



MOUNT GAMBIER HIGH SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 1 | 5 FEBRUARY 2021

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FROM THE PRINCIPAL

It is with great pleasure that I have the opportunity of communicating to you in our first newsletter of 2021.

The new school year has started in a busy, positive and productive manner with students quickly settling into the school's work and learning expectations. Prior to students starting this year all staff were actively involved in strategic planning meetings focusing on "Attending to Culture". As a result of these meetings, it was agreed that the following expectations would be strongly actioned and supported at our school:

- **School Dress Code** - all students are required to wear the correct attire in accordance with our Dress Code policy. I encourage all parents and students to re-visit our "Dress Code" and "Dress Code Brochure" available on our website.
- **Positive Behaviour** - our staff are highly skilled and dedicated in what they do. It is important to recognise that responsible and respectful behaviour by all participants in a classroom environment is essential for successful learning outcomes. Likewise, every student represents Mount Gambier High School before and after school and that same responsible and respectful behaviour is expected. To provide these successful outcomes for all our students we will action positive behaviour support.
- **Mobile Phone Policy** - it is the responsibility of the person owning a mobile phone to be respectful of the environment they are in. Thank you to parents and students for your support with our strong focus on mobile phones being silent, off and out of sight in classrooms and during learning activities. This has been a focus for the last three years and will continue, as this has a positive impact on the levels of attention and effort on learning.
- **Movement "On" and "Off" our school site** - We have a duty of care for every student. Movement off-site without appropriate permission and/or not following designated sign out processes is unacceptable.
- **A litter free environment** - As \$6million worth of demolition, reconstruction and re-development occurs at our site it is particularly important to mention that every endeavour will be given to support a litter free, well maintained learning environment for everyone to enjoy. In particular, high caffeine/sugar drinks have become litter concerns, not to mention the unhealthy aspect associated with these drinks. These drinks will be confiscated and returned at the end of the day if seen being consumed during school time.

We look forward to your support in implementing these expectations and further instilling "Pride of Place" at Mount Gambier High School.

Welcome

This year our school has welcomed 140 year 8s and a number of additional students and their families in years 9-12. We also would like to welcome our 16

Upcoming Events

Year 8 Swimming Carnival

Monday 8 February

Year 8 'Meet and Greet'

6pm Monday 8 February

Governing Council AGM

7pm Monday 8 February

School Photos Catch Up Day

Friday 12 February

Interhouse Athletics Carnival

Thursday 25 to Friday 26

February

Year 6/7 Twilight Tours

5.00pm & 6.30pm Monday 1
and Tuesday 2 March

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Government of South Australia
Department for Education

LEARNING

BELONGING

RESPONSIBILITY

FROM THE PRINCIPAL (continued)

new staff to the school community. We trust that your time with us this year is rewarding as we work together to build an environment where all students are learners capable of growth and improvement.

I am excited to work with our experienced Senior Leadership team who bring a wonderful range of skills and knowledge that complements our school direction. This includes Suze Ricketts—Deputy Principal, Samantha Brown - Senior School Assistant Principal, Josh Praolini - Entrepreneurial Assistant Principal, Jade Lock - Junior School Assistant Principal and Steph McIntosh - Business Manager.

Our Values

The values of **Learning**, **Belonging** and **Responsibility** will have a strong visible presence and high expectation for all in our community as we continue to work together to deliver high class learning opportunities for our students.

Governing Council

With the start of the new school year, we encourage and invite parents to be a part of our Governing Council. The Governing Council plays a critical role in ensuring our continued success - which naturally translates into our students' successes.

The Governing Council is the formal parent body of Mount Gambier High School and is highly regarded and recognised for its pro-active involvement in the educational advocacy and achievements of the school. Our many sub-committees provide support and direction for a range of school activities, including finance, asset management and strategic directions.

Our Governing Council works closely with the principal and the school's leadership team to determine the Guiding Statements and strategic directions. There is an Annual General Meeting at 7pm on Monday 8 February followed by two meetings per term from 6.00pm to 7.30pm. Please make a time to talk with me if you would like to find out more information.

Site Priorities

As with every new year we look at new ways to strengthen good practice and improve where necessary. Our focus for this year will continue to look at ways we can support our teachers to explore new and better ways to deliver lessons in classrooms.

