

Wednesday 22 January 2025

Welcome to 2025!

Dear Senior School Families

Welcome to 2025 and another school year. I hope and trust that you have all had a fabulous break over summer and you're looking forward to the year ahead. I'm certainly looking forward to what this year has install for all our community, working together collaboratively, developing creative and critical thinking, and experiencing all that life has to offer us as students, staff and families in this new year of learning.

We have a slightly modified day for the 2025 where we are changing the length of recess and lunch. We are changing from a short recess and a longer lunch to two 30-minute breaks. This will allow a little more of a break in the morning and will mean that lunch will be a little bit later than it has been up to this point. See below for the times.

Mon/Tues/Wed/Fri

Roll Call	8:55-9:05am
Period 1	9:05-9:55am
Period 2	9:55-10:45am
Recess	10:45-11:15am
Period 3	11:15-11:40am (Pastoral Care)
Period 4	11:40am-12:30pm
Period 5	12:30-1:20pm
Lunch	1:20-1:50pm
Period 6	1:50-2:40pm
Period 7	2:40-3:25pm

Thursdays

Roll Call	8:55-9:05am
Period 1	9:05-9:55am
Period 2	9:55-10:40am
Recess	10:40-11:10am
Period 3	10:10-11:50am Wk A: PC Meeting Wk B: Assembly
Period 4	11:50am-12:35pm
Period 5	12:35-1:20pm
Lunch	1:20-1:50pm
Period 6	1:50-2:40pm
Period 7	2:40-3:25pm

Thursdays are different above as Week A (odd week) Thursdays will have a Pastoral Care meeting during an extended Period 3 and Week B (even week) will have assembly. Parents and family members are invited to attend these assemblies. If a student is receiving an award, we will endeavour to communicate home to let you know so you can attend.

We have several new staff coming on board who students will find out about as they begin their learning and I'm very excited to bring these teachers to the Senior School team. They are:

- Linda Evans - English
- Candice Serfontein - English
- Michael Nightingale - Mathematics
- Simon Pauperis - Music
- Kayla Andronicos - PDHPE

- Jessica Rueda - Science
- Aimee Schier - Science
- Bruce Barcham - TAS
- Dervila Breen - Visual Arts
- Nicola Downing - Diverse Learning Aide
- Shay Bush - Diverse Learning Aide
- Miriam Roediger - Diverse Learning Aide

Some staff that have been with us for a while are taking on new roles as well. They are:

- Lisa Close - P-12 Coordinator of Professional Practice
- Meegan Knight - Year 7 Dean of Students
- Brendan Langley - Coordinator of PDHPE
- Jodie Liddiard - Coordinator of English (in addition to Coordinator of Pastoral Care)
- Rebecca Turnbull - Visual Arts and Year 12 Dean of Students

I am excited to see all these staff join us in new roles and help our team to continue to evolve.

Our desire is for the students to be a part of a team that is focused on learning, respectful behaviour and participating in the broader life of the College. This is why we take great pride in our uniform and presentation. Parents are asked to ensure their child returns to school dressed and presented in accordance with the College Uniform Policy. **A reminder that all Year 10 students are expected to wear the new uniform when returning to school.** These can be found in the Parent Information Manual located on the College website. I will highlight a couple of things to draw your attention to more specifically.

- Please be aware of the requirements for the girls' skorts. The uniform guidelines state that a skort hem can sit no higher than 4cm, when measuring from the top of the knee. Many of them were much higher than this last year which may be due to growth spurts in many of our teenage students. There is an 8cm hem on the skort, so we ask that you ensure that this hem is brought down to meet the standards listed above. Do not get them altered to be too short or they will have to be fixed up.
- Hair needs to be the student's natural colour with no bleaching or tinting when they come back to school. If it reaches the collar it needs to be tied back. Guidelines for wearing jewellery is the same for all students. Jewellery is not to be worn except for one watch, gold/silver sleepers up to 10mm, or studs up to 2.5mm (one earring per earlobe, on the bottom part of the earlobe, clear spacers are permitted). No other piercings are to be worn to school or to any school function. No rings, necklaces, or bracelets are permitted.
- No makeup, fake eyelashes or nail polish is to be worn either. Blazers need to be worn to and from school, unless it is overly warm. Most of you will be buying new school shoes over the break for your children. Please be aware of the guidelines around school shoes as these seem to be misunderstood by a lot of students. Shoes are to be black leather lace up school shoes with a raised heel of approximately 2cm in height. No buckled shoes. Shoes that are suede or fashion shoes such as 'Vans or Nike' etc. are not acceptable and will need to be replaced. Please be aware of this as you buy new school shoes. We will check students' shoes at the start of the year and make contact if replacements are required.

