



MOUNT GAMBIER HIGH SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

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e. dl.0784.info@schools.sa.edu.au
a. Brownes Road, Mount Gambier
p. (08) 8721 0200
w. mghs.sa.edu.au



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FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Capital Works Program - \$6million

As you are aware the school has received \$6million state government funding, which will no doubt go a long way to raising our profile within the community through the upgrading of our facilities.

The funding forms part of the department's new tailored system support initiative under the government's 'Every School a Great School' 20 Year Infrastructure Plan. This is designed to leverage and integrate infrastructure investment and targeted support from the department to deliver more value to students, staff and the local community. The intention of this infrastructure funding is to:

- Replace existing aging assets
- Explore other potential improvements to build on the school's standing in the community.

This will be an exciting time for the school and will require careful planning and consultation to maximise the use of this money for the betterment of our school. Our students have already begun providing us with their thoughts through our student forums. Early next term I will be sending out a very short survey for parents/carergivers to gauge your thoughts in relation to this and I would be grateful if you took the time to complete it. In essence this survey will focus on parent/community perceptions of our school and what needs to be improved upon to ensure our community has the upmost confidence in us.

HR News

We welcome Michelle Taylor who will be replacing Jaime Newell as Business Manager whilst she takes 6 months of leave. Michelle comes to us from The Youth Education Centre in Adelaide and has experience in both secondary and primary schools. On behalf of the school community, I would like to welcome Michelle and look forward to working with her in the coming months.

2024 Dance Showcase

Tuesday evening I had the privilege of attending the Dance Showcase held at the Wehl Street Theatre. This was an outstanding evening where the exceptional individual and group talents of our students were highlighted. Whilst the production was outstanding, I began to reflect on just what this event has highlighted to me as principal of this school. Firstly, the courage shown by many of our students to simply get on stage and perform. Some of these students have experienced learning difficulties or even difficulties in their lives, yet they demonstrated the resilience to get up and have a go and were rewarded for this in no uncertain terms by the audience. The coordination of dance moves, experiencing the rigors of practice and constant rehearsals, working collaboratively with other students, all of which requires self-discipline and again resiliency, critical and creative thinking, and risk taking. These skills and dispositions encompass true learning and we must remember that real and



Upcoming Events

Berri Exchange

Wednesday 3 July

End of Term Early Dismissal

2.15pm Friday 5 July

Term 3

Start of term 3

Monday 22 July

Year 12 Exams

Monday 22 to Wednesday 24 July

NAIDOC Week

Monday 29 July to Friday 2 August

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Government of South Australia
Department for Education

LEARNING

BELONGING

RESPONSIBILITY

From the Principal continued...

authentic learning comes from a variety of experiences, many of which are not in the classroom but can be drawn upon in our daily teaching, and this was just one of them. I congratulate you all!

Thank you to the teachers behind the scenes, with a special mention to Kim Cella who was instrumental in ensuring the night was the success that it was. Thank you also to the staff, students, parents/caregivers and other community members who supported the students on the night.

Examples of other student successes will be highlighted throughout this newsletter as well as in previous ones, yet we must acknowledge that these experiences simply do not happen without the support of the teachers, support staff and the parents/caregivers. I would like to thank those individuals who have supported our students to date participating in various extra-curricular activities and providing unique learning opportunities that our students have engaged in. I certainly look forward to the many challenges and successes that we will no doubt experience for the remainder of the year.

Student Forums

Over the coming weeks, myself, Kerran Wingard and the student leaders are conducting year level forums. The intent of these is to solicit student opinion in relation to what it is like to be a learner at Mount Gambier High School. Students will be asked their opinions and solutions regarding behaviour, the school environment and the teaching and learning process. These forums will enable us to gauge whether we have begun addressing the concerns raised by students in the 2023 forums and what are our next steps for the coming 12 to 18 months.

Based on this input from all students we will begin planning our improvement journey with our Code of Conduct and associated behaviour processes being the first under review, closely followed by facilities and teaching and learning. Already we have gained valuable insights from students in years 7, 8 and 9, which has begun shaping our thinking. This work will continue into term 3 to ensure all students have had the opportunity to have their say.

An emerging concern

It is extremely important that students come to school regularly, on time and attend all lessons. an

Being half an hour late to school each day from year 7 on equals five days absence per term. This means missing over a half a year of schooling by the end of Year 12. Students who are late miss the getting organised part of the day and tend to spend the rest of the day trying to catch up. Furthermore, often there is unnecessary pressure

placed on the teacher in order to try and catch the student up. This can take time away from the remainder of the class.

