



Melba Copland Secondary School

High School Campus Course Guide

MCSS fosters a supportive environment of respect, trust and intercultural understanding. Each student is encouraged and challenged to learn, grow and accomplish personal, academic, social and vocational excellence.

PRINCIPAL'S WELCOME

Welcome to Melba Copland Secondary School. As you read about our school, you will get a sense of our learning focused and caring learning environment, and we look forward to introducing you to a sample of the opportunities available at MCSS.

Our unique combination of a high school and senior college in a twin campus school places us in the very best possible position to cater for the personal, social and learning needs of our students, with sophisticated facilities and many different opportunities for student participation, including dance, drama, music, ICT, sport, camps and excursions.

In 2014 MCSS launched the Magellan Gifted and Talented program for year 5 and 6 primary school students. The success of this innovative program continues and MCSS has established Magellan programs from year 7-9, which caters for gifted and talented students. The Year 10 Magellan program involves selected students participating in college classes with modified assessment items designed to accelerate and extended their knowledge and skill base. Magellan program implements best practices in educating gifted, talented and highly motivated and hardworking students. Entry into this program includes a comprehensive identification process and involves an application and interview. The MCSS Honours Program aims to provide a range of enrichment and extension activities to all students with gifts and, or talents. It also serves to encourage and recognise the outstanding achievements of individual students and their contribution to the wider academic MCSS culture. Opportunities and specialist programs for Gifted and Talented students such as debating, academic competitions, leadership, computer and decoding programming, the arts (dance and drama) and sport, also cater for the specific needs of these students. Talented sports people are identified and invited into the Talented Athletes Academy (TAA).

Expanding learning pathways for young people, MCSS has a Trade Skills Centre for Hospitality, Construction and Horticulture at the High School campus to provide students access to vocational career learning and nationally accredited studies. The student as an individual, matters to us. Our 7 - 12 Pastoral Care (PC) program ensures that every student has a teacher to whom they can go for help, support and guidance. Our students are encouraged to establish relationships based on an open-minded and caring attitude to life and society.

Parents and carers play a vital role in each student's success. We are committed to maintaining effective communication to ensure that families are well informed of each student's progress. Parent participation is welcomed in various forums including the Parents and Citizens Association and the School Board.

At MCSS we seek to provide each student with the challenge, support and positive environment needed for success in further education or the world of work.

Welcome to MCSS.

Jennifer Howard Principal



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Language Acquisition

The primary aim of Language Acquisition at MCSS is to encourage students to gain competence in a modern language other than their mother tongue and provide students with the opportunity to develop their knowledge and understanding about different cultures.

MCSS acknowledges that learning additional languages greatly contributes to the holistic development of students. Proficiency in a second language gives students access to a broader range of input, experiences and perspectives, as well as giving the student the enjoyment of being able to communicate in a language other than their mother tongue. It also assists students in understanding the correct usage of grammar in the English language.

The study of Languages aims to encourage in the student a respect for and understanding of other languages and cultures, and to provide a skills base to facilitate further language learning.

Additional Support

The Humanities faculty is committed to supporting students to achieve and extend their potential. Additional support is provided to students with identified learning difficulties and students with English as an Additional Dialect. The Indigenous Education Officer is available to assist indigenous students with their studies. The Magellan program is designed to extend, and support Gifted and Talented students.

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Individuals & Societies

The Humanities curriculum at MCSS aims to encourage students to respect and understand the world around them and to provide a skills base to facilitate further study. This is achieved through the study of individuals and societies in a wide context: historical, contemporary, geographical, environmental, social, political, economic and cultural. Individuals and Societies classes cover four areas each year: history, geography, economics & business,



and civics & citizenship. Each of these areas provides students with additional knowledge and understanding about the society and environment in which they live. Students gain and develop knowledge and conceptual understanding as well as enhance their skills in research, analysis, interpretation and communication.

The aims of the teaching and study of Individuals and Societies is to encourage and enable students to develop:

- an inquiring mind. ٠
- a sense of time and place.
- a respect and understanding of the others' perspectives, values and attitudes. ٠
- awareness and understanding of people, cultures, events in a variety of places at different times.
- an understanding of the interactions and interdependence of individuals, societies, and their environments.
- an understanding of the causes and consequences of change through physical and human actions and processes.
- an understanding of contemporary issues.
- a sense of intercultural awareness and a desire to be proactive as a global citizen.
- the skills necessary for the effective learning of the subject.
- an awareness of the connections with other subjects.
- a lifelong interest in and enjoyment of Individuals and Societies.





