



GEELONG  
HIGH SCHOOL

# Orientation Handbook



• *Prepares us for Life* •

## VISION & VALUES

### Our Vision

Geelong High School is a positive and creative learning community that embraces its history and prepares students for life.

### We are committed to

Developing caring and respectful relationships;  
Empowering people to realise their potential through effort, responsibility and teamwork; and  
Building healthy resilient and productive global citizens.

### Our Values

**RESPECT** - Responsibility, Effort, Service, Positivity, Excellence, Creativity, Teamwork



Vitae Nos Parat



# Principal's Welcome

---



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to the Geelong High School community! I trust that your association with our school will be satisfying, enjoyable and productive, not only if you are making your first family contact with the school, but also if you have family members already attending.

Geelong High School has a proud history built on over 100 years of tradition, and enjoys an outstanding reputation within the community. We take pride in preparing students for life through a clear vision for the future and strong values. We have recently added the school value of service to reflect our engagement with the community.

The provision of a quality education that is inclusive of all students is important to us. The choices provided to students at the school are many in academic, sporting and cultural pursuits, and through a wide range of extracurricular activities.

As a parent/carer of a student attending Geelong High School, you will have thought long and hard about your choice of secondary schooling. I trust you will take an active and supportive role in the school and the education of your child for the next six years. The partnership between the school and parents/carers is seen as an integral part of the students' continued development, and it is vital that we are supportive of each other in this.

Yours faithfully

*Davin Reid*

**Davin Reid**  
Principal

# Geelong High School Council

---

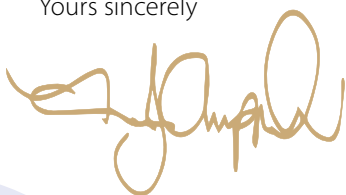
On behalf of the Geelong High School Council, I would like to extend a warm welcome to our school. We hope to encourage you, as new members of the school community, to become actively involved in the various aspects of the school program, events and functions that benefit from the enthusiastic and generous participation of many of our families and friends.

While the day-to-day support of your child in his or her studies and school activities will be your prime focus, I would like to encourage you to consider becoming a Geelong High School Council Member, as it is a valuable way to make a personal contribution to the school and be kept up to date and informed regarding all matters relating to the school.

I trust that you find the experience of being part of our school community a positive and rewarding one, and look forward to working together to ensure that all our students are offered the best educational opportunities that are possible.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any matters that you wish to discuss (my contact details are available from the school office).

Yours sincerely



**Fiona Chipperfield**  
President  
Geelong High School Cou

# Getting Started

## at Geelong High School

Welcome to Geelong High School! As you start your journey here, you'll meet a variety of people who are all here to support you. From our dedicated Home Group Teachers to our energetic School Captains, each individual plays a key role in making your experience positive and enriching. If you have any questions or need assistance, feel free to reach out to your Home Group Teacher during the Home Group Assembly on Orientation Day. They'll be more than happy to help you get settled and make the most of your time here. We're excited to have you join our community and look forward to a great year ahead!



**Mr Davin Reid**  
Principal



**Mr Andrew McConchie**  
Assistant Principal



**Ms Julianna Garcia**  
Assistant Principal



**Mr Steve Brown**  
Assistant Principal



**Mr Lachlan Envall**  
Assistant Principal

## House System & House Leaders

At Geelong High School, we really value our House system. New students are placed into one of our Houses, and the best part is that all family members are in the same House. Each House is guided by a dedicated teacher known as the House Leader. This teacher plays a key role in supporting both the wellbeing and learning of every student in their House. They are your go-to person if you have any questions or need help, and they also keep in touch with parents and carers about how things are going. The House system helps create a strong sense of community and ensures that every student gets personalised support throughout their time at school.



