

Principals Report



Friday, 5th December 2025

I really enjoyed the Year 6 Graduation Dinner held on Wednesday evening at the Hawkesdale Memorial Hall, and the celebration of the milestone that moving from primary to secondary school is. A big congratulations to Tommy, who was presented with the Kerrin Peters Award for his excellent classroom work, school involvement and friendship to others across this year - a very deserving recipient. It was great to have Frank Huglin discuss the tradition and history of the annual Kerrin Peters Award, and to present the award also. A big thanks to Mrs Whitehead and the Year 6 students for their efforts in making this event a success, and to Mr Hoeksema for the wonderful artworks that lined the Hall. Thanks also to our P&F group for supplying and presenting the graduation stoles, which were worn with pride by our students.



I also enjoyed listening to our prospective primary school captain speeches on Thursday, the results for which will be announced at the final Awards Assembly on Monday 15th December. Well done to Hunter, Blake, Rhyder and Logan for nominating for these positions in 2026, and for bravely taking on public speaking in front of their classmates. I look forward to congratulating our new Junior School Captains at our final assembly of the year.

Following on from feedback from the Strategic Review process earlier in the year our school timetable will be restructured next year to maximise teaching and learning opportunities at our school. We currently operate within a 30-period week, with students taking part in 6x50 minute sessions each day. In 2026 we will begin the year with 5x one hour period days, with students having 25 subject sessions for the week. One of the significant advantages created by this change will be to allow our primary students to have access to the recommended two hours of literacy instruction every day, as well as one hour of numeracy instruction every day. Building primary literacy and numeracy skills will translate to improved secondary literacy and numeracy skills as students move through year levels and will have the capacity to lift the academic performance of all students over time.



This will be a very different way for our school to operate, and we will use 2026 to monitor and assess the scheduling of subjects to create the best model possible for future years. While start and finish times will not change in 2026, recess (Break 1 in 2026) and lunchtime (Break 2 in 2026) will be a little later, with 2x hour sessions happening before recess, 2x hour sessions happening before lunch, and then a single hour-long period happening after lunch to finish the day. I have included a brief explainer article in this newsletter with our new weekly schedule - please take the time to look at this so that you are aware of class timing changes for next year.

As we move ever-closer to school re-starting next term, a change to the primary class structure was communicated to primary families yesterday. Next year our primary class groups will consist of:

Prep and Year 1

Mrs Davey

Years 2, 3 and 4

Mrs Brown (4 days per week); Mr Gordon (1 day per week)

Years 5 and 6

Ms Whitehead

Tuesday 9th December is the Victorian statewide transition day: our Year 6's will be joined by new students from local primary schools to take part in two Year 7 transition days on Monday and Tuesday, while all primary students will step up to their new 2026 classes and teachers on Tuesday. This is always an exciting couple of days for students as they meet new classmates and teachers for the coming year and get to experience what it is like to move up to a new year level.



I was pleased to read two articles this week about past students and their endeavours after leaving our school. Jye Cromb was featured in the Warrnambool Standard and spoke about starting his own agricultural contracting business this year at age 20 - well done Jye! Shona was interviewed and featured in the December Hands On Learning national eNewsletter, describing how the HOL program helped her to become a local chef - well done to Shona as well! I always enjoy hearing about the pathways that students take after leaving our school, and these articles remind me about how diverse these pathways can be.

Our Year 10 students have been exploring their own possible future pathways this week, with local work experience placements happening across the district. As always, I appreciate the willingness of employers to host our students for this week, and the efforts of Mr Gordon in making these placements happen.

Ms Roney and Sam have been taking stock of our Library resources, and there is a table loaded with pre-loved junior fiction library books looking for a new home, just inside the Library foyer. Students and parents are very welcome to peruse this collection, and to take home any books that they would like to - completely free!



Please note that our school canteen will have a final opening day on Friday 12th December - this will be the last day for lunch orders and over the counter meals and snacks for 2025. The 2026 canteen menu will feature a wider range of gluten free food products that can be heated and served in protective packaging, and I would thank the canteen subcommittee of School Council for their work in assisting this to happen. **While canteen staff will take all reasonable precautions to prevent the cross-contact of gluten free and gluten containing food products, it is important to be aware that we cannot guarantee that any item prepared and served from our canteen is going to be completely free of allergens.** It is also worth noting that the gluten free food products on the new canteen menu will also be a little more expensive to purchase than gluten containing products. A huge thanks to Leanne and Vanessa for their work in the canteen this year - it's been a busy year of homemade food, breakfast club, delicious lunchtime specials and Zooper-Doopers!