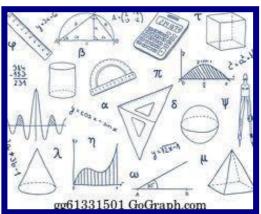


Mathematics

Studying mathematics at MCSS provides students with essential mathematical skills and knowledge in Number and Algebra, Measurement and Geometry, and Statistics and Probability. We strive to develop the numeracy capabilities that all students need in their personal, work and civic life, and provide the fundamentals on which mathematical specialties and professional applications of mathematics are built.

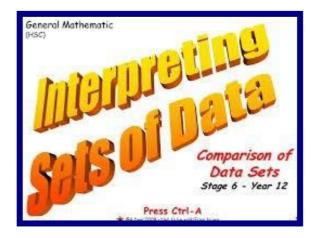


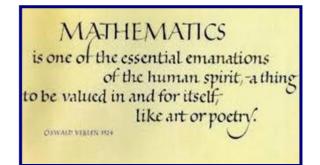
The Australian Curriculum for Mathematics is followed from year 7 – 10 and we have given a high priority to obtaining resources that align with the curriculum. Students at MCSS may study Mathematics in the Magellan level 1 Program or mainstream classes. Year 10 level 1 Mathematics students study the 10A program in preparation for Specialist Mathematics or Mathematical Methods at College. All students can access their classwork using google classrooms. Textbook PDF's are available through this page as well as online resources such as Mathspace and Education Perfect.



We encourage all students to challenge themselves by participating in various enrichment programs and competitions. Students are offered the opportunity to participate in Numeracy Challenge days, act in leadership roles and test their knowledge in **The Australian Mathematics Competition, The Categorical and Algorithmic Thinking Competition (CAT)** and **The Mathematics Olympiad**.

The **Quicksmart Numeracy program** gives students extra opportunities to practice their numeracy skills and their mental computation. Students meet individually with a Quicksmart instructor three times throughout the week. The aim is to provide intense support focused on basic knowledge and understandings that can equip students with the skills necessary to engage more successfully with classroom instruction.





Sciences

In each year (7-10), there are three main trends of the Australian Curriculum: Science (AC) that are addressed.

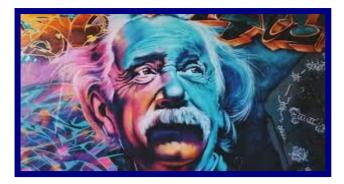
The students develop their conceptual knowledge of four disciplines (biological sciences, chemical sciences, earth and space sciences, and physical sciences) with their concepts, laws, theories and models and apply this knowledge to new situations. This meets the requirements of AC first strand and IB criterion A.

Students use their knowledge to seek and improve their understanding and explanations of the natural world. It is in this strand that students explore how science has influenced our understanding of a range of contemporary and relevant issues. This meets the requirements of AC second strand and IB criterion D.

Students also evaluate claims, investigate ideas, solve problems, draw valid conclusions, and develop evidence based arguments, through an inquiry approach. This meets the requirements of AC third strand and IB criteria B and C.

The Sciences curriculum at Melba Copland Secondary School (MCSS) provides opportunities for students to explore the world of science in a variety of ways through its differentiated programs, competitions and opportunities, including support for students with diverse needs to engage in scientific thinking. In year 10, we offer Horticulture and Exercise Science classes as an alternative to standard classes.







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Physical and Health Education

"Do your best, you do not have to be the best"

The Physical and Health Education faculty is responsible for the delivery of the Physical Education, Health and Sport curriculums at the school. The aim of the faculty is to guide students in their decision making related to health and well-being in order to lead life- long healthy and active lifestyles.

In the High School year's students undertake units based on themes to enable them to develop a wide range of skills and knowledge prior to specializing in specific sport units in the senior years.

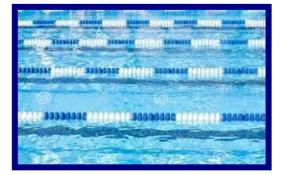


Our school sport program offers the students the chance to participate in three carnivals during the year and the opportunity to represent the school in a wide range of sports in Northside and ACT competitions.