Corio House Leader  
**Ms Sarah Tolley**



Barwon House Leader  
**Mr David Allitt**



Leigh House Leader  
**Mr Trent Timmers**



Moorabool House Leader  
**Mr Brad Rankin**





# Geelong High School

## Uniform Policy

---

We take pride in our school and demonstrate this through the way we present ourselves in uniform. Our school has a uniform that we expect students to wear correctly every day.

Uniforms are available from:

### **PSW**

164 Malop Street, Geelong

Phone: (03) 9768 0383

[www.psw.com.au](http://www.psw.com.au)

Second-hand uniforms can be bought and sold through:

### **Second Hand School Specialists**

4 Beauford Avenue, Bell Post Hill

Mobile: 0422 402 458

*Please note: Geelong High School is transitioning from a woollen v-neck jumper to a rugby jumper.*

Sports uniforms may be worn on days when students have practical sports, dance, or physical education classes. If a student is out of uniform, they must bring a note from their parent/carer explaining the reason and obtain an out-of-uniform pass from their House Office at the start of the day. There are no specified times for switching between summer and winter uniforms, but generally, winter uniforms are worn in Terms Two and Three.

### General Uniform Combination

<b>Trousers/Shorts</b>	Grey trousers (traditional male cut) or Geelong High School navy shorts (traditional male cut)
<b>Shirt</b>	Pale blue, short or long-sleeved shirt, worn open-necked or with a school tie (optional)
<b>Jumper/Jacket</b>	Official Geelong High School jumper and/or soft shell jacket
<b>Socks</b>	White
<b>Footwear</b>	Black T-Bars or plain, polishable, black leather lace-up school shoes with no visible brands. Casual trainers, sports shoes, and boots (e.g., Doc Martens) are not acceptable.

### Summer Uniform

<b>Dress/Shorts</b>	Check dress in school colours or navy tailored shorts (traditional female cut) with a white shirt
<b>Jumper/Jacket</b>	Official Geelong High School jumper and/or soft shell jacket
<b>Socks</b>	White
<b>Footwear</b>	Black T-Bars or plain, polishable, black leather lace-up school shoes with no visible brands. Casual trainers, sports shoes, and boots (e.g., Doc Martens) are not acceptable.

### Winter Uniform

<b>Bottoms</b>	Navy slacks (traditional female cut) with white socks or Gunn tartan winter skirts with navy tights
<b>Shirt</b>	White, short- or long-sleeved
<b>Jumper/Jacket</b>	Official Geelong High School jumper and/or soft shell jacket
<b>Socks</b>	White
<b>Footwear</b>	Black T-Bars or plain, polishable, black leather lace-up school shoes with no visible brands. Casual trainers, sports shoes, and boots (e.g., Doc Martens) are not acceptable.





## GENERAL UNIFORM REQUIREMENTS

- **Shirts:** Must be tucked in neatly at the waist when not the outer garment
- **Undergarments:** Plain white T-shirts (optional) which must not be visible except at the neck (not long-sleeved)
- **Blazer:** Plain Geelong High School twill blazer (optional)
- **Jacket:** Official Geelong High School soft shell jacket may be worn as an outer garment with day-to-day uniform or sports uniform

## PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND SPORT UNIFORM

- **Top:** Navy micro-mesh polo with school logo and house colour stripe
- **Bottoms:** Navy GHS micro-mesh sports shorts (unisex and female cut) or school tracksuit pants (unisex and female cut)
- **Footwear:** Appropriate sports shoes with non-marking soles
- **Socks:** White

*Note: When representing the school in interschool sports, students must wear their sports uniform.*

## GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

- **Hair:** Must be tidy, natural in colour, clean, and worn in a manner that does not interfere with school activities. Hair accessories should align with school colours.
- **Hats & Sunglasses:** Not to be worn inside school buildings. Geelong High School logo baseball caps and beanies are acceptable. Caps or beanies with other logos are not acceptable.
- **Jewellery:** Must be gold or silver, unobtrusive, and discreet. Students may wear a maximum of two small sleepers/studs per ear, one necklace, one watch, one ring, and/or one bangle. One small clear plastic stud nose piercing is permitted. Facial piercings and other jewellery are not permitted. Staff may require the removal of jewellery for safety purposes.
- **Makeup:** A minimal amount is acceptable.







