



PENINSULA

GRAMMAR

INSPIRING PERFORMANCE



MIDDLE SCHOOL HANDBOOK

2021





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WELCOME TO THE MIDDLE SCHOOL: YEARS 5–8

Our unique Middle School program, “Becoming Me” provides a supportive link between the Junior School and Pre Senior. The unique needs of young adolescent students at this age are identified and catered for in a tailored program designed explicitly to support students through a time of exceptional physical, social and emotional growth.

Our “Becoming Me” program underpins our Middle School structure whereby we have identified the need to build confidence, promote positive attitudes and behaviours and motivate students to achieve their best academically, socially, culturally and in sporting areas.

Leadership, team building and a strong sense of personal self-image are crucial components of their education. Skills of resilience and a sense of optimism must also be fostered in these formative years. We focus on an engaging teaching and learning program by providing learning environments that are inviting, supportive and safe.

YEARS 5 & 6

The Year 5 and 6 classes are smaller in size and with a focus on growth in English and Mathematics, students benefit from an investment in specialist staff and targeted teaching. Each class also has a Mentor teacher appointed. This is the teacher with whom the students begin and end each day. Flexible grouping of students allows each student to be taught at their point of need and for growth to be maximised regardless of their starting point.

Students in Years 5 and 6 are provided with a Microsoft Surface Go laptop (which remains at school) in order to enhance their learning. An extensive curriculum allows students to enjoy a range of experiences in subjects such as English, Mathematics, Science, Humanities, Art, Music, Drama, Create, Connect, French, Health and Physical Education.

YEARS 7 & 8

In Year 7 and 8 students are encouraged to further develop their independence, resilience and self-discipline. Year 7 and 8 students will begin the day with their House group and Mentor who will be the first port of call for parent contact.

The curriculum is underpinned by the Victorian Curriculum and includes a range of subjects such as Mathematics, English, Science, Humanities, Languages, Drama, Music, Health and Physical Education. Targeted teaching allows students to be taught at their point of need and in smaller class sizes for English and Mathematics. All other subjects are taught in mixed ability co-educational classes.

Peninsula Grammar is proudly coeducational and, as such, offers a mutually supportive environment in which girls and boys learn from each other.

Peninsula Grammar students are the beneficiaries of a balanced education that combines the rigours of a challenging academic curriculum with a variety of engaging artistic, social and sporting opportunities.

The partnership between home and school is a collaborative venture to ensure the holistic development of each student towards the fulfilment of their true potential. I look forward to working with each and every student and family in 2021.

Muriel Bakker

Head of Middle School

MIDDLE SCHOOL STRUCTURE



Mrs Muriel Bakker
Head of Middle School
(Semester 1 to 20 August 2021)



Mr Dominic Linossier
Head of Middle School
(from 23 August 2021)



Ms Georgina Bishop
Deputy Head of Middle School



Mrs Melinda Balfour
Years 5 & 6 Wellbeing &
Coordinator



Miss Emma Small
Year 7 Wellbeing
Coordinator



Mrs Jennyann North
Year 8 Wellbeing
Coordinator

MIDDLE SCHOOL LEADERSHIP TEAM

Head of Middle School	Mr Dominic Linossier
Deputy Head of Middle School	Ms Georgina Bishop
Year 5 and 6 Wellbeing Coordinator	Mrs Melinda Balfour
Year 7 Wellbeing Coordinator	Miss Emma Small
Year 8 Wellbeing Coordinator	Mrs Jennyann North

MIDDLE SCHOOL MENTOR TEACHERS

YEAR 5 MENTOR TEACHERS

5A	Mr Warwick Armstrong
5B	Mrs Melinda Balfour
5C	Mrs Jennifer Kimpton
5D	Mr Benjamin Procter

YEAR 6 MENTOR TEACHERS

6A	Miss Meghan Hutchins and Miss Cindy Delaurier
6B	Ms Anastasia Kyriacou
6C	Mr Robert Ogle
6D	Mr Stuart Packham
6E	Mr Joshua Stephens

