



PENINSULA

GRAMMAR

INSPIRING PERFORMANCE



PRE SENIOR SCHOOL HANDBOOK

2022





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WELCOME TO THE PRE SENIOR SCHOOL

For each student in Year 9, their experience in the Pre Senior School is one of the most challenging, varied, and influential years of study here at Peninsula Grammar. The year coincides with an important stage in their adolescent development when students seemingly tackle big picture questions about the world that they live in and their place within it.

The Pre Senior School at Peninsula Grammar demonstrates that students in Year 9 are so much more than students who are just in the middle of their secondary education journey. They will be supported in an environment that allows them to feel a sense of belonging so that they can flourish academically, socially, and emotionally.

Our innovative “Challenging Me” program is based on extensive research on how best to cater for the needs of adolescent learners. In Pre Senior School, our students are located in their own building, the J.G. Pennell Pre Senior Centre, situated between the Middle and Senior School precincts, and they are taught by a dedicated team of Mentors and 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. 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.

The academic program of the Pre Senior School aims to assist students at this key juncture in their development to adulthood by providing rites of passage that challenge their thinking as well as focusing on a learning philosophy that is relevant and engaging to the needs of learners at this stage of their education. The Pre Senior School prepares students for the rigours of the Senior School and VCE with a program that extends and challenges, providing students with unique learning opportunities and personal growth.

The Pre Senior School is proud of our “Challenging Me” program that focuses on the development of each student academically, emotionally, physically, and socially. We look forward to working with each student in this exciting and formative year.

Mr P.K. Henniker
Head of Pre Senior School





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ACADEMIC PROGRAM AND POLICIES

DAILY PROGRAM

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

YEAR 5 – YEAR 12	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

SUBJECTS

In addition to the core subjects taught in the Pre Senior School (English, Mathematics, Big Picture Humanities, Big Picture Science, Big Picture Thinking, Health and Physical Education), students have the option of studying a selection of semester-length elective subjects throughout Year 9. These elective subjects are designed to provide students with a depth of experience in a range of subjects, help them to identify their areas of interest and academic strength before joining the Senior School, and to learn more about their place within the world whilst igniting their passion for learning.

The Year 9 elective program provides two distinct opportunities for students: breadth and pathways to further study. Elective subjects at Year 9 are offered to all students and no pre-requisites exist with the qualified exception of French. Similarly, there are no pre-requisites for any Year 10 electives with the qualified exception of French. As such, students are encouraged to select subjects based on their interests and passions, above all else. It is important to note that no VCE subjects, at Years 10 or 11, require the completion of specific subjects from the Year 9 elective program.



BIG PICTURE LEARNING

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.

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.

