



# GEELONG HIGH SCHOOL PROSPECTUS



**Our Vision:**

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

**We are committed to:**

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

**Our values:**

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



# PRINCIPAL'S WELCOME

When you enrol at Geelong High School, you are joining a learning community that is both positive and creative, with a long history of excellence and innovation. Our motto, *Vitae nos parat*, means 'we are preparing for life'.

We welcome you to be a part of our proud history of academic achievement, which has produced many notable scholars including at least eight state and federal politicians, numerous sporting heroes and, most significantly, many generations of wonderful citizens.



Caring and respectful relationships are a feature of our school. You will be included in one of four Houses – Barwon, Corio, Leigh or Moorabool. Your House, together with your Home Group and our wonderful Wellbeing Team, will help you to build a strong connection with your school and your peers. We are a Positive Education school initiative. This teaches all students in Years 7-12 the skills of wellbeing and enables students to identify and build on their character strengths to deal with life's challenges. We provide a very safe and orderly school environment which supports and nurtures all our students.

Our objective is always for students to achieve their potential; to be the best they can be. In order to do this, our teachers will have high expectations of you, your work and your effort. You will often hear the mantras of Geelong High School: 'Excellence', 'Doing your Best', 'Raise the Bar' and 'Good to Great.' If things go wrong you will hear 'We don't do that here!' One of our mottos is to 'treat other people the way you would like to be treated'.

While at Geelong High School, you will be presented with opportunities to be involved in a wide range of cultural, academic, community and recreational pursuits and to exercise your 'student voice' within and outside the classroom. House and Home Group activities, in sport, music, band, debating, public speaking, the Student Representative Council (SRC), social action groups such as the Green (Sustainability) Team, the Viqueque (East Timor) Group and the Standout (Diversity) Group, provide opportunities for student voice and agency, as well as many occasions for student leadership, work experience and community service. Our language program enables students to participate in international exchanges and a language immersion trip to Japan, and we have an extensive camping program.

In choosing your school and your course of study for next year, it is important to find out as much as possible about all the different pathways open to you. The Geelong High School Prospectus booklet gives you some background information about campus life at Geelong High School and it is designed to be read in conjunction with the information on our school's website at <http://www.geelonghigh.vic.edu.au>

We look forward to working with you as you *prepare for life*.

Davin Reid  
**Principal**



# OUR COMMUNITY

## VISION & VALUES

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## HOUSE SYSTEM

A strength of Geelong High School is the House system. Each student is assigned to a House and all family members belong to the same House. The House is led by a Leading Teacher who has responsibility for both the wellbeing and learning of each member of the House. They are the first point of contact for students and their parents or carers.

Students participate in a wide range of activities as members of their House and have a number of leadership opportunities at all year levels within the House structure.

### CORIO



### BARWON



### LEIGH



### MOORABOOL





## REPORTING

At Geelong High School, we believe that clear and timely reporting of your child's achievement and progress is important. Feedback to parents and students is provided on Compass in the following ways:

1. **Ongoing reports** – Teachers report student achievement and progress on an ongoing basis throughout the year. This means that at the end of each unit of work student Common Assessment Task (CAT) results and written feedback are provided on Compass within two weeks of completion, or submission, rather than at the end of a semester.
2. **Progress reports** – At the end of Terms 1 and 3, a summary of student progress and achievement is provided. This report refers to student effort, behaviour, participation, relationships, study, and organisation.
3. **End of Semester Reports** – At the end of Terms 2 and 4, a summary of student CAT results and teacher judgements about student achievement and progress is provided against the Victorian Curriculum Standards for each subject.

## STUDENT LEADERSHIP

Geelong High School provides many opportunities for students to take on both formal and informal leadership roles. The Annual Investiture Ceremony is an opportunity to formally induct our student leaders and celebrate their willingness to be leaders of our school. Leadership is a character strength we recognise and celebrate in all members of our school, across the many elements that combine to make our supportive and positive culture.

## ATTENDANCE

Going to school every day is the single most important part of a child's education. Students learn new things at school every day and missing school puts them behind. Our school monitors attendance every period of the day and notifies parents or carers by SMS if their child is absent without an explanation. Every student attendance is accessible on Compass.

## COMMUNICATION

Open and effective communication is the key to a successful school community. The school uses a web-based program called Compass to communicate with parents and students about learning and attendance. Parents and students use Compass to communicate with staff and view student achievement.