YEAR 7 MENTOR TEACHERS

7 Ansett	Miss Georgia Post
7 Carr	Mr Brendan Carroll
7 Clarke	Ms Samantha Hutson
7 Country	Ms Nanami Dade
7 Newton	Miss Melissa Hitchen-Haw
7 Town	Mr Michael Hayes

YEAR 8 MENTOR TEACHERS

8 Ansett	Mr Sam Mackie
8 Carr	Miss Shennae Searle
8 Clarke	Mrs Claire McConnell
8 Country	Mr Sean Verwey
8 Newton	Mr Stephen Gregory
8 Town	Mrs Julie Hoyle

OUR LEADERSHIP TEAM

Mr Stuart Johnston, Principal

Ms Lucy Gowdie, Deputy Principal

Mr Steve Wiltshire, Acting Director of Educational Operations

Ms Karen Church, Business Manager

Mr Graeme Newland, Director of Information Technology

Mrs Kylie Oddy, Human Resources Coordinator

Mrs Louise Nicholls-Easley, Head of Junior School

Mrs Muriel Bakker/Mr Dominic Linossier, Head of Middle School

Mr Phillip Henniker, Head of Pre Senior School

Dr Mark Barnes, Acting Head of Senior School



STUDENTS ARE
ASSESSED ON THEIR
PERFORMANCE AGAINST
THE OBJECTIVES AND
ASSESSMENT CRITERIA
SET OUT FOR THEIR
SUBJECT AND YEAR LEVEL



USEFUL INFORMATION



ATTENDANCE - ABSENCES

If a student is absent, parents are required to notify the school before 10.00am. 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. Please provide your child's full name and year level.

Phone: (03) 9788 7800

Email: absent@pgs.vic.edu.au

We encourage parents not to take their son/daughter out of school during term time. However, if this is unavoidable, a written application for leave greater than three days must be addressed to the Head of Middle School. Should the absence be any longer than ten days this needs to be approved by the Principal.

DAILY TIMETABLE

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 at the Transport and Safety Manager's office (Ansett Hall bus bay) if they are in Year 7 or 8, and at the Clarke Centre reception if they are in Year 5 or 6.

DAILY PROGRAM	TIMES	MINUTES
Registration	8:40 – 8:47	7
Period 1	8:50 – 9:45	55
Period 2	9:45 – 10:40	55
RECESS	10:40 – 11:05	25
Period 3	11:05 – 12:00	55
Period 4	12:00 – 12:55	55
LUNCH	12:55 – 1:45	50
Period 5	1:45 – 2:40	55
Period 6	2:40 – 3:35	55

HOUSE SYSTEM

Each student at Peninsula Grammar is allocated to a House. There are a range of House events that occur throughout the year. These include cross country, athletics, swimming and performance.

Town (est. 1961) - our light blue House, represented by a castle, the symbol of strength

Country (est. 1961) - our gold House, represented by a tree, the symbol of knowledge

Newton (est. 1965) - our green House (previously New House), represented by a wyvern, a mythical dragon, the symbol of determination

Clarke (est. 1976) - our red House (previously Shore House), represented by the leopard, the symbol of courage

Ansett (est. 1990) - our purple House, represented by a coronet, the symbol of leadership

Carr (est. 1994) - our navy House (previously School House), represented by the scales of justice, the symbol of fairness.



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.

LATE ARRIVALS TO SCHOOL

The school day commences at 8:40am, if students arrive after this time, they are required to sign in.

Year 5 & 6 – Clarke Centre reception

Year 7 & 8 – Transport and Safety Manager's office (Ansett Hall bus bay)

DEPARTING SCHOOL EARLY

If students need to depart School early, they must have permission from a parent/guardian prior. This may be via phone, email or written note to the Mentor teacher or Middle School Administration. In Year 5 and 6, students will need to be collected from the Clarke Centre reception. In Year 7 and 8, the Mentor will issue an 'Early Departure' slip which they are to take to the Transport and Safety Manager's office prior to leaving the School grounds.