The Talented Athlete Program (TAP) is designed to help, support and nurture students in years 7-12 who have demonstrated athletic prowess and the potential to be an elite athlete. Students undertake extra training and excursions and are assisted with their academic studies when required during times of high training or competition.

Our faculty also offers electives in Outdoor Education and Fitness. Both courses are designed to further engage students who have demonstrated the desire to specialize in outdoor recreation or fitness pursuits. The Fitness course enables students to have a head-start in their knowledge if undertaking Exercise and Sports Science at the College Campus in year 11 and 12. the Outdoor Education program can be continued in years 11 and 12 at the College Campus.





Art & Design

In all Arts and Design classes, students are encouraged, guided and supported to become independent and self-managing learners. Teachers provide individualised instruction and assistance to cater for specific needs so that all students can effectively participate in learning and have the skills, knowledge and dispositions to lead successful and productive lives.

Arts

Our Arts subjects are Dance, Drama, Media, Music and Visual Arts. The objectives of our Arts subjects are to allow students to show their knowledge and understanding, develop new skills, think creatively and respond to their world, to their own art and the art of others. Our specialist Arts teachers promote inquiry based learning where students communicate their ideas in a caring and open-minded environment. All Year 7 students will rotate through the core Arts subjects throughout the year and will then have the opportunity to gain a deeper knowledge and understanding of their chose



The MCSS RAP (Regional Arts Program) involves students and specialist teachers from our school working with 6 feeder primary schools and our local community. Last year, we had over 100 primary school students participate in the RAP. The RAP culminates in Performing Arts Showcases in Semester 2, when all students who have participated in the RAP perform and showcase what they have learnt.

There are many extracurricular programs that MCSS students have the opportunity to be involved in: Magellan Dance, band, Dance and Music eisteddfods, Ausdance Youth Dance Festival, Step Into Limelight, One Minute Film Competition, Bandstravaganza, ACT Band Festival, enrichment Arts subjects such as Ceramics and Art Making and Creating, and many more.

Design

Our Design Technology subjects of: Computing, Food Technology, Metal Work, Textiles and Woodwork. Our Design program challenges students to apply practical and creative thinking skills to solve design problems and explore the role of Design in both historical and contemporary contexts. Students will consider their responsibilities when making design decisions and taking action. Our specialist Design Teachers promote independent learning, encourage our students to deepen their knowledge and move forward with their newly acquired skills to partake in our global community through a creative and innovative perspective.

All Year 7 students will rotate through the Design subjects throughout the year and will then have the opportunity from Year 8 onwards to gain a deeper knowledge and understanding of their chosen Design subject/s. As students progress through their school years, they have the opportunity to further their Vocational Education and Training (VET) in the subjects of Construction and Hospitality.





Learning Support

Students requiring learning support

MCSS offers a comprehensive, integrated support program for students with additional needs to enable equitable access and participation in our school. Our various programs are designed to meet the individual needs of learners and works actively to eliminate barriers to inclusion.

Targeted Support Programs (LSU/LSC)

The Targeted support program on the High school Campus provides an individualised educational program for students with mild to moderate intellectual disabilities. Students must meet the ACT Student Disability Criteria to be placed in this setting.

In line with our inclusion policy, our students have their core areas of Mathematics, English, Science and Humanities and Social Sciences in smaller classes where they have individual and small group instruction from a specialised teacher and a Learning Support assistant. Small class sizes ensure that students receive a high level of individual instruction. Targeted support teachers provide enhanced, scaffolded and enriched programs to meet the individual needs of students. This recognises that every student learns differently and that learning experiences can be tailored to meet individual needs.

Students are integrated into mainstream classes for their choice of elective classes, Physical Education and an additional language. Outside agencies also offer support for the students. Access to the school nurse and youth workers provide expanded opportunities for students in health awareness and activities that build work and social skills.