The school produces fortnightly newsletters (GHS Community Newsletter), has a Facebook page, a website ([www.geelonghigh.vic.edu.au](http://www.geelonghigh.vic.edu.au)) and uses push notifications on the Compass App.



## UNIFORM

We are proud of our school and we show this by the manner in which we present ourselves in uniform. Our school has a uniform which we expect students to wear correctly every day. The Uniform Policy is on the school's web page <https://www.geelonghigh.vic.edu.au/about-us/policies>



## LEARNING PROGRAMS

### YEARS SEVEN AND EIGHT

Students in our junior years are welcomed with a balance of subjects familiar from primary school as well as a variety of highly engaging new learning experiences. Students are supported to find their place in the school, with a small team of encouraging staff teaching them for their coupled core subjects of Science and Mathematics, English and Humanities, and Health and Physical Education. This allows students to feel connected to their class, House and our school quickly and confidently. All junior students have rich experiences in Japanese language and culture. Year 7 students discover a broad range of subjects in Technology, Visual Arts and Performing Arts across the year, enabling them to select with confidence the subjects they wish to study in greater depth in Year 8.

Students also have an extra literacy session to develop skills in language convention, grammar, reading and writing.

### YEARS NINE AND TEN

Students at Year 9 have a wonderful breadth of subjects they are able to select from to complement and enrich their continued core studies. This includes a range of specialised subjects, providing a clear pathway to all subjects offered in VCE, as well as learning programs unique to Geelong High School, such as our Geelong Positive Engagement Programs (GPEP). Year 10 students maintain their balance of core studies in English, Mathematics and Science. Students entering Year 10 are encouraged to accelerate their learning by taking on the challenge of a VCE Unit 1 and 2 sequence or a Vocational Education & Training (VET) course to begin to prepare them for the demands of their senior years of schooling. Many students find accepting this challenge to be rewarding as it gives them an enhanced sense of pride and purpose in their studies.



# ACCELERATED LEARNING PROGRAM

In 2024 Geelong High School is offering an Accelerated Program from Year 7 and continuing the current options for students to accelerate from 10-12 open to all students.

This is a great opportunity for students who are looking for extra challenge and who are motivated and engaged learners that wish to be part of a program for like-minded students.

Some key characteristics of our ALP program are:

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

Applications open in April.

## SENIOR YEARS

Students in Years 11 and 12 are able to pursue a rich variety of subjects across VCE, VCE VM and VET studies to complete their education at Geelong High School. Each student is supported in their pathway, through and beyond schooling. Students in Year 11 are expected to complete six units of study each semester, and Year 12 students are expected to complete five. We are able to offer each student a rich variety of VCE units to construct a personalised course, providing strong pathways to further education.

### VCE VM (VCE Vocational Major)

The VCE Vocational Major (VM) is a vocational and applied learning program within the VCE designed to be completed over a minimum of two years. The VCE VM will give students greater choice and flexibility to pursue their strengths and interests and develop the skills and capabilities needed to succeed in further education, work and life.

It prepares students to move into apprenticeships, traineeships, further education and training, university (via non-ATAR pathways) or directly into the workforce.

The purpose of the VCE VM is to provide students with the best opportunity to achieve their personal goals and aspirations in a rapidly changing world.



## ACADEMIC EXTENSION AND CHALLENGE

Geelong High School has a proud tradition of providing challenge and extension for all students. Students at all year levels experience classes that include challenging learning tasks for the highest attaining students.

In Mathematics students can access a personalised and differential programme through Mathspace or Essential Assessments, and from Year 9 can choose to accelerate into Year 10 and Year 11 classes. Acceleration programmes are also available in all Sciences, Humanities, Arts and Technology. In Physical Education students can choose from a wide range of electives that will extend and challenge them from Year 9 onwards.

Geelong High School also runs the Victorian High Ability Programme, targeting those students with the highest attainment in Literacy or Numeracy for extension. VCE English and Mathematics students can also extend themselves with our High Achieving VCE Maths and English extra-curricular study groups and some students also participate in Year 12 in the Deakin Accelerate Programme, attending lectures whilst still in Secondary School.

Also, students excelling in music can join the orchestral programme, choose from a wide range of ensembles, and engage with our highly qualified instrumental tutors who give lessons daily in our Shenton Theatre.



