



PENINSULA

GRAMMAR



**PRE SENIOR YEAR 9
HANDBOOK | 2020**



PRE SENIOR YEAR 9 HANDBOOK | 2020

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WELCOME TO YEAR 9

Year 9 at Peninsula Grammar is an exciting time for our students. Our innovative “Challenging Me” program is based on extensive research on how best to cater for the needs of adolescent learners. In Year 9, our students are located in their own building, the J.G. Pennell Pre Senior Centre, situated between the Middle and Senior Years precincts, and they are taught by a dedicated team of teachers who work collaboratively to develop curriculum, teaching and learning resources.

A unique feature of the program is the three two-week Challenge Blocks students spend outside the regular classroom, in addition to many off-campus extended activities.

All students spend two weeks in Melbourne on our P2C (‘Peninsula to the City’) program which aims to provide students with the experience of working in the City of Melbourne.

Year 9s also attend a physically challenging ten-day Outdoor Education camp. This aspect of the program sees students achieve personal and group goals way beyond their preconceived ideas. It fosters the development of valuable personal skills and provides each student with a greater awareness of environment and the challenges it offers.

During the Pathways 4 Life block, students undertake community service initiatives and explore and observe a range of career pathways.

The Challenge Blocks complement our multi-disciplinary curriculum of ‘Big Picture Learning’ which incorporates Science, Humanities and Religious Studies. Students will choose topics of interest before they attend the Challenge Blocks. Research will be undertaken during the blocks and then presented on their return to school.

Students will take part in a service learning program whereby they will have the opportunity to learn about and understand the importance of investing in social capital to benefit and support our community. The program has an option to undertake a trip to Laos focusing on service learning whilst they are there.

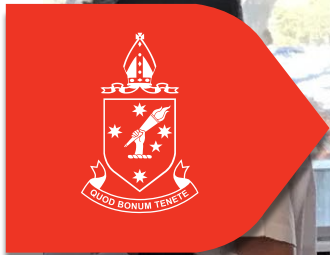
Our Year 9 curriculum also has a particular emphasis on health, nutrition and fitness. Students attend weekly training through the sports program, participate in bushwalks, set themselves various physical challenges and have the opportunity to take part in local fun runs.

With an emphasis on leadership and community, students have the opportunity to work beyond the physical boundaries of the School and meet with a wide variety of community groups. There are extensive opportunities for students to exercise leadership within the year group, running assemblies, activities and year group functions. There is, of course, a continuing emphasis on academic achievement, with a particular goal to stimulate and challenge students through tasks that require complex thought.

Pre Senior Year 9 prepares students for the rigours of the Senior Years and VCE with a program that extends and challenges, providing students with unique learning opportunities and personal growth.

We look forward to working with the students in this exciting and formative year.

Josie Monro
Head of Pre Senior Year 9



YEAR 9 STRUCTURE



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OUR LEADERSHIP TEAM

Mr Stuart Johnston, Principal

Mrs Lucy Gowdie, Deputy Principal - Learning and Teaching

Mr Peter Ford, Deputy Principal - Student Wellbeing

Mrs Louise Nicholls-Easley, Head of Junior Years

Mrs Muriel Bakker, Head of Middle Years

Dr Josie Monro, Head of Pre Senior Year 9

Mrs Sharyn Curtis, Head of Senior Years





**'OUR INNOVATIVE
"CHALLENGING ME"
PROGRAM IS BASED ON
EXTENSIVE RESEARCH
ON HOW BEST TO
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INFORMATION FOR PARENTS AND STUDENTS

EXPECTATIONS

Students are expected to behave in a thoughtful and respectful manner at all times. Good character development relies on honesty, respect, affirmation of personal and community success, pride and acceptance of personal responsibility. It is an expectation that all Year 9 students will attend an outdoor education camp, participate in Saturday sporting commitments and attend special events.

All students have the right to feel safe at school and to be able to discover their own individuality and strengths. All parents and students should be familiar with the Code of Behaviour and the full list of School rules.

THE CODE OF BEHAVIOUR FOR THE STUDENTS OF PENINSULA GRAMMAR

1. Peninsula Grammar exists as a place where a complete education may be undertaken in a helpful and co-operative environment. To develop such an environment it is necessary to provide more than facilities for classes and sport – we need to have an atmosphere which will foster the development of the mind, body and character.

It is most important, therefore, that all associated with the life of the School regard themselves and other persons with dignity and respect, and learn the importance of co-operation in a community with many diverse interests, as well as a common concern for the wellbeing of all its members.

2. It is expected that each student will co-operate to the fullest in taking responsibility for his or her own progress by diligent and careful preparation for and participation in the classes. It is particularly important that no student, either through neglect or lack of concern, interfere with the rights of others to pursue

their courses. Therefore irresponsible behaviour in School or class, or the defiance of the authority of a teacher, will not be tolerated.

3. As it is essential that each student develops a respect for himself or herself as a person and as a member of the School community, a student must conduct himself or herself at all times in a manner which will not detract from his or her own reputation or reduce that of other members of the School. A student does not have the right, either to conduct himself or herself in such a way as is likely to offend others.

Offensive behaviour will not be tolerated whether it be in the use of offensive language, smoking, drinking of alcohol, gambling, stealing or the injury of others. As some of these are offences against the law, offenders may be asked to leave the School.

4. Self-respect is also mirrored in a student's appearance and grooming, characterised by cleanliness and tidiness. Students should ensure that they display good personal hygiene, neat hair style, and a well-maintained uniform. It is a requirement of the School that the School Uniform (as prescribed in the uniform regulations) be worn to all School functions and sporting fixtures unless students are otherwise directed.
5. The mistreatment of others' property is a serious offence. Such behaviour reveals a lack of concern for the owners of that property whether these be individuals, the School as a whole, or the community, and cannot be tolerated.
6. The School offers a wide range of courses, activities and sporting pursuits. While it is understood that students could not participate in all of these they should take part in as many as possible and encourage the involvement of their colleagues. All are encouraged to attend, even if only as spectators, the major annual events of School life, e.g. Celebration Evening, School plays and concerts, AGSV Sporting Competitions and such other functions as are held from time to time.

7. When a student accepts membership of a school team, club or society he or she accepts all of the commitments involved in the membership, for not to do so is a mark of little respect towards the other members of the group concerned.
8. All must recognise that there are certain legal responsibilities involved in attendance at the School. In particular a student may not leave the grounds for any purpose during the School day without special leave from the Head of Pre Senior Year 9, or from those to whom he delegates his authority. If leave is granted the student must sign out on departure and sign in on return. After any absence from the School, a student must produce an absence note signed by his or her parent or guardian. Except in the case of illness, a student must be in attendance on all days on which the School is open, unless leave has been granted by the Head of Pre Senior Year 9.
9. In matters which are not specifically covered by the above code or any other School Regulation, members of the School will observe the principles outlined above concerning the dignity of each person, respect for others and their property and of mutual co-operation with the School community.
10. It is a requirement that students of Peninsula Grammar behave in a socially acceptable manner at all times, including times deemed to be "out of hours".

Continued enrolment at the School is at the discretion of the Principal and is dependent on compliance with this Code of Behaviour.

SCHOOL RULES

The School Rules are to be read in conjunction with the Code of Behaviour.

