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NGSC Newsletter

Issue 1 · 16 Feb 2024

In this issue



PRINCIPAL'S REPORT



ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS' REPORT



JUNIOR SCHOOL NEWS



MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS



SENIOR SCHOOL NEWS



SPORTS NEWS



OTHER SCHOOL NEWS



ALUMNI NEWS



CAREERS NEWS



STUDENT WELLBEING



COMMUNITY NEWS



VSL SCHOOL OF LANGUAGES



PRINCIPAL'S REPORT



Paul Dawson

Principal

2024 Key Dates

20 February	School Council
11 March	Labour Day Public Holiday
13 March	College Info/Open Night
19 March	Athletics Day
27 March	Parent/Teacher Conferences
29 March	Good Friday
22 April	School Photo Day

Welcome back to the 2024 School Year

Firstly, it is an honour that I take on the role of Principal of North Geelong Secondary College for Semester 1. It is a school I am incredibly passionate about, and I will continue with the strong focus of high expectations in all areas, especially teaching and learning.

Late last year, our Principal, Mr Nick Adamou, was asked to undertake a role as the College Principal of a large multi campus College in Melbourne, which he accepted.

He asked me to pass on the following message:

To all students and parents of North Geelong Secondary College,

I wish you all the very best for the 2024 academic year and beyond. NGSC is a great school, with an outstanding Principal team and absolutely dedicated staff, and I am very confident that it will continue down the path of success. No doubt, I will miss this school community that I led for the last 13 years, however, as I said many times, I will always be part of this wonderful NGSC family.

Wishing all students, parents and staff the very best.

Sincerely,

Mr Nick Adamou

I'm sure you all know about Nick Adamou's significant contributions to leading North Geelong Secondary College to become an outstanding learning institution. On behalf of the school community, I would like to acknowledge all of Nick's efforts.

On behalf of the leadership team and staff, I would like to warmly welcome all students, parents, carers, and members of the NGSC school community for the 2024 school year. I hope everyone had a restful break and enjoyed quality time with their families. A special welcome goes out to the new Year 7 students who have joined our school community. Seeing so many parents and carers attend the Year 7 teacher and Chromebook night on January 31 was great. Additionally, a warm welcome goes out to all newly enrolled students from Years 8-12 who are now part of the NGSC family.

Parents and guardians should inform their children's teachers or coordinators if they think their children require assistance. The school aims to collaborate with all members of the school community to guide students in the right direction and equip them to handle any obstacles that may arise.

Year 12 students are embarking on their final year of secondary education, and it is hoped that they will reflect on this year as one of the best in their educational journey. In this critical year, teachers will be a great source of support to help them navigate through the challenges of their studies. Students should know that the school staff are here to help them in any way possible. The Year 12 students have already had the opportunity to attend a study camp at Federation University in Ballarat, which was designed to prepare them for the year ahead and to foster positive relationships with their peers and teachers.

Once again, welcome back to the NGSC community, and I look forward to working closely with all members to ensure a successful year of learning for all students.

Welcome to New and Returning Staff

Welcome the following new and returning staff to our college and wish them a very productive and enjoyable year. The staff and I look forward to working closely with our new staff to ensure the best possible teaching and learning opportunities for our students.

New

- Orville Obaldo - (Maths/Science)
- Julie Maine - (English/Humanities)

Returning

- Jacinta Eales - (Maths/Science)
- Rebecca Durran - (PE/Health)
- Amy King - (Maths/Science)
- Tom Grayson - (PE/Humanities)

School Council and School Council elections

School councils play a key role in Victorian government schools. Effective councils have a wide range of skills, expertise, and knowledge to support good governance and provide students the best possible educational outcomes.

The annual school council election process provides an opportunity to attract members keen to add value and bring their expertise and skills to assist the school's governance.

All government schools with students enrolled in Year 7 and above must have a student member category on council. The school election process for the student member category must occur simultaneously with Parent and DE employee member elections.

Where a council has Community member positions, the council can co-opt members following the election process and add to the council's skills and expertise.

School council membership

Each school council's constituting order makes provision for its structure and membership:

- **Parent members** – parents of students at the school must comprise more than one-third of the school council's total membership. 'Parent' includes a guardian or person responsible for maintenance or custody of a student at the school. Department employees are eligible for membership in this category as long as they have children attending the school and the Department employees do not work at the school (except for the principal, who is a member of the Department employee member category) of that school council.
- **Department employee members** – must not be more than one-third of the school council's total membership. The principal is automatically included in this membership category and has full voting rights. Other staff (teaching and non-teaching) are elected or co-opted to this category. To be eligible for election to this category, a person must be a member of the school's Department of Education (DE) employee electorate.
- **Student members** – 'student' describes a student enrolled at and attends the school and is in Year 7 or above. Students are elected to this membership category or co-opted if a casual vacancy occurs. To be eligible for election, a student must be a

member of the school's student body. The number of student members is recorded in the Ministerial Order for the school council.

- **Community members** – is an optional membership category. The council's membership schedule may include this category. If a council has the option of community members, the committee decides who to approach and co-opt into this position. People are co-opted by the school council to a community member position to bring additional skills and perspectives. Community members hold the same rights, responsibilities, and terms of office as elected members. Parents are eligible to be co-opted to a community member position, but Department employees are not. Students may also be co-opted to a community member position.

The North Geelong SC, school council composition includes:

(9 x parents, 1 x community member, 2 x students and 5 x DE employees including the Principal - voting members)

- 9 x parents (no DE employees)
- 1 x community member
- 5 x DE&T employees – teaching and non-teaching staff, including the Principal
- 2 x elected students

Total number of voting members 17.

The College Principal is the Executive Officer of the school council.

This year we have:

- **3 x parent members vacancies for a 2-year appointment (2024 and 2025)**
- **3 x DE employee member vacancies for a 2-year appointment (2024 and 2025)**
- **1 student member vacancy for a 2-year appointment (2024 and 2025).**

I call for parent nominations for three vacancies. Any parent or community member that would like to discuss the role of the Council or the role of the parent member on the council

please call the school and speak to Ms Leanne Scarlett or the Principal.

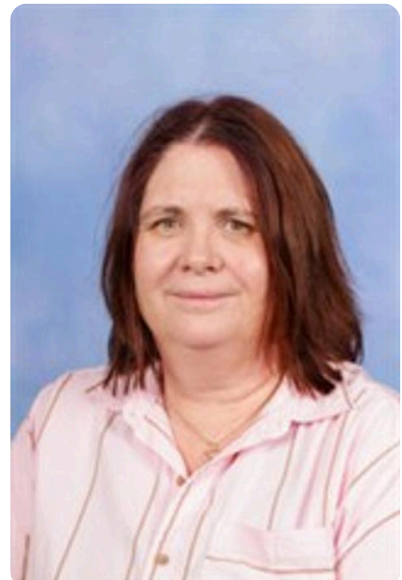
Nomination forms can be obtained from Ms Leanne Scarlett at the General Office. The closing day for nominations is Tuesday 20th February by 4.00pm.

I take this opportunity to thank all school council members, particularly the parent body, for their outstanding contributions to the life of the college.



ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS' REPORT

ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS



Ryan Mills Bradley Headlam Sarah Bridges

Welcome to the 2024 school year. We look forward to working with families as students engage in their curricular and non-curricular activities. As usual there is a range of lunchtime

clubs and activities for student to enjoy.

We extend a special welcome to our incoming Year 7 students and their families and trust that they have had a positive transition to secondary school. We remind all families that we are here to support students and families.

Restorative and De-escalation Process

Staff have now completed Berry Street training. This program aims to support teachers to further engage with skills and strategies that address student needs in the classroom. This, combined with School Wide Positive Behaviour Support strategies, will be a continual focus of staff development. As a result of this professional development the College has identified areas for improvement. This will be reflected in the initial response to students who have encountered a challenging situation for the first time in the school environment and have responded in a manner that is not in alignment with our values. In these situations, students will be sent home for reflection and discussion with parents/carers. When the student returns to school there will be a restorative conversation with an opportunity to revisit and reset the choice of behaviour for future situations. Additional support will also be offered. If there is repeated behaviour an additional level of support and intervention will occur.

Homework/Revision

Continuous revision is something that is far more supportive of knowledge retention than 'cramming' for assessment the night before. Having a set routine for home can be really valuable for students and it is important to have a routine inclusive of all subjects over the week. It is also important to do something related to that subject even if something is not set. Below are some examples of what homework can be:

- Completing exercises set in class
- Revising/preparing for tests (making study notes/reviewing key terms)
- Reading over notes
- Making mind maps
- Practising key skills
- Reading key texts and taking notes
- Reading for pleasure

The school also provides homework club opportunities during the week; there is a specific EAL student homework club running two nights and the library offers after school time and space for after school study.