*Mason (ATAR 99.7) and Lykeira (ATAR 98.9) accelerated at GHS in Maths and Science and Arts and Technology respectively, and now study Engineering and a Bachelor of Science and Psychology at Melbourne University.*

## E-LEARNING

We maintain a strong focus on technology enriched education. We understand that our students need to prepare for successful lives in a technology rich future, and that technology evolves and is expanding faster than ever before. Students bring their own device to supplement our contemporary classroom instruction with interactive e-textbooks, local and global collaboration, and engaging resources across all learning areas. All e-learners are supported to be a part of the online world in a respectful, ethical and safe manner, outlined in our ICT User Agreement and policies.





## LEARNING ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

We recognise that some of our students need additional support to be successful in their schooling. We have a range of people and programs in place to support students with additional learning needs. Students entering our school with known learning needs are supported by our Inclusion Learning Specialist, and our team of Educational Support personnel, and work closely with our team of Learning Specialists, including our school doctor, psychologists, speech and occupational therapists, who regularly visit our school.

## GEELONG HIGH SPECIFIC PROGRAMS

### POSITIVE EDUCATION

The mental health and wellbeing of our students is important to us. To ensure we maintain the mental health of our students, GHS has a complimentary suite of programs running that develop student awareness and skills to overcome life challenges.

We are proud to be the first state school within our region to embrace Positive Education and integrate it into all aspects of school life at Geelong High. Positive Education (Pos.Ed.) is based on the science of positive psychology which seeks to identify and understand the elements that improve a person's wellbeing and contribute to making us resilient, positive and healthy, physically, emotionally and spiritually.

The Positive Education program is taught explicitly in Year 7 & 8 and in the Geelong Positive Education Program (GPSP) at Year 9. Positive Education is then revisited through a number of initiatives at Years 11 & 12.

GHS students also participate in Wellio, a fully supported program in Years 9 & 10, Life Changer in Years 8, 9 & 10 and Love Bites, a program used to deliver our Respectful Relationships curriculum in Years 9 & 10.

### CAREERS PROGRAM

Students commence their career discovery journey in Year 7 and progress through a program at each year level to ensure that they are ready to make informed and considered career decisions prior to leaving the school. An experienced careers counsellor is available for individual careers counselling sessions.



## PERFORMING ARTS

The school has a proud tradition of providing opportunities for students to engage in the performing arts. This includes an extensive music program where students are able to receive instruction in a range of instruments, bands, orchestra and choirs, allowing students to experience the thrill of playing and singing together.

With a state-of-the-art Shenton theatre, the school is able to continue its proud tradition of producing high-quality performances that include all areas of the performing arts.

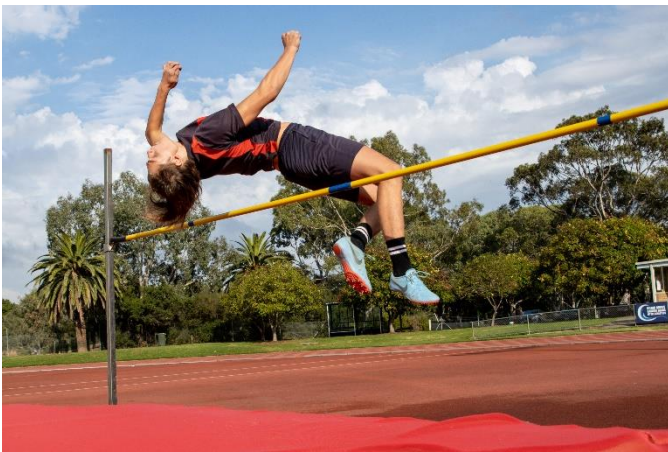
The school is the Geelong provider of VET Dance and VET Music, with students coming from a number of other schools to learn to dance and music with our outstanding teachers.





## SPORTS PROGRAM

Students compete against other government schools in swimming, athletics and cross country running, along with many other sports at junior, intermediate and senior levels. Many individuals and teams go on to compete at the regional and state levels. Each year we have a number of students competing at state level.





## YEAR NINE ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM

The Year 9 Positive Engagement Program is a modern and community-focused program that embodies the school's vision and values and aims to develop skills that are essential for 21<sup>st</sup> century learners. This program challenges students' connection to their school and wider community. The underlying theme of the program is one of positivity through the development of key relationships with the community and the explicit teaching of Positive Education.



## LANGUAGES AND STUDENT IMMERSION EXPERIENCES

Students at Geelong High School study Japanese in Years 7 and 8 with the option to pursue this into their later years of schooling in Years 9 through to VCE.