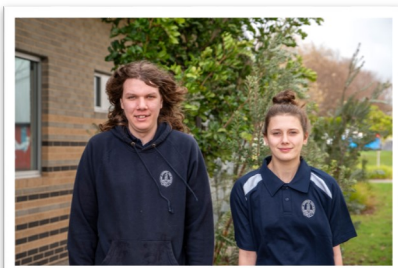
Students arriving late to school must have a note from their parents/caregivers outlining the reason for the lateness. I ask that parents support the school by ensuring their child arrives at school on time and prepared for lessons. We will be monitoring and following up patterns of regular lateness to determine the reasons and to establish processes to support the students in order to maximise their learning.

YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

Congratulations to Imogen Douglas and Troy Kapulainen who have recently won scholarships thanks to the Youth Opportunities Scholarship Program.

These scholarships will allow the students access to driving lessons following their participation in the Youth Opportunities cohort in term 4 last year.

Skye Biddle | Year 9/10 LEL



BUSH TUCKER GARDEN



Following the success of the New Arrivals Program rejuvenation of the Science garden bed, the students spent time last week creating an Aboriginal bush tucker garden out the front of our Garry Costello Centre for Creative Arts.

We'd like to thank Bunnings and Native Plant Wholesalers for their generous donations of plants for this project.



FIRST NATIONS WORK EXPOSURE IN GOVERNMENT

Earlier this term Year 11 Student, Alisha Cram travelled to Garramilla/Darwin to join 28 First Nations students from schools across the Northern Territory and South Australia to attend the Work Exposure in Government (WEX) regional program for 2024. The WEX program allows students the opportunity to embark on a week of insight into the many employment opportunities offered in the Australian Public Service (APS). The program also emphasises social and cultural connections, ensuring students felt supported.

Alisha was encouraged to attend WEX to gain information about future career pathways in public service and also learn more about her family's culture.

The week kicked off with a team-building challenge at the Darwin Waterfront, fostering camaraderie among the students. Cultural connections deepened with a Saltwater Ceremony led by Larrakia Elder Dr Richard Fejo, who welcomed WEX organisers, mentors, and students. Dr Fejo shared stories of the Larrakia people, their deep connection to the land and sea, and the significance of preserving cultural heritage. This ceremony set a profound tone for the week, grounding the students in the rich history and traditions of Larrakia Country.

The itinerary for this year's regional program supported the students' career aspirations, with visits to the Larrakeyah Defence Precinct and presentations from the National Indigenous Australians Agency (NIAA), Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIRO), and the Member for Solomon, Mr Luke Gosling OAM MP. Meeting with Australian Defence Force (ADF) personnel provided hands-on learning with the students participating in an exciting exercise aboard a patrol boat. A cultural night concluded the week, providing a lasting memory of empowerment for the students, mentors and organisers.



SAMMY D FOUNDATION



At the beginning of the term we were fortunate enough to have the Sammy D foundation visit and present to 100 of our students. Students heard from Neil Davis about

the story of his son, Sam Davis, who tragically passed away at the age of 17 when he fell victim to a one punch attack. The Sammy D Foundation is a violence prevention charity, working towards ending violence and empowering young people to understand the impact of their actions. The presentation and workshops were moving and reflective. Students have continued to make comment on just how impactful they felt this experience was. Thank you to the Sammy D Foundation for facilitating this valuable opportunity.

Skye Biddle | Year 9/10 LEL

YEAR 9/10 FOOTBALL

Recently our Year 9/10 Football Program class played Naracoorte High School in Penola for a spot in the next round of the Statewide competition. The game was a tight tussle with the sides evenly matched. A late goal saw our boys get the win by 8 points!

Our next game will be against either Unity College or Heathfield High School in the coming weeks. The winner of this next round will earn a spot in the State Final.

Kerran Wingard | Deputy Principal



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PICKLEBALL FUN

Our Year 9 Physical Education classes have been enjoying participating in their 'Court Sports' unit this semester. A particular hit was Pickleball, which is a paddle sport that combines elements of tennis, badminton, and ping-pong using a paddle and a plastic ball with holes. Their skills have improved greatly and we've seen some impressive rallies.

Conor Wingard | PE Teacher



4RW BBQ FUNDRAISER

Recently FLO students, Tahlia, Mia and Zara held a BBQ fundraiser to raise awareness and money for the local charity Four Reasons Why. The girls did a great job organising and advertising the fundraiser, raising \$360 to provide support for local families in need.

Thank you to Amanda and Mark from Bakers Delight Compton Street and Hadyn from Lakes Village Meats for their kind donations.

