a dance combination. The style of this combination was commercial jazz and included strong moves hitting the accented beats of the music. The dancers performed this combination many times and were split up into certain groups to see how well each of them danced with others.

After the long day of dancing, 32 students had successfully made it into our Peakhurst representative dance groups. We have 12 students in our company dance group and 20 students in our ensemble dance group. Congratulations to all of the Peakhurst dancers for 2021! Our morning rehearsals will start in week 6.

**Rehearsal times:**

**Monday morning 7:30-8:30am** – Company dance group

**Tuesday morning 7:30-8:30am** – Ensemble dance group

I cannot wait to work with these students this year and am very excited to see them further develop their skills and performance abilities!

**Ms Amy Johnson**  
**Dance Coordinator**

**Thankam Rydstrand**  
**Head Teacher CAPA**

## Mathematics & Computing



### Mathematics and Computing Faculty for 2020

This year, we have a total of eight teachers in the Mathematics Faculty:

- Mrs C. Keir (Head Teacher Mathematics)
- Ms A. Pham (Year 10 Coordinator)
- Mr D. Smithard (Year 9 Coordinator)
- Mr N. Fomin (Year 8 Coordinator)
- Mrs M. Ibrahim (Year 7 Coordinator)
- Mr R. Bokar
- Mr F. Chakari
- Ms N. Ivanovska

Our team of teachers are dedicated to bridging the gap in students' understanding and application of mathematical concepts learnt whilst raising the bar in terms of student achievement and successes. We all look forward to working closely with you and your child this year and to continue strengthening the partnership between school and home.

### Google Classroom

The Mathematics staff will continue utilising Google Classroom (GC) this year. In addition to class-specific GCs, this year we will also be maintaining separate GCs for each year group.

Each year group GC will have access to:

- assessment booklets
- task notifications
- revision resources
- past papers with worked solutions and marking guidelines

Please ensure that your child has access to both their class and academic year group Mathematics GCs in 2021.

### Homework and Study Suggestions

Regular homework and systematic study and revision is an essential component necessary when aiming for excellence in Mathematics. Students are advised to develop sustainable routines to complete assigned homework as well as a structured study schedule to provide them with planned sessions to regularly review course content.

Students who continue to find course content too difficult are advised to speak with their classroom teacher as soon as possible, so that additional support can be provided. Students are also encouraged to attend the Homework Centre on Tuesday and/or Wednesday afternoons in the School Library for additional assistance.

### Mathletics

Mathletics is an interactive online computer resource which the Mathematics Faculty has been incorporating into teaching, homework and assessment programs for several years. Regular use of this online tool has proven to help students consolidate content taught during lessons, revise content at home in preparation for examinations and receive assistance at any time, using the support button, when struggling with specific concepts. The cost of this valuable resource remains at \$10 per student per year. If you have not already done so this year, please arrange for your child to pay \$10 at the front office as soon as possible.

Students who do not have access to the Internet at home may use the School Library during recess and lunch or when attending the Homework Centre on Tuesday and/or Wednesday afternoons. Alternatively, students may arrange a time with their class teacher to use the D1.04 computer lab.

### NAPLAN

NAPLAN is fast approaching for students in Year 7 and Year 9. Students are encouraged to practise as many NAPLAN-style questions as possible to familiarise themselves with the style of questioning and the format of the paper. Students will be provided with sample papers and are encouraged to attempt these papers under examination conditions to best prepare for this external diagnostic assessment.

### Minimum Standards Testing

Minimum Standards Testing for Year 10 students will be conducted again this year. Students will be given the opportunity to sit for this assessment on four occasions throughout the year. Students will be notified of their assessment time closer to the dates.

If you have any queries or concerns regarding matters in Mathematics classes, please don't hesitate to contact either your child's teacher initially or myself at the school.

**Mrs Christine Keir**  
**Head Teacher Mathematics/Computing**

### PDHPE

Welcome, from the PDHPE faculty:

|                  |                     |
|------------------|---------------------|
| Mr A Morley      | Acting Head Teacher |
| Ms S Yates       | Sports Organiser    |
| Miss A Johnson   | Dance Coordinator   |
| Mr Hoggett       |                     |
| Mr M Dungey      |                     |
| Miss T Brown     |                     |
| Miss N Ivanovska |                     |

The PDHPE faculty would like to welcome parents and students to an exciting and busy 2021! Personal Development, Health and Physical Education (PDHPE) contributes significantly to the cognitive, social, emotional, physical and spiritual development of our students. The Years 7–10 PDHPE curriculum plays an important role in promoting the value of physical activity, developing resilience and providing opportunities for students to learn how to maintain healthy, productive and active lifestyles. PDHPE gives students the opportunity to discover who they are and find ways to better accept themselves, thus ensuring a much smoother ride through their adolescent journey.

Here at GRC Peakhurst, our Stage 4 and 5 PDHPE programs will unpack a range of important adolescent issues including, but not limited to:

- Puberty & Change
- Sex Education & Sexuality
- Drug Education
- Road Safety
- Cyber Safety & Navigating the Web Domestic Violence, Discrimination & Harassment
- Body Image
- Mental Health

Through the in-depth study of these delicate yet essential topics, students are provided with opportunities to learn to critique and challenge assumptions, attitudes, behaviours and stereotypes and evaluate a range of health-related sources, services and organisations. They develop a commitment to the qualities and characteristics that promote and develop empathy, resilience, respectful relationships, inclusivity and social justice.