A reminder that our annual Awards Assembly will be happening on **Monday 15th December** in the **College Stadium**, beginning at **2pm**. Our assembly will be led by our School Captains and our staff Leadership team, and there will be a range of awards to present that will reflect achievement in displaying school values, academic excellence, citizenship and vocational effort. Parents and extended family are very welcome to attend this assembly in the Stadium, and to join staff and students for a whole-school sausage sizzle starting at 1pm near the Hands On Learning Shed. Please note that buses will leave the school at 3:30pm on this day.



Primary and secondary Picnic Day activities will be happening on Tuesday 16th December, with primary students heading to Woodford for some outside play at Jubilee Park, and then to Warrnambool for a movie at the Capitol Cinema (Years F-5) and some ten-pin bowling (Year 6). Secondary students will take part in the annual hike along the beach from Killarney to Port Fairy for some beach cricket and supervised swimming between the flags at East Beach. Permissions and information about both days are on Compass, and it is great to see that many consents to attend have already been given; please provide permission to attend these days if you have not done so already.



Several pupil-free days are occurring in the last week of this term. Students are not required at school on **Wednesday 17th December** and **Thursday 18th December 2025**; these days will be used as time in lieu catch-up days or staff planning days for 2026.

And ... thinking ahead to the start of the 2026 school year, please note that all staff will return to school for a planning and preparation day on **Tuesday 27th January**, and that all students will return to school on **Wednesday 28th January 2026**. Office staff will be available for uniform sales at school on Friday January 23 from 10am - a great chance for families to try on and purchase uniform items before the school year actually starts.

Have a great weekend everyone ...

Mr Ralph
Principal



Our new timetable structure in 2026

In 2026 our school will begin a new daily timetable structure, which will involve a 25-period week; students will attend 5 one hour classes per day, with a 30 minute recess (Break 1) and a 40 minute lunchtime (Break 2).

Our recent School Strategic Review highlighted some opportunities for improvement in terms of curriculum delivery, and the new daily timetable structure will provide a timing reset to allow these opportunities to happen.

Features of this new schedule:

- An increase in primary literacy and numeracy teaching time to a required 120 minutes and 60 minutes every day of the week
- A re-balancing of subject offerings for Year 7-10 students, with slightly less time for Humanities and Chinese, slightly more time for PE and Health/Respectful Relationships, and a much wider range of electives choices at Years 9-10
- Additional time for PE classes in Years F-10 so that minimum physical activity standards are being met. This will include one hour of combined Year 7&8 Sport each week with three teachers working with smaller groups, and a compulsory Sport elective for Year 9-10 students
- Hour-long sessions that will provide extra time for sustained reading, writing, practical work or problem-solving across all year levels
- Creating consistency and predictability with class length over the course of each day, with students and teachers knowing that each lesson has a full hour available.

The times within the new daily timetable structure are below:

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Form Assembly	9.00 – 9.08 10 minutes				
Period 1	9.10 – 10.10 60 minutes				
Period 2	10.10 – 11.10 60 minutes				
Break 1	11.10 – 11.38 30 minutes				
Period 3	11.40 – 12.40 60 minutes				
Period 4	12.40 – 1.40 60 minutes				
Break 2	1.40 – 2.18 40 minutes				
Period 5	2.20 – 3.20 60 minutes				

Music will still be used as a prompt for students to move straight to classes, and will occur at 9:08am, 11:38am and 2:18pm. The music will signal the start of the last two minutes of Break 1 and 2.

Break times will be a little later than they are this year, and students will benefit from having more substantial food to eat following the first two hours of the day (Break 1 will be at 11:10am to 11:40am) and snacks after the fourth hour of the day (Break 2 will be at 1:40pm to 2:20pm). The canteen will reorganise its food offerings to match this next year.

This is a good initial starting point for communicating this move to a new weekly schedule in 2026 – I'll include more information about subject organisation within this structure in next week's newsletter. I'm happy to answer queries about this change, so feel free to contact me at school if you would like to talk any of the implications of this new schedule through.

John Ralph, Principal



GRADE 6
CLASS OF 2025

Graduation Evening





Graduation Evening

GRADE 6
CLASS OF 2025





Graduation

GRADE 6
CLASS OF 2025

Evening



Congratulations to Yr 12 students Sahara and Charlotte who both received 2025 Wannon Volunteer Awards from Dan Tehan for volunteering in their local community.