ATTENDING TO CULTURE: As mentioned earlier, our staff have clearly articulated the importance of expectations "Positive Behaviour", "Dress Code Policy", "Mobile Phone Policy" and "Litter Free Environment" as integral stages of development for Attending to Culture.

WRITING: Our core business will see teachers and students explore, reflect on and improve writing across all curriculum areas. How we plan for, assess and diagnose students' writing abilities has been identified as an area that will support growth and improvement for students at all year levels.

ENTREPRENEURIAL EDUCATION: We also maintain our push to engage, deliver and connect with the world of entrepreneurship. Our work as an Entrepreneurial Specialist School will enable our teachers and students to have access to information, resources and expertise in and outside of the school environment. It is an exciting way to support the evolution and improvement of teaching practices at our school.

Parent Participation and Fundraising Committee

This year we encourage new parents to consider joining our Parent Participation and Fundraising Committee. This group plays a central part in the assistance of school initiatives and celebrations. It is an ideal way to support the learning and cultural enhancement of our school and we encourage new parents to register interest by leaving their name with the Student Office staff or by contacting our parent group team by email at dl.0784:info@schools.sa.edu.au.



Peter McLaren
Peter McLaren
Principal

 **White Ribbon**
Australia School

OFFICE OPENING Hours

Please be advised that as of the 2021 school year our Front Office and Student Office will be open to the public between the hours of 8.00am and 4.00pm Monday to Friday, during school terms.

If you are unable to pop in during those times, please contact the school to make alternative arrangements.

Thank you

SENIOR SCHOOL INFORMATION



Senior School Team –Samantha Brown, Penne Saffin, Matthew Cherry, Jessica Kennedy and Eluisa Crispino.

All senior students have study lessons where they are not in subject lessons. The purpose of uncommitted lessons is for students to complete assessment work, revise subject matter and prepare for upcoming lessons. It is an expectation that all students remain at school during these times, as well as recess and lunch. The intention is for all students to develop sound work habits in order to complete set tasks and be successful in their learning. There are staff members available to assist students during their study lessons.

If a student needs to leave for an approved reason such as illness or a medical appointment, they must have a written note, and show this when they sign in and/or out.

Stage 2 students are expected to be present from home group until 3.20pm each day for the first two weeks to ensure all administrative matters are addressed and completed. Home Study will commence

on Monday of week 3. Home Study for all Year 12 students will be reviewed on a regular basis. Continuation of Home Study will be based on attendance, work completion, teacher concerns and behaviour.

There is no Home Study for Stage 1 students. Students will use the year to demonstrate their skills and abilities to be eligible for Home Study as Stage 2 students.

Parents can contact their home group teacher or a member of our Senior School Team if they have any questions.

Samantha Brown | Senior School Assistant Principal

JUNIOR SCHOOL INFORMATION

The first week of school has flown by, with students and staff building relationships and getting to know each other across a range of experiences. Students engaged in 'Setting up for Success' extended home group sessions to connect them with our Mount Gambier High School Code of Conduct "CARE". Students and teachers also talked about being "ready to learn" as they navigate their responsibilities to manage all equipment including laptops.

A big focus has been around respect and what that looks like, feels like and sounds like at Mount Gambier High School, in the classroom and around our school.

2021 promises to be busy and fulfilling and we encourage our students and families to really get involved in as many ways as possible. We look forward to meeting and working with all families, supporting our school community and our future leaders! If you have any questions or concerns about your junior school student, please do not hesitate to get in contact with one of our Junior School team.

Jade Lock | Junior School Assistant Principal

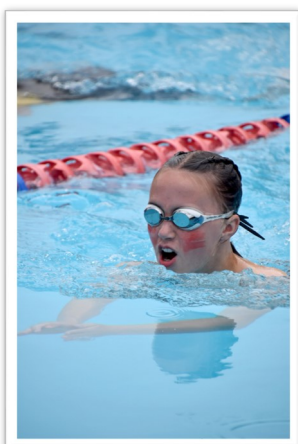


Junior School Team – Carol Shepherd, Jade Lock, Suze Ricketts, Emma Robinson, Suzanne Gray, Nicolle Orr and Jodi Greenwood.