Rebecca Johnson | Arts Coordinator



YEAR 7 KITCHEN CREATIONS

As part of Year 7 HPE, students have been developing food and safety skills in the Home Economics Kitchen with Ms Longbottom. Their end of semester assessment involved designing, producing and evaluating a hand held Picnic Lunch product. The focus was on collaboration, safe work in the kitchen and displaying food skills and creativity that have been developed this term.

Products ranged from sushi, burgers, carrot pikelets, mini quiches etc. All products were well made and delicious.

Jan Longbottom | HPE Coordinator



SENIOR SCHOOL END OF SEMESTER ARRANGEMENTS

As the end of semester draws closer, it is important students and families are aware of important class and exam arrangements.

Year 11 (Stage 1) Students

Week 10: Monday 1 July to Friday 5 July

Classes will run as scheduled for all Stage 1 subjects. The semester will conclude at the end of the week, at which time all text books are expected to have been returned to the Collaborative Learning Centre (CLC).

Subjects with exams will be held during lesson time and organised by the subject teacher. Exam results will be uploaded and published on Daymap for parents and students to view by the end of week 1, term 3.

Copies of semester 2 timetables will be available to all Stage 1 students in home group time prior to the end of term 2. For any student requiring semester 2 subject changes, a process will occur prior to the end of the term in conjunction with the Learning and Engagement Leader.

Year 12 (Stage 2) Students

Week 10: Monday 1 July to Friday 5 July

Important change - Stage 1 exams have moved from Week 10 Term 2 to Week 1 Term 3. Normal lessons will occur in week 10 for all Stage 2 classes.

Any Stage 2 students who have not completed Research Project will continue to attend their class to ensure they complete any remaining assessment work. Students who have completed will use this time as an additional study line. Those who do not complete by the end of the term will then be advised as to next steps.

Week 1: Term 3 Monday 22 July to Wednesday 24 July

Exam Week for all Stage 2 students

1. Exams will be held in Rooms 23 and 32.
2. It is an expectation that students are in full school uniform and arrive at least 10 minutes prior to the exam start time. The SACE Floor will be open as the exam meeting point and also as a study space for students as required. Mobile phones and Smart Watches are not permitted.
3. Access to the SACE Floor will be via the Science/Eastern end of the Carthew Building and year 12 lockers will not be accessible while exams are in progress.
4. Lessons will resume for all students on Thursday 25 July.

5. Exam results will be uploaded and published on Daymap for parents and students to view by the end of Week 2, Term 3.

Reports

Reports will be available to view using Daymap on Friday 5 July. Please read them carefully and contact the school should you have any concerns.

Reminders

- Attendance is vital to a student's success. Please support us by ensuring your student attends all lessons including home group and study lines. This allows students to seek assistance from teachers outside of lesson time. The Daymap Connect Parent Portal is available to view attendance and class information. If you have not accessed this before or need help to re-login, please go to the Mount Gambier High School Landing Page [AskIT, Daymap Connect - Mount Gambier High School \(mghs.sa.edu.au\)](https://askit.daymapconnect.com.au/mount-gambier-high-school) and follow the information listed.
- If students are absent, please phone the school or message through Daymap prior to 11.00am each day.
- As we head into the colder months, it is important students continue to wear the school uniform. If there are any issues in accessing the uniform, please contact Michael Brooks, Senior School Wellbeing Leader.

We wish our senior students all the best with their final assessment work prior to end of semester and every success in their mid-year exams. If you have any questions, please contact a member of the Senior School team.

Samantha Brown | Head of Senior School



COMMUNITY KIDS VISITS CONTINUE

During our third visit from the Community Kids the children were engaged in decorating animal masks and crowns. They also stayed for lunch and enjoyed a fruit platter which the Year 10s provided.

Joanna White | Child Studies Teacher



MT SCHANK HIKE

On Friday 14 June the Sports and Recreation class ventured to Mt Schank for a hiking experience. The purpose of the exercise was not only to continue the semester's focus of fitness, but to also to experience a fun activity outside of school that involved communication, pacesetting and camaraderie.

The group managed make it to the top, completing two full laps around the diameter during the 2-hour hike.

Michael Brooks | Senior School Wellbeing Leader



ART CRAWL WRAPS UP

Our Arts Crawl concluded on Tuesday 11 June where our students thanked supporting businesses, gathered feedback and collected their artwork from the venues.

This year our students created 51 artworks that were displayed in six local businesses. 16 artworks were purchased by the community, with all proceeds going back to the artist.

We would like to thank Metro Bakery and Café, Natural Born Grillers, Mount Gambier Library, Mount Gambier RSL, Bendigo Bank and KD's Deli for their support of this event.