# Our School

## Day

---

### BELL TIMES

School starts at 8:50am and finishes at 3:10pm.

Monday to Friday	Start	End	Duration
Period 1	8:50am	9:50am	60min
Period 2	9:50am	10:50am	60min
Break 1 Recess	10:50am	11:20am	30min
Period 3	11:20am	12:20pm	60min
Period 4	12:20pm	1:20pm	60min
Break 2 Lunch	1:20pm	2:20pm	50min
Period 5	2:10pm	3:10pm	60min

### CANTEEN LUNCH ORDERS

The current canteen price list can be found on the school website.

**Order Time:** 8am - End of Recess. Use the paper bags provided by the school canteen, write your order on the bag, and pay the canteen staff when handing it in.

**Express Line:** Students can use the express lunch order line when collecting their lunch.

### TRAVEL

If traveling by public transport, be sure to know the timetables for your bus line. Timetables for McHarry's Buslines can be found on their website.



# Communication

## Between School and Home

---

### COMPASS

Open and effective communication is the key to a successful school community. Compass is a school management system that allows parents and carers to access up-to-date and meaningful information about Geelong High School and your child's progress. A copy of the Compass Parent Guide can be found on the school website at [www.geelonghigh.vic.edu.au/about-us/school-administration/general-school-information](http://www.geelonghigh.vic.edu.au/about-us/school-administration/general-school-information).

Compass includes many different features, including the ability to:

- Monitor your child's attendance and enter an explanation for absence or lateness.
- Communicate with your child's teachers and update your family contact details.
- View your child's timetable and the school calendar.
- Monitor your child's academic progress.
- Download and view your child's academic reports.
- Book parent-teacher conferences.
- Pay and provide consent for events and school fees.

### COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER AND FACEBOOK

The Geelong High School COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER is produced twice a term. You can follow us on Facebook at 'Geelong High School Official Account.'

### STUDENT DIARY

Students are strongly encouraged to use the Geelong High School student diary in all lessons. Students should use their diaries to record their homework, the dates of activities they are involved in, and tasks they need to do to stay organised and engaged at school. It includes a study timetable where they can map out when they intend to complete their homework. The diary also includes the class leave pass. If a student needs to leave the classroom, they must have their diary with the note from the teacher in it.

### APPOINTMENTS DURING SCHOOL HOURS

If it is necessary to attend a medical or other appointment during the school day, parents must enter a note on Compass no later than 10:30am. Parents/carers are encouraged to log onto Compass and enter the student's absences themselves before calling the Administration Office for assistance. Students should arrange to meet their parent/carer at the Administration Office when leaving for an appointment, report back to the Administration Office on their return, and use the Compass Kiosk to sign in with their ID card. Please try to arrange appointments outside of school hours.

### ABSENCES

"It's not OK to stay away." The importance of attendance cannot be overstated. The fewer days absent, the better. Absences are recorded via the Compass Parent Portal. Please refer to the Compass manual on our website.

### STUDENT IDENTIFICATION CARDS

The Student ID Card enables students to access the COMPASS Kiosk for late arrival/early departure passes and to check their timetable. If lost, a replacement card can be ordered through the Administration Office at a cost of \$10. Students must carry Identity Cards at all times.

### OUT OF UNIFORM

When unable to wear the full school uniform, a note from a parent or carer explaining the circumstances must be given to your House Leader before school for the issuance of a Uniform Pass. This pass must be carried for the full time you are out of uniform and shown to a teacher when requested. Failure to be in uniform will result in an after-school detention if the student hasn't collected a note from the House Office.



# Academic and Extracurricular Programs

---

## CURRICULUM INFORMATION

Information on the Year 7 academic subjects and art and technology rotations can be found on the school website:

<https://www.geelonghigh.vic.edu.au/curriculum-handbooks-2024>.