2021 SPORTING NEWS

Modified Swimming Carnival

Due to the development of the Wulanda Recreation and Convention Centre here in Mount Gambier, the annual Interhouse Swimming Carnival will not be taking place in its usual format. Instead, year 8 students will travel to the Nangwarry Aquatic Centre on Monday 8 February for a range of championship swimming events and novelty activities.



Students will be asked to meet in the quadrangle by 8.45am where they will check in with their home group teachers, prior to travelling to Nangwarry. Year 11 Peer Support Leaders along with House Captains and Vice Captains will be in attendance to assist the year 8 students in all of their activities and events. At the conclusion of the carnival, students will return by bus to Mount Gambier High School prior to the end of the normal school day.

We encourage all participants and spectators to come dressed in sun-smart house colours (**Gambier**, **Lake**, **Mount** and **Tower**) to add to the fun and atmosphere of the day.

Students in Years 9-12 who wish to trial for the Interschool Swimming team have been asked to meet with Mr Wingard regarding trials also occurring on this day. These trials will assist in selecting our Interschool Swimming team which will compete in Bordertown on Friday 12 February. Students who have represented the school at Interschool Swimming in previous years will be encouraged to do so again.

Glossop Exchange

After conducting a modified Glossop Exchange in 2020, we are keen to return to the normal format which would see Mount Gambier High School staff and students travel to the Riverland to be hosted by the Glossop community in week 10, term 2. Planning between both schools is underway to determine the program and sports to be included. More information will be provided in due course.

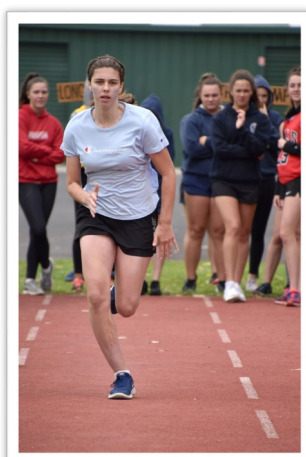


Athletics Carnival

This year the Annual Athletics Carnival will be held during Week 5. On Tuesday 23 February, students will compete in the 1500m event, followed by the remaining events on Thursday 25 and Friday 26 February. The carnival is another wonderful opportunity for students to get together, challenge themselves and have a fun time competing whilst trying to win the 'Ian Gould' House Shield. There are a range of events to suit everyone from the traditional track and field events, to novelties including sack races, tunnel ball and Tug-O-War.

Last year saw Lake clinch both the swimming and athletics carnivals, so the challenge is out for another house to step up and knock them off!

Results and photos from both the Year 8 Modified Swimming Carnival and whole school Athletics Carnival will be included in the next newsletter.



School Sport SA Awards



We would like to congratulate Year 11 student, Hayden Crowe, who is one of five finalists in the 2020 School Sports Awards (Individual Secondary Male Award). The School Sports Awards recognise and reward the outstanding sporting achievements of young people in our community. The awards are a joint initiative of The Advertiser, Messenger and the Department for Education. Hayden will be invited to the

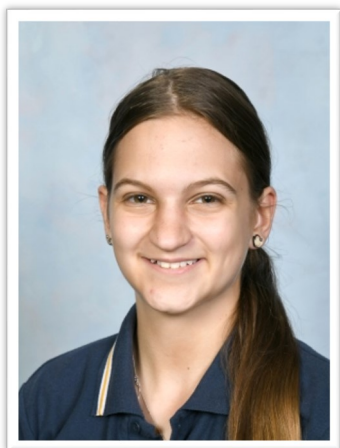
awards function in February with the overall winner being announced at that time. Hayden was nominated for his success in Track and Field, where he ran two Under 18 national qualifying times in the 200m and 400m events at the All Schools Athletics competition in Adelaide. Further to this, Hayden has officiated at a variety of local school sports days, including Yahl Primary School, McDonald Park Primary School, Reidy Park Primary School as well as the Lower South East SAPSASA Athletics Carnival hosted by Mount Gambier High School.

Kerran Wingard | Special Sports Coordinator

STEM SCHOLARSHIP AND SPACE PROGRAM SUCCESS

Laryssa King is one of only 10 students in South Australia who have been selected as a part of the Space Industry Work Experience Program. The South Australian Space Industry Centre (SASIC) and the Department for Education's Advanced Technology Program have collaborated to run the second Space Industry Work Experience program. This unique work experience opportunity will give South Australian students' personal insight into the Space Industry, an understanding of skills and qualifications required, networking opportunities and act as a catalyst for inspiring young people to pursue STEM careers. Students will work alongside mentors at SA space companies and organisations. Laryssa has also secured a STEM scholarship, supporting her through year 11 and 12 and securing her goal of working in the space industry.