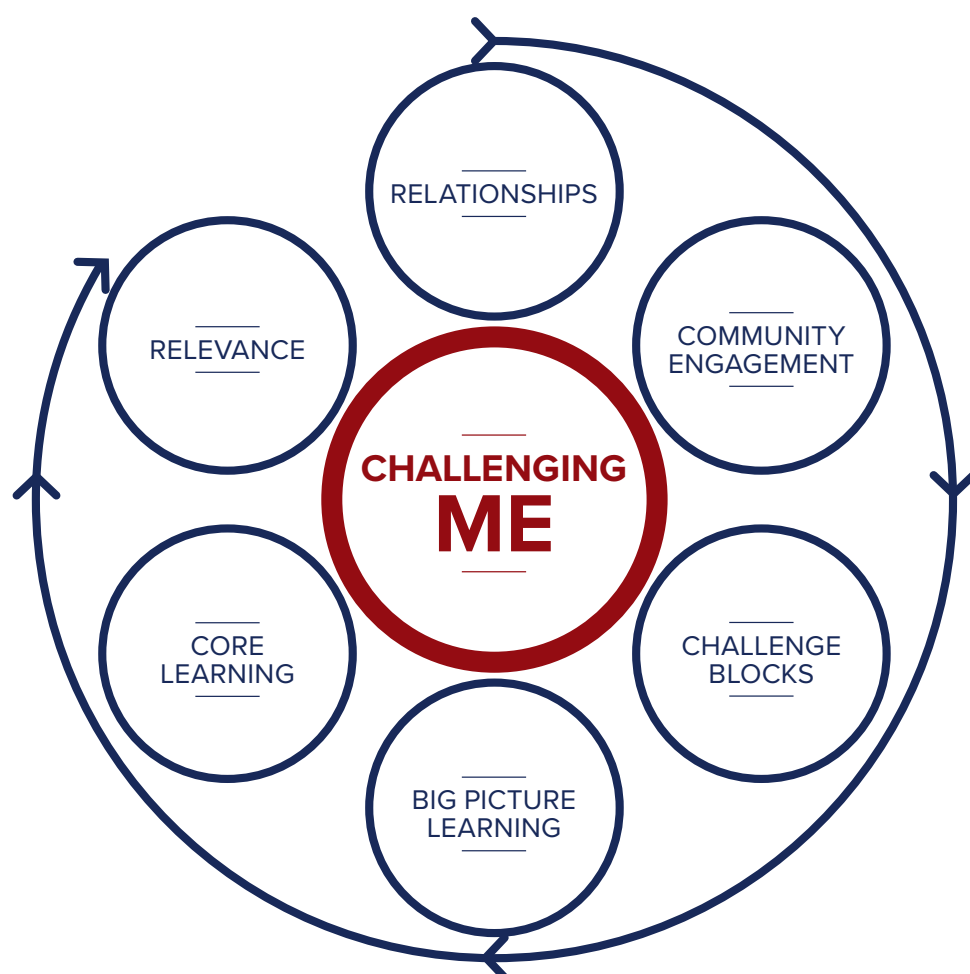
In the Pre Senior School, students study the subjects Big Picture Humanities, Big Picture Science and Big Picture Thinking. These three subjects work together to teach students in a manner that forces students to understand human and social development in the context of a complex narrative that starts with the Big Bang and ultimately leads to each student today and their individual place within the world.

Overall students will undertake six themed Big Picture Thinking 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.

YEAR 10 SUBJECT SELECTION

When selecting a Year 10 program at the end of Pre Senior School, students can choose electives (in addition to the core studies). These may include VCE Unit 1 & 2 studies, if their Pre Senior School 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 Humanities and Science may also be considered, 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 Pre Senior School, and be given some choice as to their English studies.



ENTRY INTO HARP AT YEAR 10

The Peninsula Grammar High Academic Readiness Program (HARP), is designed to enrich, not accelerate, the learning of our students; those who are identified as highly motivated to achieve academically. These students are intellectually curious, enjoy the challenge of extra academic stimulation and can work independently and collaboratively to achieve their goals.

The program is designed to emphasise an enrichment of the current curriculum and to assist in the development of critical and creative thinking skills; skills that are universally important to achieve educational excellence and contribute meaningfully to the world they inherit.

There is an expectation that these students will involve themselves in all aspects of Peninsula life, such as entry into national competitions, sport, performing arts and leadership opportunities. The studying of an additional language, French, as well as a musical instrument is strongly encouraged in the program.

There will be greater emphasis on the acquisition of more complex and abstract concepts, hence the study of Unit 1 & 2 20th Century History in Year 10 is considered necessary in order to develop the critical thinking skills of evaluation and analysis necessary to excel in Units 3 & 4.

Selection of students into the HARP is rigorous and considers achievement testing and academic achievement throughout Year 9. To be enrolled in the program at Year 10, Year 9 students must have strong proficiency in all subjects, especially in English. Continuation in an enhancement subject in the following year (Year 11) in Unit 3 & 4 is dependent on the student's results at the end of Units 1 & 2 along with the teacher's recommendations. All Year 12 students are still expected to take a minimum of four subjects in Year 12 if they have undertaken an enhancement subject in Year 11.