Inclusion Support Program (ISP)

Students who meet eligibility criteria may be entitled to support in their mainstream classes. This support can be delivered in many ways including, but not limited to, Learning Support Assistants providing in-class support, specialist tutorials, teacher liaison, modified curriculum and assessment, professional learning for classroom teachers and home-school liaison. They may qualify due to a physical or intellectual disability, a language disorder, impaired vision or hearing, chronic medical condition, mental health or pervasive developmental disorder and will be allocated resources for support based on their educational access and participation needs using the Student-Centred Appraisal of Need (SCAN) process.

Individual Learning Plans (ILP)

Students accessing a Disability Education program are required to have an Individual Learning Plan (ILP). The ILP identifies the personalised adjustments required for individual students to access, participate and achieve in learning. An ILP is developed by a collaborative team consisting of parents/carers, the student where possible, the school principal or delegate, the DECO (Disability Education Coordinator), teachers and other relevant professionals and agency representatives.

The Learning HUB

The Hub is a designated space staffed with Learning support assistants to support student learning. It provides a safe and welcoming environment for students to regularly study and catch up on work they have not been able to complete in class. It is also a space for students to be able to sit, relax and focus positively on their school day.

The Learning HUB is available to all MCSS students throughout the day. The students can access the Hub for many kinds of support including:

Study skills	Practising test
Organisation skills	Finishing workbooks
Clarifying work	an alternative quiet space to work with support

Community, Action and Service

Service as action, through community service

Action and service have always been shared values of the IB community.

Students take action when they apply what they are learning in the classroom and beyond. IB learners strive to be caring members of the community who demonstrate a commitment to service—making a positive difference to the lives of others and to the environment.

The aim is to help students develop their personal understanding, their emerging sense of self and responsibility to their community. To try our best to help people in need as well as enhance student's sense of social responsibility. Service requires that students can build authentic connections between what they learn in the classroom and what they encounter in the community. Service as action is an integral part of the MYP program.

Community Enrichment Program

The Community Enrichment Program at MCSS is designed to complement our current educational program and extends and "enriches" the learning of students beyond the normal classroom boundaries. In our quest to develop global citizens with an inquiring mind and thirst for knowledge, MCSS offers a range of activities to balance and complement their current subject selections.

Now in its third year, students are loving the range of activities, including: Fitness, Ceramics, Healthy Cooking, Volunteering, Chess, Mountain Biking, Drawing for Fun, Computer Game Design, to creative and artistic programs including dance and art, name a few. This has a flow on effect of improving self-esteem, communication, teamwork and strengthening relationships between peers and students and staff. The community service activities contribute to the well-being, happiness and sense of worth that comes from working without profit for the good of others. It also improves the happiness, physical an emotional well-being of the community recipients such as people in aged care facilities, primary students and charities who benefit from the fundraising.



Pastoral Care Program

A Community of Pastoral Care

The aim of the Pastoral Care program is to address the social and emotional wellbeing of all students at MCSS. Quality pastoral care involves staff, students and the wider school community designing and implementing initiatives that focus on addressing the social and emotional wellbeing of each student. This personalised approach embeds qualities of productive and respectful relationships and a strong sense of community and individual responsibility. It recognises that school communities consist of representatives from all groups in society and that a shared positive culture of inclusivity is essential.

Pastoral care is underpinned by an ethos of care and respect for all, with the goal to build the capacity of the school community to support each student to grow and develop and engage in meaningful and successful learning. Research indicates that relationships between students and staff are critical factors in the development and maintenance of healthy school cultures and academic achievement. Quality pastoral care is about all school staff enhancing the wellbeing of students through their relationships, interventions and the learning experiences they provide.

We promote wellbeing through policies and practices that build resilience, foster a sense of belonging, provide support and create a safe environment.

The Pastoral Care role is to provide social and support programs for students. The Pastoral Care team at MCSS consists of a Youth Support Worker, Indigenous Education Officer, School Youth Health Nurse, Wellbeing Support Worker, School Psychologist, Safe and Supportive Schools Contact Officers and a Transition and Career Officer. The team work actively on building resilience and aim to connect students to school.

Each fortnight students study specific Pastoral Care programs aimed to provide students with skills to enable them to be well rounded world citizens.

GetInvolved@MCSS

GetInvolved@MCSS highlights and advertises the many clubs, programs, and competitions which operate within the MCSS community. Some examples of pastoral care programs include: Mindfulness, Anger management program, mentoring programs and Young carers.