Our Year 7 students will also be going on camp in Week Three (Monday 17 to Wednesday 19 February). Forms for camp will be sent out via Edumate at the beginning of Term 1. There will also be an afternoon tea for new parents on the first Thursday back on 6 February in Week One from 3:45-5:30pm.

We also want to encourage our students to be extra safe when travelling to and from the school this year. If your child is riding to school, please encourage them to always wear a helmet and to follow road rules carefully. Please speak to your children about road safety including crossing the road with more traffic around the school, especially at the end of the school day. Please be aware that it is illegal to stop to pick your children up in the No Stopping zones on Piper Drive. This makes crossing the road by students unsafe as well.

Start dates

Monday 3 February - Years 7, 11 and 12, and new to the College Year 8-10 students

Year 7 students are asked to arrive at the College by 8.45am in their full formal uniform. As they enter the College, the

Senior Student Leadership Team will welcome you and your child. The Student Leaders will bring your child down to the Multi-Purpose Hall (MPH). Please note, normal school time (starting from Tuesday 4 February 2025) starts at 8.55am, starting with 'roll call' Students will be meeting their roll call teacher/room on the first day.

Year 11 and 12 students will also meet in the Senior School COLA and be guided to their Tutor Group. They will be provided with their timetable and orientation necessities. For the remainder of the day, they will have timetabled lessons.

New Year 8-10 students - please meet the college Student Leaders outside the College Administration (A Block – at the top of the school) by 8:45am and the leaders will bring students down to where they need to go. Parents are asked to please collect your child from outside the Admin building at 1.50pm.

All students are to wear the College Formal Uniform and bring the following:

- writing equipment
- a laptop. Software will be provided by the College during BYOD workshops
- a sturdy combination lock for their locker
- recess (and a drink bottle) (Years 7, 11, 12 and new students).
- A sausage sizzle will be provided for lunch to all students on this day

Tuesday 4 February - All year groups

Years 7 - 10 are to wear their College Sports Uniform. Students need to pack their bags according to the needs of their timetable. Students are reminded to pack recess/lunch and a water bottle.

School time reminder: 8.55am to 3.25pm

All students should bring the following:

- writing equipment
- a laptop
- a sturdy combination lock for their locker

Mobile Phones

Due to our approach to mobile phone use, we are fortunate that our students do not have this distraction during the school day. A reminder to parents that students must leave their mobile phone locked in their locker along with their other valuables. Please be aware that should a student be found to be using their phone on campus, it will be confiscated immediately by teachers. Parents will be informed of this (via phone or email) and required to collect it from the College Reception. Your support with this is much appreciated.

Lockers

Year 7-12 students are given a locker to assist them in organising themselves and keeping their belongings safe. In the first week of school, students will go through the expectations of having a locker with their Tutor. Students are to supply their own locks. These should be sturdy combination locks where the combination is recorded in a location/place that is readily accessible (e.g. emailed to oneself, written in the Day Book, shared with a parent). In addition to this, students must provide this combination to their Tutor who will keep it safe.

Students are required to have a lock for the first day of school.

Equipment List

The student equipment list for 2025 can be found on the College website [here](#).

Key Dates for Term 1

- Year 7 students and their parents Afternoon Tea – Thursday 6 February
- Secondary Swimming Carnival – Wednesday 12 February
- Year 7 Camp – Monday 17 to Wednesday 19 February
- NAPLAN – Year 7 and 9 – Wednesday 12 to 14 March (Catch ups the following week)
- Tutor/Parent Evening – Wednesday 26 February
- Year 12 Parent Teacher interviews – Tuesday 1 April

- Tutor/Parent Evening – Wednesday 26 February – 4.00pm to 7.00pm (Week 4)

The aim of this evening is for tutors and parents to discuss each student's goals and aspirations for the year as well as strategies to achieve these. This time is also an opportunity for discussion of pastoral matters. Additionally, this evening is a way of helping new students and families to settle into our school and enhance communication.

Buses

Please note there are still some spots on the Private Buses that run to Gerringong /Jamberoo/ and areas of Kiama. For enquiries contact Gavin on 0414 377 505.

With our mission "In Christ alone we are building a learning community dedicated to excellence and equipping to serve", I am excited to see our young people pursue excellence in everything that they do and find opportunities to learn how to serve the wider community. I am also excited to be able to work with our parent community as we seek to develop strong, resilient, compassionate and respectful young people who can impact this world wisely and with faith.

Sincerely

Mr Liam Bailey

Deputy Principal – Head of Senior School



Faith | Wisdom | Compassion | Respect