During the practical curriculum, students develop self-management, interpersonal and movement skills to help them become empowered, self-confident and socially responsible citizens. Students learn in movement, about movement and through movement and are given opportunities to apply and adapt their skills across multiple contexts. The learning experiences in PDHPE provide students with a foundation to actively contribute to, and advocate for, the health, safety and wellbeing of themselves and others in the community and beyond school.

## Faculty Requirements:

Students of GRC Peakhurst have been made aware of our faculty expectations for practical and theory lessons during the 2021 academic year.

Parents are reminded that each student must attend PDHPE lessons with:

- Your PDHPE work book for theory lessons. This is to be covered in plastic contact with your name on the front.
- Full Georges River College PE/ Sports uniform for practical lessons. This includes your hat, sky blue sports shirt, navy shorts and supportive running or cross trainer shoes (see school diary for diagram of

appropriate shoes). Students are permitted to wear their full sports uniform to school on practical timetabled lessons.

- Pencil, pens, highlighters, a ruler and a calculator.

## Swimming Carnival:

In the first few weeks of term, the PDHPE faculty have been busy planning and running our annual Swimming Carnival. The carnival took place on Friday 19th of February at Roselands Pool. The carnival itself was very different this year as it was run as a competitors only carnival due to current COVID restrictions. The day was still a huge success with students showing their passion and commitment to their respective houses by wearing their house colours and cheering proudly! Our PASS leaders did a fantastic job in running the entire carnival. All competitors should be proud of their efforts, enthusiasm and behaviour on this very enjoyable day. The Zone Swimming carnival will be held on Friday 26th and Monday 1st March. Good luck to all our athletes who qualified!



The annual school cross country carnival is held on **Tuesday 23rd March**. This is one of the three whole school carnivals that are held throughout the year and it will give students the chance to qualify and compete at zone level. Information letters will be handed out to students in week 6.

## PASS CAMP

In Term 3 the PDHPE department is conducting a 3 day Outdoor Education camp to compliment several units taught in stage 5 Physical Activity and Sports Studies (PASS). The camp will take place at **'The Great Aussie Bush Camp' – Kincumber**.

The purpose of this camp program is to allow students to develop knowledge and understanding about the contribution of physical activity and sport to individual, community and societal wellbeing.

During the three-day camp experience, PASS students will be participating in a selection of the following activities: Abseiling, orienteering, canoeing, commando course, high and low ropes, raft building, sailing, rock climbing, archery and the giant swing. Further information will be distributed home in the coming weeks.

## Year 10 Drug Education Incursions

Year 10 has embarked on a stage appropriate unit that aims to analyse the risks and dangers associated with Drugs. To complement student learning and their upcoming assessment task, the Year 10 cohort will be involved in their interactive Drug Education Incursion taking place on Friday 12th March.

Information notes have been handed out to students already. Attendance is considered compulsory. The presentation will play a pivotal part in enhancing students understanding of their

upcoming extended response writing assessment due in Week 9.

**Mr Aaron Morley**  
**Relieving Head Teacher PDHPE**

## Science

The Science faculty is looking forward to another year of exciting Science programs. Students have settled well into their classwork and have already undertaken a variety of practical experiences. The faculty of Mrs Alexander (Head Teacher), Mr Smith, Mr Chakari, Mr Kostas, Ms Baldassarre, Mr Bousaleh and Mrs James (laboratory assistant) has welcomed two new teachers, Mr Fu and Mr Peterson.

After having to curtail some programs last year due to COVID-19, we are back in the swing of activities and practical work and are excited about a return visit by the 'Surfing Scientist', Ruben Meerman, later this month and further activities through the year.

I would like to remind parents that weekly homework is expected of all students. The day that it is due each week should be recorded in student diaries. If more information is needed by you to support your child in this, please contact the class teacher.

**Mrs M Alexander**  
**Head Teacher**

## Special Education

Welcome back! Our students have started 2021 with plenty of energy and enthusiasm and lots of smiles!

Firstly, I would also like to extend a warm welcome to our new Year 7 students and their families starting at GRC Peakhurst this year. Great to see so many smiling faces! Starting high school is a huge step and all the students are moving around the school and adjusting to the different structures and routines with increasing confidence. Great work everyone. Our Year 8, 9 and 10 students have been very welcoming. Keep up the great work.

I would also like to welcome some new staff to our Support Unit 'family'; Mrs Kotsep, Mrs Xu, Mrs Barsoon and Mrs Gardiner, Ms Diamond

This year we have 5 support classes. Mr Tracy is teaching the Purple (Physical) class, Ms Picone the Red class, Mrs Radman the White Class, Mrs Kotsep the Silver class and Mrs Holm is teaching the Blue class. Our fabulous SLSO's, this year are working across two classes.

It is anticipated that Individual Education Plan meetings will be held during March. Parents will shortly receive information relating to these meetings and are encouraged to attend.

Students in the Special Education Faculty are expected to wear correct school uniform on a daily basis. Correct uniform includes covered black leather shoes. Wearing the correct shoes is an occupational health and safety requirement – especially when students are participating in practical subjects such as Food Technology or Design and Technology. Please remember to label your child's jackets, jumpers and hats.

A reminder for Year 7 parents that a variety of notes were included in your child's enrolment packs. These notes included Religious Education, a library contract, student expectations. If you have not yet returned them, please do so at your earliest convenience. Many thanks to those who returned them promptly. If you require additional copies, please contact Paula in the Front Office.