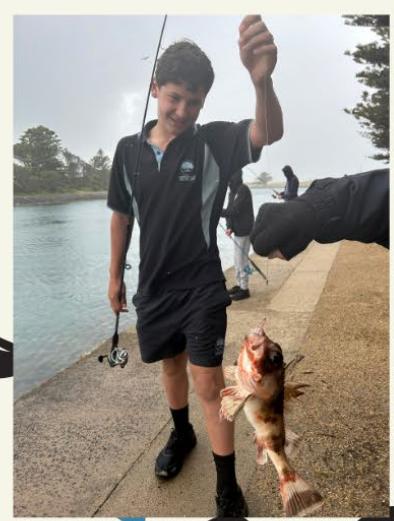
Thank you!

Charlotte has been volunteering for the local CWA, camp draft, kinder & a school council member. Sahara has been volunteering at the local footy club taking photos and working towards a gold Duke of Edinburgh award. Both students are also student voice members at school and helped with many school events.



We celebrated this years achievements by going on an excursion to Port Fairy this week. Mini golf was very competitive, fishing was very successful, lunch at The Warf was tasty, and the walk around Griffith Island was lovely.

FISHING





FISHING



Thank you so much to Liz and her crew from The Port Fairy Angling Club. All the students received certificates, stickers and fishing guides. There was even a cap for Levi who caught the biggest fish! Your fishing expertise, and patience, was much appreciated!

MINI GOLF



THE WARF



GRIFFITH ISLAND



Careers Newsletter



Hawkesdale P12 College
<https://hawkesdalep12careers.com.au/>



CAREERS - JACOB GORDON

Work Experience, End of Year for our Year 10s

Welcome to our Career's Newsletter. It has been great travelling around the region to visit our Year 10's final placements. It is a part of our Career's Program to have our Year 10s attend Work Experience twice in their year. The first we organise in cohesion with South West Local Learning and Employment Network (SWLLEN) and the second the students organise themselves - giving them initiative and drive for future work. Reports from all workplaces have been incredibly positive.



What's on?

Dec 1st - 5th Work Experience Yr 10

Dec 5th - Year 10 completion

Dec 19th - School Holidays

Careers Newsletter



Hawkesdale P12 College
<https://hawkesdalep12careers.com.au/>





YEAR 7 & 8 ART

Year 7 and 8 art classes have been learning to thread a needle, sew 3 different stitches, attach a button, stitch pieces together and tie a knot. The end result is a fleet of multi coloured, split windscreens Kombi vans. Perfect time for the holidays.



Library News



Chess fun



Letters to Santa

Decorating Christmas trees





Return your library books please!!

Every library book you return to the library between now and the end of next week earns you a raffle ticket. Go in the draw to receive a Christmas themed prize!

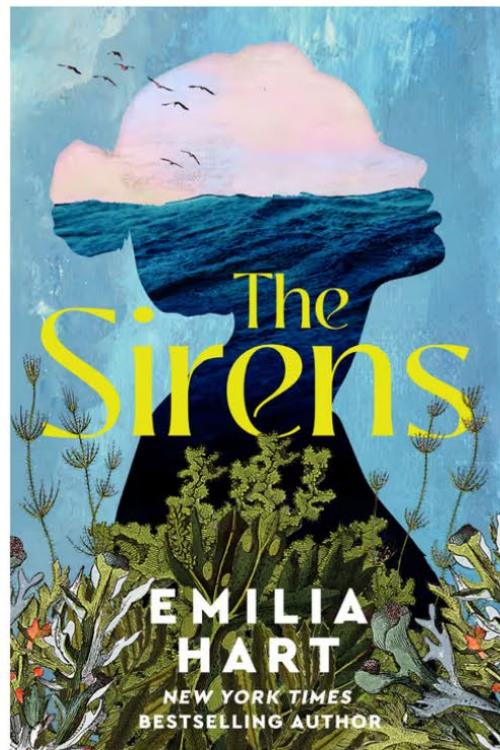
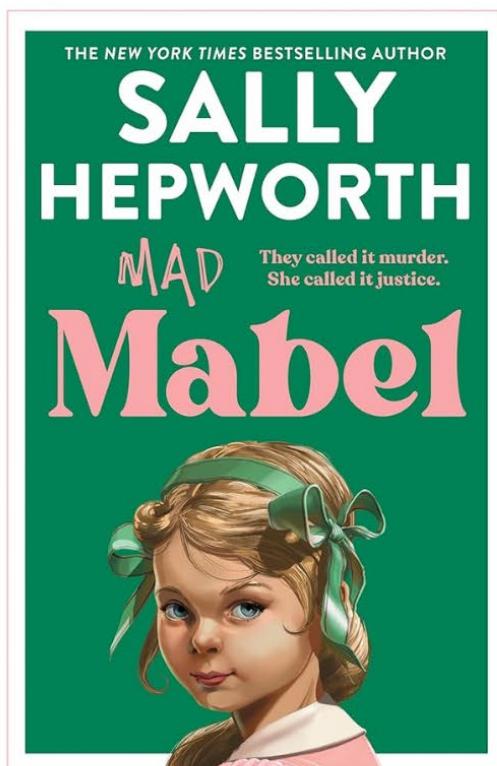