HOMEWORK

In the Pre Senior School 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 child about the week's requirements and occasionally

reviewing what has been completed. Should there be 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 Pre Senior School 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.

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 the Pre Senior School.

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.

HOMEWORK 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 each 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 your Mentor 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.

EXAMINATIONS

In the Pre Senior School, examinations are conducted at the conclusion of each semester. The purpose of examinations, in broad terms, is two-fold: a student's performance in the examination will influence their achievement and global grades in the end-of-semester report; and the experience of sitting examinations in preparation for the Senior School, where there is considerable emphasis on this form of assessment. As Year 9 is the first time students sit examinations, teachers spend time in the weeks before the examinations preparing students for the rigour and requirements of exam periods.

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 School 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 School policy: Focuses on the growth of every learner.

Ensures the learner experiences success. Builds autonomy and accountability within the learner. 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.

PLAGIARISM POLICY IN THE PRE SENIOR SCHOOL

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 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:

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 School 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.

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. The student is expected to resubmit the task in question in its entirety free of plagiarised material.

The student will be required to attend an academic tutorial during lunchtime. The highest mark that the student can achieve from the resubmission is 55%. 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 School and the relevant Head of Department. The overall mark for their assessment task will be compromised by 10% for such behaviour. 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 School.

REPORTS AND FEEDBACK

Pre Senior School 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.

ASSESSMENT/GRADE BOUNDARIES

Pre Senior School 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+ A	90–100 80–89
Highly competent	B+ B	75–79 70–74
Competent	C+ C	65–69 60–64
Approaching competence	D+ D	55–59 50–54
Not yet competent	E+ E	40–49 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.

PARENT/TEACHER/STUDENT DISCUSSIONS

Parent/Teacher/Student discussions are held twice a year and parents can book their times via Zenith.

ADDITIONAL ACADEMIC SUPPORT

Students and parents are encouraged to speak with individual subject classroom teachers should they require additional assistance for that subject.

Some academic departments run additional workshops to provide support to students and these times will be published in the locker area and on the pre Senior School Zenith page.





CHALLENGING ME

Peninsula Grammar's Pre Senior School program, Challenging Me, recognises the need to engage Pre Senior School students differently. In this critical year level where students make the crucial transition from the Middle School to the Senior School 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.

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 Pre Senior School 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 Pre Senior School 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)

Pre Senior School 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.

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.

PERSONAL AND SOCIAL LEARNING

The Pre Senior School Personal and Social Learning program is a comprehensive program that aims to help develop the individual 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 The Man Cave and Flourish Girl as well as follow a UMatter curriculum which will address pertinent issues focusing on physical, emotional and social wellbeing. The program supports students' wellbeing development and learning at school.







USEFUL INFORMATION

ABSENCES

It is the policy of the School that all students are in full attendance, including the first and last days of term.

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

EXTENDED LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Time away from the school day in the Pre Senior School can place great pressure on students as they try to catch up independently. For this reason, leave is not normally granted during term time unless there are extenuating circumstances. If the student requires an extended leave of absence for up to ten days from the academic program, please send the request by email to the Head of Pre Senior School, or for leave greater than ten days, addressed to the Principal. If leave is granted, it is the student's responsibility to catch up on work missed. They are expected to communicate with their teachers and Mentor prior to leaving regarding work missed. It is also recommended that they regularly check Zenith while on leave.

LATE ARRIVALS AND EARLY DEPARTURES

The school day commences at 8:40am. If students arrive after this time, they are required to sign in at the Safety and Transport manager's office.

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.

LEADERSHIP POSITIONS

Within the Pre Senior School there are many opportunities for students to experience leadership challenges. Throughout the year, there are leaders appointed from each class. These student leaders will work across a number of specific briefs and assist in a range of activities.

RECORD BOOK

The School Record Book is optional for Pre Senior School students, and is available from Mentors.

STUDENT ID 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 the tuckshop, 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.

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

LOCKERS

Every student in the Pre Senior School is allocated a locker in the Pennell Centre. 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.

Pre Senior School 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.







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