Please contact me if you have any questions or require assistance on 9153 9966 (ext. 129)

**Mrs Peta Holm**  
**Head Teacher Special Education**

## Student Representative Council

### Welcome back to 2021!

My name is Lauren Osmond from the English Faculty. I am proud to look after our incredibly busy and active Student Representative Council at GRC Peakhurst.

We are looking forward to a great year with our SRC team. Your 2021 SRC has been officially inducted into the SRC at the Week 5 Formal Assembly. Another induction will take place later Term 1 for Year 7 students and any SRC members who were participating at the Zone Swimming Carnival.

Please see below for some introductions from our Year 10 members. These students are to be commended for giving up their last day of summer school holidays in order to assist with our Year 7's first day in transitioning to high school. Their efforts ensured that Year 7 students were settled and knew their student leaders as important points of contact from day one. Thank you Year 10s!

### Year 10 introductions

Cameron A - Hey everyone, I'm Cameron and I am one of your School Captains for this year. I am really excited to work together with everyone this year and do what we can to improve our school. My goal this year is for everyone to be able to come to school comfortable and to be themselves. I personally can't wait to see what we have waiting for us in the future and am excited for the challenges ahead that we will all face as a team.

Alivia B - Hi everyone, I'm Alivia and am so glad to be a part of Year 10 SRC. I am one of your School Captains this year. I think developing leadership and using leadership skills is important as you grow up because they will be necessary in many aspects of your future, such as in job interviews! I hope that everyone feels comfortable to come to me if they want to talk about anything or to make any suggestions for the year. Wishing you all a great 2021!

Arden-Lee H - Hi everyone, my name is Arden and I am so excited to be a part of the Year 10 SRC and also one of your School Vice-Captains. This year we are wanting to work towards our initiatives and goals to make the school a better learning and friendly environment. This will help us to strengthen our leadership, public speaking skills and build up our confidence. I can't wait to be working with an awesome team in order to support you, and I hope you all have a great and safe year.

Zac H - G'day everybody, my name is Zac, and I am thrilled to be part of your Year 10 SRC. I think SRC for me is just doing as much as I can to help the school and its students, even if it is just having a conversation with someone. I love debating and I will be happy to talk to anyone about that, or about anything else you might wish to. I'm sure everyone else has already covered all the basics, so I won't repeat them, but just do your best to make the best out of this year, and every year ahead, even if things seem bad. Have a good one everybody!

Zemina I - Hello everyone! My name is Zemina. I love being part of SRC. Being in the SRC so far has helped me with confidence, being a good role model, being responsible and much more. I look forward to having an amazing year with everyone! If you have any questions, or concerns please don't hesitate to come and ask me, I would be very happy to help! I hope you have a great year ahead of you!

Emma M - Hi everyone, my name is Emma. I love being a part of the Year 10 SRC. SRC has taught me so many skills that I use in my daily life. It has taught me to speak in front of a large audience and try out new things you never would have tried before. The program has taught me to step out of my comfort zone. I'm so excited to work with my team this year and have a fantastic year together. If you have any questions or would like any help in any way please feel free to come and see me or any of the other members as I know we are all happy to help you. I'm looking forward to a great year together!

Taj M - Hey everyone! My name is Taj. Being a part of such a great team throughout SRC is allowing me to step outside of my comfort zone and be a more confident person. SRC is an amazing opportunity that I encourage years below to try out and enhance their leadership skills. I hope everyone has an awesome and exciting year ahead of them. Feel free to come and talk to me at recess and lunch if you have any questions relating to SRC!

Victoria - Hey everyone! I'm Victoria and as one of the Year 10 SRCs of 2021, I am proud to say it is an exciting experience to work with an amazing team with my fellow peers and learn new skills from them. Being part of the SRC has definitely helped me with my confidence and offers a great opportunity to help out with many exciting school events. Feel free to come chat to any of us about anything you'd like. I hope you have all enjoyed your year so far!

Chloe S - Hi everyone, I'm Chloe and I am so excited to be part of the year 10 SRC this year, as well as one of your School Vice-Captains. I have been a member of the SRC for four years now and I love being part of the friendly and supportive community. I have gained many skills and have experienced many opportunities that have helped me throughout high school. I can't wait to work on some of my initiatives to help make this year even more enjoyable at school. I want to make sure that your voices feel like they are being heard so please feel free to use the suggestion box and contribute your ideas.

Iverson W - Hello everyone my name is Iverson and I am another Year 10 member of the SRC. If you want someone to talk to or share ideas with, I am always free for a chat. In the time I've been in SRC I've gained many skills and had many great experiences that I look forward to building on this year. I hope you all have a great year and stay safe.



## Sustainability Project Update

In 2020, a committee of SRC members independently worked on a Sustainability Grant we received as a result of a proposal submitted by the leadership team in 2019. Although there were some unavoidable delays in completing this project, the team were able to overcome this, attending meetings with external organisations in order to arrange filtered water stations to be installed here at school. These are placed near the front office and hall for our school community to use. The water filter stations will allow us a more environmentally friendly and sustainable school environment, decreasing the need for disposable plastic water bottles in the hopes of eradicating them completely.

## Leadership By The River

This additional Leadership program is open to Year 9 and 10 students, led by Ms Cvijetic in the HSIE staffroom. They have recently developed our 'Peaky Podcast' - please follow this on Spotify and stay tuned for episode 4!