LEADERSHIP POSITIONS

There are House Representatives appointed from each House in Years 5-8. These student leaders will work across a number of specific briefs and assist in a range of activities including assemblies, Chapel and classroom activities. All students are encouraged to develop their leadership skills regardless of whether they are awarded a badge.

LOCKERS

Every student in the Middle School is allocated a locker. The maintenance of a neat locker is the responsibility of each student. In Year 7 and 8, all valuable items are to be locked inside the locker. Lockers may be inspected throughout the year by staff with the student present. Students in Year 7 and 8 will need to bring their locker key to school every day and will be charged for the replacement of a lost key. Keys are returned at the conclusion of each year. In Year 5 and 6, students must hand in all valuables to their class teacher.

MOBILE PHONES

Students may bring a phone with them to school provided that it is switched off on entering the campus. In Year 5 and 6, students must hand in their mobile phones to their Mentor teacher during registration for safe storage. Students in Year 7 and 8 are responsible for storing mobile phones and any other valuables in their locker at all times.

RECORD BOOK

Students in the Middle School are provided with a Record Book. This is a book that can be used to keep track of due dates, homework and includes information about school rules and policies. There are also wellbeing activities students can complete daily, weekly and monthly.

ONLINE FACILITIES

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

BEHAVIOURAL EXPECTATIONS FRAMEWORK

The Behavioural Expectations Framework reflects Peninsula Grammar's core values of; stewardship, integrity, coeducational learning, personal excellence, community spirit and Christian faith. This framework, in association with the established School policies, indicates what the School and its students can expect from each other. The School's mission is to maintain its reputation as a leading co-educational day and boarding school, provide the highest quality teachers, inspire students to reach for personal excellence and nurture in our students the skills and passion to contribute to and engage with the world.

This framework is designed to establish the tone and philosophy of Peninsula Grammar and to provide a standard that creates a safe, positive, and nurturing learning environment.

The framework references the School's:

- Core Values
- Guiding Principles
- Rights and responsibilities of students, staff and parents/guardians
- Behavioural expectations.

The framework outlines the School rules and the Peninsula Grammar Bullying Prevention and Intervention Policy.

It is expected that all members of the School community will embrace this framework so that needs and outcomes are better achieved to advance the vision of our school.

The Behavioural Expectations Framework has been provided to all students and is available from the website under Important Information for Current Students.

STUDENT ID CARD

Students in Year 7 and 8 are issued a photo ID card which must be brought to school each day. This card will be used for printing, photocopying and signing in and out. Each student is allocated an allowance per month for photocopying and printing. Replacement ID cards are issued at a cost of \$5.00 per card and can be obtained from the IT/AV Centre at recess or lunch.

CAMP

All Middle School students attend camp Term 1. The dates are as follows:

Year 5 – Monday 1 March – Wednesday 3 March Phillip Island

Year 6 – Monday 1 March – Friday 5 March Wilsons Promontory

Year 7 – Monday 1 March – Friday 5 March The Summit Camp

Year 8 – Monday 1 March – Friday 5 March The Grampians

Please note that camps are a compulsory part of our curriculum. Should your child be unable to attend, you will need to put in a written request for an exemption to the Director of Educational Operations 30 days prior to the camp departure date.

SUN PROTECTION

The School adopts a Sunsmart policy and all Middle School students must wear a hat during Terms 1 and 4. 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.