Josh Praolini | Entrepreneurial Assistant Principal



QR CODE SIGN IN *Requirements*

The Department for Education have rolled out QR codes for all government educational sites. All visitors including parents/caregivers, contractors, staff and members of the public are now required to sign in through the MySA Gov app by using the MGHS QR code on display. Manual sign in registers are available for those who are unable to access the app at the Front and Student Offices. We appreciate your cooperation with this.

ENTREPRENEURIAL SPECIALIST SCHOOL NEW SUBJECTS

2021 marks a very exciting time for our Entrepreneurial Specialist School as we embed entrepreneurial subjects. All year 8 students will complete one term of Innov8. This subject has been designed in collaboration with Flinders University. Innov8 is a unique learning opportunity for students to experience the world of innovation and entrepreneurship. Students will become more aware of themselves and the world around them and discuss real world topics and problems. Innov8 focuses on developing students' entrepreneurial mindset and skills through creative play and innovative challenges, which in turn will be transferable into all other subject areas.

Students then have the opportunity to continue their entrepreneurial learning journey in year 9 with our semester elective Incub8. Incub8 builds on the entrepreneurial mindset and skillset established in Innov8. Incub8 takes a more structured approach and outlines three different groups of entrepreneurs, environmental, social and business. Students will undertake research into each of these groups and engage with guest speakers in each area. Incub8 will encourage students to formulate and ask their own questions through an individual inquiry approach rather than just answering them along with investigating and finding their own problems before they begin to solve them.

We look forward to seeing students achieve success in these subjects as they take on the problems of the world.

Jess Magarey | Teacher



RURAL YOUTH AMBASSADORS PROGRAM



At the beginning of 2020, I was fortunate enough to be chosen in the inaugural South Australian Rural Youth Ambassadors Program, facilitated by The Country Education Partnership (CEP). The program aims to develop the leadership skills of rural and remote young people, as well as providing a collective voice for students to discuss, and collaborate on strategies surrounding issues affecting country education.

As a group, our goal was to contribute to an idea or project that improves the learning for all students in rural South Australia. Due to the effects of COVID-19, we were unable to travel to Adelaide each term, as previously planned. However, we were able to link up through an online platform on a number of occasions throughout the year. This included having the opportunity to speak with the Minister of Education for South Australia, the CEO of the Department for Education, as well as a number of other members from the Department for Education.

I also had the opportunity to present at the South Australian Area Schools Conference, be a part of a working group for the Rural Inspire Initiative and take part in a careers study being conducted by Curtin University in Western Australia. Along with this, I will be travelling to Adelaide in week 3 of this term to attend a face-to-face forum with 10 other students from across South Australia. I was also lucky enough to be selected in the National Rural Youth Ambassador Program, involving 20 students from across South Australia, Victoria, and New South Wales. This will involve travelling to Canberra in week 5 of this term, to meet with senior bureaucrats and politicians.

Sarah Dally | Year 12 Student

2021 HOUSE CAPTAINS

HOUSE	GENDER	CAPTAIN	VICE-CAPTAIN
GAMBIER	Male	Ethan Gladman	Harry Waller
	Female	Tori Redemski	Chelsea Frost
LAKE	Male	Reece Cowling	Keenan Dwyer
	Female	Tara Bryant	Laryssa King
MOUNT	Male	Gui Ros Smith	Mark Arthurson
	Female	Mikaela Horrigan	Jordan Freeman
TOWER	Male	Alex Ridding	Cameron Morale
	Female	Claire Hunter	Brielle Winterfield/ Sarah Ritter



2021 NEW STAFF

Mount Gambier High School would like to introduce our newest staff members for 2021: Kerrin Blott, Troy Esdale, Trish Jenkins, Kate Jones, Greg Kanakaris, Jade Lock, Jake Matthews, Peter McLaren, Cherie Steele, Steph Wighton, Riley Buckingham, Hannah Fry, Jodi Greenwood, Jess Hunter, Moo Gay (Absent) and Jess McGregor (absent).