Students who become members of the School must know the School Rules. A plea of ignorance of them will not be accepted as an excuse for breaking them. All students are to comply with the Rules and parents are asked to support the School in their application.

Breaking School Rules can lead to detention. Detentions may also be given for uncompleted homework or unsatisfactory work. A day's warning will usually be given to enable transport arrangements to be made.

Recalcitrant students will be required to attend an extended detention. Persistent poor behaviour will be reported to parents, and if a student then continues to break the School Rules, he or she may be placed on probation, or be suspended, or required to leave the School.

ALCOHOL

No student is permitted to have alcohol in his or her possession, or to drink alcohol in the School, at School functions, while wearing the School uniform, or in circumstances which are liable to bring the School into disrepute.

APPEARANCE

Please refer to the Uniform Regulations.

ATTENDANCE/ABSENCE

It is the policy of the School that all students are in full attendance, including the first and last days of term. Leave of absence may be granted by the Head of Pre Senior Year 9 or the Principal for illness or urgent family matters.

If a student is absent, parents are required to ring before 10.00am to notify the School. We have a 24/7 absentee line and email address that provides one point of contact for parents to use to notify the School of student absences for all children, for both School and sport. Parents can ring 9788 7800 at any time and leave a message or email absent@pgs.vic.edu.au. Please provide your child's name and year level.

This is very important as it allows us to complete our regulatory paperwork accurately. We encourage parents not to take their son or daughter out of school during term time. If this is unavoidable, however, a **written application for leave must be addressed to the Head of Pre Senior Year 9, or for leave greater than ten days, addressed to the Principal.**

BEHAVIOUR IN PUBLIC PLACES

Impeccable behaviour is required of all students at all times, particularly when wearing the School Uniform in public places. Full school uniform must be worn when travelling to and from the School.

BICYCLES

Bicycles must not be ridden around the School buildings or covered ways or on the playing fields. Under no circumstances is a student allowed to use another student's bicycle, or to carry another student as a passenger. Traffic regulations must be observed at all times and helmets must be worn. Bicycles parked in the bicycle sheds must be secured with a padlock and chain.

BOUNDS

The following are out of bounds:

- Staff offices, unless in consultation with the staff member occupying the office
- The creek and areas beyond the ovals, including the Detmold land, the area adjoining the Nepean Highway and the area adjoining the Girls' Boarding House
- All carparks except for the purpose of genuine transport
- Roofs of buildings or covered ways
- The Boarding Houses and surrounding areas for day students
- The swimming pools without qualified staff supervision
- Work sites for new buildings
- Cricket squares and goal areas
- Changing rooms, except for the purposes of changing for sport/PE
- Bicycle sheds, except on arrival or departure
- The stage of the Ansett Hall.



CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Students are encouraged to take part in co-curricular activities. Membership of school teams, Choir, Orchestra, and other ensembles or similar groups is a privilege and an educational opportunity of great value. Students selected for any of these groups should attend all practices and rehearsals as required.

COMPUTER GAMES

Students are not permitted to play computer games during class time or study periods.

DAMAGE TO SCHOOL PROPERTY

Damage to school property must be reported to the Business Manager and any deliberate/intentional damage must be paid for. Students showing disregard for property will be given detention.

DRUGS

No student is permitted to have any prohibited drug in his or her possession on any occasion under the School's control. Police are advised of any breaches of this rule.

FIREARMS

The possession of firearms (real or imitation), cartridges or explosives of any kind, crackers, fireworks, shanghais, peashooters, laser lights, water pistols and knives is strictly forbidden and will be regarded as a serious offence.

GYMNASIA AND ANSETT HALL

No students are allowed in the Gymnasia or the Ansett Hall without the permission of a staff member.

INJURIES/ILLNESS

Students feeling ill should report this to their class teacher before going to the School Health Centre. No medication, pills or tablets are allowed in the School unless first approved by School Health. Generally, all medications must be retained in the School Health Centre. Any incident where a student sustains a physical injury must be reported to the School Health Centre.

KEYS/SWIPE CARDS

No student may have in their possession keys/swipe cards to School buildings or cupboards.

LEAVING THE SCHOOL GROUNDS DURING THE DAY

No student may leave the School grounds during the school day without the permission of the Principal or from those to whom he delegates his authority. If leave is granted the student must sign out on departure and sign in on return. In the event of illness, students must first report to the School Health Centre.

MOBILE PHONES

- In Year 9, students may carry their phones during P2C, Pathways 4 Life and other excursions. Phones are strictly prohibited on camp
- Permission must be sought before taking photos or videoing in any area of the School
- Mobile phones must be locked in lockers from 8.30am until the end of the day
- In an emergency parents can contact their children through the Pre Senior office on 9788 7764 or through their child's Mentor
- Phones are not to be used at recess, lunchtime, during classes, mentoring, registration or PDP unless it is a specific requirement of the lesson and a teacher has granted permission for them to be brought to class on that specific occasion

MONEY AND VALUABLES

Money and/or valuables should be kept secure in a locked locker unless carried in person. They must not be left in clothing in the change rooms, locker areas or shower rooms.

OVALS

Students are not permitted to take food or drink onto the School ovals.

SMOKING

No student is permitted to have in his or her possession cigarettes, matches or tobacco, or to smoke in the School, at School functions or while wearing the School uniform.

SPORT

Sport is an integral part of the School's program. All students are required to attend trainings which may require students to remain at school one or two nights a week. Permission to be absent can be given by the teacher in charge and will usually be given only if a written note/email from the parent is received prior to 2:00pm on the day of training.

Correct gear must be worn for all sport training. No student may wear gear which does not belong to him or her.

A student selected as a member or official of a team must make himself or herself available for sport fixtures when required, *including on Saturdays*. When a student plays a sport outside the School the student is expected to play that sport for the School unless official exemption is given by the Director of Sport.



Full or partial exemption from AGSV sport can only be granted by the Deputy Principal – Student Wellbeing upon written request by a parent. Exemptions are rare and in order to be granted must meet one or more of the following criteria:

- Medical reasons supported by appropriate evidence from a medical practitioner
- High level pastoral care concerns
- Involvement in elite sport program/activity, at a State or National level or equivalent.

SUNSCREEN

Students are required to have their own supply of sunscreen in their lockers for use on sunny days.

UNIFORM REGULATIONS

UNIFORM FOR YEAR 9 STUDENTS

A well-maintained School Uniform should be worn tidily and correctly both at school and between home and school. The full school uniform must be worn at all times. Shirts are to be tucked in. Where a situation arises concerning a student's uniform, written requests for the temporary wearing of non-regulation items must be referred to the appropriate Head of Learning Area.

Uniform must be worn to all school functions and any departure from this rule in respect of sport or excursions must be authorised by the teacher concerned.

A student whose appearance is not in accord with School Rules and does not have a note from his or her parents will receive a warning to remedy the fault. If prompt action is not taken the student will then be given a note to take home stating that he or she may not return until the fault is rectified.

All students are expected to wear the school uniform correctly and with pride. Particular school expectations have been summarised in the start of year letter to parents.

Within Year 9, there is an incremental uniform detention system which will be used each term. The incorrect wearing of uniform can result in a lunchtime Detention, Wednesday Detention or an Extended Friday Detention and an interview with parents.