TERM DATES 2021

TERM 1 (8 WEEKS)

Thu 28 Jan First Day of School for Prep, Years 5, 7 and 12

Fri 29 Jan Term 1 Commences

Mon 08 Mar Labour Day Holiday

Thu 01 Apr Term 1 Concludes

TERM 2 (10 WEEKS)

Tue 20 Apr Term 2 Commences

Sun 25 Apr ANZAC Day

Mon 14 Jun Queen's Birthday

Sat 19 Jun Term 2 Concludes after Saturday sport

TERM 3 (10 WEEKS)

Tue 13 Jul Term 3 Commences

Fri 17 Sep Term 3 Concludes

TERM 4 (9 WEEKS)

Tue 05 Oct Term 4 Commences

Mon 01 Nov Mid-Term Break

Tue 02 Nov Melbourne Cup Day

Fri 03 Dec Academic Program concludes for Years 9–11

Tue 07 Dec Academic Program concludes for Years K–8

PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

Fri 02 Apr Good Friday

Mon 05 Apr Easter Monday

Fri 24 Sep AFL Grand Final

TRANSPORT

BUSES

Peninsula Grammar supports a variety of private bus routes to transport students to and from our school through the Ventura Bus Company.

Private (charter) bus routes for our students include:

- Portsea – covering the southern Peninsula
- Flinders – via Shoreham, Merricks, Balnarring, Bittern and Tuerong
- Red Hill – starting in Fingal via Main Ridge, Red Hill, Merricks North, Mornington East
- Seaford – via Patterson Lakes, Carrum Downs and Somerville (Toorak College shared bus route)
- Safety Beach – Toorak College shared bus route.

Public Transport Victoria's (PTV) bus services are also available to Peninsula Grammar students. These public bus routes operate from Mt Martha, Frankston South and from the Frankston train station. Students require a MYKI card to access these public bus routes that run by Peninsula Grammar.

If you are interested in learning more about the bus options for students at Peninsula Grammar, please refer to the 'Bus Services' page on the Peninsula Grammar website. You can view the bus information here or contact buses@pgs.vic.edu.au.

BICYCLES

All bicycles must be left in the bicycle shed (located behind the Uniform Shop) which is locked daily at 9.00am and unlocked at 3.20 pm. Bicycle helmets are compulsory. Bicycles are not to be ridden in or around the School grounds. Scooters are not permitted as transport to or from school.

TUCKSHOP & LUNCH ORDERS

FLEXISCHOOLS – ONLINE LUNCH ORDERING

Flexischools is a fast, convenient and secure way to order and pay for lunch orders from home on any device. Food items can then be selected from the list and must be purchased prior to 9:00am on the day of collection. Recurring orders can also be made so that lunch is sorted without any fuss. Middle School students can collect their orders from the Tuckshop at recess or lunch time. Money can also be brought to purchase items at the Tuckshop. However, it is recommended orders are placed online via Flexischools to ensure availability. To set up an account visit www.flexischools.com.au.

HOW IT WORKS

1. Parents go online at www.flexischools.com.au to set up a Flexischools account and pre-load funds to be accessed when making an order.
2. Food items can then be selected from the list and must be purchased prior to 9am on the day of collection to ensure they are ready. Recurring orders can also be made so that lunch is sorted without any fuss.
3. Prep – Year 6 students will receive their lunch orders through the normal system where the Lunch monitors collect them while Years 7 – 12 students can pick up their orders from the Tuckshop.

HOW TO SET UP AN ACCOUNT

Online account set up only takes a minute!

Visit www.flexischools.com.au and select "Register" and enter in your email address

Follow the link from your email address to set up your account

Complete the New User Registration

Select 'Add new student' and select school by starting to type "Peninsula Grammar" in the Search bar and then selecting Peninsula Grammar

Complete the details for name, year level and class then save. Add additional students if required

Top Up your account via Visa, Mastercard, PayPal or Direct Deposit

Make an order by selecting from the range of options and proceed to the payment section

Review orders by logging back in to your Flexischools account. You can set recurring orders, view transaction history or cancel orders via your Flexischools login.