Testing Week

In Week 2 students completed a variety of tests to assess their literacy and numeracy levels. Student results will be collected and entered into Compass for students and parents to view and can be found under the 'Analytics' tab on the student's dashboard.

NAPLAN

NAPLAN will be held in Week 7 and 8 of Term 1. Similar to the previous two years, the NAPLAN tests will be administered electronically with Year 7 and 9 students completing four tests: Reading, Writing, Spelling and Grammar and Numeracy. The results will be collected and distributed to schools in Semester 2.

Further details will be provided to students and families.

Be Bold Be Heard (BBBH24)

The Be Bold Be Heard initiative is again running in 2024, bigger and better than ever. This involves students in years 8-11 eliciting actions to cause change in class, college and community. It enhances their leadership, voice, agency and engagement and has been fantastically successful.



BBBH students will take part in workshop forums to collaborate with other schools whilst gaining the skills to set goals, take action and motivate others along the way. Across the program in 2023 students highlighted significant changes to their confidence with speaking to others in the BBBH program and also with staff. Of the staff surveyed in schools across Geelong 72% said that student confidence was very good or better with speaking to staff after the program.

Soroptimists International of Geelong.

This fantastic organisation has supported our students for a number of years and recently sponsored the Be Bold Be Heard initiative. This has enabled 10 students to participate in the leadership development program and we are greatly appreciative of the support they have provided. Further to this, they provide ongoing assistance and advice to seek other speakers as required.



Morrisby Interviews

The Morrisby Interviews are a fantastic initiative from the department. Students complete a career profiling survey to discover strength, ambitions, and goals. The collated data is used to formulate the basis for a discussion (later in the year) with an external careers coach. The data formed will help guide the pathways of the students and the Year 9 interviews are held during the week of 26th February to 1st March.

Life Changer

This year, North Geelong is excited to announce a partnership with the Life Changer program. Life Changer is a locally organised and funded in-school program that offers a range of workshops focusing on preventative mental youth health, building social, emotional and resilience skills and community connections across all year levels. The program will start the year with Year 10 students in Week 3 and will focus on providing information and training to facilitate these young leaders to be mentors for younger students.

Progress Reports

Every four weeks, teachers will report on the learning behaviours of their classes. The five areas teachers report on are:

- Meets Attendance Requirement
- Progress in Learning
- Participates in Learning
- Demonstrates Preparation for Learning
- Displays Respect for Learning

Each student will be marked always (4), usually (3), sometimes (2), rarely (1) or never (0). Students will then receive a Performance Average of all their classes (a score between 0 and 4). Student Managers track and analyse students' Performance Averages throughout the year and use the data to either reward students or identify who may be at risk and need further support. If you would like further information regarding Progress Reports, please contact your child's relevant Sub-School.

Vaping

With the delay in the Australian Government enacting a ban on vapes there has been an overwhelming number of people in our community taking up the habit. Whilst it was clearly evident that this was as bad as, if not worse than, smoking, there has been some misunderstanding due to the fruity taste and colourful packaging. Overall, access for young people has been far too significant and, in some instances, there are some that have become reliant. We are aware of this and have taken steps to provide support. If you think your child could benefit from some form of support, then please contact Student Wellbeing. We will be setting up an educational program delivered by our school nurse, for students who are found to be vaping on school grounds. In that circumstance, the student will be working through this educational program during the school day, lunchtimes and/ or after school.

Attendance

Engagement is an important contributor to a student's academic achievement, all school days matter. Non-attendance has a variety of effects on students both academically and socially. If your child is struggling to attend school, please let us know so that early intervention strategies and support can be provided. Please read the article below.



EVERY DAY COUNTS

SECONDARY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

Going to school every day is the single most important part of your teenager's education.

Students learn new things at school every day – missing school puts them behind.

SCHOOL IS BETTER WHEN YOUR TEENAGER IS THERE

Why it's important

We all want our students to get a great education, and the building blocks for a great education begin with students coming to school each and every day.

Students develop good habits by going to school every day – habits that are necessary to succeed after school, whether in the workplace or in further study.

Missing school can have a big impact on students academically and socially. It can affect their test results, including VCE & VCAL, and, just as importantly, it can affect their relationships with other students, and lead to social isolation.

There is no safe number of days for missing school – each day a student misses puts them behind, and can affect their educational outcomes.

Each missed day is associated with falling behind in subject topics and assessment tasks, and lead to fewer subject choices and may impact on achievement in years 11 and 12 and post-school pathways.

Getting in early

It's never too late to improve attendance. Even in the middle years, when school can seem the most challenging for students and when attendance rates can be at their lowest, going to school more often can make a big difference. **Every day counts.**

Schools are there to help – if you're having attendance issues with your child, speak to your school about ways to address those issues.

IN VICTORIA SCHOOL IS COMPULSORY FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE AGED 6 – 17 YEARS

Student Absences

The main reasons for absence are:

Sickness – There are always times when students need to miss school, such as when they're ill. It's vital that they're only away on the days they are genuinely sick, and setting good sleep patterns, eating well and exercising regularly can make a big difference.

Family holidays - It's vital that holidays are planned during school holidays where possible, and not during the term. If you are planning to go on holiday during term time, make sure that you talk to your school in advance, and work with them to develop an absence learning plan.

"Day off" – Think twice before letting your teenager have a "day off" as they could fall behind their classmates – every day counts.



Tuancy – This is when students choose not to go to school without their parent’s permission or skip out of school during the day. There can be many reasons for truancy; the best way to address this is for schools and parents to work together.

While all absences can effect academic performance, DET’s statistics show that unexcused absences are a much stronger indicator of lower reading and maths achievement.

School refusal - School refusing children experience significant emotional distress not only when going to school but also at the thought of going to school; they may be absent from school for weeks or even months at a time. School refusal differs from truancy as children generally stay home with the knowledge of the parents and despite their best efforts to encourage their child to go to school. See: [My child or teenager has anxiety](#)

BEING AWAY FROM SCHOOL FOR 1 DAY A FORTNIGHT EQUALS MISSING 1.5 YEARS OVER 13 YEARS OF SCHOOL

If your teenager is away

If for any reason your teenager must miss school, there are things you can do with your school to ensure they don’t fall behind:

- Inform the school via your teen’s Form/Home Room teacher or Year Level Coordinator
- Find out what work your teenager needs to do to keep up.
- Develop an absence learning plan with your teenager’s teacher and ensure they complete the plan.

Remember, every day counts. If your teenager must miss school, speak with your home room teacher or year level coordinator as early as possible.

Openly communicating with your teenager’s school about all absences is a good way to prevent attendance issues being escalated to a School Attendance Officer. A School Attendance Officer is a Department of Education and Training Regional Director who has authority to follow up attendance issues. Chronic or ongoing attendance issues that are escalated can lead to an Infringement Notice being issued to parent/s.

If you’re having attendance issues with your teenager, please let the year level coordinator, wellbeing coordinator, principal or other relevant staff member know so you can work together to get your teen to school every day.

TOP ATTENDANCE TIPS FOR PARENTS

- Schools want to work in partnership with parents – act early if you have any concerns by contacting your child’s school and asking for advice and support
- Remember that every day counts
- There is no safe number of days for missing school – each day a student misses puts them behind, and can affect their educational outcomes and their social connectedness
- Talk positively about school and the importance of attending every day
- Open and prompt communication with your child’s school about all absences is a good idea
- Avoid making routine medical and dental appointments during the school day or planning family holidays during the term

- Seek help from your school if you are concerned about your child’s attendance and wellbeing. Schools want to work in partnership with parents to support student attendance and wellbeing.

FURTHER INFORMATION

For more information and resources to help address attendance issues, visit:

<https://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/teachers/studentmanagement/attendance/Pages/improve-attendance.aspx>



With the new school year started, it is an opportune time for school communities to be reminded of the importance of road safety around schools.

School Speed Zones are enforced from the commencement of the school year and parents/carers are reminded to adhere to all VicRoads School Speed Zones rules.

Also, parents/guardians are reminded to take care and obey these parking signs and observe the Road Rules when picking up or dropping off students around schools. The City of Greater Geelong Parking and Information Officers monitor all supervised school crossings on a regular roster and issue infringements to drivers who stop in unsafe areas, such as “No Stopping” zones, within 20 metres of a school crossing, parallel to a yellow edge line, or if double parked, even for a moment to drop off or collect a student.