The School adopts a Sunsmart policy and in support of this all Year 9 students must wear a hat during Term 1. A policy of 'no hat no play' is enforced. Students without hats will be required to remain under cover of a solid structure (e.g. walkway) and will not be served at the School Tuckshop.

Year 9 students will have the option of purchasing a Year 9 Jacket which can be worn during the school day and off campus excursions held during Challenge Blocks. Year 9 students will still be required to wear a blazer for special events such as Grand Music Showcase and Celebration Evening.

BLAZERS

A student wearing winter uniform must wear the School Blazer or Year 9 Jacket to and from school. It is not appropriate to wear the School blazer with summer uniform, however the Year 9 Jacket may be worn.

BOYS' SHORTS AND TROUSERS

Boys are to wear their shorts or school trousers at waist height. Shorts should sit above the knee.

School belts are to be worn with both summer and winter uniform for boys in Years 7-12.

DRESS LENGTH

Summer dresses must be at least mid-knee in length.

The hemline of winter skirts must sit at mid-calf.



HAIR

Hairstyles are to be sensible and befitting the image of the School (i.e. clean, neat and well groomed).

Hair must be off the collar and the fringe length must be off the face and not tucked behind the ears. Hair must not be shorter than a 4 comb.

Examples of inappropriate styling include, but are not limited to: tails, mohawks, shaven heads, dreadlocks, man buns, undercuts, lines, extreme high fade.

Hair may be dyed only in natural shades. Visible regrowth is not acceptable.

Males are to be clean shaven.

Girls with shoulder length or longer hair must tie it up.

Ribbons and hair ties/scrunchies may be red or blue. Headbands are not to be worn.

Tortoiseshell butterfly clips which are unobtrusive in size may be worn by girls to keep hair back.

A maximum of two standard size snap clips may be worn to keep hair off the face.

HOUSE ACTIVITIES

Students are to wear navy shorts and their House polo top to Cross Country and Athletics. Students are to wear school-approved bathers for Swimming.

Girls may wear House coloured hair ribbons to House events.

For House Activities, students are to wear clothing as stipulated by their Head of House.

JEWELLERY

Watches, with small, unadorned faces and simple watchbands, are allowed. Girls with pierced ears may wear one small plain stud or sleeper in the lower ear lobe. The stud or sleeper may be silver or gold in colour. No other jewellery including tongue and/or facial studs/rings (even when covered with tape), wrist bands/bracelets or any other visible body piercings are permitted.

Students wishing to wear a visible religious icon are to apply to the Deputy Principal – Student Wellbeing, supported in writing by their parents.

Badges may not be worn in the School, unless related to a School activity, or a charity supported by the School.

JUMPERS

Jumpers are not to be tied around the waist.

MAKE-UP/NAIL POLISH

Visible make-up is not to be worn. Nail polish is not permitted.

SCARVES

Scarves are not to be worn with summer uniform, nor should they be worn to formal occasions e.g. Assembly, Music Concerts, Celebration Evening etc.

SCHOOL BAGS

Only the official Peninsula school bags (backpack and sports bags) are to be used to transport student belongings to and from school.

SCHOOL SHOES

Only black leather lace up school shoes or T-Bar (girls only) are to be worn.

SCHOOL TIES

School ties must be worn at all times – with both Summer and Winter Uniform, except in February with a school short sleeved white shirt bearing the School crest.

A tie must be worn whenever a blazer or bomber Jacket is worn.

TATTOOS

Students are not permitted to have visible tattoos.

FREE DRESS DAY POLICY

On special occasions students are permitted to wear a selection of their own casual clothes to school instead of their normal uniform. Generally, these are held as fundraisers for selected charities, therefore a gold coin donation for each student is often requested.

Whilst it is a free dress day, the School still expects students to observe principles concerning the dignity of each person and the respect for others. Students need to be mindful of the styles of clothing and appearance that are deemed to be inappropriate at Peninsula Grammar.

In the case of girls, items considered inappropriate include singlet tops, tops that expose the midriff, micro shorts and micro skirts. This also extends to dresses with single or shoestrings straps. Hair still needs to be tied back for some subjects such as Technology and Science. The School rules still apply with regard to the wearing of jewellery, make-up and nail polish.

Students should be mindful that if they are dressed inappropriately, or their appearance is deemed not suitable, then they will be required to change into more appropriate clothing or return home.

FOOTWEAR

For safety reasons, both boys and girls are not to wear any form of open-toe shoes such as thongs or sandals. All shoes should cover the toe.

PE CLASSES

If a student has a PE class or sports practice the usual PE and sport uniforms are to be worn; students will then be permitted to change back to free dress.



STUDENT ATTENDANCE

ABSENCES

If a student is absent, parents are required to ring before 10.00am to notify the School. We have a 24/7 absentee line and email address that provides one point of contact for parents to use to notify the School of student absences for all children, for both School and sport. Parents can ring 9788 7800 at any time and leave a message or email absent@pgs.vic.edu.au. Please provide your child's name and year level.

This is very important as it allows us to complete our regulatory paperwork accurately. We encourage parents not to take their son/daughter out of school during term time. If this is unavoidable, however, a **written application for leave must be addressed to the Head of Pre Senior Year 9, or for leave greater than ten days, addressed to the Principal.**

LATE ARRIVALS AND EARLY DEPARTURES

Students arriving late must sign in at the Safety and Transport manager's office and show their note. If students need to depart School early, they must bring a note from their parent or guardian, or the parent/guardian may contact their child's Mentor by phone or email. The Mentor will issue an 'Early Departure' slip which they are to take to the Safety and Transport manager's office for processing prior to leaving the School grounds.

If a student feels unwell during the day they are to report to School Health. Our Nurses will contact families if necessary. Students are not to call their parents requesting they be collected from school due to illness.

HOMWORK

In Year 9 at Peninsula Grammar students undertake a homework program to help them develop good study habits and organisation routines. It usually complements class work and can be presented in various forms such as: assignments, models, essays, opinions, debate preparations, investigations, surveys, reviews and reading. Often students will need to revise their unit of work in preparation for tests or quizzes or simply complete unfinished class work.

Mentors can assist in the development of a study plan and parents are encouraged to be involved by questioning their son/daughter about the week's requirements and occasionally reviewing what has been completed. Should you have any concerns regarding homework then parents are encouraged to make contact with their child's mentor.

There is no definitive answer as to how much homework is ideal, however, a Year 9 student would be expected to complete approximately 60 minutes per week night. This obviously varies throughout the year. Parents should note that prior to Challenge Blocks there is usually a substantial increase in homework expectation.

All students have the opportunity to attend the Homework Club which is held Monday-Thursday afternoons 3.45-5pm in the Resource Centre. For study at home, most students find a desk with good lighting and a quiet environment is preferred, however the dining room or family room can be equally successful; those locations may enable parents to keep a check on homework progress and the use of technology. Inappropriate computer use can be a distraction and hindrance to progress in Year 9.

Parents are encouraged to regularly check on tasks and take an interest in the work being completed. If there are circumstances preventing a student from completing homework an email explaining such circumstances will avoid a homework detention. All set tasks are entered onto Zenith together with due dates. Parents can access Zenith via the internet and use of their own allocated password.