Hawkesdale Community Book Club

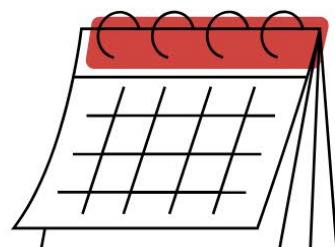
We have chosen two books for our first book club for 2026, meeting for a cuppa and a chat on Wednesday Feb 4. Come along and join the fun! New members and children are welcome 😊



[Join here](#)



**Save the date: Wed
Feb 4, 5-6pm in the
college library**





HAWKESDALE
P12 COLLEGE

Primary Uniform at Hawkesdale College

School uniform is an important symbol of pride and belonging and is one of many measures that effectively connect students to their school and community. Student safety is vitally important, and with this in mind, students are required to wear school uniform so that they can be easily identified as members of our school while at school and taking part in off-site activities. Our school has a specified uniform policy that has been ratified by school council. All students are expected to be in full uniform, and to keep their uniform neat and tidy while at school. Please mark all clothing with names so that lost items can be returned.

What do you need?

A school sports top that is to be worn for all P.E and Sport lessons - optional for grades F-3



A polo top (short or long sleeve) with school logo
A rugby jumper and or a soft shell jacket with school logo



Summer dress (primary version)
Navy shorts
Navy pants
Shoes that are all black
White or Navy socks



Trackies are suitable for our primary students

Students out of school uniform will require a signed note or email from home.

To purchase uniform please contact the front office



HAWKESDALE
P12 COLLEGE

Secondary Uniform at Hawkesdale College

School uniform is an important symbol of pride and belonging and is one of many measures that effectively connect students to their school and community. Student safety is vitally important, and with this in mind, students are required to wear school uniform so that they can be easily identified as members of our school while at school and taking part in off-site activities. Our school has a specified uniform policy that has been ratified by school council. All students are expected to be in full uniform, and to keep their uniform neat and tidy while at school. Please mark all clothing with names so that lost items can be returned.

What do you need?

A school sports top that is to be worn for all P.E and Sport lessons.

A polo top (short or long sleeve) with school logo

A rugby jumper and or a soft shell jacket with school logo

Shoes that are all black

White or navy socks

Summer dress

Navy shorts

Navy/Grey/Black pants

Winter skirt

Trackies and sports leggings are not suitable for Secondary students.

Students out of school uniform will require a signed note or email from home.

Summer or Winter uniform can be worn throughout the year.

To purchase uniform please contact the front office





FREE BOOKS

The Library is currently doing a stock take on the Junior Fiction section and having a cull to make room for new books. Families are welcome to come in, sort through and take them home. Located on the red table in the Library foyer.





SchoolTV

In this edition of SchoolTV: New Social Media Regulations

From 10 December 2025, new laws will take effect in Australia to protect young people online by restricting access to social media for those under the age of 16. This important change reflects growing community concern about the impact of early social media use on children's mental health, wellbeing and development.

Research shows that social media can expose children to unrealistic comparisons, online pressure and harmful content long before they are emotionally ready to manage it. While regulation is a positive step forward, real safety begins at home. Families continue to play the most powerful role in helping children build confidence, resilience and awareness in the digital world.

These new regulations provide an opportunity to talk openly with your child about their online experiences and what these changes mean for them. It's also a chance to review family technology habits, reinforce healthy routines, and explore age-appropriate ways for young people to connect, learn and express themselves.

This Special Report explains what the new laws mean in practice and offers practical guidance to help families prepare for the upcoming changes.

We hope you take time to reflect on the information offered in this Special Report, and as always, we welcome your feedback.

If you do have any concerns about the wellbeing of your child, please contact the school for further information or seek medical or professional help.