Queuing to enter a pickup/drop off zone can often lead to traffic congestion with vehicles being stationary in prohibited areas. Should the pickup/drop off zone be occupied with vehicles, to avoid the possibility of receiving an infringement it is advised to drive around the block and return when legal parking is available.

Statistics show that illegal parking around schools is greatly reduced due to an Officer’s presence and Council prefers to achieve these results through education and awareness.

Designated school speed zones: Specified times (8.00 - 9.30 am and 2.30 - 4.00 pm).

Further information in regard to VicRoads speed limits around schools can be found at: [VicRoads School Speed Zones](#)

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Also, please note that the school car park is out of bounds for all parents/guardians. The car park is only for staff. It is imperative that parents DO NOT enter the carpark during pick up/drop off as they are placing students and staff at grave risk.

I wish to thank all parents/guardians who always adhere to all traffic rules re: school zones and also the school carpark rules. The safety of all children, staff and parents is paramount.

Victorian Schools’ Privacy Policy

The Department of Education and Training (which includes all Victorian government schools, central and regional offices) values the privacy of every person and is committed to protecting information that schools collect.

All staff including contractors, service providers and volunteers of the Department, and our school, must comply with Victorian privacy law and this policy.

In Victorian government schools the management of 'personal information' and 'health information' is governed by the Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014 (Vic) and Health Records Act 2001 (Vic) (collectively, Victorian privacy law).

This policy explains how our school collects and manages personal and health information, consistent with Victorian privacy law.

For more information about privacy, refer to: [Schools' Privacy Policy — information for parents](#). This information is also available in ten community languages:

- Amharic
- Arabic
- Dari
- Gujarati
- Mandarin
- Somali
- Sudanese
- Turkish
- Urdu
- Vietnamese.

NGSC Privacy Policy

This policy is regularly reviewed and updated to take account of new laws and technology and the changing school environment when required.



During the ordinary course of your child's attendance at our school, school staff will collect your child's personal and health information when necessary to educate your child, or to support your child's social and emotional wellbeing or health. Such information will also be collected when required to fulfil a legal obligation, including duty of care, anti-discrimination law and occupational health and safety law. If that information is not collected, the school may be unable to provide optimal education or support to your child or fulfil those legal obligations.

For example, health information may be collected through the school nurse, primary welfare officer or wellbeing staff member. If your child is referred to a specific health service at school, such as a Student Support Service officer, or school-engaged psychologist, the required consent will be obtained.

Our school may use online tools, such as apps and other software, to effectively collect and manage information about your child for teaching and learning purposes, parent communication and engagement; student administration; and school management purposes. When our school uses these online tools, we take steps to ensure that your child's information is secure. If you have any concerns about the use of these online tools, please contact us.

School staff will only share your child's personal or health information with other staff who need to know to enable the school to educate or support your child or fulfil a legal obligation.

When our students transfer to another Victorian government school, personal and health information about that student will be transferred to that next school. Transferring this information is in the best interest of our students and assists that next school to provide optimal education and support to students.

In some limited circumstances, information may be disclosed outside of the school (and outside of the Department of Education and Training). The school will seek your consent for such disclosures unless the disclosure allowed or mandated by law.

Our school values the privacy of every person. When collecting and managing personal and health information, all school staff must comply with Victorian privacy law. For more information about privacy including about how to access personal and health information held by the school about you or your child, see our school's privacy policy: <https://www.education.vic.gov.au/Pages/schoolsprivacypolicy.aspx>

Definitions

Personal information is information or opinion, whether true or not, about a person whose identity is apparent, or can reasonably be ascertained, from the information or opinion – that is recorded in any form. For example, a person's name, address, phone number and date of birth (age). De-identified information about students can also be personal information.

Health information is information or opinion about a person's physical, mental or psychological health or disability, that is also personal information – whether in writing or not. This includes information or opinion about a person's health status and medical history, immunization status and allergies, as well as counselling records.

Sensitive information is information or opinion about a set of specific characteristics, including a person's racial or ethnic origin, political opinions or affiliations, religious beliefs or affiliations, philosophical beliefs, sexual orientation or practices; or criminal record. It also includes health information.

What information do we collect?

Our school collects the following type of information:

- information about students and their families, provided by students, their families and others
- information about job applicants, staff, volunteers and visitors; provided by job applicants, staff members, volunteers, visitors and others.

How do we collect this information?

Our school collects information in a number of ways, including:

- in person and over the phone: from students and their families, staff, volunteers, visitors, job applicants and others
- from electronic and paper documentation: including job applications, emails, invoices, enrolment forms, letters to our school, consent forms (for example: enrolment, excursion, Student Support Services consent forms), our school's website or school-controlled social media
- through online tools: such as apps and other software used by our school
- through any CCTV cameras located at our school.
- Collection notices

When our school collects information about you, our school takes reasonable steps to advise you of how the information will be handled. This includes the purpose of the collection, and how to access, update and correct information held about you. For information about students and their families, a collection notice is provided to parents (or students who are mature minors) upon enrolment.

Unsolicited information about you

Our school may receive information about you that we have taken no active steps to collect. If permitted or required by law, our school may keep records of this information. If not, we will

destroy or de-identify the information when practicable, lawful and reasonable to do so.

Why do we collect this information?

Primary purposes of collecting information about students and their families

Our school collects information about students and their families when necessary to:

- educate students
- support students' social and emotional wellbeing, and health
- fulfil legal requirements, including to:
- take reasonable steps to reduce the risk of reasonably foreseeable harm to students, staff and visitors (duty of care)
- make reasonable adjustments for students with disabilities (anti discrimination law)
- provide a safe and secure workplace (occupational health and safety law)
- enable our school to:
- communicate with parents about students' schooling matters and celebrate the efforts and achievements of students
- maintain the good order and management of our school
- enable the Department to:
- ensure the effective management, resourcing and administration of our school
- fulfil statutory functions and duties
- plan, fund, monitor, regulate and evaluate the Department's policies, services and functions
- comply with reporting requirements
- investigate incidents in schools and/or respond to any legal claims against the Department, including any of its schools.

Primary purposes of collecting information about others

Our school collects information about staff, volunteers and job applicants:

- to assess applicants' suitability for employment or volunteering
- to administer employment or volunteer placement
- for insurance purposes, including public liability and WorkCover
- to fulfil various legal obligations, including employment and contractual obligations, occupational health and safety law and to investigate incidents
- to respond to legal claims against our school/the Department.

When do we use or disclose information?

Our school uses or discloses information consistent with Victorian privacy law, as follows:

1. for a primary purpose – as defined above
2. for a related secondary purpose that is reasonably to be expected – for example, to enable the school council to fulfil its objectives, functions and powers
3. with notice and/or consent – including consent provided on enrolment and other forms
4. when necessary to lessen or prevent a serious threat to:
 5. a person's life, health, safety or welfare
 6. the public's health, safety or welfare
7. when required or authorized by law – including as a result of our duty of care, anti-discrimination law, occupational health and safety law, reporting obligations to agencies such as Department of Health and Human Services and complying with tribunal or court orders, subpoenas or Victoria Police warrants
8. to investigate or report unlawful activity, or when reasonably necessary for a specified law enforcement purpose, including the prevention or investigation of a criminal offence or seriously improper conduct, by or on behalf of a law enforcement agency
9. for Departmental research or school statistics purposes
10. to establish or respond to a legal claim.

A unique identifier (a CASES21 code) is assigned to each student to enable the school to carry out its functions effectively.

Student transfers between Victorian government schools

When a student has been accepted at, and is transferring to, another Victorian government school, our school transfers information about the student to that school. This may include copies of the student's school records, including any health information.

This enables the next school to continue to provide for the education of the student, to support the student's social and emotional wellbeing and health, and to fulfil legal requirements.

NAPLAN results

NAPLAN is the national assessment for students in years 3, 5, 7 and 9, in reading, writing, language and numeracy.

When a student transfers to another Victorian government school, their NAPLAN results are able to be transferred to that next school.

Additionally, a student's NAPLAN results are able to be provided to the student's previous Victorian government school to enable that school to evaluate their education program.

Responding to complaints

On occasion, our school and the Department's central and regional offices receive complaints from parents and others. Our school and/or the Department's central or regional offices will use and disclose information as considered appropriate to respond to these complaints (including responding to complaints made to external organisations or agencies).

Find out more about the [privacy complaints process](#).

Accessing your information

All individuals, or their authorised representative(s), have a right to access, update and correct information that our school holds about them.

Access to student information

Our school only provides school reports and ordinary school communications to parents who have a legal right to that information. Requests for access to other student information must be made by making a Freedom of Information (FOI) application through the Department's Freedom of Information Unit (see below).