MT GAMBIER CITY BUS *Information*

Please note that the School City Bus Service has a code of conduct and we would like to see all students abide by the rules for the safety of all concerned.

The School City Bus is not a free service, so the drivers would appreciate it if students could arrange to have correct money when travelling. Fare prices are \$1.10 per trip or students can purchase a multi trip card, 10 x trips for \$8.60. A student concession pass is also available. This covers all travel over a four week period for \$24.80. An application form to apply for the student concession pass can be collected from the school's Front Office. If you have any queries about tickets or travel on the School City Bus, please call Michael Suto or Jo Sykes at BuslinkSA on 8724 9978 during business hours.

MATERIALS & SERVICES CHARGES

In establishing the fees for 2021, both the Finance Advisory Committee and Governing Council are sensitive to the fact that some families may require assistance in meeting this commitment. Please contact the Finance Officer or Business Manager on 87210200 to discuss alternative arrangements if payment cannot be made by Thursday 1 April, 2021.

1st Instalment \$155 was due on: Monday 18 January

2nd Instalment \$155 was due on: Thursday 25 February

Final Instalment \$155 due by: Thursday 1 April

Payment via the school's website: www.mghs.sa.edu.au - use the payment link provided.

Direct Debit by Instalment: Regular Direct Debit Instalments can now be implemented through the Commonwealth Bank. If considering this option, forms are available from the school website or from the Student Office.

School Card: A School Card Form is required to be completed for each family, each year, regardless of the previous year's status. If a form has been completed at a primary school for younger students, a form is also required to be completed at Mount Gambier High School for secondary students. These forms can be collected from the Student Office or completed online using the following link <http://www.sa.gov.au/topics/education-and-learning/financial-help-scholarships-and-grants/school-card-scheme> under the Applications tab, selecting the form relevant to your circumstances.

Belinda Roughana | Finance Officer

CANTEEN VOLUNTEERS *Needed*

We are currently looking for canteen volunteers to assist in our canteen from approximately 10.30am to 2.00pm. Hours can be negotiated to suit your commitments and morning tea and lunch is provided.

All volunteers must have a current DHS Working with Children Check and complete a Responding to Abuse and Neglect – Education and Care session for volunteers. Both of these requirements can be completed for free.

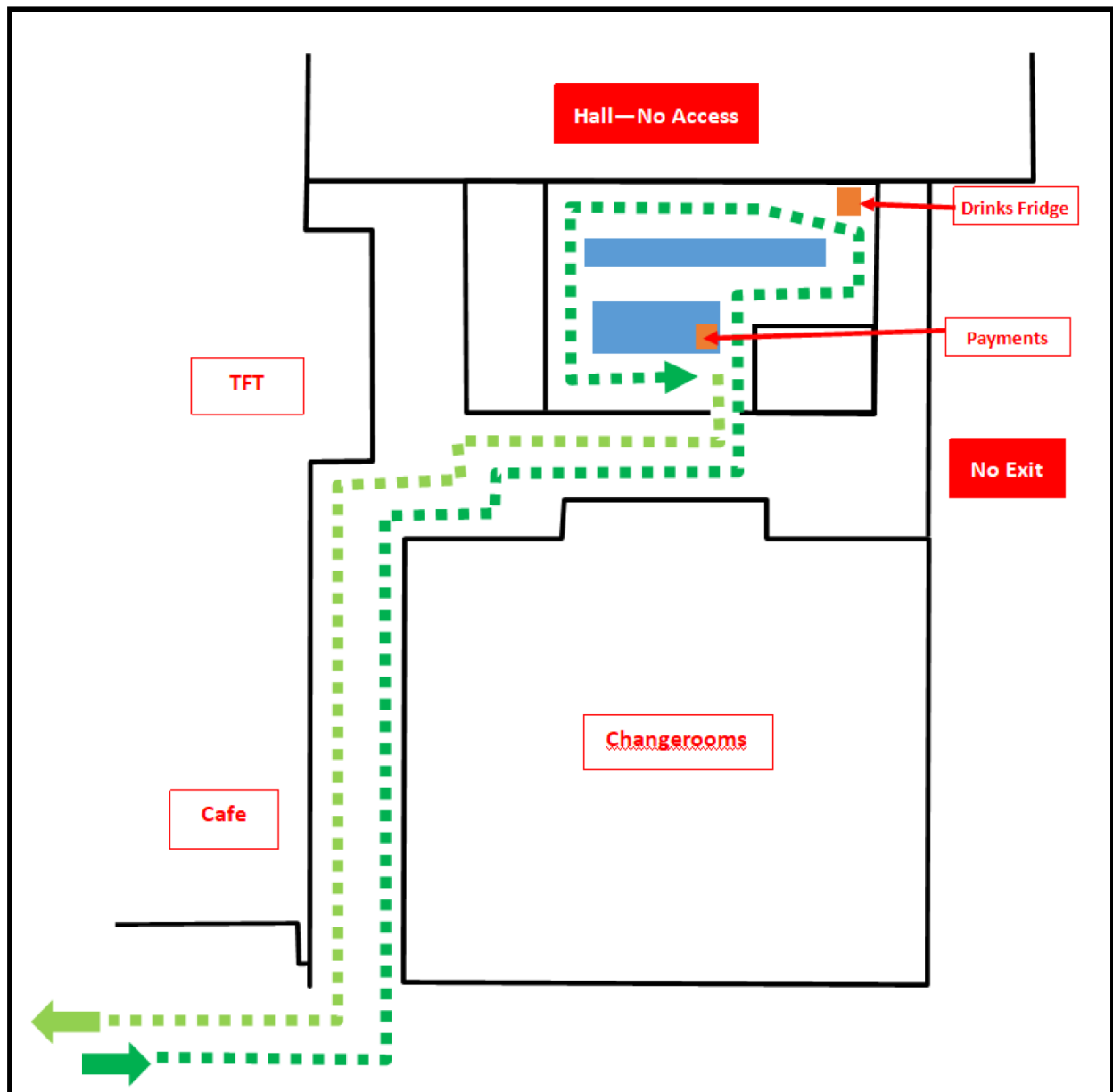
If you are interested in volunteering for our canteen or would like further information please give our Front Office staff a call on 8721 0200.