Students are made aware of opportunities which operate outside of the school, such as local sporting teams and other important community events.







www.mcss.act.edu.au

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Vocational courses are designed to provide knowledge and skills relevant to an area of employment and to further education and training.

Vocational courses:

- Help students try different careers
- Offer students the opportunity to undertake learning in the workplace
- Help students gain entry to training organisations such as CIT
- May help students gain a traineeship or apprenticeship
- May help students gain employment

MCSS Campus Belconnen Region Trade Skills Centre Courses - From Year 9

- Construction Pathways Certificate II with pathways to Certificate III
- Horticulture Certificate II with pathways to Certificate III
- Hospitality Certificate I & II

Vocational Courses at MCSS College Campus

The college vocational courses a re based upon National Training Packages endorsed by industry. Successful completion of all required competencies and vocational placements will provide a student with a Vocational

Certificate recognised throughout Australia. Vocational teachers maintain strong links with industry and ensure that students have opportunities to extend their learning through excursions and training with external providers and through vocational placements.

Vocational Courses at College

The following Vocational courses are offered at MCSS:

- Metal Engineering Leading to Certificate I in Engineering
- Furniture Construction Leading to Certificate I in Furnishing
- Business Administration Leading to Certificate I, II in Business
- Hospitality Leading to Certificate I, II in Hospitality
- Information Technology (with optional CISCO stream) Leading to Certificate II in
- Information Technology
- Media Leading to Certificate II in Creative Industries (Media)
- Tourism Leading to Certificate II in Tourism
- Social and Community Work Leading to a Certificate I in Active Volunteering,
- Certificate I in Work Preparation, Certificate II in Community Services
- Sport, Fitness and Administration Leading to a Certificate II in Sport and Recreation Students may achieve a Statement of Attainment for partial completion of a certificate.

Gifted and Talented Magellan Program

MCSS Gifted and Talented Students Policy

In 2014, the MCSS Gifted and Talented (GAT) Policy was formalised and adopted. Gifted and talented students have unique social, emotional, and learning needs, which should be recognised, valued and catered for appropriately. MCSS is committed to meeting the needs of this unique group of students. All staff at MCSS have undergone training in Gifted and Talented and Differentiation to help cater for the individual needs of students. A comprehensive identification process has been established, in line with the ACT Gifted and Talented Student Policy 2014.

Key Elements of the Magellan Program at MCSS

Magellan Primary Program – prior to entering MCSS, identified and selected GAT students from partnering primary schools will be involved in a program that challenges and extends students in science and mathematics, using the expertise of CSIRO STEM Volunteers in Schools.

Magellan Core Classes – students enrolling at MCSS, may apply to be assessed for placement in our Magellan core classes. These classes operate from Year 7-10 across the subject areas of Language and Literature (English), Mathematics, Sciences, and Individuals and Societies (SoSE) and give gifted students the opportunity to study in a more academically rigorous environment, with a differentiated curriculum and more opportunities for extension. Students can also qualify for these classes during their time at MCSS by working diligently and achieving excellent results in mainstream classes.

Year 10 Magellan @ College and Headstart – Magellan @ College is a chance for gifted Year 10 students to undertake their studies at the college campus full time, allowing students to be extended beyond their peers and giving them greater choice to specialise in various areas of study. Students participate in dedicated Year 10 Language and Literature (English) and Mathematics classes at an advanced level and may choose from an array of college courses for the remainder of their subjects. Students can also participate in one or two college courses while studying at the high school campus through our Headstart program, which is available to students displaying giftedness in a specific field of study.

Further Extension – Some students at MCSS display levels of giftedness in certain areas that surpass the regular offering of our gifted and talented program and are identified for further extension. Teachers in Magellan Core Classes and in other subject areas work with these students to provide learning at a higher level within the topic the class is studying, or opportunities to engage in such as community competitions, external programs and personal interest research tasks. Some students may be assessed to accelerate to the next academic year in certain subjects or their entire program. At the college, students may have the opportunity to participate in dedicated courses offered by a local university which can give students credit towards their college studies as well as university studies in a compatible institution.

Gifted and Talented Opportunities and Honours – Students in the Magellan Academic Program are encouraged to engage at a high level not only in their class work, but also in further opportunities provided by the school, through which they can earn a variety of honours awards. Preeminent among these opportunities are the Talented Athlete Program (TAP) and the Regional Arts Program (RAP), which includes the Magellan Dance Program. These opportunities are generally available for all students, though some are restricted to students that have shown particular giftedness.