In some circumstances, an authorised representative may not be entitled to information about the student. These circumstances include when granting access would not be in the student's best interests or would breach our duty of care to the student, would be contrary to a mature minor student's wishes or would unreasonably impact on the privacy of another person.

Access to staff information

School staff may first seek access to their personnel file by contacting the principal. If direct access is not granted, the staff member may request access through the Department's Freedom of Information Unit.

Storing and securing information

Our school takes reasonable steps to protect information from misuse and loss, and from unauthorized access, modification and disclosure. Our school stores all paper and electronic records securely, consistent with the Department's records management policy and information security standards. All school records are disposed of or transferred to the State Archives (Public Record Office Victoria), as required by the relevant Public Record Office Standard.

When using software and contracted service providers to manage information, our school assesses these according to the appropriate departmental processes. One example of this is that staff passwords for school systems are strong and updated on a regular basis, consistent with the Department's password policy.

Updating your information

We endeavour to ensure that information about students, their families and staff is accurate, complete, and up to date. To update your information, please contact our school's Administration Office.



JUNIOR SCHOOL NEWS



Bennett Thomson
Junior Sub School Manager

Happy New Year to the North Geelong Secondary College community and I hope you had a restful holiday period. As we start the new year, we welcome our Year 7 cohort to the school and our Year 8 students back as well.

Our Year 7 students received their Chromebooks at the information night run by Mr Quinn and are using these in their classes.

Over the next week, students in Year 7 will be given a medical form for the upcoming camp in Alexandra in term 2. These must be filled out and returned to the Junior Sub-School Office. This event has also been placed on Compass and will be open for payment and the like shortly.

There are also many lunchtime clubs and activities starting which all our students in Years 7 and 8 are more than welcome to join.

The Team

Our Junior Sub-School Team is below. These are the staff that will be looking after the Year Levels in 2024 so please do not hesitate to contact us.

Junior Sub School Manager:	Bennett Thomson
Year 7 Coordinator:	Janelle Butler
Year 7 Assistant Coordinators:	Kellie Phillipps and Ben Holz
Year 8 Coordinator:	Tara MacLeod
Year 8 Assistant Coordinators:	Laura Melican and Ash O'Dowd
Attendance Officer:	Letka Ristovski

Some notices for our Junior Sub-School Students and Parents.

- If students do not have a Chromebook or device of some kind, please notify the coordination team for the relevant year level.
 - If students in Year 7 are yet to get their blazer, please let the Year 7 team know as well.
 - Finally, any students that do not have access to Edrolo, please use the instructions on your students Google Classroom.
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MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS



Daniel Grozdanovski
Middle Sub School Manager

Welcome back to the new school year!

There have been a few changes in the Middle Sub School this year. The relevant key staff are below.

Middle Sub School Leader	Daniel Grozdanovski
Middle School Attendance Officer	Anna Dementiev
Year 9 Coordinator	Moira Nunn
Year 9 Assistant Coordinator	Jack Lamond
Year 10 Coordinator	Luke Sharp
Year 10 Assistant Coordinator	James Allen

All students should now be prepared for the school year ahead. We have covered all expectations about being prepared for classes and a successful day by wearing the correct

uniform to school. This alleviates the negative conversations with staff and allows more positive interactions to occur throughout the day. There is a lot happening in the first few weeks of school so please make sure you are checking Compass regularly and keeping up to date with all announcements.

Middle School Boxing Program

The Boxing program has returned this year with Steve and Lena providing a group of students with the opportunity to improve their mental well-being and stay active with boxing. The program will run for all of term one every Monday, and we will look to continue the program into term two and hopefully add some more students.



Year 10 Life Changer

This Thursday during Period 5 and 6, the Year 10s will be involved in a session run by Life Changer. Life Changer is a locally funded program that work with schools around Australia on engagement, wellbeing and other issues young teenagers will encounter during Secondary School. More information can be found on their website

Year 9 Morrisby Careers Profiling

Consent forms are now due for students to enrol into the Morrisby profiling. These need to be finalised to allow students to complete the program.

My Career Insights is a program for all Year 9 students in government secondary schools. This program is designed to:

- Learn about what skills and abilities they could bring to a job
- Find out about what jobs match their abilities, interests and personality, and the subjects they need for those jobs.

As part of the program students will:

- Complete a series of online quizzes at school
- Receive a Morrisby Profile Report showing their results
- Have a 30-minute meeting with a Career Practitioner, who will unpack the report with the student

Further information is available at:

<http://www.ceav.vic.edu.au/my-career-insights>



SENIOR SCHOOL NEWS



Joel McDougall

Senior Sub School Manager

Welcome to the 2024 academic year. It has been great to see students back at school and we look forward to a great year.

This year there are a few tweaks within the Senior School Management Team:

• Senior Sub School Assistant	Bonnie Pratt
• Year 11 Coordinator	Sherryn Martin
• Year 11 Assistant Coordinator	Mark O'Callaghan
• Year 12 Coordinator	Darcy Cropp
• Year 12 Assistant Coordinator	Amy King
• VET Coordinator	Lauren Sulomar
• Senior Sub School Leader	Joel McDougall
• Senior Sub School Assistant Principal	Ryan Mills

Please contact the relevant staff member with any questions or concerns.

Year 12

Students and staff began the year with the camp at Federation University. Students enjoyed the experience of living on campus and a variety of activities to develop leadership skills, understanding of the requirements of Year 12 and friendships. Students also heard from past students who shared their experiences post school, ranging from those who went straight into work and apprenticeships and those who attended university. As a school community we are so proud of the achievements of our alumni and the students were appreciative of the time they took to share their experiences and advice. Students have now received their Year 12 jumpers and they look terrific. We look forward to a great year.

Year 11

Students in Year 11 have been welcomed to the senior school and all are undertaking the new VCE and VCE VM (Vocational Major) courses. Students undertaking a VET have started their offsite courses and are becoming familiar with the different venues, lectures and transit requirements of their new courses. The leap from middle school to senior school can be quite a challenge for some students. Please make sure you seek assistance from your sub school, the well being team and your teachers if you have any issues.

All Senior Students

It is essential that all students have joined the relevant Google Classrooms for each year level and for their classes. Important information will be posted on these platforms for students to access and act on. Students will need to activate their Edrolo account to access coursework for some subjects. Any students having issues with Edrolo are to speak to their YLC for assistance. In the coming days a few forms will be sent home for permission to be signed by carers. These will include some bus forms, permission to use photos in any media releases as well as some general check-up of details. Please bring these back to your YLC as soon as possible.



SPORTS NEWS



Fran Forsyth
Sports Coordinator

SPORTS SHACK

Borrowing Times: 12:39pm – 12:50pm

On the Borrowing Sheet record the Date, your Name, Home Group and what you borrowed.

Return Times: 1:25pm

Hand in borrowed equipment and have your name marked off. Any problems with returning equipment need to be explained to the staff at the Sports Shack.

Not returning equipment will affect you being allowed to borrow equipment in the future.

The Sports Shack is a great addition to the facilities for students, so let's make sure it runs smoothly.



OTHER SCHOOL NEWS



Blake Fairchild
SRC Coordinator

Valentines Day 2024

The Year 12 Captains Paris Mina, Nivetha Ranjithkumar, Nya Tut, Seth McCleish, Aiden Veale and Annalise Speed hosted a Valentines Day stall for all students. Decorated cupcakes, chocolates and cards were sold and created to spread positive vibes around the school community.

A raffle of a chocolate box kindly donated from The Cheesecake Shop was held with Zahra Khawari the winner. Congratulations! Performances were held, songs were requested, and shout outs made. It was the biggest stall yet and a fantastic start to 2024 for our leadership team. Well done! All money raised will be donated to the Heart Foundation, please look out for the final amount. Thank you to the school community for your support of the event.





Vera Dudas

Multicultural Community Liaison Officer

A warm welcome back to you all. I trust that you had a delightful break and are rejuvenated and excited for the new 2024 school year.

The Multicultural Committee will commence 2024, with our first meeting on Monday 19th February at lunch time (12:45pm -1:30pm) in the Conference Room. Our meetings are

energetic, vibrant and productive. Not to mention our yummy refreshments on offer - come and join us!

The Multicultural Committee greatly values NGSC parents, friends, service providers and the wider school community's participation. In particular - new parents to the NGSC community are very welcome.

If you wish to get involved with school events such as *Pako Festa and The Multicultural Festival* and many more events or just to stay up to date, one opportunity is via this committee. For more information on the Multicultural Committee, please feel free to contact Vera Dudas via the school's Administration Office.