## ACCELERATED LEARNING PROGRAM

Geelong High School offers an Accelerated Program from Year 7-9 and continues the current options for students to accelerate from Year 10-12, open to all students. This program is for students who are looking for extra challenge and who are motivated and engaged learners wishing to be part of a program for like-minded students.

Some key characteristics of our ALP program are:

- Acceleration in the core subjects of Maths, English, Science, and Humanities from Year 7
- More higher-order thinking
- Less repetition of content
- Faster curriculum progression
- Opportunities for acceleration into the Senior Years
- A wide range of extracurricular extension opportunities
- A focus on deep learning and academic enrichment

Students who are not part of the ALP program in Year 7 will still have the opportunity to accelerate later in their schooling through our regular acceleration program offered to students from Year 9. Please see our Course Handbooks available on our website for more information.

## EXTRA CURRICULAR PROGRAMS

Geelong High School offers a wide range of extracurricular programs, and students are encouraged to get involved wherever possible. They can take part in debating, Model United Nations, Social Innovators Leadership program, World Scholars Cup, our peripatetic music tuition program, bands, our orchestra, the school production, a myriad of competitive interschool sporting teams and experiences, student leadership training and opportunities, ICAS assessment competitions, a wide range of lunchtime clubs, the Australian Mathematics Competition, and activities such as chess club, manga anime club, and more.

## SCHOOL PRODUCTION

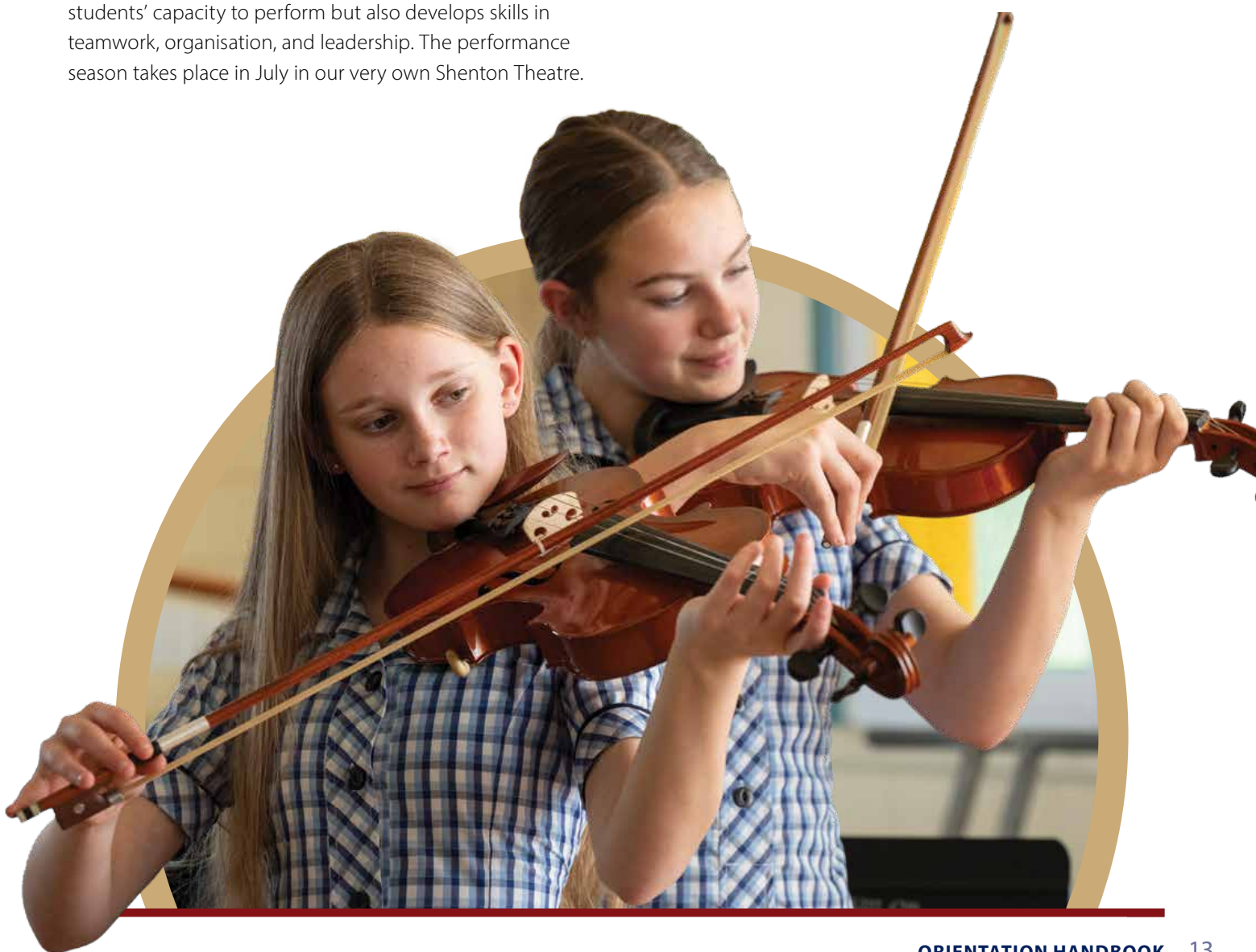
Each year, the school presents a large-scale musical performed to sell-out crowds. Students in all year levels are welcome to join the production in either a performance or backstage role. This extracurricular activity not only builds students' capacity to perform but also develops skills in teamwork, organisation, and leadership. The performance season takes place in July in our very own Shenton Theatre.