## SCIENCE – TECHNOLOGY – ENGINEERING – MATHS (STEM)

Currently in Australia, and across the world, we have a crisis in the STEM field. STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) trained employees are harder to find due to such a rapid growth in these areas with more software, engineering and science required more than we've ever had globally, the rise in renewable energy technology and many other reasons.

At Geelong High School we are committed to addressing this crisis at the school level, to help encourage as many students as possible to pursue a career in the STEM field. These jobs require creativity, problem solving and other skills to achieve some of the worlds biggest challenges in the history of the planet. This is a well resourced field and people following these pathways are very well paid, can have flexible working arrangements and trained individuals can work anywhere in the world.

As part of our STEM program at Geelong High, we have introduced STEM classes from Year 7 all the way through to Year 10. VCE options include subjects in the Sciences, Computing and three different levels of Mathematics available. Preparing our students for a wide range of pathways in the STEM field.

In our junior classes, students learn about technology and its applications in the real world. They also work on a variety of engineering projects including bridges, towers, mouse trap powered cars and more, following the principles of the design/engineering process. This is an iterative approach that requires students to plan, build, then refine their designs to meet a design brief.

We use robots and drones to learn the principles of coding and apply those understandings to program basic software and games.

At Geelong High School we have several partnerships to support our STEM program. The Geelong Tech School, Deakin University, and BioLab are just some of these partnerships to help our students discover more about STEM and hopefully guide them into pathways in this field.



## CAMPS PROGRAM

The Year 7 Camp, held in the first half of the year, provides an opportunity for students to strengthen their independence and develop new friendships in settings involving a range of adventure activities. We offer a range of other camps including a variety of Outdoor Education and GPEP Camps and a Year 12 Summit Camp. These camps are often mentioned by graduating students as a highlight of their time at Geelong High School.

## EXCURSIONS

Geelong High School has a strong focus on connecting the classroom learning experience with the real world to enrich the learning experience for our students. We often do this through excursions related to classroom learnings. Examples of exciting excursions that we offer are: Water Safety Days, Surf Days, Beach Days, Animal Welfare, Sustainability & Homelessness Community Service, STEM, Theatre Shows, Bio Lab, G-Tech, Bush Walks, Legal Courts, Public Speaking and Art Exhibitions among many others



## ACADEMIC ENRICHMENT

Geelong High School offers debating, Model United Nations, an entirely student run newspaper, excursions to the Geelong School of Technology, World Scholars Cup, the Victorian High Ability Program, peripatetic music tuition, an outstanding school production, the Australian Mathematics Competition, student leadership training and a wide range of lunchtime clubs such as chess and the Anime Club. In 2024 the school will continue to develop and increase the range of academic extra-curricular activities

## STUDENT WELLBEING

### WELLBEING TEAM

The school is fortunate to have a highly experienced and qualified Wellbeing Team. The team is led by an Assistant Principal and comprises of social workers, an occupational therapist and psychologist on staff. We also have a doctor and nurse operating from our Doctors in Schools Service. The team has excellent links with many community-based organisations to ensure that students and families receive the best support possible. The school also has a general practitioner available to students one day a week.



## BULLYING HARASSMENT POLICY

Geelong High School has a zero-tolerance approach to bullying and harassment and believes that any such behaviour affecting our students is the school's business, even if it takes place outside of the school. This includes cyberbullying. Our policy is freely available on our website.



## FAMILY SUPPORT

Our Wellbeing Team and our Administration Team are able to provide sensitive and confidential assistance to families experiencing financial hardship. We also assist many families in negotiating through many of the challengers that are experienced along the way.

## ALUMNI

Geelong High School's Alumni Association, *The Silver Gulls* was launched on Tuesday 22 November 2011. The Association exists for past students, teachers and staff of the school, and the wider school community.

The establishment of *The Silver Gulls* arose out of the very successful centenary celebrations in 2010 where it was clearly evident that members of the Geelong High School community wanted both a way of maintaining the contacts re-established over the course of the celebrations and a vehicle through which members of the broader school community could provide support and assistance to the school.

The school is also an inaugural member of the Our Schools Alumni initiative. The aim is to establish an alumni organisation in government secondary schools to keep alumni linked to the school and to provide career advice to current students.