In our ongoing tradition, NGSC will be partaking in the "Pako Festa Parade" on February 24th. The Pakington Street Festival is an excellent showcase of diversity. NGSC will feature the rich multicultural diversity of our school in all its glory.

To catch the latest on any events in our NGSC community, come to join our meetings and/or watch this space.

Vera Dudas

Multicultural Community Liaison Officer

North Geelong Secondary College Department of Education and Training

t: 03 52405800

e: Vera.Dudas@education.vic.gov.au

w: www.education.vic.gov.au



Tonia Tigani

International Student Program Coordinator

Recently, North Geelong Secondary College had a short visit from a group of international students and their teachers to see the amazing opportunities our College has for these enthusiastic students from Qingdao, Shandong Province in China.



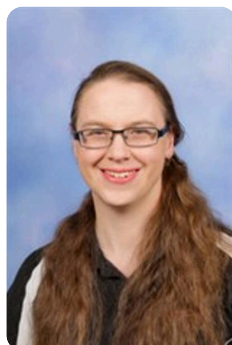
Our College was the only one selected for a tour due to the International Program we have that is renowned for the success of international students who wish to achieve their academic goals through education and university placements into the future of their journey.

All the students (both international and NGSC) had a wonderful time and even participated in some sports classes that showcased their skills. The HPV (Human Powered Vehicles) were a highlight as they were all so impressed that our students not only make the structures of the vehicles but race them against other schools - "most extraordinary" was one of the comments!

As gratitude for their visit, the College was presented with a monumental piece of artwork celebrating the collaboration of the Chinese students and our College, this was graciously accepted and is on show in Mr Mills office amongst the other treasured pieces from other international visits.



Hopefully the College sees their smiling faces again on a more permanent setting whereby they will study with the International Students Program and experience all that our College and region can offer them.



Linda Castle

LOTE Corner

Our Japanese classes offer an enthusiastic welcome to Ms Emika GOTO, a University of Shimane student, who will be supporting our Japanese Language Learners in classes from February 19th for 3 weeks.

Ms Emika is really enthusiastic to be coming to our school, as this is her first-time visiting Australia. Ms Emika is very interested in learning about our multicultural school community at NGSC.

When you see her in class and in the yard, please welcome her with a big hello, “kon nichi wa” in Japanese.



Volunteer Opportunity with CatholicCare and North Geelong Secondary College-North Geelong.

Volunteer Tutors are needed to assist newly arrived refugee and migrant students at North Geelong Secondary College– (130 Separation Street, North Geelong) in Years 7 - 12 on Thursday lunchtime during the school term.

The EAL Homework Club for Years 7 to 12 supports Secondary College students to integrate into their school environment, and develop their English language and study skills, while improving their social connectedness. Students are from Refugee, and non-English speaking backgrounds, and tutors will assist the students to engage in group games,

language learning, and homework activities. This provides a rewarding volunteer experience within the Refugee settlement and Education environments.

Organisation: CatholicCare and North Geelong Secondary College

Location & School: North Geelong Secondary College – 130 Separation Street, North Geelong, VIC, 3215

Time required: **Thursdays** (12:40-1:30 pm). Once a week during the school term

Commencing: Term One 2024

Contact Details: Jaclyn Fraser (Volunteer Administrator)-CatholicCare Victoria

Contact Phone: **0499 001 022**

Contact Email: jaclyn.fraser@catholiccarevic.org.au

Skills: Good interpersonal skills, cross-cultural communication, able to assist refugee students in homework learning, social & language development.



ALUMNI NEWS



Julie Elkin

Ourschool Alumni Program Coordinator

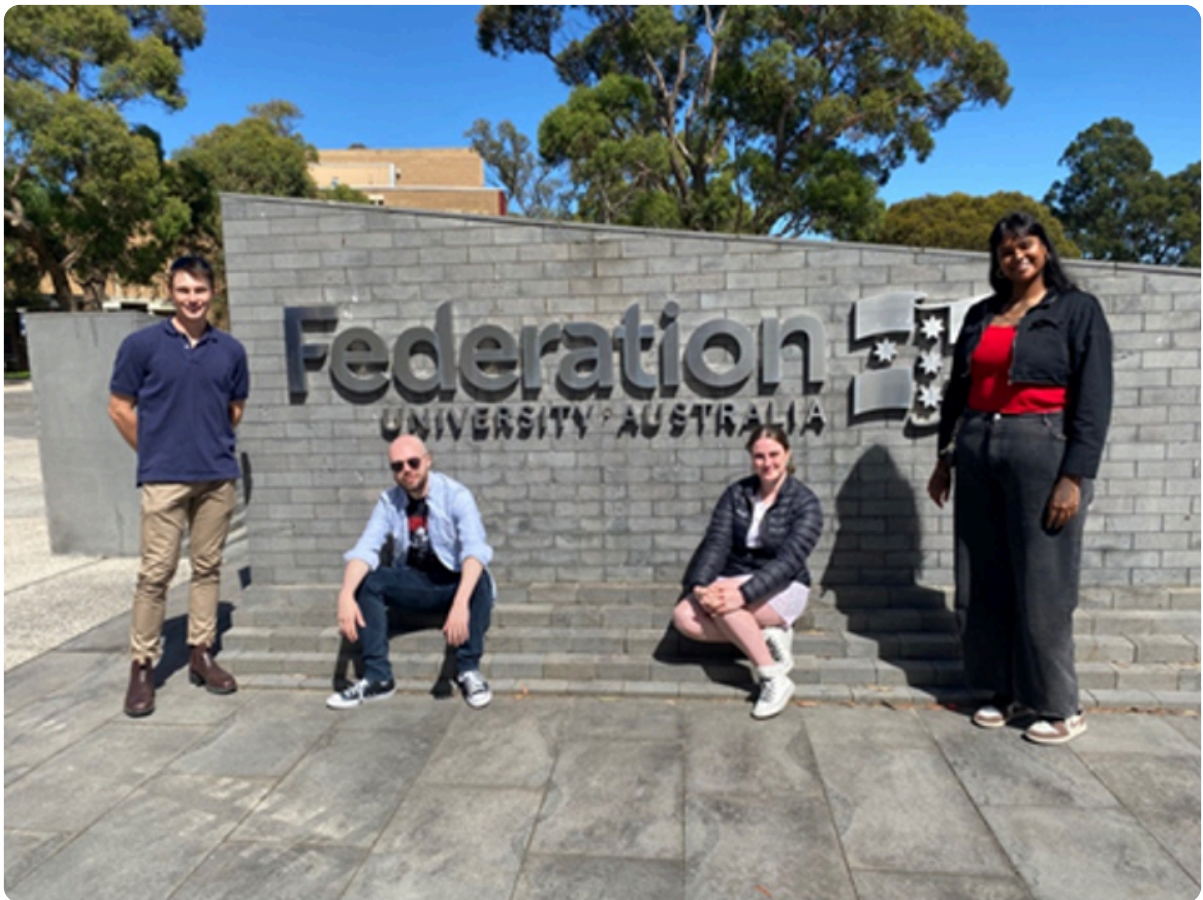
Welcome back to another year!

Thank you to Leah, Patrick, Gloria and Kueper for giving up their time to address the 2024 cohort at the 'Orientation to Year 12' camp, held at Federation University, Ballarat.

They spoke about their time in Year 12 and their journey since leaving NGSC. Their messages were clear: plan, be organised, and look after yourself! Patrick talked about how being proactive and seeking out contacts led him down a different pathway to the one he had concentrated on during his VCE years; Kueper mentioned that he changed his uni course, and then became so absorbed in work that he didn't finish his degree! Gloria wished she had worked just that 10% harder, but nonetheless is thrilled to be involved in her passion for music. Leah spoke of her difficulties during her final year but reiterated the fact that there was always help around to lean into.

I'm very grateful to these alumni, both for their time and their messages.





North Geelong is one of the secondary schools in the Geelong region that is involved in the Be Bold Be Heard program which aims to enhance student voice, agency and engagement

of girls in the middle years of secondary schools. This forum is constantly on the lookout for guest speakers who have utilised their voice to elicit change, or have overcome some bias in their workplace or profession. If you would like to be involved, or want more information, please let me know via email.