## Crazy Hair Day - in support of the Leukaemia Foundation

Coming up soon is our annual Crazy Hair Day in support of the Leukaemia Foundation. The Leukaemia Foundation is the only national charity dedicated to helping those with leukaemia and related blood disorders to survive and live a better quality of life. This will be held in mid March. If you are interested in shaving your head on the day please visit me in the English staffroom. Aliyah J in Year 10 has already signed up for this incredibly worthy cause - so please donate generously to her if you see her around.

## Wellbeing Initiative - Library

We are starting something new for students in the library each lunchtime Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. It is a joint initiative from your Wellbeing and SRC Leadership teams. If students are interested in a safe space to chill out, relax, play a game, read or meet new people, SRC and Wellbeing students will be available in the library on the three above lunchtimes. Please

talk to your SRC or Wellbeing team peers if you'd like to take part in this.

## Year 7 Elections

Stay tuned for Year 7 2021 SRC Election information in upcoming morning assemblies - after your Foundation Day Celebrations.

Please feel free to bring any ideas you have for our school to your SRC members to bring up in our meetings (or utilise the suggestion box) for any ideas you may have in celebrating and appreciating our school community!

Enjoy Term 1!

## **Miss Osmond and the GRC Peakhurst Campus Student Representative Council 2021**

## TAS

We are fortunate that the TAS faculty remains unchanged this year and indeed we welcome Ms Ivanovska, Ms Haidar and Mr Church who are teaching some lessons in TAS. Mrs Seidel will be relieving Head Teacher on Mondays and Tuesday and Ms Testa is undertaking the relieving Head Teacher Admin role for 2021.

The TAS faculty is looking forward to another productive year ahead and are excited to see how the student's problem solve set challenges. Each year we are amazed at the level of deep understanding and creativity demonstrated when students undertake their design projects. For instance, look out for Year 7 hand sewn monsters, Year 8 mobile toys, Year 10 timber footstools, Year 9 Graphics Tiny House designs, Year 9 Food for Special Occasion dishes and Year 9 Design and Technology Logo designs in coming editions of the school newsletter as well as on the school's Facebook and Instagram pages.

Our school garden thrived over the holidays, particularly our cricket ball size passion fruit. This year we are expanding our garden with indigenous ingredients such as lemon myrtle and warrigal greens.



A reminder that leather enclosed non-slip footwear are required for safety and essential for students to undertake practical work. Please refer to the school diary to check for appropriate school footwear.

Students are also required to bring an apron to participate in food practical lessons as well as a container to store the food they prepare. All equipment should be labelled with the student's name.

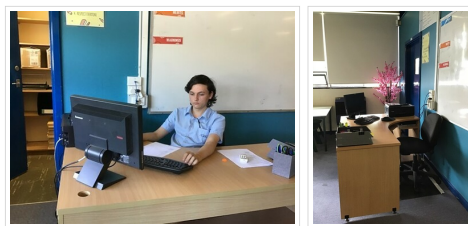
**Rosalie Gualtieri**  
**Head Teacher TAS.**

## VET

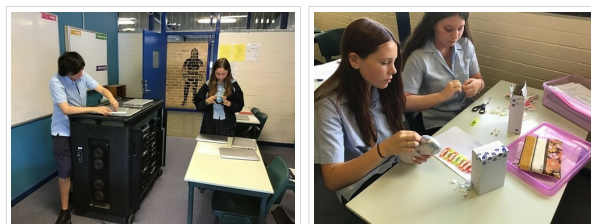
### Vocation Education and Training in Schools (VEiS)

Our campus is proud to be running a second year of Vocational Education and Training (VET) courses for our stage 5 students. Our current year 10 cohort have completed a 100 hour Certificate I Retail course (2020) and are currently inducted in a 100 hour Certificate I in Business Services Administration. Both courses are TAFE accredited with staff, Mr Vrhovac and myself, being certified in Certificate IV Assessment and Training, which enables our students to begin their growth and development of skills for work while remaining enrolled at school.

Our students have begun their learning journey in our simulated office environment, utilising resources and regularly taking a seat in the ergonomic chair!



As part of their course, students will be introduced to various office equipment and will be asked to complete tasks and assessed whether they're competent or not yet competent



Our students are utilising laptops for note taking and file keeping, further developing their competencies for upcoming units in Business Services. Additionally, all students were required to complete a mandatory Language, Literacy and Numeracy quiz, set at stage 3.



A busy yet organised start for our year 10 Business Services Admin. students who eagerly await their next directive in completing tasks in a simulated office! Stay tuned!

**Mrs Deborah Vlachos**  
**VET Teacher**

# Aboriginal Education

## GRC Aboriginal Education

Welcome back to 2021, it has been refreshing to see everyone's smiling faces full of excitement and ready to learn. Georges River College Peakhurst Campus is committed to and passionate about Aboriginal Education and provides a culturally inclusive learning environment, not only catering to their educational engagement but ensuring that a diverse curriculum and breathe of extra-curricular opportunities are availed to meet the cultural needs of our Aboriginal students.

This year GRC Peakhurst has again engaged the assistance of the Aboriginal team Will Gordon and Lyle Ah Sam from 3 Bridges Community Centre to work with our students. COVID impacted many wonderful programs the team had lined up in 2020, however they are excited to relaunch these in 2021. In ensuring our students have access to the best support available, 3 Bridges have teamed up with First Nations staff at the National Centre for Indigenous Education (NCIE) in Redfern to run a breakfast club of which is full funded by the NCIE.