HOMWORK ADVICE FOR STUDENTS

- Choose an appropriate way to record all homework, for example in a record book, Sticky Notes, or Outlook, and check it regularly
 - Check Zenith regularly
 - Establish a regular routine and time to do your homework
 - Complete any unfinished class work that night to ensure that it is not forgotten and that you do not become further behind
 - Ensure that distractions are kept to a minimum, including avoidance of television, music, mobile phones and especially social media or other computer distractions
 - Attempt the more difficult tasks first
 - Organise appropriate time portions to each task and don't leave things to the last minute
 - Plan your study and homework time in advance. If you have a test or a deadline approaching, write down what you are going to do each night and stick to it
 - Be sure to plan around things such as sports training or family commitments to make sure that your plans are realistic
 - Don't spend too much time on the one task. If you are having difficulty with anything consult your subject teacher before it is due
 - Read over your notes and write summaries before a test is imminent
 - Pack your school bag the night before so that you don't leave work at home
 - Talk to your parents about what you have to achieve. Sometimes just explaining to parents helps you to remember and work out problems
 - Keep reading your English novels and interest material when you have spare time
 - Above all, talk to mentors if you need assistance.
- Ensure that you catch up on any work missed through absences. It is your responsibility to talk to your teachers about what you missed and what you need to do to catch-up.



COMPUTER USE AND CARE

The notebook computer is an integral part of student learning at Peninsula Grammar. Across all departments software has been included to enhance the curriculum and development of computer literacy. ICT skills are explicitly taught to develop the students' understanding of the functions and features of individual software programs.

Currently most students are utilising the same device that they were issued with when they entered the Year 7-9 Notebook Program as supplied through the School's preferred supplier. This device carries a 3-year warranty and we envision that this notebook will be sufficient for students until the end of Year 9. The Year 7-9 Laptop Program is built around windows 10 based devices with stylus input, and as such Apple MAC computers, Android and iPad devices are not supported and are unable to be utilised in the Year 9 Program.

There may be exceptions to this such as when a new student begins their education at Peninsula Grammar and already have an existing device. In such cases we will accept a deviation to this ruling. Additionally, if any problems are identified with the School issued device during Semester 2 and it needs to be replaced we will review each requirement on a case by case basis.

GUIDELINES FOR STUDENTS

- If an activity is based on using your computer, make sure it is charged up each day and ready to go. All your software should be ready to use and make sure you understand the task before you begin
- The playing of games in class is inappropriate and, if detected, student access rights to use the computer in class, or network access may be withdrawn for a period of time
- Should you have a problem with your computer, take it straight to the Service Centre to have it assessed. The Service Centre is open before school, recess, lunchtime and after school. They can fix most things in an hour or two but remember you are responsible for the smooth running of the computer so make sure you keep all systems running well. Computers are not to be taken to the Service Centre during class
- The staff will assist you with any questions you have in class and will always offer you tips to save time and use the computer efficiently. You can help by paying attention to the guidelines, working well in class and asking for help if you have a concern
- All students are expected to treat their computers with the utmost respect at all times. Computers must be carried between classes in an appropriate approved computer bag. Computers are to be locked inside lockers when not in use
- Students should regularly back up their work so as to avoid the frustration and possible impact on assessment grades if their computer breaks down. Ideally school work should be saved in the Office 365 cloud environment thus giving access at all times from anywhere on any device.

- An emergent social issue is the safety and appropriate use of all levels of technology, including the internet, instant messaging, blogs, Facebook and Smart phones. The School has an ICT Appropriate Use Policy that supports our responsible use policy. Parents should contact the School if they have any queries or concerns on how best to maximise ICT learning opportunities within a safe cyber environment.

HARASSMENT AND BULLYING

Harassment and bullying are not tolerated under any circumstances at school. If students feel they are being harassed or bullied they should speak to a teacher or a parent as soon as possible. The action that follows will be decided on in consultation with Wellbeing and Academic Mentors, the Deputy Head of Pre Senior Year 9 and the Head of Pre Senior Year 9.

Students should approach their Mentor if a problem arises, otherwise they should approach a teacher with whom they feel comfortable. All students will be taken through the Harassment Policy early in the year. A full copy of this policy can be found on Zenith and the School's website.

SUBMISSION OF WORK AND ASSESSMENT POLICY

In line with Peninsula Grammar's commitment to the growth and development of every individual, we have reframed our Middle/Pre Senior Years submission policy to better reflect the learning journey of our students. We want our students to know success, to understand their needs as learners and to seek support in developing their understanding of areas for improvement.

To accommodate this our Middle/Pre Senior Years policy:

1. Focuses on the growth of every learner.
2. Ensures the learner experiences success.
3. Builds autonomy and accountability within the learner.
4. Establishes and maintains positive relationships between teacher and student.

STUDENTS ARE EXPECTED TO

- Submit all work prior to or on the due date as listed on Zenith
- Ask for additional clarification and support prior to the due date
- Demonstrate time management and organisation by informing teachers of known absences prior to the due date (including holidays outside of school time).

LATE SUBMISSION OF WORK

- Students who submit their work late (for a reason other than certified illness or unforeseen circumstances) will receive a 10% deduction each day the task is not submitted
- Parents and students will be advised of the failure to submit the task via email or phone.

COMPETENCY AND ASSESSMENT TASKS:

- Students who do not receive a satisfactory result (50%) for a task will be expected to attend an additional tutorial to develop and demonstrate competency in the specific skills required for the task with the subject teacher in the week following the tasks due date
- The original grade provided to the student will remain the same; the focus will turn to the skill and the application of it
- Students will work alongside their teacher to consolidate their understanding and develop competency in tutorial sessions held at lunch time or the teacher's discretion.

SPORT

All students are expected to represent the School in a Winter and a Summer sport. These sports are chosen at the beginning of each season and students are to commit to training and playing their chosen sport for the entire season. Any possible absence, excluding illness, must be approved by the coach and the Director of Sport, Ms Shona Middleton, in advance of the event.



PLAGIARISM POLICY IN YEAR 9

Plagiarism is defined as the 'part or whole use of others' work without acknowledgement or attribution'. A student will be deemed to have plagiarised if their work can be proven to resemble or replicate someone else's work through use of the same sentences or paragraphs, structure or layout, beyond what could reasonably be considered normal, given the respective nature of each task.

All Year 9 students receive explicit instruction about what constitutes plagiarism both within the classroom and at the preliminary year level assembly.

All cases of plagiarism are to be managed as follows:

1. If a student is found to have plagiarised either a peer or a source, the matter is to be referred to the Head of Pre Senior Year 9 who will, together with the student's teacher and the relevant Head of Department, discuss the serious nature of the action with the student at a formal meeting.
2. Following the meeting, the teacher involved will contact the student's parents via either telephone or email and inform them of the situation, outlining what has occurred and what is now expected.
3. The student is expected to resubmit the task in question in its entirety free of plagiarised material.
4. The student will be required to attend an academic tutorial during lunchtime.
5. The highest mark that the student can achieve from the resubmission is 55%.
6. Should the student have plagiarised from a peer who knowingly lent their work to that student, the student whose work has been plagiarised will receive an official verbal warning of academic misconduct from the Head of Pre Senior Year 9 and the relevant Head of Department. The overall mark for their assessment task will be compromised by 10% for such behaviour.
7. Any student involved in a second or subsequent case of plagiarism, including students who are found to have lent their work to others to copy on a second or subsequent occasion, will in addition receive a detention as deemed appropriate by the Head of Pre Senior Year 9.