If you would like to join our ever-growing alumni community, please get in touch via one of the links below.



alumni@ngsc.com.au



<https://www.facebook.com/northgeelongsecondarycollegealumni/>



<https://www.linkedin.com/in/ngsc-alumni-129212264/>



CAREERS NEWS

2024 Careers and Pathways Teams



Steve Quinn - Transitions Leader

Tonia Tigani - Transitions Assistant



Visjna Perin and Caroline Makin

The 2024 Careers and Pathways Team:

Visjna Perin:

Year 10 to 12 Career Practitioner

perin.visnja@ngsc.com.au

Caroline Makin:

Year 10 to 12 Career Practitioner

makin.caroline@ngsc.com.au

Roger Conron:

Year 7 to 9 Career Practitioner

roger.conron@ngsc.com.au

Welcome back to the new year! Careers department has had a flying start assisting students with Resumes, Cover Letters, their pathways and more.

A few highlights in the mix:

- Friday 16 February, some students are heading to Melbourne to participate in an expo about careers in sport.
- Year 9 will have Morrisby testing in coming weeks. This will help with identifying student strengths and subjects that align for them as they head into senior school. It is a great tool too for identifying potential careers that may suit based on their strengths and interests.
- We also have Deakin University coming in to run various career activities across different cohorts to help to inspire and spark interest in the possibilities for their futures.

Throughout this term, students of other year levels will be offered a variety of short programs where they will be able to opt-in to whatever suits their interests. It is a good time to remind all students the importance of checking their emails and Google Classroom messages as this is our means of sharing information.

Please find below a brief snapshot of the ways we support our students.



Furthermore, we ask that if you, or someone you know, is in a position to assist our students by offering **work experience**, please contact us so we can help facilitate such a rewarding experience.

Some Great Information Regarding Applying for an Apprenticeship or Traineeship

HEADSTART

APPRENTICESHIPS AND TRAINEESHIPS

What are employers looking for in an apprentice or trainee?

There are the baseline traits that all employees look for:

- Punctuality
- Honesty

- Initiative
- Work ethic.
- Self-awareness and the desire for self-improvement – Curiosity is big thing all employers say they are looking for. They don't expect you to know it all, but they want to see a drive to learn.

So how do you capture the attention of an employer?

Why are you unique? What can you offer that no one else can? We all have Unique Selling Points or USPs (in digital marketing terms). Name your top three strengths then ask a parent, friend or former employer to do the same. For example, you may be efficient, outgoing and driven. Think of examples in your personal life where you have illustrated these strengths and spell them out using examples.

YOU MUST have a Resume. Employers offering apprenticeships and traineeships accept that you may have very little paid work experience, but you do have skills. Perhaps you are the captain of your sporting club, or you are Coach of a team, completed a pre-apprenticeship, studied tech or hospitality at school, worked at your dad's company in the holidays or learned how to construct things. Include achievements such as awards or projects you managed at school. It could simply be that you worked part-time for a year to go on a school trip, which shows you have determination.

Be creative with your skill set.

Present well. Dress well and look clean and tidy even if you are in your school uniform. Presentation also includes ensuring there are no spelling or grammar mistakes in your resume. This is especially important to show you have a keen eye for attention to detail.

Be enthusiastic. Enthusiasm is so important in apprentices!

Someone who is enthusiastic, energetic and passionate creating products will get employed. Remember, while you may not have a lengthy resume, you might be surprised by how much you can truly offer.

Employers also value a young person's initiative to pick up the phone (yes actually talking) and have a conversation with prospective employers.

Stay off your mobile during business hours!

Might be obvious, but Snapchat, Instagram, Tik Tok CAN ALL WAIT! The one thing the Head Start Coordinators hear from frustrated employers; "They are always on their phone."

Check it at appropriate times during breaks, but other times show some initiative during slow periods and clean, restack, clean a work vehicle – this is the thing that will impress.

What makes doing an apprenticeship so worthwhile?

Learning in a practical setting is invaluable. Not only do you get to develop skills in a practical environment, but you're surrounded by experienced professionals that you can learn and draw inspiration from. An apprenticeship goes beyond the theory and provides you with skills and experience that will set you up for a career that you may have never been able to access otherwise.

Finding yourself the right apprenticeship isn't always as difficult as you may think, talk to your Careers Teacher about how Head Start can help you present well to employers.

If you're a student looking for a pathway into employment, a parent looking for a secure future for your child, or an employer looking for your next apprentice, contact the Careers and Pathways Team about the Head Start Program!

Supporting **STUDENT** wellbeing



STUDENT WELLBEING



Georgie McIlvenny

Social Worker/Student Wellbeing

Coordinator (SWC), Team Leader



Tina Doyle
Social Worker/Student Wellbeing



Trish Guy
Mental Health Practitioner (MHP)



Bridgette Van Der Zee
Student Wellbeing Assistant



Krizza Salugsugan
Student Wellbeing

Student Wellbeing Services

The Student Wellbeing Hub is in A Block next to the Junior Sub School Office. The Student Wellbeing Team provides initial support and referrals to external services for students and their families. As well as individual support for students, the team offers lunch time activities, small group work and participates in whole school events. Student Wellbeing facilitate several different external professionals who come onsite and can also support students who may need to have an OT/Speech Pathologist/Psychologist appointment at school.

Additionally, we have **Catholic Care** Youth Refugee Case Manager Nestor Estampa who is based in the SW Hub on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Nestor supports EAL students with pathways and facilitates the CALD Women's Group, in partnership with Student Wellbeing.

Sammy-Jo Spencer is our **Secondary School Nurse** and is based in Student Wellbeing on Thursdays and Fridays. Sammy-Jo's role is predominantly focused on health promotion and support across various aspects of school. Sammy-Jo is also available to see students who may have health related questions. Students can contact Student Wellbeing or drop down to the Wellbeing Hub on these days.

Students can self-refer to Student Wellbeing as needed. Parents/Carers can contact Student Wellbeing by calling the Main Office on 5240 5800.

Doctors in Secondary Schools

The Doctors in Secondary Schools (DiSS) program is still operating at NGSC each Thursday. The clinic is staffed by Nurse Kate and Dr Bianca. Students can see the nurse or doctor for a wide range of reasons and referrals can be made online <https://bch.org.au/contact/youth-referral/> or by contacting one of the Student Wellbeing Coordinators. Parents/carers can also contact Student Wellbeing for enquiries.

Doctors in Secondary Schools

North Geelong Secondary College

Who can attend?

All students from
Year 7 to Year 12

How can I make an appointment?

See the Wellbeing team, contact the clinic or drop in to the school clinic during lunch and recess.

How much does it cost?

Nothing - it is free!

Do my parents have to know I have seen the doctor or nurse?

If the doctor or nurse considers you mature enough to be seen without your parents/carers, they will not be notified.

Can my parents/carers attend the appointment?

Of course, they can even make an appointment for you.

What can I talk to the doctor or nurse about?

- physical pain or issues
- health lifestyle (sleep, diet, nutrition, exercise)
- mental health
- sexual health and contraception
- sexuality and gender identity
- body image
- scripts

Clinic Hours

Every Thursday
9.00am - 3.00pm

Have further questions?

Bellarine Community Health
Ph: 5253 0400
Email: youth@bch.org.au
Website: bch.org.au



With you for life

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

Every Victorian child should have access to the world of learning opportunities that exist beyond the classroom. The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund helps ensure that no student will miss out on the opportunity to join their classmates for important, educational and fun activities. It is part of making Victoria the Education State and the Government's commitment to breaking the link between a student's background and their outcomes.

CAMPS, SPORTS & EXCURSIONS FUND (CSEF)

School camps provide children with inspiring experiences in the great outdoors. Excursions encourage a deeper understanding of how the world works while sports teach teamwork, discipline and leadership. All are a part of a healthy curriculum.

CSEF is provided by the Victorian Government to assist eligible families to cover the costs of school trips, camps and sporting activities.

If you hold a valid means-tested concession card or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible for CSEF. A special consideration category also exists for asylum seeker and refugee families. The allowance is paid to the school to use towards expenses relating to camps, excursions or sporting activities for the benefit of your child.

The annual CSEF amount per student is:

- \$150 for primary school students
- \$250 for secondary school students

MORE INFORMATION

For more information about CSEF visit:
<https://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/programs/Pages/csef.aspx>

HOW TO APPLY

New applicants should contact the school office to obtain a CSEF application form or download from the website below.

If you applied for CSEF at your child's school last year, you do not need to complete an application form this year unless there has been a change in your family circumstances.

You only need to complete an application form if any of the following changes have occurred:

- **new student enrolments;** your child has started or changed schools this year.
- **changed family circumstances;** such as a change of custody, change of name, concession card number, or new siblings commencing this year.

Check with the school office if you are unsure.