## MUSIC DEPARTMENT

The Music Department at Geelong High School has been busy building a musical and educational hub that brings together an extensive range of musical opportunities for your student. A variety of tuition is offered at Geelong High School, including woodwind, brass, percussion, string, and voice lessons.

## EXCURSIONS AND ACTIVITIES

Geelong High School strives to minimise the cost of excursions. The number of excursions offered varies from year to year, and the cost of planned activities will differ between units. Students participating in interschool sports outside the Geelong Region, the Band, or the Musical Production may incur additional travel costs.





# Health and Wellbeing

---

## MEDICATION

The school does not provide paracetamol. Paracetamol may either be held by the student or kept at the Administration Office. It cannot be administered by staff without written consent.

## SICK BAY

Students who are unwell should stay at home. If you receive a phone call from the Administration Office, you must collect your child. Students should not contact their parents directly; they must report to the Administration Office, where staff will contact parents or guardians. Please ensure that emergency contact details are up to date.

## DESIGNATED YEAR 7 AREA

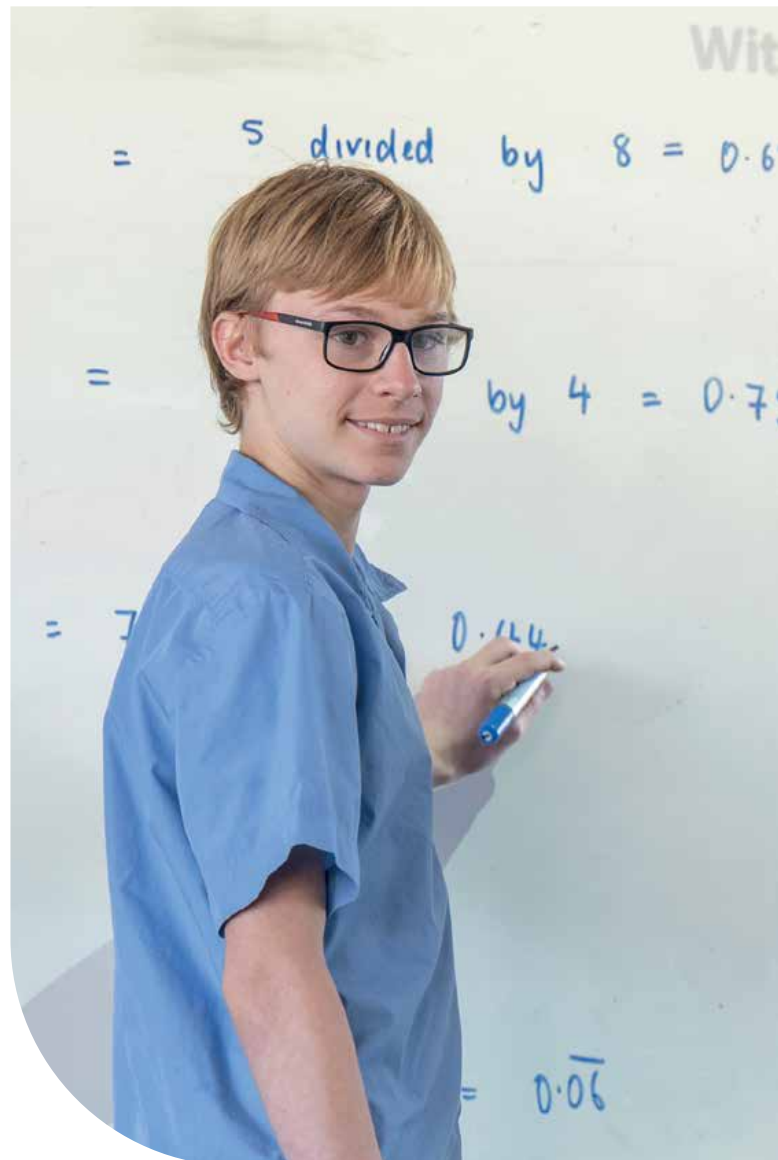
Our Year 7 students have a designated play area reserved exclusively for Year 7 students. This area is located next to the CJ Love Hall and features basketball courts, seating, trees, downball courts, lockers, and drink taps. It is also close to the House Offices, Year 7 classrooms, library, and canteen. This space provides a safe base for Year 7 students as they transition into high school. Year 7 students may also choose to play in other areas of the school if they wish.

## WELLBEING TEAM

At our school, the Wellbeing Team is dedicated to supporting the holistic needs of our students. This team, led by an Assistant Principal, includes social workers, an occupational therapist, and a psychologist. Additionally, our Doctors in Schools Service features a doctor and a nurse who are available to assist students. We also have a general practitioner available on-site once a week. Our team works closely with community organisations to ensure comprehensive support for both students and their families.