YEAR 9 ICT ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY

At Peninsula Grammar students are provided with access to email, internet and intranet facilities via the School's network. Below are guidelines governing the acceptable use of all of these facilities. By using the Peninsula Grammar Network students agree to accept the terms and conditions outlined here and in the complete Middle, Pre Senior and Senior Years' ICT Acceptable use policy which is available to view via Zenith.

NETWORK

Students must keep their password confidential at all times. If a student suspects that someone else is aware of their network password, they should contact the IT Service Centre to have their password altered

Any student with a non-school issued notebook who wishes to access the network must first have the Service Centre configure their notebook with the appropriate software which includes the School's security client

Upon logging on to the School network, the individual understands that his or her actions may be monitored at any time

Monitoring of user accounts may include tracking of web pages visited, viewing of sent and received emails, monitoring all material downloaded from the internet, and scanning of files saved on the individual's allocated storage space

The School network is integral in the development and delivery of the curriculum. Students found attempting to violate or compromise the integrity of the network by any means are guilty of a criminal offence and will be dealt with accordingly

Under no circumstances will an individual store any games, music, or other related non-school materials on their personally allocated storage space.

EXTERNAL WIRELESS MODEMS / HOTSPOT / TETHERING

The School provides a wired and wireless network for students. Hence, there is no need for students to have external wireless cards, USB modems or Hotspots. These devices must not be utilised or brought to school.

INTERNET

The individual using the Peninsula Grammar internet connection is responsible for all material accessed under their account

The internet connection is to be used for school research, assignments and other school-related activities only. The internet is a valuable research tool and all students are encouraged to use it, provided it is used appropriately

The Peninsula Grammar internet connection is not to be used to download material that is unrelated to school. This includes games, music, movies and other such material

The Peninsula Grammar internet connection may not be used to stream any content unrelated to school activities

Students' internet use is monitored at all times and high bandwidth users will be spoken to by the appropriate Head of House, Wellbeing Coordinator, or Head of Learning Area

Whilst the School endeavours to block as many unacceptable sites as possible via content filtering software, we realise that no blocking software is 100% effective. If a student comes across an unacceptable site, it is their responsibility to report this to the Service Centre who will add it to the blocked list. Students must not knowingly attempt to access unacceptable content

Students are prohibited from accessing or downloading various social media programs whilst at school. These include but are not limited to Facebook, Instagram, Tumblr etc

Students under no circumstances are to attempt to bypass the content filtering software.

Your school issued password is not to be used on any other non-school supplied digital platform. Personal online services should be created and accessed with your own personal email address and associated password.

EMAIL

- Peninsula Grammar provides an email account for all users
- Email is to be used for electronic communication between two parties. It is not to be used for “spamming” or sending unsolicited “junk mail”
- Students are encouraged to exercise great care when creating email messages. At all times students should use appropriate language and images when sending email
- No student is to harass another person. Email is considered harassment if it offends the receiving party in any way
- Students are not to send unauthorised broadcast messages
- Students are not to send messages containing private information about themselves or any other person, nor should anyone forward to another person a message sent to them privately, without the permission of the sender
- Any user who feels uncomfortable about a message they receive or which they consider to be inappropriate must report it immediately to a staff member
- Students’ school email addresses are not to be used for personal email subscriptions such as Facebook, Twitter, TwitchTv etc.

SCHOOL SOFTWARE

Students “lease” the Microsoft operating system and Microsoft Office on an annual basis. When students leave the School other than on Year 12 Graduation, they are responsible for removing the “leased” software and replacing it with the original operating system. The Service Centre may be of assistance with this. If the software is not removed it will cease to work after a period of time. Students graduating at the end of Year 12 are entitled to receive a licensing code that will allow the Microsoft Operating System to continue working. This can be applied for towards the end of the year.



BACK-UP RESPONSIBILITIES

It is the individual’s responsibility to back up their notebook data on a periodic basis. Backups should be at least once a week, preferably to an external device. If an individual’s notebook computer fails, and he/she has not performed a backup, only the individual can be held responsible for the loss of any data. The IT department is not responsible for backing up student notebook data and cannot be held accountable for any loss. Students should utilise their OneDrive storage space wherever possible to protect against hardware loss or failure.

MOBILE PHONES

It is accepted that carrying a mobile phone may add a degree of safety for students on their way to and from school. Students may therefore bring a phone with them to school. The following outlines the expectations for students:

- Mobile phones must be locked in lockers from 8.40am until 3.35pm
- Phones are not to be used at recess, lunchtime, during classes, mentoring, registration or PDP unless it is a specific requirement of the lesson and a teacher has granted permission for them to be brought to class on that specific occasion
- Permission must be sought before taking photos or videoing in any area of the School
- Should any student not adhere to this policy, their phone will be collected by a teacher and placed in a locked cupboard in the Head of Pre Senior Year 9s office for them to collect at the end of that day. Repeated instances of phone confiscation may lead to further consequences
- In some special circumstances exceptions to this policy may be made and will be managed by the Head of Pre Senior Year 9
- In an emergency parents can contact their children through the Pre Senior office on 9788 7664 or through their child’s Mentor
- In Year 9 students may carry their phones during P2C, Pathways 4 Life and other excursions. **Phones are strictly prohibited on camp.**

PRE SENIOR YEAR 9 ICT ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY

The full Middle, Pre Senior and Senior Years’ ICT Acceptable use policy is available to view on Zenith at any time.



STUDENT SERVICES

SCHOOL HEALTH

The physical, social and emotional welfare of our students is as important as academic progress; hence our School Health Centre plays a vital role in the everyday life of students. The Health Centre incorporates full time qualified nurses and assistants and welfare coordinators. If parents have concerns or information that the School needs to be aware of, we ask that you contact the relevant department as early as possible.

Nurses are on campus at the Health Centre in the Student Services Centre from 8.30am to 4.35pm Monday to Friday. If a student becomes ill or injured during the day, he/she should report to the Health Centre for assessment and treatment. If the nurse considers that the student is ill enough to go home she will contact a parent/guardian to arrange for the student to be picked up from school. Students themselves should not contact their parents to arrange to leave school.

The Health Centre also arranges periodic immunisations that are made available by the local Shire Council and State Health authorities.

The Health Centre direct telephone extension is 9788 7712, mobile: 0419 581 302, email schoolhealth@pgs.vic.edu.au.

STUDENT SERVICES

At Peninsula Grammar we provide a safe and respectful learning environment through our commitment to wellbeing. We endeavour to provide every student with the support they need to Learn. Grow. Flourish! We have a team of counselling and health professionals to assist students and their families. The School Counsellors are located in the Student Services Centre. Students may request to see a counsellor themselves or be referred by a parent or staff member. The counsellors make time available to help students with personal problems, social difficulties, organisation concerns, or to assist in developing specific study techniques. Services include:

- Counselling
- First aid
- Consultation
- Assistance with referrals to external agencies
- Specialist programs.

If you are interested in more information, please speak to your child's Mentor or contact Lyn Bylart on 9788 7823.