FEES

Online Ordering Fees - \$0.29 per order

Account Top Up Direct Deposit - no charge

Credit Card (VISA/Mastercard) and PayPal - \$0.15 +1%

For any queries regarding account setup or ordering issues please contact Flexischools direct on 1300 361 769.

UNIFORM

All students are expected to wear the School uniform correctly and with pride. A full listing of uniform requirements is in the Record Book.

UNIFORM SHOP

The Uniform Shop sell the complete range of Peninsula Grammar standard winter, summer and sporting uniforms (excluding shoes) and stock a small range of regularly used stationery items, school gift items and memorabilia. Uniform Shop information may be found on our website, including opening times and links to an online booking and ordering systems.

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; socks are to be pulled up. Where a situation arises concerning a student's uniform, written requests for

the temporary wearing of non-regulation items must be referred to the Head of Middle School.

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 parents will be notified that the student may not return until the fault is rectified.

All students are required to have a clearly named Middle School hat which must be worn outside at all times during Term 1 and 4. It is not compulsory for boys to wear a tie during February due to the hotter weather, however, we do ask that a tie is worn on their first day, for ID photos and also the Foundation Day Assembly.

Students are required to wear the Peninsula Grammar PE Uniform to Physical Education classes. Students are not permitted to wear the Saturday Sport uniform such as a hoodie to PE lessons.







D.J. PERRY
Middle School

CURRICULUM ASSESSMENT AND REPORTING

CONNECT PROGRAM

CONNECT

'Connect' will appear on every Middle School student's timetable. This program is an opportunity for students to learn about Positive Psychology and Religion and Values. Most importantly, it is a time for our Middle School students to connect with their peers, mentors and community.

Every fortnight, students will attend a Middle School Assembly on a Thursday Period 3 (11:05am- 12:00pm) during a 'Connect' period. Students will also have opportunities to attend Chapel, participate in workshops and hear from guest speakers.

CONNECT DAYS

To assist with transitions between year levels, students will have the opportunity to attend Connect Days. On these days, students will learn more about the year ahead and meet their Mentor. A focus of our program is the transition to Year 5 and Year 7. A diverse range of activities are offered to develop a better understanding of the School and meet other students.

New students joining Peninsula Grammar will be interviewed upon enrolment and will be provided with a list of key dates and information to assist with the transition to a new school.

HANDOVER

At the conclusion of a school year, there is a comprehensive student handover meeting between the current and following year's Wellbeing Coordinator and Mentors. This ensures important information about each student is clearly communicated.

INFORMATION EVENINGS

Information evenings for Years 7 and 8 will be held on the following dates:

Year 7 Wednesday 3 February 7.00pm – 8.00pm Ansett Hall

Year 8 Thursday 4 February 6.00pm – 6.30pm Ansett Hall

MENTOR CONVERSATION EVENING

On Thursday 4 February (4.00pm – 7.45pm Pavilion), parents are invited to book in for an 8 minute appointment with their child's Mentor teacher. This is an opportunity for parents to share information about their child and to ask any questions about the year ahead.

TIMETABLE

Student timetables are accessible via Zenith. Students will be provided with a hardcopy version of their timetable on the first day of school.

BOOKLISTS

The Middle School booklists can be ordered via Lamont. Access to digital subscriptions will be provided at school.

LAPTOPS

In Year 5 and 6, each student is provided with a Microsoft Surface Go device that can be used at school. From Year 7 onwards, Peninsula Grammar runs a compulsory computer program. Currently our Year 7 and 8 students use a Microsoft Surface Pro device.

In Year 5 and 7, there is a specific focus placed on developing digital technology skills to ensure our students can access and use tools such as Teams, OneNote, Outlook and OneDrive. This occurs early in Term 1 in a variety of whole year level and small group sessions.

If students need assistance with their laptop they can email IT at ict_sd@pgs.vic.edu.au or visit the IT/AV Centre.

All Middle School students and families are required to sign an ICT Agreement to access the School network provided for students.