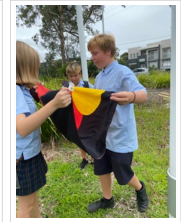
There are strict COVID restrictions in place to run the program with specific plans developed and in place which include individually wrapped food and bottled drink, minimum attendees. There will also be the school protocols associated with COVID and hygiene, all of which students are expected to adhere to.

Linking in with and part of the Breakfast club, will be the opportunity for students to engage in conversations with the NCIE T.A.T.U program that promotes the dangers of Tobacco use and Vaping. Information relating to the program will be available at the breakfast club however, this can also be accessed at <https://ncie.org.au/tatu/>. This is an excellent opportunity to get involved in the important conversations around these topics.

The sessions run at GRC Peakhurst started Friday 19 February 2021 from 7.45 - 8.55am and Friday 5th March 2021. Due to the unpredictable weather students will be informed if the breakfast club will be held indoors or outdoors. After the initial introduction breakfast club will switch to Tuesday mornings at the same time. Following breakfast club, Will and Lyle will be working with the students running a diverse program to engage culture, identity and connection. More information regarding these activities will follow once the program is confirmed.

We have also been lucky enough to secure funding to purchase t-shirts for our Koori students of which can be worn on Wednesday sport days and as representative shirts when we are out in the community. The artwork was done by Jack McCarthy a year 10 Aboriginal student to celebrate connection and identity.

I look forward to catching up and having a yarn with everyone as the COVID restrictions begin to lift. If you have any concerns or questions please don't hesitate to contact me.



**Ms Michelle Seinor**  
**Aboriginal Educational Coordinator**

## Careers

### GRC Peakhurst Careers Lessons for Year 10 launched

GRC is excited to announce the launch of a newly designed careers program, under our Careers Adviser, Toni Arfanis, with a special focus on Year 10. The program helps students identify their unique values and strengths then coaches and guides them through researching job titles, trades, degree programs and industry experts that align with whom they identify themselves to be. This will also aid their subject selection pattern of study for their future senior years, at school. Students will be more engaged with a Google Classroom for careers and the GRC Peakhurst careers website at the following link:

<https://www.grcpeakhurstcareers.com/>

With both the Google classroom and website, careers related information, can be accessed online. All students need to register to access information on the website. To register as a GRC Peakhurst student firstly go to FOR STUDENTS -> STUDENT'S SECURE AREA -> REGISTER. Please keep these details in a safe place. YOUR EMAIL is your USERNAME and remember the PASSWORD (Write it down somewhere safe so that you can refer to it).

Parents should also explore the website in order to better support their child.

GRC will update the google classroom and careers website with helpful careers related information, and newly listed career opportunities.

The future of each student lies ahead, and it will be of their making. GRC encourage you to research career options so you do something you want to do but bear in mind your likes/dislikes. Other important considerations are your abilities, motivation levels, career goals and YOUR aspirations. You may like to consider going to university websites (some are offering virtual career tours), and attending the GRC, Oatley open day, and later in the year a careers expo related to higher education. Students are also encouraged to attend university open days, some of which are available via online streaming.

My experience is that those students who are most successful in Year 11 and 12 put thought and consideration into choosing their subjects, and they do so by seeking out and using all the information that is made available to them. These students align their subjects with their interests, their strengths and the pathways they want to follow in the years beyond school.

As always, I am happy to discuss any aspect of subject selection with individual students or families. Please get in touch

if you would like to meet at any point. I look forward to working with all students and families in the months ahead to help them make the decisions to set each student up for successful senior study.

## YES program run by TAFE NSW

Five students have been accepted into taster courses, YES program, with TAFE NSW, this term, throughout February and March. The following students will be undertaking a six or seven week program:

- Liam T in Introduction to Carpentry and Construction at Gymea campus
- Kyren B and Kane C in Introduction to Plumbing at Gymea campus
- Trent B in Introduction to Gaming and Animation at St Leonards campus
- Blake F in Photography at Randwick campus.



*Kane C, Trent B and Blake F*



*Kyren B and Liam T*

## 2021 EVET for Year 10 students

Twenty four students anxiously await the outcome of their Expression of Interest having applied to undertake an Externally delivered Vocational Education and Training (EVET) Stage 5 course with TAFE NSW, over Terms 2 and 3. They are:

- Thomas T; Bilal K, Jasmina L; Michael K, Jack M, Harrison S, Celestine W, Jaiden G, Sharleas H, Munokoatupou T in Construction at Gymea
- Marcus C, Charlie A, Donald L, Nicholas I, Luka D, Jordan M, Oliver F in Automotive at Ultimo
- Tiana M, Ronald F, Jackson M, Riley N, Sasha D, Natasha P, May R in Hospitality at Loftus.

Once students successfully complete the course of their choice, they will receive an accreditation recognised by Australians Qualifications Framework (AQF), at Certificate 1 level. These students will attend TAFE one day a week, up to 100 hours (approximately two terms). The Certificate 1 courses are fully subsidised by the government and free to the students, valued at approximately \$1,500 each.

## School Based Apprenticeship and Traineeship (SBAT)

Students who are thinking of undertaking an SBAT while they undertake the HSC, next year, should start to seek out employers to work with for this opportunity, throughout this year.