## INCLUSION TEAM

Our Inclusion Team is committed to an inclusive education model, ensuring that every student engages with the established curriculum. Individual programs are designed only when necessary to meet specific learning goals. The team focuses on maximising each student's educational potential and ensuring that those with additional learning needs are supported and valued in all aspects of school life, aligned with their personal goals and aspirations.





# Student Possessions

---

## VALUABLES

Students should avoid bringing valuable items or large sums of money to school. If necessary, leave these items at the Administration Office for safekeeping and collect them after school.

## LOST PROPERTY

Named items are returned to students whenever possible. Unnamed items are kept for one term and are then donated to Wellbeing. Lost property can be found at the Administration Office.

## MOBILE PHONES

Geelong High School adheres to the Education Minister's policy, which requires that students who bring mobile phones to school must have them switched off and securely stored during the school day. The mobile phone policy can be viewed on our website at [www.geelonghigh.vic.edu.au/about-us/policies](http://www.geelonghigh.vic.edu.au/about-us/policies).

## COMBINATION LOCK

Each Year 7 student is assigned a locker for personal use. We strongly recommend purchasing a combination lock to secure belongings. The locks, available for \$20, come with a personal three-part combination registered with the Administration Office for backup. These high-quality locks are durable and designed to last throughout a student's high school years.



# Booklist and Parent Payment Arrangements

To purchase the required books and make payments, please use the WINC website: [www.winc.com.au](http://www.winc.com.au)

Booklist: The booklist is available on our school website.