WELLBEING AND POSITIVE EDUCATION TEAM



Mrs Lyn Bylart
Head of Wellbeing



Ms Therese Joyce
Director of Positive Education & People



Ms Rachel Larke
School Counsellor



Ms Lauren Nelson
School Counsellor



Mrs Deborah Harris
Health Services Manager



Mrs Sarah Watson
School Nurse



Ms Kelli Butler
School Nurse

DEPARTMENT OF LEARNING SUPPORT

The Department of Learning Support operates throughout the school and has the primary role of supporting students of all abilities with differences – physical or academic. The Department is involved in learning testing regimes, identifying students' needs and documenting support strategies. The primary function of DLS is to support and encourage the best individual student outcomes.

WELLBEING

UMATTER

uMatter is a whole-school approach to supporting the wellbeing of students and their families. uMatter is a combination of the [MindMatters](#) wellbeing framework coupled with the science of Positive Psychology.



Peninsula Grammar will aim to continually improve in four keys areas, as these have been proven to make a positive difference in the lives of young people, including:

1. Building a positive school community
2. Social and emotional learning
3. Partnering with Parents and Families
4. Support for students experiencing mental health difficulties.

WELLBEING PROGRAM - REACH

The Reach foundation was established by Jim Stynes and Paul Currie in 1994. Reach has since grown to become a leading youth wellbeing resource, visiting hundreds of schools every year to deliver youth led workshops.

Reach developed a program targeted for Year 9 Students called 'Finding Heroes'. The program has a Positive Psychology focus and covers a range of topics. Each term, students will participate in activities, led by their Mentor, on topics such as strengths, values, labels, the masks we wear, the role of the body, resilient thinking and relationship choices.

The Finding Heroes program will be further enhanced with Reach Ambassadors coming out to Peninsula Grammar to work with students to deliver two workshops titled Finding Your Voice and Self-Esteem, Confidence and Positive Peer Dynamic.

RESOURCES FOR PARENTS

PARENTLINE

Supports and nurtures positive, caring relationships between parents, children, teenagers and the significant other people who are important to the well-being of families. Visit the website for more information or call 13 22 89.

RAISING CHILDREN NETWORK

An Australian parenting website that provides comprehensive, practical child health and parenting information and activities covering children aged 0-15 years.

FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS ONLINE

The advice line complements the information and services offered by Family Relationship Centres. The website offers access to information about family relationship issues, ranging from building better relationships to dispute resolution.





LIFELINE

Lifeline provides all Australians experiencing a personal crisis with access to 24-hour counselling support and suicide prevention services that can be accessed by calling 13 11 14 or on their website.

BEYONDBLUE

A national, independent, not-for-profit organisation working to address issues associated with depression, anxiety and related substance-use disorders in Australia. If you need help you can contact 1300 22 4636 or visit the website to seek support.



APPS	NAME	COST	
	Music eScape	Free	Developed by Young and Well Cooperative Research Centre. This app allows you to create a mood map of your existing music library and select music to express and enhance your mood.
	ReachOut Breathe	Free	Developed by ReachOut a leading online youth mental health service. This app can measure heart rate and helps guide deep breathing by touching the screen.
	Smiling Mind	Free	Developed by Psychologists this app provides different meditations and mindfulness exercises for every age group. It also allows you to rate your mood and track your progress.
	ReachOut WorryTime	Free	Developed by ReachOut this app allows you to set time aside to deal with worries so they don't become intrusive. This is a great brain training exercise to keep stress and worries at bay.

For information about other apps that will boost your wellbeing visit ReachOut [Toolbox](#).

RESOURCES FOR STUDENTS

REACHOUT

ReachOut is a leading youth mental health website. It provides practical tools and support to help young people get through everything from everyday issues to tough times. The website has factsheets, tools, apps, videos and forums.

YOUTH BEYONDBLUE

Youth beyondblue provides information on a range of topics and issues that are relevant for young people. The website also allows young people to link in with free confidential counselling either by phoning 1300 22 4636 or webchat.

HEADSPACE

Headspace is a national mental health service for young people. The website has a number of fact-sheets on a range of topics and helps young people link in with their local centre. There is also eheadspace which offers free confidential counselling via webchat or phoning 1800 650 890.

KIDS HELPLINE

Kids Helpline offers information and counselling for people aged 5-25 years. The counselling is free and confidential and can be accessed by calling 1800 55 1800, emailing counsellor@kidshelpline.com.au or webchat.

INFORMATION ON HOT TOPICS

Please visit the following [link](#) for tip sheets on a range of wellbeing topics.

LOCAL PROFESSIONALS

If you or a family member needs support, below are a couple of directories that may assist you to find the right service.

[Child & Youth Services](#). Mornington Peninsula Child and Youth Directory helps families find information and service providers relevant to their needs.

[Health Services](#). Health Engine helps you search for Doctors, Dentists, Psychologists, and many more health professionals in your local area.





**'OUTDOOR EDUCATION
ENABLES INDIVIDUALS TO
CONNECT WITH NATURE,
WITH OTHER PEOPLE, AND
WITH THEMSELVES.'**

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR
TONIA GRAY, UNIVERSITY
OF WOLLONGONG

COMMUNICATION

Peninsula Grammar uses a range of communication tools to communicate with parents.

EMAIL

Emailing parents directly allows for timely communication about what's happening in the classroom and also to share information about important events or activities. While we can email both parents or guardians nominated on the enrolment form, we usually only email the primary contact to avoid duplication. Please ensure your email address is kept up to date to ensure we can contact you when needed, and you don't miss out on pertinent information.

SCHOOL INTRANET SITE, ZENITH

Zenith is our learning management system and our main communication tool for staff, students and parents. It is used both as a learning tool for students as well as a place for parents to find information about what's happening in the classroom and around the school. Zenith also includes information about camps, excursions and key dates for upcoming events.

Parents have their own username and password and are encouraged to regularly check Zenith. When students or parents access Zenith using their password, an individualised page will list homework and current assessment tasks that are password protected. This allows you to keep up to date with your child's learning. The news section is updated on a weekly basis with the news for the week ahead which is published every Thursday. All families have access to the site. If you have any trouble accessing Zenith please feel free to contact the School.

SOCIAL MEDIA

The School has multiple ways for you to connect via social media: Instagram, Twitter, LinkedIn and Facebook where we regularly post information on activities and key events happening around the School.

Most Year levels also have their own Facebook page. Please search for your child's Year level page and request to join. Please note that the School or PSPA does not administer these Year level pages, however, the School may use them to keep you informed.

WEEKLY BULLETIN

Parents receive a weekly email with all the latest news and upcoming events.

PENINSULA IN PROFILE - OUR SCHOOL MAGAZINE

Pen in Profile, our school magazine, is a great read for parents, family and students alike. It highlights the achievements of the term prior including stories from our students, staff, Parent Association and Alumni. It also includes information about upcoming events.

CAREMONKEY

CareMonkey is a health and safety system that automatically keeps up to date medical and emergency contact details for all students. It is an innovative parent controlled program used to seek and document consent from parents for students to participate in or attend events or activities such as excursions, sporting activities and camps.

A CareMonkey profile is only completed once and provides parents the opportunity to update medical and emergency contact information promptly and accurately while providing Peninsula Grammar with instant access to the information provided.