If YOU are in Year 10 and would like to learn more about an SBAT for 2022 and 2023, please speak to Ms Arfanis and we can seek out an appropriate host employer, as work experience, to increase your chances of success. Employers who are keen to take on students for SBATs include:

- McDonalds for Retail Services
- KFC for Retail Services
- City Beach for Retail Services
- Airport Retail Enterprises (ARE) for Hospitality (Food & Beverage)
- LEA Group or BlueFit at Hurstville Aquatic Centre or Angelo Anestis Aquatic Centre for Fitness
- Lugarno Gourmet Meats for butchery.

If you are aware of any employers keen to employ an apprentice or trainee, please inform Ms Arfanis of their details.

See Year 10 Careers Google Classroom for more SBAT and apprenticeship/traineeship opportunities.

## Apprenticeship and Traineeship

Congratulations to a number of students at the end of last year who were successful in gaining an apprenticeship or traineeship opportunity. They are Shantel R in fitness; Chanel H in beauty; Hussein A in barbering, Gamaa B in electro technology; Zacharie M in carpentry and Braden T in mechanical automotive. GRC wish them every success in their new endeavours.

## Steps to Becoming an Australian Apprentice or Trainee

Apprenticeships are a great way to earn money while learning a trade! Getting started in an apprenticeship or Traineeship can seem a little daunting, but it can be broken down into four easy-to-understand steps: Research; Preparation; Job Hunting and Sign-up. If you would like to learn more about each step, please make an appointment to see Ms Arfanis.

## Subject Selection Preparation for Year 10 students

Preparation is underway. It kicks off with careers lessons in Term 1, whereby students will be directed to a number of sites to prepare them and inform them about subjects on offer for the

senior years at Oatley campus, with 90 subject choices made available to them, to choose from, in 2022.

All Year 10 students are to complete a Google Form titled 2021 Pre Subject Selection Year 10 Career Profile at:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1oaUwptO-CMJwzmU9VBAhwtqUWNVDQrKMFaWPxXyitLM/edit>

Year 10 students are also required to go to the Job Jump website at:

<https://www.jobjump.com.au/>

Register as I'm new - Georges River College Peakhurst ; (Password: grc)

Select "Subjects" link and consider what occupation you primarily think about doing when you finish school (More than one is OK).

You can also go to the website for more information about KLAs and subjects on offer at Oatley campus:

<https://oatleyseniorcampus.nsw.edu.au/students/curriculum/>

As always, Ms Arfanis is happy to discuss any aspect of subject selection with individual students or families. Please get in touch if you would like to meet at any point. She looks forward to working with all students and families in the months ahead to help them make the decisions to be set up for successful senior study.

## Join Google Classroom for Year 10 CAREERS tasks;

All Year 10 students should have joined the Google Classroom for Careers. If you have not, see Ms Arfanis for Class Code as you are expected to join.

## Barista Course

If students aged 14yo + are interested in undertaking this course, they need to inform Ms Arfanis or Ms Seidel. Information will be advised, in due course. To date, some externally delivered courses are more expensive or on-hold due to COVID-19 or the government imposed restrictions.

## White Card Training

If students aged 14yo + are interested in undertaking this course, they need to inform Ms Arfanis and when feasible, dates will be arranged for Term 2 and advised to student.

## Brent Street Autumn Intensive Workshop

**Date:** 14th – 16th April 2021

**Time:** Daily from 9:30am – 3:30pm (Registration is at 9:00am on the first day)

**Who:** This program is suitable for 7 – 18 year olds of an intermediate to advanced level

**Price:** \$360 including GST

To book your ticket to Brent Street Autumn Intensive Workshop 2021 Autumn Intensive, go to the link below.

<https://brentstreet.com.au/workshop/autumn-intensive-2021/>

Participate in 15 classes with choreographers and teachers across 3 massive days. Each day starts at 9:30 am, with five 1-hour classes with an industry-leading dance teacher/

choreographer. Students are divided into age groups, subject to numbers. The day concludes at 3:30 pm. On the final day, participation certificates are awarded on the final day of the workshop, plus the chance to win a scholarship to the 2021 Winter Camp. Please note, this program is suitable for 7 – 18-year-old students of intermediate to advanced level.

## Taronga Talks - The podcast from Taronga is back.

Working at Taronga Zoo is more than just a job – for us Taronga means family. The deep connections the staff develop with wildlife and the natural world affects the lives of others, near and far. From Sydney to Dubbo, Taronga's people all have amazing untold Zoo stories that will touch your heart and open your eyes. Hayden Turner invites you to listen in each week and join our family with 'Taronga Talks' at the link below.

<https://taronga.org.au/get-involved/taronga-talks>

## Hour of Code

The Hour of Code started as a one-hour introduction to computer science, designed to demystify "code", to show that anybody can learn the basics, and to broaden participation in the field of computer science. It has since become a worldwide effort to celebrate computer science, starting with 1-hour coding activities but expanding to all sorts of community efforts. Check out the tutorials and activities. Supported by over 400 partners and 200,000 educators worldwide.

**Go to:** <https://hourofcode.com/au>

**Activities:** <https://hourofcode.com/au/learn>

## Careers in Maths

See how different people in a wide range of careers use maths as part of their daily routine at work. The site increases Australia's mathematically capable workforce through hundreds of profiles, videos, jobs. Delivering maths careers materials to students and is committed to working towards increasing Australia's mathematically capable workforce through hundreds of profiles, videos and jobs. Go to the link below.