# FACILITIES

## THE BUILDING PROGRAM

The teaching and learning facilities have had a \$24 million refurbishment/rebuild. The project is now completed and we are very pleased with the contemporary facilities we now have which assist in providing a stimulating learning environment.

Being adjacent to Eastern Gardens provides us with the opportunity to access all of the ovals and sporting facilities that are located in the gardens precinct. We also utilise the sailing school for our Year 11 VCE VM program.





# KEY CONTACTS AND DATES

## YEAR SEVEN ENROLMENTS

Students in government primary schools apply to enrol at Geelong High School directly through their local primary school. Students in Catholic or Independent schools apply directly to Geelong High School.

Remember, if you wish to enrol your child at Geelong High School, then you need to put Geelong High School as your first preference. Please note second choice needs to be listed.

<b>May</b>	Parents or carers return <b>Application for Year 7 Placement</b> forms to government primary schools. Primary schools are responsible for checking that the form is complete and that the parent or carer's choice is clear.
<b>June</b>	Primary schools submit all initial placement requests (first preferences) to each relevant secondary school. Students in Catholic or Independent schools must submit applications directly to Geelong High School.
<b>August</b>	Primary schools notify parents or carers of Year 6 students, in writing, with placement offers. This notification should include a rationale for any non-placement if applicable.
<b>August</b>	Geelong High School sends a letter of offer with a Student Enrolment Form to the parents or carers of the accepted student.

### GEELONG HIGH SCHOOL CONTACT DETAILS:

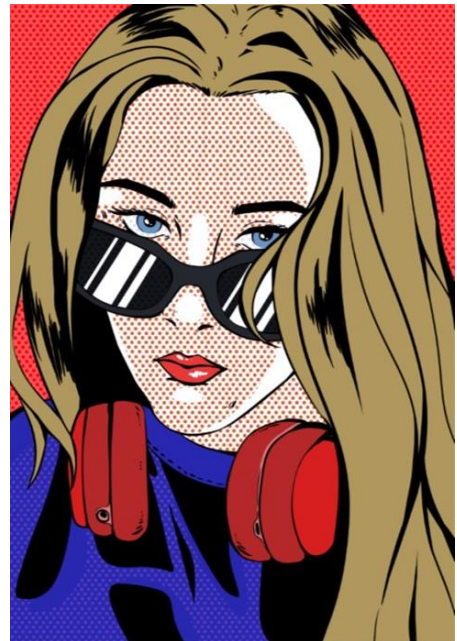
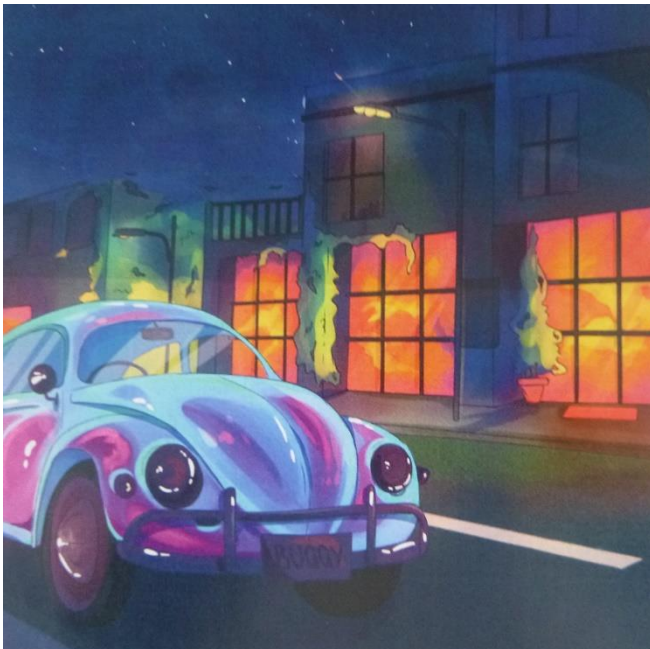
PHONE: 5225 4100

EMAIL: [geelong.hs@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:geelong.hs@education.vic.gov.au)

## YEAR EIGHT to YEAR TWELVE ENROLMENTS

Geelong High School does enrol students in Years 8 to 12 depending on the availability of places. Initially, Parents/Carers are asked to complete an application for enrolment form and then, if a vacancy becomes available, the parent/carer is contacted to arrange an appointment with the student, their parent/carer and the Assistant Principal. Following this meeting, a decision is made as to whether an offer will be made.









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