The Geelong Project

The Geelong Project (TGP) is a program ran by Barwon Child Youth and Family (BCYF) that is focused on early intervention and supporting young people to remain engaged in education. NGSC are supported by youth workers who come in multiple days across the week. Referrals to the Geelong Project are provided through the SW Team.

Breakfast Club

Breakfast Club is supported by volunteers and is held in B Wing each morning from 8:00 am. All students are welcome to attend for a social breakfast with their friends. There is no cost involved.

Lunchtime Activities

Lunch time groups offer a variety of activities for students, free of charge. Please check the Student Wellbeing noticeboard and Compass for what is on each day. Students are invited to make suggestions for lunch time activities that they would like. Lunch time groups are a great opportunity to build peer connections and have positive experiences at school. These groups are facilitated by a member of the Student Wellbeing Team or teaching staff.

Some of these groups include *Dungeons & Dragons, Anime Club, Mindfulness, Arts/Crafts, Jewellery Making, Karaoke, Cultural Appreciation Club and Chess Club. We also have an art lunch time group on Fridays and an LGBTQIA Support Group each Tuesday at lunchtime.* Students can see a member of the Wellbeing Team if they have any questions.

Financial Support

Second-hand School Supplies

All families are encouraged to contact Second-hand School Supplies. They have used uniform items and textbooks at reasonable prices.

Stock changes frequently so if they do not have what you need check with them again as it may have come in. Address: 9 Star Street, Geelong

Uniform Support

Student Wellbeing provides uniform support through the State Schools Relief program. Please contact the team if you need assistance or students can come down to Wellbeing and see a staff member.

Food Assistance

The Student Wellbeing Team can be contacted if you need urgent food assistance or to talk about other support options.

Good Shepherd No Interest Loans

No Interest Loans (NILs) for individuals and families on low incomes allows access to safe, fair and affordable credit. Loans are available for essential goods and services such as

fridges, washing machines, car repairs and medical procedures for up to \$1,500. Repayments are set at an affordable amount over 12 to 18 months.

NILs is offered by 170 local community organisations in over **600 locations** across Australia. Chances are there will be a local NILS provider near you or one who can help over the phone. For more information, please go to <https://goodshep.org.au/services/nils/>

Some local NILS providers:

Salvation Army - Corio & Northern Suburbs Community Support Service

92 Cox Road, Corio

03 9388 5500

Vinnies NILS Geelong

(St Vincent De Paul Society)

Pakington Street, Geelong West

03 5334 2844

Uniting Care

272 Torquay Road, Grovedale

03 4210 1108

Accessing Centrelink

Accessing Centrelink can be difficult. Below are a couple of links that will help.

The first link is to information about Youth Allowance for students:

<https://www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/individuals/services/centrelink/youth-allowance-students-and-australian-apprentices>

The links below provides information for those who have been affected by Covid-19:
<https://www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/individuals/subjects/affected-coronavirus-covid-19>

<https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/mental-health-resources-coronavirus-covid-19>

Centrelink can be very difficult for people to navigate, particularly if English is not your first language. Students who would like to access the Centrelink Interpreter Service can call 131 202 and will need to state their preferred language twice. They will then be transferred to an interpreter who will assist them with their inquiry. This service can also provide students with their CRN (customer reference number) over the phone which will enable them to apply for payments.

This service is available from 8:00 am to 4:30 pm, Monday to Friday.

Key Support Contacts

Youth Beyond Blue: 1300 224 636

Kids Helpline: 1800 551 800

Family Violence: 1800 015 188

Lifeline: 13 11 14

13Yarnsafe: 13 92 76

eHeadspace: headspace.org.au/eheadspace

Mental Health and Wellbeing Hub (North Geelong)

Address: 12-14 Thompson Road North Geelong

Website: <https://www.ermha.org/wellbeinghub/>Contact: 0498 566 674

A free service that offers one-on-one and group support for people in the community and to build strengths within themselves. Areas include:

- *connection to the community*
 - *the benefits of healthy routines and choices*
 - *developing skills to cope with uncertainty and change*
 - *explore alternatives to substance use*
 - *practical support for changes in employment*
 - *general mental health and wellbeing*
 - *linkage to local services, and a whole lot of self-care*
-

NGSC Website

We invite you to visit the Student Health and Wellbeing webpage, on the NGSC Website, to look around and explore its contents. Go to <https://ngsc.vic.edu.au>, from the main menu select 'About' and then select 'Student Health and Wellbeing'.

Information within the Student Health and Wellbeing portal outlines services we provide here at NGSC to support student Health and Wellbeing. There are also 'Resource Rooms', for parents and students. Within these rooms, there is a host of links to relevant websites, supportive services, and popular free Apps to try.

The NGSC Student Health and Wellbeing webpage includes Barwon Health's 24/7 support line for young people and families. This triage service is for mental health crises and can be accessed by calling 1300 094 187. The Barwon Health Triage Team is equipped to deal with emergencies and to facilitate referrals to appropriate services for ongoing support.

Of course, our site also lists online supports, phone numbers and recommended apps to further support students and families during times of difficulty.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

Every Victorian child should have access to the world of learning opportunities that exist beyond the classroom. The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund helps ensure that no student will miss out on the opportunity to join their classmates for important, educational and fun activities. It is part of making Victoria the Education State and the Government's commitment to breaking the link between a student's background and their outcomes.

CAMPS, SPORTS & EXCURSIONS

FUND (CSEF)

School camps provide children with inspiring experiences in the great outdoors. Excursions encourage a deeper understanding of how the world works while sports teach teamwork, discipline and leadership. All are a part of a healthy curriculum.

CSEF is provided by the Victorian Government to assist eligible families to cover the costs of school trips, camps and sporting activities.

If you hold a valid means-tested concession card or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible for CSEF. A special consideration category also exists for asylum seeker and refugee families. The allowance is paid to the school to use towards expenses relating to camps, excursions or sporting activities for the benefit of your child.

The annual CSEF amount per student is:

- \$125 for primary school students
- \$225 for secondary school students

HOW TO APPLY

New applicants should contact the school office to obtain a CSEF application form or download from the website below.

If you applied for CSEF at your child's school last year, you do not need to complete an application form this year unless there has been a change in your family circumstances.

You only need to complete an application form if any of the following changes have occurred:

- **new student enrolments:** your child has started or changed schools this year.
- **changed family circumstances:** such as a change of custody, change of name, concession card number, or new siblings commencing this year.

Check with the school office if you are unsure.

Financial Support - Uniting Barwon

Uniting Barwon are keen to assist eligible NGSC families with their child/children's 2024 education costs and are awaiting your call.

If you are a Health Care Card holder and would like assistance, please contact:

Uniting Barwon

Ph: 4210 1100

Call between 9:30am - 11:45am Monday to Friday to book an appointment.

If you do not hold a Health Care Card but require assistance, please contact the Student Wellbeing team on Ph: 5240 5800



COMMUNITY NEWS



Volunteer Opportunity with CatholicCare and North Geelong Secondary College-North Geelong.

Volunteer Tutors are needed to assist newly arrived refugee and migrant students at North Geelong Secondary College– (130 Separation Street, North Geelong) in Years 7 - 12 on Thursday lunchtime during the school term.

The EAL Homework Club for Years 7 to 12 supports Secondary College students to integrate into their school environment, and develop their English language and study skills, while improving their social connectedness. Students are from Refugee, and non-English speaking backgrounds, and tutors will assist the students to engage in group games, language learning, and homework activities. This provides a rewarding volunteer experience within the Refugee settlement and Education environments.

Organisation: CatholicCare and North Geelong Secondary College

Location & School: North Geelong Secondary College – 130 Separation Street, North Geelong, VIC, 3215

Time required: **Thursdays** (12:40-1:30 pm). Once a week during the school term

Commencing: Term One 2024

Contact Details: Jaclyn Fraser (Volunteer Administrator)-CatholicCare Victoria

Contact Phone: **0499 001 022**

Contact Email: jaclyn.fraser@catholiccarevic.org.au

Skills: Good interpersonal skills, cross-cultural communication, able to assist refugee students in homework learning, social & language development.

Geelong Baseball Association

Geelong Baseball Association presents

DIAMOND DREAMS GIRLS' BASEBALL

Interested in trying something new, fun, and active? The Geelong Baseball Association is thrilled to invite you to an exclusive baseball clinic designed specifically for you. No prior skills or experience needed.

What's in Store?

- Introduction to core fundamental skills of baseball in a fun and supportive environment.
- An opportunity to learn from and interact with leading figures in the sport.
- A chance to give baseball a try and maybe discover a new passion!