<http://mathsadds.amsi.org.au/>

**Ms Toni Arfanis**  
**Careers Advisor**

## Girl's Supervisor Report

### 2021 Vaccinations

Each year NSW Health works in partnership with schools to offer the vaccines recommended by the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) for adolescents as part of the school vaccination program. In 2021 the following vaccines will be offered at Georges River College – Peakhurst campus.

Year 7 students – Monday 15th February (was the first vaccination date) & Thursday 7th October.

- Diphtheria, Tetanus and Pertussis (whooping cough) vaccines as a booster dose for all students

- Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) vaccine as a 2-dose course (at least 6 months apart)

***Students in Year 7 or 8 who returned a completed form and missed a vaccination will be offered a catch up at these times.***

Year 10 students – Tuesday 18th May (consent forms will be distributed closer to the date)

- Meningococcal ACWY Vaccine as a single dose.

A record of Vaccination will be provided to each student vaccinated at each clinic as a physical card. Parents/ Guardians should ensure that this record is kept for future reference and should not assume that their child has been vaccinated if they do not receive this Record of Vaccination.

## Breakfast Club

Breakfast club is now up & running every Wednesday & Thursday morning in A0.11 between 7.45am – 8.30. We provide free Cheesy Rolls & Flavoured Milk. All students at GRC Peakhurst are welcome!

## Well Being PL

I would like to extend a warm welcome to Mrs Deborah Vlachos who is joining our Wellbeing PL this year. We look forward to working together to ensure the wellbeing of our students at GRC Peakhurst.

The student wellbeing committee are very interested in supporting the welfare of students at GRC Peakhurst Campus. We, as a school are very interested in supporting various foundations such as Beyond Blue, Head Space, Harmony Day, White Ribbon and many more as the year progresses.

During Term 4, the Wellbeing team sold ice blocks each Wednesday to raise funds for the One Girl foundation to ensure every girl had the right to education in third world countries. We would like to continue with the fundraising events and are starting the year by raising funds for Headspace Hurstville with an Easter Hamper Raffle for each year group & an Easter Egg Guessing competition.

Stay tuned or more details to come!

Additionally, if any student has any wellbeing concerns or foundations that they would like us as a school to support please come and have a chat to any of the friendly Wellbeing PL students or Mrs Seidel/ Mrs Vlachos.



**Ms Michelle Seidel**  
**Girls Supervisor**

## Wellbeing Team Report

Georges River College Peakhurst Campus is committed to the wellbeing of all students in the school by providing a positive and nurturing learning environment where all students are valued. Student wellbeing underpins all teaching and learning programs in an atmosphere of care and concern. Georges River College Peakhurst Campus not only caters for the academic needs of the child but ensures that its students are given a diverse curriculum and a breadth of extra-curricular opportunities to meet the social and emotional needs of young people. It is our focus to equip students with the important life skills they need to be leaders and responsible participants in a rapidly changing world.

The Wellbeing Team consists of the Principal, Deputy Principals, Head Teacher Wellbeing, four Year Advisors, two PEAK Advisors, School Counsellors, SRC Co-coordinator, Girls and Boys Mentors, Youth Workers and the Careers Advisor.

As a group, the Wellbeing Team meet regularly to discuss students, review attendance and proactively plan strategies and programs in which to better support student wellbeing in all areas. The Student Wellbeing Team is responsible, along with all members of staff, to ensure that student wellbeing is a high priority within Georges River College Peakhurst Campus. The Student Wellbeing Team proactively engages with all students individually, in small groups or in year groups to actively promote cognitive, emotional, social, physical and spiritual wellbeing. Students may work with the Year Advisor, PEAK Advisors, Head Teachers, Deputy Principals, classroom teachers, the school counsellor or other agencies where appropriate.

The GRC Peakhurst Wellbeing Team creates and delivers exciting programs and initiatives that provide students with opportunities in leadership, mentoring, public speaking, increasing their self-esteem and many other self-awareness activities.

School partnership community initiatives with Headspace, Riverwood Community Centre, Project Youth, Georges River Life Care and 3 Bridges will be engaged. This will provide students with opportunities to be mentored and participate in various wellbeing programs. This will assist them with strategies to use in their day to day lives to cope with challenges they

may face. These programs focus strongly on building resilience, self-esteem, awareness of body image and making correct choices. Information on when these programs are scheduled will be provided at that time.

## School Counsellors and Youth Workers

In 2021, we have two counsellors at school. Christine works on Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays and Gloria is in on a Wednesday and Thursday. Georges River College Peakhurst Campus are fortunate to have Ellen as our SWSO (Student Wellbeing Support Officer) at school on Tuesdays and Fridays as well as Ruth our youth worker from 3Bridges (Monday and Thursday) and Larra and Merv, also from 3Bridges who coordinate our Bounce Back Space (Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday). All of our youth workers aim to provide pastoral care, case management and support to a range of students.

## Student Wellbeing Team

This student committee is actively involved in the promotion of Social Justice Initiatives. A volunteer group of students regularly speak at our formal assemblies and write articles that are published in our school newsletters. These students make posters, sell ribbons, produce videos and run whole school assemblies to support these causes. This student group will also be instrumental in planning and coordinating a whole-school Wellbeing day to be held on Friday 19th March. Stay tuned for more details.....