CANTEEN ALTERNATIVE ACCESS DURING BUILDING WORKS

Due to construction works currently affecting access to our Canteen, we would like to strongly encourage all students to place lunch orders where possible. This can be done at the Canteen prior to the end of recess each day. For the duration of building works access to the Canteen will be via the southern entrance (near the change rooms, see map below).

Thank you for your cooperation and understanding. We look forward to opening our new look Café and Canteen in due course.

Steph McIntosh | Business Manager

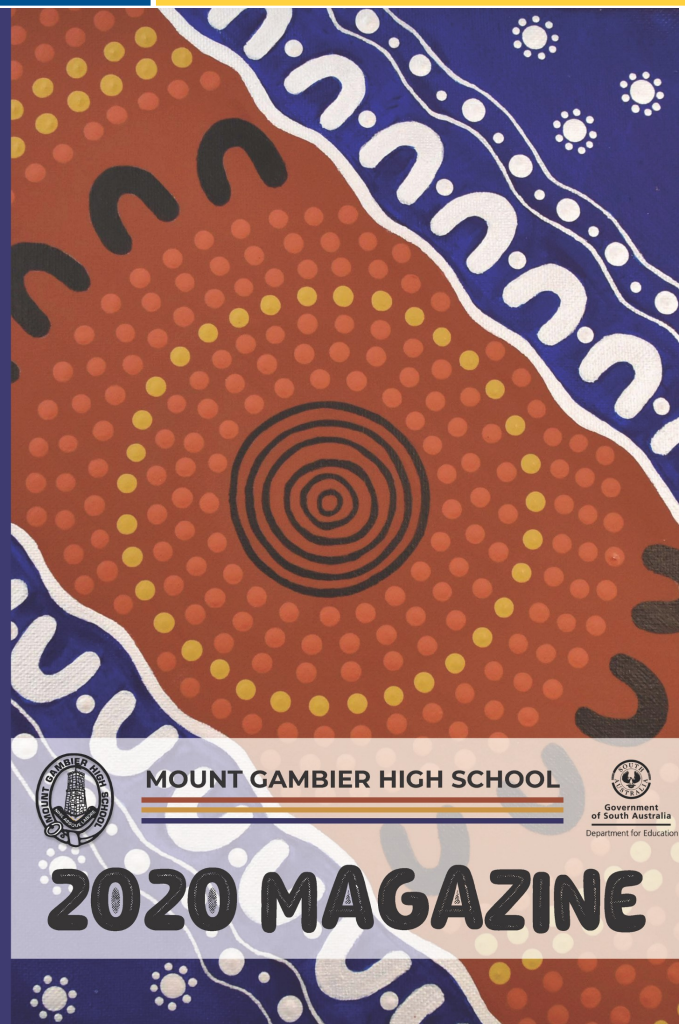


- Entrance to the Canteen is via the southern gate, past the changerooms and to the rear door
- Please encourage all students to place lunch orders at the Canteen (anytime up until the end of the recess break)

2020 SCHOOL MAGAZINE

Orders are now being taken for our 2020 School Magazine. Please contact the Student Office to ensure you don't miss out on a copy. Orders will be open until the end of this term. Magazines will be delivered late Term 1, 2021.

\$18.00



SECOND HAND UNIFORMS *Required*

Our student office is looking for any second hand Mount Gambier High School uniforms that are no longer wanted. If you have any Mount Gambier High School uniform items and would like to donate them to our school, please drop them into the Student Office.

TWILIGHT TOURS *Years 6/7*

Year 6 students - 5.00pm, Monday 1 March 2021 and 6.30pm Tuesday 2 March 2021

Year 7 students - 6.30pm, Monday 1 March 2021 and 5.00pm Tuesday 2 March 2021

Parents of year 6/7 students wishing to explore enrolment opportunities at Mount Gambier High School for 2021 are invited to attend one of the above Twilight Tour sessions in the Mount Gambier High School gymnasium.

The evening will include:

- A presentation of the school's vision and values by the leadership team
- A tour of the school including curriculum information
- Questions and answers sessions

Due to COVID-19 restrictions we will require all families to register prior to the Twilight Tours. Please contact the school to book in for your chosen session.

SCHOOL SPORTS TERM 1