Rebecca Johnson | Arts Coordinator



FITNESS PROGRAM DEVELOPED

Recently, Troy, Shannon, Nathan and Nayte from the Sports and Recreation class developed a weights and fitness circuit for a Year 7 PE class. As part of their assessment they were required to develop and facilitate a lesson for a younger cohort. Using their knowledge and experience of fitness and the various machinery in the weights room, the students were each in charge in helping develop a specific fitness focus for the younger students. Arms, legs and general cardio were the focus of the circuit. It was great to observe the leadership and organisation of the students, as well as the way they engaged with their younger peers.

Michael Brooks | Senior School Wellbeing Leader



PEDAL PRIX 24 HOUR RIDE

Recently, the Pedal Prix team, consisting of ten students from years 9 and 10 participated in the third race of the Uni SA Australian HPV Super Series (Pedal Prix). Held in Adelaide, the students had the opportunity to hit the track that was once raced on by legendary Formula One drivers, Michael Schumacher, Nigel Mansell as well as the site where Ayrton Senna won his final ever Grand Prix race.

The Mount Gambier High School Pedal Prix team didn't quite have the same success as Senna, competing against a number of community and pro teams. With this being said, the team did a fantastic job to complete a total of 135 laps of the circuit, which saw our team finish 54th out of 109 middle and senior school teams.

On the Friday the team enjoyed a 90 minute session at Bounce in Adelaide. This wouldn't have helped endurance levels for the race the following day but the students had a blast and needed a well earned break from the five hour bus ride.

The team now look to the 24-hour race in Murray Bridge, the first time since 2019 that Mount Gambier High School have competed in the event!

Josh Fraser | Pedal Prix Teacher



YEAR 12 MID YEAR EXAMS TIMETABLE

Date	Subject	Time	Location	Teacher
Monday 22 July	General Mathematics	9:00 - 11:10	Rm 23	Trnovsky
	General Mathematics	9:00 - 11:10	Rm 32	Kutny
	Mathematics Methods	12:30 - 2:40	Rm 23	Henman
Tuesday 23 July	Chemistry	9:00 - 11:10	Rm 23	Potts
	Biology	12:30 - 2:40	Rm 23	Taylor
Wednesday 24 July	English Literary Studies	9:00 - 10:30	Rm 23	Peach
	Psychology	12:30 - 2:40	Rm 23	Gandhi

- Make sure you arrive at least 10 minutes early
- Make sure you have everything you need for the exam (check with your teacher)
- Phones will need to be OFF and handed to the supervisor
- Take these exams seriously and use them as a guide to improve, as the next time you sit exams, they will count towards your final grade



If you are considering a university pathway from 2025 then attending a University Open Day may be the best way to gather relevant and up to date information.

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN UNIVERSITIES

University of Adelaide: www.adelaide.edu.au/openday/#/

North Terrace, Adelaide | Sunday 11 August 9.00am to 4.00pm.

Flinders University: www.flinders.edu.au/study/events-key-dates/open-days

Bedford Park | Friday 9 to Sunday 11 August from 10.00am

Flinders City Campus | Sunday 11 August from 10.00am

Tonsely Campus (Maths, Science and Technology) | Saturday 17 August 10.00am to 1.00pm

University of South Australia: www.unisa.edu.au/opendays

UniSA Mount Gambier campus | Sunday 4 August

UniSA City West and City East campuses | Sunday 11 August

UniSA Mawson Lakes campus | Sunday 25 August

Magill campus | Wednesday 28 August

Torrens University: www.torrens.edu.au/whats-on/open-day

Wakefield Street, Adelaide | Sunday 12 August

VICTORIAN UNIVERSITIES

Deakin University: www.deakin.edu.au/student-life-and-services/events/open-day

- Warrnambool campus | Sunday 4 August (check website for times)
- Geelong campus | Sunday 18 August (check website for times)
- Melbourne, Burwood campus | Sunday 27 August (check website times)

University of Melbourne: www.unimelb.edu.au/openday#/

Parkville campus | Sunday 18 August (check website for times)

Federation University Australia: www.federation.edu.au/about-us/our-campuses/ballarat/mt-helen-campus

Ballarat and St Helens campuses | (check website for days and times)

La Trobe University: www.latrobe.edu.au/openday

Melbourne campus - Sunday 4 August

Monash University: www.monash.edu/openday

Four separate campuses - check website for dates and times

Swinburne University of Technology: www.swinburne.edu.au/openday/#/

Hawthorn campus | Sunday 28 July 10:00am – 4:00pm

For other University Open Days visit www.gooduniversitiesguide.com.au or visit individual universities online for their current open day information and registration.



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