PARENT/TEACHER/STUDENT DISCUSSIONS

Parents will be advised when bookings can be made for Parent/Teacher/Student discussion via Zenith. They are scheduled to take place on the following dates:

SEMESTER ONE:	
Year 5–6	Wednesday 24 March (4.00pm – 7.30pm) Pavilion
Year 7–8	Tuesday 16 March (4.00pm – 7.30pm) Zammit Centre Thursday 25 March (4.00pm – 7.30pm) Zammit Centre
SEMESTER TWO:	
Year 5–6	Monday 13 September (4.00pm – 7.30pm) Pavilion
Year 7–8	Thursday 26 August (4.00pm – 7.30pm) Zammit Centre Wednesday 1 September (4.00pm – 7.30pm) Zammit Centre

SEMESTER REPORTS

At the conclusion of Semester 1 and 2, Middle School parents receive The Becoming Me Program summary (Semester Report). Students are placed on a learning continuum for each subject area and Mentor teachers write a comment summarising each student's strengths and achievements throughout the semester.

In Semester 2, the report also includes a co-curricular page which lists any key co-curricular activities that a student participated in during the year. Parents are encouraged to make contact with their child's Mentor or subject teacher if they have any queries or concerns arising from the report.

We encourage parents to discuss the feedback with their children and to help them set goals for the semester ahead. If the need arises parents will be contacted and an interview arranged.

HOMEWORK

The purpose of homework in the Middle School is for students:
To consolidate learning that has taken place in class.
To revise and prepare for upcoming assessment tasks.

To complete work that was unable to be finished during class. This may include work that was missed due to illness or involvement in other activities.

To develop time management and study skills.

Homework expectations are communicated via year level pages on Zenith.

SUBJECTS

Middle School students engage in a broad range of subjects. Further information can be found in the Middle School Subject Guide on Zenith.

YEAR 5&6

- English
- Mathematics
- Science
- Humanities
- French
- Health & Physical Education
- Art
- Drama
- Band (Year 5)
- Music (Year 6)
- Sport
- Create
- Connect

YEAR 7 & 8

- English
- Mathematics
- Science
- Humanities
- French
- Chinese (Year 8)
- Health & Physical Education
- Art
- Drama
- Music
- Food Technology
- Create
- Connect

ZENITH FEEDBACK

The Middle School is centred on notion of growth and knowing success. Our feedback is timely and is written to the student. This information is also made available to parents under the 'grades' section on Zenith. This feedback includes assessment task results and formative feedback on learning habits. Parents are encouraged to regularly check Zenith for all feedback, particularly prior to Parent/Teacher/Student discussions.



CO-CURRICULAR

CADETS

The Peninsula Grammar Army Cadet Unit was established in 1965. Cadets provides outstanding opportunities for personal growth and development in our students. It seeks to develop leadership skills, to foster teamwork and to encourage an ethic of service, resilience, and self-discipline.

Students in Year 7 and 8 can participate in Cadets. Recruit training equips students with the skills they need for a six-day outdoor experience at Puckapunyal in September. For this reason, a minimum commitment of one year is required and new enrolments are accepted at the beginning of the year. In Year 7 students must turn 13 during the year they join.

In the first year, Cadets learn the basics of living and surviving in the field as well as some customs and traditions, navigation, drill and first aid. Training takes place at school. Importantly, our cadet training is conducted by Cadets for Cadets so it is our Senior Cadets who plan and conduct the training.

It is a popular co-curricular activity and there are limited places available. More information will be provided at the beginning of the school year.

COMPASS/DUKE OF EDINBURGH

The Compass Award is a program of discovery for young people aged 10-14. Modelled on The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award, The Compass Award is designed to enhance the development of the individual child. Students aged 10-14 years old choose their own challenging activities, learn new skills and in the process, develop initiative and commitment, becoming more responsible and motivated young people. The Compass Award is the chance to gain the benefits of The Duke of Edinburgh's Award at an earlier age.