As we all know, being actively involved in extra-curricular activities makes school a much more enjoyable place to be, and it contributes significantly to the social, emotional and physical well-being of all participants. I would encourage all students to take advantage of the opportunities presented at Mount Gambier High School and get actively involved in this area of our school. Below is a copy of the Term 1 Sports Calendar. Please make yourself familiar with key whole-school dates and any other events which may be of interest.

Students wishing to represent Mount Gambier High School in School Sport SA Statewide and local South East Zone competitions can nominate via DayMap. In the lead up to these competitions, students are provided with a digital link via DayMap to nominate. Students must ensure they know their LearnLink email address and password to do so. Nominating for teams does not mean students are automatically selected, with students having to adhere to the School Code of Conduct prior to team selection.

Kerran Wingard | Special Sports Coordinator

TERM 1 SPORTS CALENDAR

Year 8 Modified Interhouse Swimming Carnival	Week 3 – Monday 8 February
SSSA Open Girls T20 Statewide Cricket – Round 1	Week 3 – Tuesday 9 February
Athletics Carnival House Meetings – 9.00am	Week 3 – Thursday 11 February
SEZ Interschool Swimming – Bordertown	Week 3 – Friday 12 February
SSSA Open Boys & Girls Statewide Tennis – Round 1	Week 4 – Wednesday 17 February
SSSA Open Boys T20 Statewide Cricket – Round 1	Week 5 – Monday 22 February
Interhouse Athletics 1500m (HG – Recess)	Week 5 – Tuesday 23 February
Interhouse Athletics Carnival	Week 5 – Thurs 25 & Fri 26 Feb
SEZ Stableford Golf + Come N Try Ambrose	Week 7 – Friday 12 March
SEZ Interschool Athletics – Hosted by Penola HS	Week 8 – Wednesday 17 March
SSSA Open Girls T20 Statewide Cricket – Finals	Week 9 – Monday 22 March
SAPSASA Athletics – Hosted by MGHS	Week 9 – Tuesday 23 March
SSSA Open Boys & Girls Statewide Tennis – Finals	Week 9 – Thursday 25 March
SSSA Athletics Championships – Adelaide	Week 10 – Wednesday 31 March
Please Note: Dates are subject to change.	
Students wishing to nominate for teams must do so by accessing the online form via the DayMap bulletin.	
SEZ: South East Zone SSSA: School Sport South Australia	