Once the profile has been completed, consent via CareMonkey for any School event can be instant. Parents can use a PC, laptop, tablet or smartphone to enter the details including:

- Emergency contacts
- Medical checklist - anaphylaxis, asthma, allergies, diabetes, seizures etc
- Ambulance and health insurance details
- Any other care instructions from parents/guardians.

When a student commences at Peninsula Grammar, we will send an email invite via CareMonkey to the primary contact which includes instructions on how to get started. You MUST update your child's profile to be able to start using CareMonkey.

Visit the CareMonkey website for further information at www.caremonkey.com or feel free to contact the School should you have any questions, by emailing us at caremonkey@pgs.vic.edu.au.

SCHOOL APP

The School app is available free from the iTunes store for iPhone and iPad users and from the Google Play app store for those with an android smartphone. iPad users can download the app for iPhone which also offers complete functionality on the iPad. Just search Peninsula Grammar and look for our crest. The app provides Alerts, Calendar Events, School News and other valuable pieces of information for parents.

TEXT MESSAGES

Parents may be contacted via text using the mobile numbers provided at enrolment for important or urgent information that needs to be delivered in a timely way. This includes notices of sport cancellations, and changes to usual school practices that take effect immediately as a result of emergency situations or a critical incident.

Of course parents will always be contacted via phone when there are key issues to discuss relevant to your child or in an emergency that directly affects your child.

Our commitment to keeping you informed relies significantly on having accurate contact details for you so please ensure you let us know when these change.



'PRE SENIOR YEAR 9 PREPARES STUDENTS FOR THE RIGOURS OF SENIOR YEARS AND VCE WITH A PROGRAM THAT EXTENDS AND CHALLENGES, PROVIDING STUDENTS WITH UNIQUE LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES AND PERSONAL GROWTH.'



YEAR 9 PROGRAM

THE YEAR 9 DAILY PROGRAM

Below are the bell times for daily classes and recess/lunch. Please note registration begins at 8.40am. If students arrive after this time they are required to sign in with the Transport and Safety Manager.

DAILY PROGRAM		MINUTES
Registration	8.40-8.47	7
Period 1	8.50-9.40	50
Period 2	9.45-10.40	55
RECESS	10.40-11.05	25
Period 3	11.05-11.55	50
Period 4	12.00-12.55	55
LUNCH	12.55-1.50	55
Period 5	1.50-2.40	50
Period 6	2.45-3.35	50

SUBJECT SELECTION

In Year 9 students study a core group of subjects (English, Mathematics, Big Picture Learning and Physical Education). They also choose 4 semesters of electives. Students who choose to do a language are required to do two semesters of the chosen language.

When selecting a Year 10 program at the end of Pre Senior Year 9, students can choose electives (in addition to the six core studies). These may include VCE Unit 1 & 2 studies, **if their Year 9 grades are of an appropriate standard**. This would need to be of B standard in the lead in subject and a B average in the core subjects of English and Mathematics. Progress in the Big Picture Learning may also be taken into account, with recommendations being sought from Mentors and teachers.

Unit 1 and 2 subjects have limited places for Year 10 students and are offered subject to availability.

Students will also be nominated to separate Year 10 Mathematics groups at the end of Year 9, and be given some choice as to their English studies.



'WITH AN EMPHASIS ON LEADERSHIP AND COMMUNITY, STUDENTS HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO WORK BEYOND THE PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES OF THE SCHOOL AND MEET WITH A WIDE VARIETY OF COMMUNITY GROUPS.'



CHALLENGING ME & BIG PICTURE LEARNING

Peninsula Grammar's Pre Senior program, **Challenging Me**, recognises the need to engage Year 9 students differently. In this critical year level where students make the crucial transition from the Middle Years to the Senior Years program, learning is relevant, relationships are supportive and our students develop life-long learning skills and a curiosity for self-discovery. The program is centred around our Challenge Blocks which see our students step outside both the traditional classroom and their personal comfort zone and turn 'I can't' into 'I can'. A coherent program incorporates student experience with classroom practice, making student learning relevant and engaging.



The Year 9 program "Challenging Me" includes three two week blocks of learning outside the regular classroom. Students spend ten days on a Camp/Expedition, two weeks travelling to the city each day on the Peninsula to the City (P2C) program and two weeks completing a program known as Pathways 4 Life that has a careers focus but which includes a number of other activities that develop personal skills. In addition, students have the option to be involved in a service learning experience in Laos.

CAMP

Through their involvement in the Outdoor Education Program students gain an appreciation of the outdoors. They become more aware of how to care for natural environments, how to look after themselves in an unfamiliar environment, understand how the natural environment can influence their experience, and how to take measures to deal with those factors.

The Year 9 Outdoor Education Camp is designed to provide students with challenges depending on their individual capacity. It aims to foster resilience in students. Students spend 5 days at a "base camp" participating in a number of varied activities. They then complete a 5 day Wollangarra experience, which includes a 3 day expedition. Please be aware that all Year 9 students are expected to be available for Saturday sport after camp. It should be noted that all students are expected to attend camp.

PENINSULA TO THE CITY (P2C)

Year 9 students develop their independence spending two weeks on P2C, a Melbourne-based experience. Students participate in a range of class and group activities that allow the development of individual skills and knowledge.

P2C includes visits to a number of institutions and key Melbourne locations such as Eureka Tower, Melbourne University and RMIT, the Old Magistrate's Court, Queen Victoria Market, the Shrine of Remembrance, the State Library, and the Botanic Gardens.

The central focus for student groups is to learn about current social issues and to contribute to positive social change. Students will spend time learning about social enterprises such as The Big Issue and the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre, and will learn about social issues such as homelessness and how these social issues are being addressed.

The P2C experience relies on students accepting responsibility for their diverse, 'hands on' learning experiences. Personal qualities of independence, organisation, initiative and reliability are also emphasised.

PATHWAYS 4 LIFE

Pathways 4 Life is designed to help students explore the large number of career opportunities that exist. Pathways 4 Life will provide students with rich learning experiences that include: preparation for part time work, real life exposure to workplaces and career opportunities, equipping students with Vocational qualifications and undertaking service learning.

After engaging in some preliminary career aptitude testing students investigate a career and learn the skills needed, the type of work involved, the educational qualifications required, the expected salary, and the benefits and disadvantages associated with that career. Students also gain an understanding of the number of educational pathways that they can take to achieve career aspirations. The program also provides students with the opportunity to acquire personal skills in the areas of food preparation, barista, cooking and financial literacy.

Further details of each program will be provided to parents and students nearer the time.

Block 1 (Term 2 Weeks 1 & 2)		
9A/B	- CAMP	15/04 - 24/04
9C/D	- P2C	14/04 - 24/04
9E/F	- PATHWAYS	14/04 - 24/04
Block 2 (Term 2 Weeks 9 & 10)		
9A/B	- PATHWAYS	09/06 - 19/06
9C/D	- CAMP	10/06 - 19/06
9E/F	- P2C	09/06 - 19/06
Block 3 (Term 3 Weeks 3 & 4)		
9A/B	- P2C	27/07 - 07/08
9C/D	- PATHWAYS	27/07 - 07/08
9E/F	- CAMP	27/07 - 05/08

All information regarding these exciting and innovative programs will be disseminated as the need arises; this includes any assessment that forms part of the program. Parents will be kept informed via Zenith (Pre Senior Year 9) and CareMonkey.