Here is the link to your special report:

https://hawkesdalecol.vic.schooltv.me/wellbeing_news/special-report-new-social-media-regulations-what-you-need-know



New Social Media Regulations

A SchoolTV topic supporting modern-day parenting





SchoolTV

In this edition of SchoolTV: Embracing Change & New Beginnings

Change is a natural part of growing up. Whether it's the start of a new school year, moving between year levels, or stepping beyond the school gates for the final time, each transition brings a mix of emotions, presenting both opportunities and challenges. These shifts call on young people to adjust to new routines, navigate unfamiliar environments and develop emotional flexibility. While some may embrace these changes, others may find the disruption unsettling and struggle with the loss of predictability.

Research shows that periods of transition are often linked to heightened anxiety, reduced academic engagement and changes in peer relationships. For families, these periods can also bring added stress. Recognising the emotional and psychological impact of change helps us respond more effectively and supportively.

While change can feel daunting, it also offers valuable opportunities for young people to learn and grow. By normalising uncertainty and encouraging open conversations, we help young people face new beginnings with curiosity rather than fear. When children are surrounded by guidance, encouragement and consistent structure, they're far better equipped to manage life's transitions with confidence and resilience.

We hope you take time to reflect on the information offered in this Special Report, and as always, we welcome your feedback.

If you do have any concerns about the wellbeing of your child, please contact the school for further information or seek medical or professional help.

Here is the link to your special report:

https://hawkesdalecol.vic.schooltv.me/wellbeing_news/special-report-embracing-

SPECIAL REPORT



Embracing change & new beginnings

A SchoolTV topic supporting modern-day parenting





You're invited to...

Community BBQ and Presentation Assembly

Monday 15 Dec

1 pm - Community BBQ by the college tennis courts

2pm - Presentation Assembly in the college stadium

Don't forget to wear full school uniform!

3.30pm - Buses depart

Join us to celebrate the achievements and milestones of our students throughout the year!



End of Year Dates

Fri 28 Nov:

Final official day of school for Years 10 and 11 students.



Monday 15 Dec:

Community BBQ - 1pm
Presentation Assembly - 2pm
Buses Depart - 3.30pm



Tues 16 Dec:

Final official day of school for P-9 students with the annual Primary and Secondary Picnic Day
School day finishes at 3.30pm



Wed 17 - Thurs 18 Dec:

Student free days for staff curriculum planning and to support the acquittal of time in lieu hours generated by camps in this semester.



Australian Dental Health Visit to Hawkesdale College 2026



The week beginning 9th February 2026 Australian Dental Health will be visiting Hawkesdale p12 College.

Register Your Child for the 2026 Dental Program -

Our school is participating in the 2026 Dental Program. Australian Dental Health will visit early in Term 1 to provide free dental check-ups and treatment. To register your child, please complete the Expression of Interest form below. The full consent form will be sent in the new year.

<https://adh.jotform.com/253207810896058>

For any questions, contact ADHV on 9323 9607.

Hawkesdale Pool invites
you to join us for the

GRAND OPENING

of our new mural on the pool
entrance wall created by
popular local artist Britt Gow

Saturday 13th December 2025

1:30pm

BBQ sausages \$2

Kiosk also open

**\$5 off any season memberships
bought on the day and go in the
draw to win a \$50 kiosk voucher**

HAWKESDALE P12 COLLEGE 2025 YEARBOOK

A great historical record of the year. Relive and reminisce about the camps, excursions, the study, and the good times with your friends. Limited copies available. Contact the office for further information.



Photos of friends and good times, memories to keep.

[FOR MORE INFORMATION](#)



[CONTACT US](#)
At the office. 55607225



We are now taking orders for the **2025** School Magazine.
Please fill in the form below or phone the College 55607225
The Magazine is due to arrive very early 2026

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HAWKESDALE P12 COLLEGE - SCHOOL MAGAZINE - 2025

STUDENT/S NAME:

PARENT NAME:

I/We wish to order copies of the 2025 School Magazine @ **\$36.00** per copy. If you need the magazine to be mailed to you please write the address below or email the college on hawkesdale.p12@education.vic.gov.au with your address and add \$6.00 postage per magazine to the total cost.

ADDRESS:

Payment methods available: CASH DIRECT DEPOSIT EFPTOS CREDIT CARD (see below)

I/We have included payment (please tick payment method) of \$.....

HAWKESDALE P12 COLLEGE – 2024 SCHOOL MAGAZINE CREDIT CARD PAYMENT

(Please note all credit card information will be destroyed after payment has been processed)

Card No.:

Expiry Date:

Name on Card:

Amount Paid:

Signature: