

Collingwood Park State Secondary College

Term 1 Newsletter



Message from the Principal – Ben Jack

Collingwood Park State Secondary College: First Term Achievements & Looking Ahead to Next Term

As we close out an exciting and successful first term at Collingwood Park State Secondary College, we are proud to reflect on the many achievements that have set the tone for a fantastic school year. From the launch of new programs to the enthusiasm shown by our students, staff and parents alike, this term has been a great start to what promises to be an exceptional first year.

First Term Highlights

This term has been filled with inspiring moments of growth, learning, and community engagement. Our dedicated staff have worked tirelessly to ensure our students are not only academically challenged but also supported in their personal development. We've seen strong participation in extracurricular activities, as well as an overwhelming sense of pride in our school community. The collaboration between staff, students, and families has been key to our success, and we are excited to continue building on these achievements in the months to come.

Looking Ahead to Next Term

As we move into the next term, we are eager to introduce a fun and practical initiative that will help our students stay cool and comfortable all year round. Starting next term, we strongly encourage all students to wear hats while outside. This is an important step in ensuring the health and well-being of our students, and we appreciate your support in this initiative. Students participating in physical activity must wear their school approved hat, as we know the sun is very damaging. The community advisory committee last year approved 2 types of hats to ensure students had choice, but overwhelmingly supported all students wearing a hat at school. We look forward to seeing everyone sporting their school-approved hats with pride!

P and C News

It's with great pleasure we announce Andrea Valverde as our foundation P and C President. Andrea brings to us great enthusiasm to support our students and is keen to establish 2 more positions within the P and C executive. At the next P and C meeting (May 12th) we will be looking to successfully vote for a Secretary and Treasurer.

Key Dates Reminder

- QLearn Parent Information Sessions- 24th and 28th April
- Report Cards Sent-30th April
- Parent/Teacher Connect Meeting- 7th May

As the school break approaches, I encourage students and families to take a well earned break and enjoy the time with family and friends. I am very proud of our students who have done an incredible job this term, as they become familiar with the new school, and transition into a new school environment. They have demonstrated very high levels of perseverance and kindness to themselves and others.

Best wishes
Ben Jack

Message from Mr Horskins – Year 7 Deputy Principal

As we move through the school year, it has been an absolute pleasure getting to know our Year 7 students and witnessing their transition into high school life. They have embraced this new chapter with enthusiasm, resilience, and a willingness to learn—qualities that reflect our core school values of Perseverance, Achievement, Respect, and Kindness.

Perseverance has been on full display as students tackle new challenges, from learning how to navigate the campus to mastering the use of their devices for learning. They have shown great commitment to their studies and have embraced opportunities to grow, both academically and personally.

It has also been wonderful to see our students forming new friendships and supporting one another. Whether it's in the classroom, in the playground, or during group activities, the kindness and respect they show to their peers creates a positive and welcoming school environment.

Lunchtimes have been a hive of energy, particularly around the highly competitive handball courts! The dedication and sportsmanship on display during these hardcore handball matches have been impressive, with students demonstrating perseverance, fair play, and a great sense of camaraderie.

In addition to their enthusiasm for school life, our Year 7s have also shown an incredible commitment to their learning, particularly in participation with NAPLAN. Their willingness to engage, work hard, and support one another is commendable, and we are proud of their dedication.

As we continue through the year, I look forward to seeing our Year 7 students further develop their skills, confidence, and connections within our school community. Thank you to all parents and carers for your ongoing support—we are excited about what's to come!

Dan Horskins
Deputy Principal – Year 7

Message from Ms Downie – Year 8 Deputy Principal

What a wonderful start to 2025! It has been a pleasure getting to know all students across the college, and especially the year 8s.

It has been a highlight of my term to visit classes and be part of the learning and engagement in the classes! Students are demonstrating the school's PARK values through their everyday lives at school!

A key moment in the school this term was when Seamus Evans came to visit and talked with all students with his talk – “Turn a flaw into a Superpower”. He discussed his challenges throughout his life and how he has overcome it to be a successful TV and Radio presenter. What stood out was he lives a life of **perseverance** to overcome his barriers. Students walked away with the knowledge that their **kindness** towards others goes a long way.



Student Leadership

To end the term, students participated in an information session on leadership. All students have been given the opportunity to apply to be CP Connect Ambassadors. These are roles within the school to develop student leadership and create a Student Council. As a school we are excited to form the Student Council to gain a student voice to develop our CP Community!

Uniform

A friendly reminder that it is an expectation of Collingwood Park SSC that students are in correct uniform everyday. We understand that from time-to-time students may need to wear incorrect uniform due to unexpected reasons (ie – wet shoes from the rain). We ask, as part of our process, that students arrive at school with a note from home with the reason clearly outlined as to why their uniform is incorrect. This note is to be taken to Student Services, before school starts, for a uniform pass.

Also, please start thinking about ordering winter uniforms in readiness for the upcoming cooler weather.

Ms Downie
Deputy Principal - Year 8

Message from Mr McKay – Pathways Deputy Principal

As the Deputy Principal – Pathways, I am privileged to oversee initiatives that bridge our students' educational experiences with real-world opportunities. Here's an overview of our recent activities:

Recruitment Initiatives

We have actively engaged in recruiting teaching and support staff to enrich our school's learning environment. This ongoing process ensures that we attract dedicated professionals committed to fostering student growth and success. To support our growing numbers we will be welcoming new teaching and support staff during term 2.

Establishing Partnerships

Additionally, we have partnered with local schools and Strategix Training to offer the Certificate III in School-Based Education Support course. This program is ideal for school leavers or individuals considering a career change, providing valuable skills for supporting educational settings. This program will commence at the start of term two – applications for enrolment are still open.

Preparing for Senior Schooling

To ensure the college is well-prepared for senior schooling, we established the 'Ready for the Future' Committee. Our focus for the year ahead, includes; investigating current local labour market trends, exploring Vocational Education and Training (VET) options, and researching innovative senior secondary educational practices.

Welcoming Practicum Students

We have had the pleasure of hosting practicum students from the University of Southern Queensland. Their involvement enriches our school community and provides them with valuable hands-on experience in educational settings. Our practicum students have thrown themselves into life at CPSSC and their hard work and support has been much appreciated.

These initiatives reflect our commitment to providing diverse pathways and opportunities for our students, ensuring they are well-equipped for future challenges and successes.

Bonnie McKay
Deputy Principal – Pathways

Message from Ms Egan – Guidance Officer

I am very excited to be the foundation Guidance Officer for Collingwood Park State Secondary College. Please get in touch with me if you have any concerns about your child's mental health, or you need to discuss confidential matters including family support needs. We are all in this together and I am always happy to try and help find the right support for you and your family. I will be speaking to the students over the first few weeks making sure they know where to go for support while at school.

As you and your young ones settle into high school, it may be worthwhile to spend some time learning and thinking about mental health. There are so many great support programs out there for you. Headspace is a national organisation committed to the mental health of young people and their families. They run workshops for parents and carers with the aim of deepening your understanding of adolescent development, emotions and when to seek extra support. They also run a workshop specifically about the transition from primary school to high school. For more information about the program, please email MHEP@headspace.org.au or you can visit the website (link below) to book online or in person sessions. Best part, they are FREE!



[Mental Health Education program](#)

Culture and Community Night – Term 4!

In term 4, we will celebrate Mental Health week with what we hope will become an important annual event on our college calendar. We strongly believe that culture, and connection to culture, forms an important part of our mental health. For this reason, we will be building a 'Culture and Community Night'. The plan for this event is for our students and community to celebrate culture with dance, art, food and fun.

I am looking for community and cultural elders who are willing to support our students in the following ways:

- Can you teach cultural dance or performance to a group of students?
- Is there a type of performance unique to your culture that shows celebration and respect?
- Would you be willing to cook and share your favourite cultural dishes?
- Do you know any local artists, musicians, or cultural groups that would like to perform at the event?
- Are you keen to help in other ways to support this event?

Please get in touch with me by email if you think you can help. It will require some of your time during terms 2 and 3 as we start to prepare. We will have an afternoon after school for rehearsal times and other preparation and planning. At the next P&C meeting on Monday 12th May, I will be there to discuss the event and hopefully hear from our community members who would like to help.

Tracey Egan
Guidance Officer
tegan6@eq.edu.au

Message from Mr Harvey– Head of Department HPE

Sports Department Term 1 Wrap-Up

Term 1 has been a whirlwind of activity for the Sports Department, and we are thrilled with the enthusiasm and participation shown by our students. A total of 167 students represented our school at the Yagera Carnival Days, competing in basketball, futsal, touch football, and volleyball. It was fantastic to see such a strong turnout and team spirit throughout the events!

We kicked off the term with a successful swimming carnival in Week 1, followed by a thrilling cross-country event this week to finish the term on a high note. Thank you to all the students who participated and made these events memorable.

Looking ahead, we are excited to test out our brand-new athletics equipment, which has arrived just in time for Term 2! Our students will have the chance to use these resources in PE classes as we begin preparing for our school's upcoming athletics carnival.

As we gear up for Term 2, please remind your students of the importance of bringing their hats to school for PE classes, especially since many lessons will be taking place on the oval.

A huge thank you to all the students for your energy and commitment in making Term 1 a fantastic success for the PE Department. We look forward to an even busier and more exciting Term 2!

Jarrold Harvey

Jharv178@eq.edu.au



Message from Ms Williams – Head of Department Mathematics and Science

On the 21st of March, CPSSC came alive with the excitement of numbers, patterns, and problem-solving as we celebrated World Maths Day! Our students embraced the challenge with enthusiasm, participating in a range of activities that showcased the importance of mathematics in everyday life.