There are 4 levels of The Compass Award, each level is broadly aimed at the corresponding age, e.g. Level 1 for those in Year 5, Level 2 for those in Year 6 and so on. To achieve The Compass Award at any Level, young people create a unique program of activities (for a set length of time) across four Sections. Participants are encouraged to undertake their activities over a period of time rather than complete Award requirements in a single session. On completion of The Compass Award participants are encouraged to continue onto The Bronze Duke of Edinburgh's Award. Participants must be 14 years old to commence the Bronze Award.

For more information, please contact Georgina Bishop (gbishop@pgs.vic.edu.au).

LUNCHTIME CLUBS

There are a range of lunch time clubs that are run throughout the year. These opportunities are shared with students in the daily bulletin.

MIDDLE SCHOOL PRODUCTION

In 2021, the Middle School Production is Peter Pan Jnr. Auditions occur late in Term 2 for Middle School students. The performances will be held in Term 4.

MUSIC LESSONS/ENSEMBLES

Instrumental lessons occur throughout the day. Students are expected to check lesson times, attend and return to class promptly. Enquiries regarding the lesson should be directed to Mrs Vicki Maclachlan in the Music Department on 9788 7733 or email vmachlachlan@pgs.vic.edu.au.

SPORT

All students in Year 7 and 8 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.

AGSV Sports training begins Week 2, Term 1 and all students in Years 7 and 8 will be able to access their sports and training times from their year level noticeboards and on Zenith. The first fixtured round of sport will be held on Saturday 6 February. Most students will be required for this fixture and details regarding times and venues can be accessed from the Operoo or the Sport Zenith page.

Any queries regarding sport (Year 7 and 8) should be directed to:

Ms Melissa Cunningham – Head of Girls Sport
(mcunnington@pgs.vic.edu.au) or

Mr Scott Dacy – Head of Boys Sport
(sdacy@pgs.vic.edu.au)

Mrs Jodie Carroll – Head of Junior Sport (Years 5 and 6)
(jcarroll@pgs.vic.edu.au)

‘THE PHYSICAL,
SOCIAL AND
EMOTIONAL
WELFARE OF OUR
STUDENTS ARE
AS IMPORTANT
AS ACADEMIC
PROGRESS; HENCE
OUR SCHOOL
HEALTH CENTRE
PLAYS A VITAL
ROLE IN THE
EVERYDAY LIFE
OF STUDENTS.’



STUDENT SERVICES



SCHOOL HEALTH

The physical, social and emotional welfare of our students are 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, 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. Students feeling ill should report this to their class teacher before going to the School Health Centre. If the nurse considers that the student is unwell enough to go home, they will contact a parent or guardian to arrange for the student to be picked up from school. If a student is required to take medication during the day, it is important that parents contact School Health to discuss.

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

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.

WELLBEING

Our Student Services Wellbeing Team works across the School to develop initiatives to enhance health and positive engagement in order for each student to thrive.

The Wellbeing team includes our school counsellors, educational psychologists, careers advisers, medical staff, special education teachers and our Boarding House supervisors.

There are several useful resources for families that can be found on the Middle School Wellbeing page on Zenith.

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.

LEARNING SUPPORT

Learning Support operates throughout the School and has the primary role of supporting students in their learning. Staff work closely with students, teachers and families to provide adjustments to enable students to access and participate in their learning.

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:

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.

We offer a range of evidence-based wellbeing and Positive Psychology programs to teach students necessary life skills that will help them reach their personal and academic potential.

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.

Website: <https://raisingchildren.net.au/>

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.

Website: <https://www.familyrelationships.gov.au/>

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.

Website: <https://www.lifeline.org.au/>

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.

Website: <https://www.beyondblue.org.au/>

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 exercise for every age group. It also allows you to rate your mood and track your progress.
	Uplifted	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.

Website: <https://about.au.reachout.com/>

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.