Event Details:

Date: Thursday, 22nd February

Time: 12:30pm - 2:30pm

Venue: Geelong Baseball Centre (Waurin Ponds)

Important Information:

- Open to school girls in Years 10 to 12.
- No previous skills or experience necessary.
- Places are limited, ensuring a quality experience for all participants.

Don't Miss Out! Whether you're looking for a new hobby, interested in baseball, or just want to have a fun afternoon, this clinic is for you.

RSVP Today! Limited spots available.

To sign up contact: _____

Featuring Special Guests:



Bronwyn Gell is a prominent figure in Australian baseball, renowned for her significant contributions as both a player and coach. Representing Victoria and Australia, her exceptional skills led to numerous victories. As a coach, she's known for her dynamic approach and commitment to developing young talents, particularly in women's baseball. Her approach combines technical expertise with a deep respect for the spirit of the game, fostering an environment where talent thrives. Renowned for her tactical insight and ability to inspire, Bronwyn's contribution extends beyond wins; she has been instrumental in elevating the profile of women's baseball.

Keli'i "Zee" Zablan has made a substantial mark in the world of baseball, both as a player and a coach. With a background that includes playing for the River City Rascals and the Seattle Mariners, Keli'i has demonstrated versatility by excelling in multiple positions - as a pitcher, infielder, and outfielder. Zablan transitioned into coaching, significantly contributing to player and coach development in Baseball Victoria. As a Player & Coaching Pathway Officer, he has been pivotal in initiatives like the Women & Girls Coaching Workshop, focusing on gender equity and skill enhancement in baseball. Zablan's journey showcases his impact in both playing and coaching, making him a notable figure in baseball.



Kira Kuwamoto, a Japanese-born baseball player, moved to Australia, driven by her passion for the game. Her impact in the Geelong Baseball Association extends beyond her pitching prowess. Her strength with the bat has been equally remarkable, earning her prestigious accolades such as the MVP for the Division One GBA Women's Baseball League and MVP State Champion. These achievements highlight her all-around skill and versatility in baseball, cementing her status as a key player in the league. Kira is a shining example of passion and skill, bringing international flair to the field.

Second Hand Uniforms and Textbooks

The Second-Hand School Specialists shop in has moved to 4 Beauford Avenue, Bell Post Hill. It has been selling NGSC uniforms and textbooks for the last nine years. The shop is located approximately 5 minutes, by car, from NGSC.

They currently have approximately 500 pairs of trousers and 300 pairs of NGSC shorts in stock; and around 800 shirts. Being close to our school, they receive NGSC uniforms all the time. Families can leave a list of what they need, and they will text them as soon as the items are available. They sell on consignment at approximately half the cost of new prices, providing the item is in very good condition.

Second Hand School Specialists

4 Beauford Avenue, Bell Post Hill.

Local Support Services



Local Support Services

headspace Geelong

Supports young people from 12-25 who are going through a tough time.
To book an appointment, call 5222 6690. www.headspace.org.au/headspace-centres/geelong/

Hope Bereavement Care

Offers free information, support and counselling when grieving the death of a child, the sudden and unexpected death of an adult and those experiencing loss after suicide
Call: 03 4215 3358 EMAIL: hope@bereavement.org.au

Barwon Health Jigsaw & Barwon Child and Youth Triage

This is the initial point of contact within Barwon Health Mental Health Drug and Alcohol Service for infants, children and young people aged 0-25 years and their families.

24/7 Support line for young people & families

1300 094 187

If the situation or person's safety becomes an emergency, please call 000 immediately.

TIPS WHEN CALLING:

- You will be asked to make selections to help us direct your call to the most appropriate Mental Health service
- It may take a few minutes, but your calls are important and we will speak with you as quickly as we can
- If you cannot speak on the line, please select the option for a call back so that we know you have called and a mental health clinician can return your call. Your phone will be kept on the network.

HeadtoHelp

HeadtoHelp is a mental health support service for people of any age who live in Victoria.
Support can be provided within the HeadtoHelp team or you can be referred to other service providers.

This is a free service.
www.headtohelp.org.au

1800 595 212

We find the mental health support that's best for you



National Support Services

Mental Health Services and Support

Beyond Blue 24/7 mental health support service 1300 22 4636 beyondblue.org.au	headspace Online support and counselling to young people aged 12 to 25 1800 650 890 (from 10am daily) For website, visit: headspace.org.au/headspace	Kids Helpline 24/7 crisis support and suicide prevention services for children and young people aged 5 to 25 1800 55 1800 kidshelpline.com.au
Lifeline 24/7 crisis support and suicide prevention services 13 11 14 lifeline.org.au	Suicide Call Back 24/7 crisis support and counselling service for people affected by suicide 1300 659 467 suicidecallbackservice.org.au	Mensline 24/7 counselling service for men 1300 78 99 78 mensline.org.au

If you are concerned about someone at risk of immediate harm, call 000 or go to your nearest hospital emergency department.



**Join us at
the Uniting
book sale.**

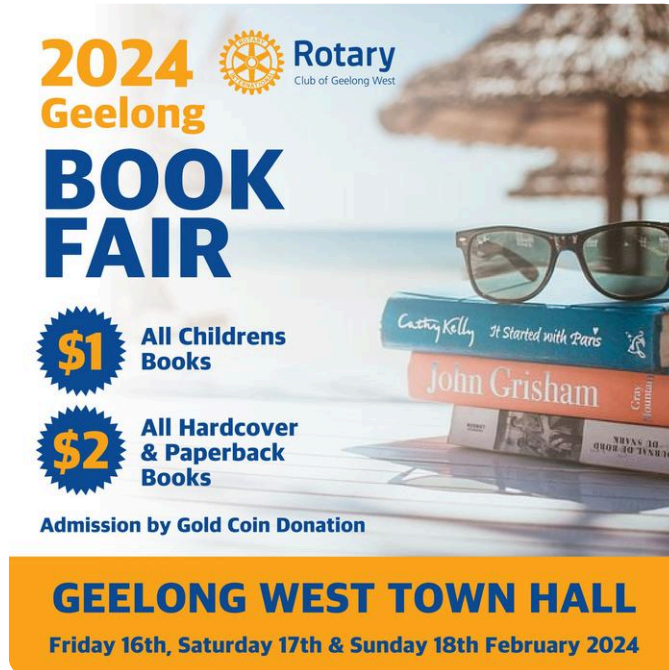
Nothing over \$1

Join us at our monthly book sale.

Held the first Friday and Saturday of each month at Uniting Grovedale, the Uniting book sale raises much needed funds for local services.

**Friday 1st March
and
Saturday 2nd March
10am - 2pm**

***272 Torquay Rd, Grovedale
(Corner Reserve and Torquay Roads)***



The biannual Geelong West Rotary Book Fair will be again this weekend. There will be thousands of second handbooks available for sale for only \$1 or \$2 each. Proceeds distributed to local, national and international causes.

Opening hours:

Friday 9am - 6pm

Saturday 9am - 5pm

Sunday 9am - 2pm

Geelong West Town Hall

Gold coin entry

<https://rotary9780.org/Event/geelong-west-rotary-book-fair-4>



VSL SCHOOL OF LANGUAGES

Victorian School of Languages



North Geelong Centre

Located at

North Geelong Secondary College

Just a quick update on the situation with VSL / LOTE learning. Many of our students attend school on a Saturday morning to learn a language. The VSL is running all classes through on-line learning, as are day-schools; the lessons are running at the usual time on a Saturday. The VSL teachers contacted each class member prior to the commencement of this term in regard to the electronic platform being used and instructions to access those. If any of our students or

their parents/guardians have questions about this, please contact the class teacher first (if possible) and then make all enquiries through the VSL head-office.

The Victorian School of Languages is a specialist Government school offering complementary language instruction outside of regular school hours. It enrolls students in Years 1 to 12, who are unable to study their language of choice in their mainstream school. Students from all educational sectors (Government, Independent and Catholic) are eligible to enrol.

The Victorian School of Languages offers quality courses aligned with Government curriculum standards, based on communication skills, that include speaking, reading,

writing and listening. Its VCE Program is fully accredited and can advantage students in the calculation of their University entrance score.

The school's Language Program is delivered through online teaching in over 40 Language Centres situated in government Secondary Schools across the state, and through Distance Education mode.

In North Geelong, classes are held on Saturday mornings between 9:00 am and 12:15 pm online.

Languages offered:

Croatian, Karen, Vietnamese, Dari, Persian, Polish, Macedonian, Bosnian, Turkish and Russian

New languages may be offered subject to demand

For enquiries Telephone: 5277
9833

Further details and enrolment
are available online at our
website: www.vsl.vic.edu.au

**Discover the World of
Languages!**