## PEAK Learning

As part of the Peak Learning (Positive Behaviour for Learning) initiative, all students are invited to place merit cards that they have received for being respectful, responsible and aiming for excellence in a twice a term rewards draw for a gift voucher of their choice to the value of \$20. Two students from each year group who have submitted their merit certificates into the draw will have the opportunity to win a gift card. All students are encouraged to submit their merit certificates for an opportunity to win a gift card.

Congratulations to the following students who were successful in the final merit draw of 2020:

Year 8 – Bianca C/ Aidan V  
Year 9 – Adam D/ Samuel L  
Year 10 – Alivia B/ Zemina I

## Peer Support

The Peer Support Program for 2021 has now begun, involving every Year 7 student and over 40 Year 10 Peer Support leaders. This program is considered highly valuable and rewarding for all students. The objective of this program is to foster friendships and allow the discussion of many issues that the Year 7 students may be experiencing. It also creates a bond between the new students at the school with our senior students.

It is fantastic to see our leaders gaining strong leadership skills every week. It is a wonderful program and aims to effectively implement our school values of Respect, Responsibility and Excellence. I would like to thank the following Year 10 students

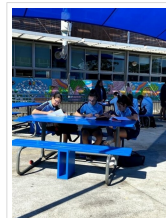
for being outstanding leaders and role models to our younger students.

Cameron A/ Olivia B/ Alex B/ Alivia B/ Lachlan D/ Sasha D/ Shae E/ Danielle E/ Pandora F/ Olivia G/ Matthew H/

Annabelle H/ Zac H/ Sharleas H/ Zemina I/ Krishita J/ Aliyah J/ Banin K/ Mariane K/ Arden-Lee H/ Isabella L/

Nicole L/ Theodora M/ Jack M/ Emma M/ Taj M/ Remedi M/ Rechelle N/ Abbey R/ Victoria R/ Shruti S/ Chloe S/

Phoebe S/ Ashleigh S/ Isabel S/ Pauline T/ Vivian T/ Mikayla T/ Iverson W



## Parenting Ideas

Georges River College Peakhurst Campus has a subscription to 'Parenting Ideas', which includes fantastic articles and webinars on a range of important issues and topics related to parenting. In every school newsletter, I will endeavour to include some articles for you to read and some of those articles have links attached to a webinar. As we are a subscribing school, for our parents, most of those webinars will incur no cost, so be sure to check them out!

This month, I have included 3 'Parenting Ideas' articles (see below) covering the following areas:

- Building Deep Emotional Connections with Kids
- Helping Your Child Become the Best Student They Can Be
- Seven Ways to be a Positive Influence on Children and Young People

The Wellbeing Team plan to work together to promote and celebrate wellbeing initiatives such as Harmony Day, R U OK? and the National Day of Action Against Bullying and Violence, The Butterfly Foundation and Wear It Purple Day.

The Wellbeing Noticeboard is located at D-Block near the lift with a list of upcoming events and initiatives that will be running as well as resources and links that students may be interested in.

It is important that all of our students have support and we are proud that at GRC Peakhurst Campus we have a strong wellbeing focus that supports our students.

**Ms Julia Picone**

**Head Teacher Wellbeing**

## Learning Enhancement

**LEARNING ENHANCEMENT - IS FOR EVERYONE**

In any one school there will be students who may experience difficulties with learning. These difficulties may vary in cause,

nature, intensity and duration. At GRC Peakhurst, the Learning Enhancement Team plays a key role in ensuring that the specific learning needs of all our students experiencing difficulties are met.

SUPPORT is available to every student in need and we can help in the areas of;

- Learning difficulties
- Physical disabilities
- Anxiety
- Injury
- Long & short-term learning concerns
- Assignment help (Available recess and lunch each day)
- Organisation

We have a;

- Lunch **GAMES ROOM** in F block every Tuesday, Thursday and Friday – Recess and lunch
- Sensory/Rest room
- Support Enhancement Centre in the Library

If you have any questions or would like to contact the Learning Enhancement Team to discuss the learning needs of your child please contact us on the school number or by email on;

*Peta Holm – Head Teacher Support and Learning Enhancement – [peta.holm@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:peta.holm@det.nsw.edu.au)*

**Jennifer Jarman – Learning and Support Teacher (Yrs. 7 & 9) – [jennifer.jarman@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:jennifer.jarman@det.nsw.edu.au)**

**Monique Van De Pol – Learning & Support Teacher (Yrs. 8 & 10) – [monique.vandepol@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:monique.vandepol@det.nsw.edu.au)**

## Administration

### School Payments

A reminder that all school payments can be made online via our school website by selecting \$Make a Payment.

The convenience of making payments this way can be done for all your child's invoiced fees, activities and some selected school requirements (eg: Home Readers, Art Canvas's etc).

- It is a safe secure site which is easy to use
- Paying this way eliminates the need to send cash with your child to school to pay at the office
- Payments for books, caps, etc online; these items will be ready for collection by your child the following morning from the front office

More and more parents are choosing to make payments online, which means less cash in the front office. Therefore, should you require to send money with your child to school to pay for something at the front office, **please provide the correct money as we have limited change available.**

### Lost Property

There is a considerable amount of school jackets in lost property. Should your child be missing their school jacket or

other items they have brought to school and lost, please remind them to come to the front office to check lost property.

Any labelled items in lost property are always returned to students as soon as possible.

**Carmel O'Shea**

**School Administrative Manager**