Website: <https://www.beyondblue.org.au/who-does-it-affect/young-people>

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.

Website: <https://headspace.org.au/>

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.

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.

‘THE MOST SUCCESSFUL PEOPLE IN LIFE
ARE THE ONES WHO ASK QUESTIONS.
THEY ARE ALWAYS LEARNING. THEY
ARE ALWAYS GROWING. THEY ARE
ALWAYS PUSHING.’ ROBERT KIYOSAKI



COMMUNICATION

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

MENTOR TEACHER

In the Middle School, the Mentor Teacher is a key point of contact for students and their families. If you require any assistance, questions in the first instance should be directed to the Mentor via email or phone. Mentors will endeavour to reply within 24 hours.

CONTACTING STUDENTS

If parents need to make contact with their children during the school day, please call the Middle School Administration Team on (03) 9788 7748. Please avoid contacting your child directly via phone or email.

ZENITH

Zenith is our learning management system and our main communication tool for staff, students and parents. It is an integral part of our learning community at Peninsula Grammar and allows everyone to access the information relevant to them.

There is a Middle School page and year level pages for Year 5, 6, 7 and 8 that can be viewed by students and parents to keep up to date with important information such as camps, excursions, key dates and upcoming events. Photos and reflections on events are also shared via these pages.

In the Middle School, each student will be expected to login to Zenith daily using their username and password. All timetables, assessment tasks with submission dates, sport information and calendared events will be displayed on the student's homepage. Students' academic progress, including timely feedback on assessments, will be available for students and parents to see during each term.

Parents are encouraged to access Zenith regularly to participate in the learning journey of your child, access your child's timetable, school information and news, receive calendared events, updates on sport and many other aspects of our School.

Parents have two ways to access Zenith:

1. By using the Peninsula Grammar App available in the Apple and Android App stores; OR
2. Via an internet browser by going to the following URL: <https://zenith.peninsulagrammar.vic.edu.au/>

The App functions are a quick and easy way to access information, while the online version of Zenith offers much more in-depth information for parents. To access Zenith you need to set up a password, <https://zenith.peninsulagrammar.vic.edu.au/>

To set your password for the first time:

Click on the 'Parents, forgotten your password?' Link and follow the prompts using the email address you supplied to the School as your contact email. If you require any further information or assistance with your passwords please contact our ICT Department – ICT_SD@pgs.vic.edu.au or telephone 97887776.

EMAIL

Emails allow for timely communication about what's happening in the Middle School and to share information about important events or activities. Please ensure your email address is kept up to date so we can contact you when needed, and you do not miss out on receiving information. Parents will receive a weekly bulletin from the Principal with all the latest news and upcoming events.

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.

OPEROO (FORMERLY KNOWN AS CAREMONKEY)

Operoo provides a simple way for Peninsula Grammar to share forms and keep medical and emergency details for all students. It is important that a student's Operoo profile is kept up to date by families. Upon enrolment at Peninsula Grammar, the primary contact will be sent an email will be sent via the Peninsula Grammar Operoo system asking you to sign up or create an account. Simply follow the instructions to create an account. Once this has been completed, parents will be able to respond to forms and receive messages from the school on any device. Parents are encouraged to download the Operoo Central App.

SCHOOL APP

The Peninsula Grammar School app is available to download. Simply search for 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.

PENINSULA GRAMMAR PARENT ASSOCIATION (PSPA)

The Peninsula Grammar Parent Association (PSPA) is run by parents for parents and remains a crucial part of our community, connecting families both new and existing through events that shape and nurture our cultural identity. Annually, several special events are held. More information can be found on the PSPA website here: www.peninsulagrammar.vic.edu.au/community/associations/

PGSREADY

PGSReady is the Peninsula Grammar School's community readiness platform in the event of changes to our on campus learning. On our PGSReady page is regularly updated and is available from the website under Important Information.







PENINSULA
— G R A M M A R —
INSPIRING PERFORMANCE