“IF WE TEACH TODAY’S STUDENTS AS WE TAUGHT YESTERDAY’S, WE ROB THEM OF TOMORROW.”
JOHN DEWEY

BIG PICTURE LEARNING

The year will commence with a formalised and resourced project-based structure based on the Bill Gates Foundation’s ‘Big History Project’. The disciplines of Science, History, Geography, Religion and Technology work together to enable deep learning and student choice will be encouraged.

Overall students will undertake six themed Big Picture Learning activities, which are outlined below, during which the key skills for project based learning will be enhanced. These skills will be showcased in the final ‘own choice’ Follow Your Own Interest project based learning activity at the end of the year. Self-directed learning and self and peer-assessment will encourage students to monitor their own success; the process of achievement and the recognition of failure will all be learning opportunities.

The Victorian Curriculum highlights the importance of Critical and Creative Thinking, which provides a framework upon which students ‘challenge previously held assumptions and create new links [and] proposals’ and they critically examine their own thinking. Deep learning is encouraged by posing questions, testing ideas and becoming active learners. Our students pose driving questions, test hypotheses and apply their knowledge by using the higher order skills required in the Victorian Certificate of Education.

Recent changes to the VCE have placed greater emphasis on the higher order skills that the **Challenging Me** program is based upon. The ability to think critically and creatively forms the basis of much of the internally assessed course work as well as being a key feature of the end-of-year examination. Application of knowledge to new situations, evaluation and analysis are key skills to VCE success. The **Challenging Me** program prepares our students for both this, and for a successful future.

Science, History,
Geography, Technology,
Religious studies

THE BIG
HISTORY
PROJECT

WHAT IS
OUR
WORLD
COMING TO?

Sustainability, Science,
Geography, Religious studies.
Incorporating Camp

Social issues, media, politics,
sociology, Religious studies
Incorporating P2C

WHAT IS
WITH
SOCIETY?

WHERE
AM I
GOING?

**Incorporating Pathways
4 Life.** Supported by the
Careers Department

**Community Service
Learning:** Engagement
and fundraising

HOW CAN
I HELP?

FOLLOW
YOUR OWN
INTEREST

**Student-directed
project-based learning:**
BPL exhibition



SERVICE LEARNING PROGRAM

Throughout the year students will take part in a service learning program that provides them with an opportunity to engage with the local community. This allows students to gain an understanding of the benefits of volunteering and enlightens students to some of the issues that confront our community. Activities may include:

- Working within the School's Sustainability Program
- Pathways - Wallara, Days for Girls, tree planting etc
- Camp - Peninsula Grammar Heyfield Wetlands ongoing project
- PDP - Students return 6-8 times to an organisation of their choice:
 - Kunyung Primary School
 - Peninsula Grange Aged Care
 - Eat Up
 - Environmental Projects - Moonlit Sanctuary, Sages Cottage, McClelland Gallery
 - *Optional* Service Learning experience to Laos
 - *Optional* Sudanese Homework Club.

PERSONAL AND SOCIAL LEARNING

The Year 9 Personal and Social Learning program is a comprehensive program that aims to help develop the individual student to that student's full potential. The program looks at wellbeing, academic, personal and social issues. The mentor takes on a pastoral role at all times with his or her students.

The program will feature incursions with REACH as well as follow a U_Matter curriculum which will address pertinent issues focusing on physical, emotional and social wellbeing. The program supports students' wellbeing development and learning at school.

LEADERSHIP POSITIONS

Within Year 9 there are many opportunities for students to experience leadership challenges. Throughout the year, there are 4 leaders appointed from each class. These student leaders will work across a number of specific briefs and assist in a range of activities. Leadership positions are also available within the House system. All students are encouraged to develop their leadership skills.

In Term 4 Peer Mentoring Leadership training will be offered to those students interested in acting as a Year 10 Peer Mentor to Year 7s.

ASSEMBLIES

Principal's Assemblies are held on Day 2 at 9.45am in Period 2 in the Ansett Hall. At times, Year 9 attend this assembly. Year 9 will attend Senior Years Assemblies at 12.00pm in Period 4 on each Day 7.

RECORD BOOK

The School Record Book is optional for Pre Senior Year 9 students, and is available from Dr Monro.

STUDENT ID AND PUBLISHING CARD

At the commencement of the year each student will be issued with a photo ID card which must be brought to school each day. This card will be used for printing, photocopying and for all uniform shop transactions. Each student is allocated a nominal allowance per month for photocopying and downloading of appropriate academic material. This is sufficient for expected costs and if the student should exceed this allowance, further credit can be purchased from a machine in the Resource Centre.

Replacement ID cards are issued at a cost of \$5.00 per card and can be obtained from the Audio Visual Department.

LOCKERS

Every student in Year 9 is allocated a locker. The maintenance of a neat locker is the responsibility of each student. At no stage is graffiti to be written on the locker and students will incur a maintenance fee if the locker is wilfully damaged. There is sufficient room inside if the student is organised and neat. Lockers will be randomly inspected throughout the year by staff with the student present. Year 9 students are issued with a combination lock which they use for Years 9 to 12. Should a lock become lost or damaged students will be charged for a replacement.

Students are responsible for storing mobile phones and any other valuables in their locked locker at all times.

ASSESSMENT/GRADE BOUNDARIES

Pre Senior Year 9 is a transition year, where grades for some subjects will be introduced. Semester report grades are awarded according to the following standards. Students are assessed on their performance against the objectives and assessment criteria set out for their subject and year level.

	Grade	Percentage
Outstanding	A+	90-100
	A	80-89
Highly competent	B+	75-79
	B	70-74
Competent	C+	65-69
	C	60-64
Approaching competence	D+	55-59
	D	50-54
Not yet competent	E+	40-49
	E	0-39

NA (Not Assessed) is recorded where a student has been unable to complete a task due to absence, illness or other approved reason.

REPORTS

In 2020 all Year 9 students and their parents will receive regular online and real time feedback via Zenith. This will include assessment results and formative feedback on learning habits and behaviour. Parents are encouraged to regularly check Zenith for all feedback, particularly prior to Parent/Teacher/Student discussions.

At the end of each semester a grade summary and Mentor comment will be provided. We encourage parents to discuss the comments and grades with their children and to help them set goals for the semester ahead. If the need arises parents will be contacted. Parents are encouraged to make contact with their child's mentor or subject teachers if they have any queries or concerns arising from the grade summary and mentor comment.

PARENT/TEACHER/STUDENT DISCUSSIONS

Parent/Teacher/Student discussions are held twice a year and parents can book their times via Zenith. The dates for each semester are:

SEMESTER 1

Wednesday 11 March 4pm - 7.30pm

Tuesday 17 March 4pm - 7.30pm

SEMESTER 2

Thursday 27 August 4pm - 7.30pm

Wednesday 2 September 4pm - 7.30pm

PATH TO SENIOR YEARS

Year 9 students are involved in a program at the end of the year which introduces them to the subjects and expectations of the Senior Years.

At the end of each year there is a comprehensive student handover meeting between the current and next year's Wellbeing leaders. This ensures that all concerned will have better knowledge of the learning, behavioural and other individual strengths and concerns of students.





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