Payment Plans: To help manage costs throughout the year, you can set up regular payments starting from as little as \$20 a week. For a personalised payment plan, please contact the Administration Office.

Payment Options	Explanation	How to set this up
<b>WINC booklist (Preferred Method – at the start of the school year)</b>	Payment via the booklist.	<a href="http://www.winc.com.au">www.winc.com.au</a>
<b>Compass School Billing</b>	You will be able to set up a regular payment plan through Compass to be paid through your credit card.	You are able to develop a regular online credit card payment plan to suit your individual circumstances. Please discuss this option with the Administration staff, who will assist you.
<b>Centrepay</b>	You are able to request Centrelink to pay your school account automatically from your fortnightly benefit.	You can apply for Centrepay deductions by completing a payment plan deduction form (available from the school office).  Administration staff will assist you with the calculations which enable you to pay your charges over the whole year.
<b>Direct Deposit</b>	Payment made directly into the Geelong High School bank account.	Please contact the administration office for the school bank details.
<b>Cash, cheque, EFTPOS or credit card</b>	Cash or cheques and EFTPOS machine at the administration office.	Credit card payments can be made over the phone by contacting the administration office directly.  These payments can also be made in person at the administration office.

# Upcoming Events and Activities

---

## Information Evening

- Monday, 25th November 2024
- Time: 6:00pm – 7:00pm
- Location: CA Love Hall, Geelong High School
- Details: This evening is designed to help parents, carers, and students learn more about the school and ask questions.

## Extra Transition Day

- Thursday, 5th December 2024
- Details: For students requiring additional transition support. This is an opportunity to meet new peers and staff and to alleviate any concerns prior to the Orientation Days. Priority will be given to students coming from primary schools with no other students attending Geelong High School. These students will also attend our Orientation program.

## Orientation Days

- Tuesday, 10th December 2024 and Wednesday, 11th December 2024
- Time: 8:45am
- Location: CA Love Hall
- Details: An introductory session for incoming Year 7 students. Students are to wear casual clothes and have the option to use the school canteen or bring their own lunch.

## 2025 Commencement & Start-Up Day

- **Start-Up Day Interviews (No formal classes)**  
Wednesday, 29th January 2025
- **Commencement Day for Year 7-12**  
Thursday, 30th January 2025

## School Photos

- Thursday, 30th January 2025
- Details: All students will be photographed for ID cards and photo packs. Students must wear full school uniform (not sports uniform). Payment for photos will be available through Compass.

## Year 7 House Swimming Trials

- Friday, 31st January 2025
- Location: Kardinia Swimming Pool
- Details: This excursion is arranged to assess students' swimming abilities in preparation for the school swimming carnival, which will be held on Tuesday, 4th February. Parents/carers will be asked to consent via Compass when access is available in early December.

## Year 7 Surf Adventure Day

- **Barwon Students** Thursday, 13th February 2025
- **Leigh Students** Friday, 14th February 2025
- **Moorabool Students** Thursday, 20th February 2025
- **Corio Students** Friday, 21st February 2025
- Location: OGSLSC, Ocean Grove
- Details: This excursion provides Year 7 students with the opportunity to enjoy beach activities, including surfing, body surfing, beach awareness activities, flag races, and sandcastle competitions. It's a great chance for students to get to know their classmates and house leaders before the term and school year begin. Parents/carers will be asked to consent via Compass when access is available in early December.

## Year 7 Camp 2025

- Starting 28th April 2025 (Date TBC)
- Location: Alexandra Adventure Resort
- Details: A three-day camp as part of the Year 7 curriculum. The camp aims to help students build relationships with peers and teachers in a supportive and challenging environment away from school. Activities will include high ropes, a flying fox, a rock climbing wall, canoeing, a flying possum glider, archery, raft building, and orienteering. These activities will develop practical skills in an outdoor setting and emphasise cooperation and understanding of others.





GEELONG  
HIGH SCHOOL