Gifted and Talented Opportunities & Honours

There are many opportunities at MCSS for students to show and develop their skills.

These opportunities change year by year but here are some examples of opportunities that have run in the past. This allows students to show their talent in various areas in all of the subject groups.

Some of these, such as the academic competitions, attract a small fee payable to the front office, whereas others are free to join. These activities are conducted during class time, after school and some at student's leisure.

Students in the Magellan Academic Program are

expected to participate in multiple opportunities each year, but they are open to all. See the relevant faculty executives, your child's teachers or the gifted and talented team for more information, including new activities available in the coming years.

MCSS Honours Program

Honours awards are given to students who - Receiving 'A' grades in a relevant class +				
Language and Literature	Mathematics			
+ Participation in two opportunities	+ Participation in one opportunity			
Individuals and Societies	Sciences			
+ Participation in two opportunities	+ Participation in one opportunity			
Language Acquisition	Design			
+ Participation in two opportunities	+ Participation in one opportunity			
Physical & Health Education	Arts			
+ Participation in two carnivals	+ Participation in certain programs,			
and leadership in sport	exhibitions and/or performances			
Leadership (Year 10 only) i) Participation in school leadership ii) Responsibility for an activity iii) Excellent community spirit	Vocational (Year 10 only) i) Excellence in vocational qualification ii) Participation in work experience and one other opportunity iii) Completion of Student Pathways			

The MCSS Honours Program serves to recognise the outstanding achievements of individual students and their contribution to the wider MCSS culture, as they engage in these opportunities alongside their academic studies.

Students who demonstrate xcellence in a subject area by eceiving А grades in а elevant class and articipating in relevant ompetitions or opportunities ee above) are eligible for nany kinds of honours awards nnually, one from each subject rea and two extra awards for ear 10 only. Students do not have to enter to be eligible.

Australian Geography Competition Australian History Competition Language Acquisition Language Perfect Championships French & Spanish Film Festivals

Language and Literature

ICAS Writing

ICAS Spelling

ICAS English

Dorothea MacKellar Poetry Competition

Individuals and Societies

OZCLO International Trips & Student Exchange

> Arts Magellan Dance LimeLight Art Competitions Band Program MCSS Arts Extravaganza Dance Eisteddfod & Festival School Musical Deck Design Competition

Physical & Health Education Talented Athlete Program Volleyball Squad Exercise Science (Yr10-12)

Mathematics Mathematics Olympiad Australian Mathematics Competition

Sciences Australian National Chemistry Quiz ACT Science Fair Projects ICAS Science Streamwatch Project

Design NCSS Coding Challenge Hour of Code Competition Code Quest Competition National Cyber Security Challenge ICAS Digital Technologies HTMLCSS Web Comp RoboCup Junior Australia Australian STEM Video Challenge Google Code-In Computational and Algorithmic Thinking

Enrolling for MCSS

Enrolling at Melba Copland Secondary School

Year 6 students (and years 7-11 students from other High Schools and Colleges wishing to enrol at MCSS for years 8 to 12 should use the same link) seeking high school placement to MCSS for the next year are required to apply online at:

Link: http://www.det.act.gov.au/school education/enrolling in an act public school

NSW Families – MCSS is the Priority Enrolment Secondary School for Northern area NSW students. The new policy in 2019 requires that all prospective Year 7 to 12 students enrol at MCSS if they wish to attend an ACT public secondary school.

Priority Enrolment Areas (PEA):

Link: https://www.education.act.gov.au/school education/enrolling in an act public school/ priority placement areas

If you live in Charnwood, Dunlop, Evatt, Flynn, Fraser, Melba, Spence you are in our Priority Placement Area and are assured of a place at MCSS. (Please note that for year 11/12 the PEA includes Florey, Latham and Macgregor.)

Families living outside the priority placement area are also invited to Enrol Online or make an appointment with the Deputy Principal.

At a later time, we will also meet individually with all enrolling families.

For further information, please contact Ash Chandra (Deputy Principal High School Campus) or Yasmin Noonan (Deputy Principal Senior Campus).