Throughout the week, students tackled maths-based challenges across various subjects, including PE, English, and Humanities. Friday's festivities wrapped up with a school-wide multiplication challenge during Connect Class, setting the stage for an exciting final in Term 2 (stay tuned).

Check out 7E in action during the Multiplication Shoot-out Challenge



Lunchtime saw an impressive maths challenge led by Mr Philp, where teams raced against the clock to solve complex puzzles. Our winning group took home the top prize with an incredible completion time of just 14 minutes!



Congratulations to our winning team;
Ganga (7B), Kaelani (7E) and Hemi (8A) for winning first place.

For those who want to test their problem-solving skills, you can find the challenge our students faced here: [Math Challenge](#).



Now, we extend the challenge beyond the classroom—are there any parents brave enough to take on the competition and try to beat our winning team's time? We'd love to hear how you go – send your results to swill699@eq.edu.au.

Thank you to all students and staff who made World Maths Day a success. Have a fantastic weekend, and keep embracing the magic of maths!

Stephanie Williams
swill699@eq.edu.au

Message from Mr Betts – Head of Department Digital Technologies

This term in Digital Technologies our students have been immersed in databases and the world of Esports! Students have acquired, interpreted and modelled data using Excel to record scores for Mario Kart, while exploring the career and Olympic opportunities of Esports athletes.



Virtual Reality at CPSSC

This term our Year 7 and Year 8 Digital Technologies students have been the very first to try out our 6 new Virtual Reality headsets! Exploring digital networks in a virtual city, these students got to witness a world without internet, radio, GPS and cellular connections. Students at Collingwood Park SSC will be immersed in virtual worlds across their subject areas as part of our vision to inspire students through high quality learning, engagement and opportunity. In Term 2, students can look forward to VR opportunities in Maths and Science!

Justin Betts

igbet0@eq.edu.au



Message from Ms McNichol – Head of Department Arts

Year 7 & 8 Artists Explore the Elements of Art!

This term, our Year 7 and 8 students have been busy developing their artistic skills by exploring the Elements of Art. From colour and line to texture and form, students have engaged in hands-on activities that have encouraged creativity, skill-building, and self-expression.

We started the term with coloured pencil techniques, as students created eye-catching title pages in their art books. They focused on using contrasting colours to create a focal point, enhancing their understanding of colour theory.

Next, students explored the element of line through an engaging zentangle activity. This structured pattern-drawing exercise was a favourite among students, allowing them to experiment with intricate designs while developing fine motor skills and mindfulness.

To finish the term, students moved into three-dimensional art, learning about texture and form in ceramics. They designed and sculpted their own Dream Creature, using hand-building techniques to bring their imaginative creations to life. These clay works have now been loaded into the kiln and will be ready for painting in Week 1 of next term!

We are incredibly proud of the enthusiasm and creativity shown by our students this term. With more exciting projects ahead, we look forward to another fantastic term of Art after the holidays!

Ms McNichol

Smcni7@eq.edu.au



Message from Ms Stephens— Head of Department English and Humanities

HUMANITIES WRAP UP

As Term 1 draws to a close, it's been a dynamic and enriching start to the year in Humanities. Across both Year 7 and Year 8, students have explored foundational topics in Civics & Citizenship and Economics & Business, developing their understanding of how societies function and the roles they play as active citizens.

Year 7 students have been investigating the key features of Australia's legal system and exploring the freedoms that shape our democracy. Meanwhile, Year 8 students have dived into the world of economics and business, understanding the role of entrepreneurs and creating a business proposal.

In Week 10, all students have turned their focus to upcoming ANZAC commemorations. Students are engaged in learning about The Gallipoli landing ahead of the 110th anniversary commemoration this year. Classes have been designing a permanent ANZAC memorial to be placed on school grounds. Students are also proudly participating in the *Post Cards of Honour* program, supported by The Ipswich Railway RSL Sub-Branch. These heartfelt messages, written by students, will be handed out to veterans at local ANZAC Day services.

Looking ahead to Term 2, our focus will shift to Geography. Year 8 students will tackle *Changing Nations*, examining the causes and consequences of urbanisation, the rise of megacities, and the impact of these changes on people and places. They'll explore how movement and development shape the world around us — including right here in Collingwood Park.

Year 7 students will explore *Place and Liveability*, focusing on what makes a place welcoming, safe, and enjoyable to live in. As part of this unit, students will be assessing the liveability of our very own newly built school and offering suggestions for improvements — a fantastic opportunity for authentic, student-led inquiry with real-world relevance.

We're incredibly proud of the curiosity, creativity, and compassion our students have shown this term. Humanities is all about understanding people, places, and the world we live in — and it's clear our students are rising to the challenge.

Wishing everyone a safe and restful holiday break, and we look forward to seeing you for another exciting term in Humanities!

ENGLISH WRAP UP

It's been a fantastic start to the year in English, with students diving into thought-provoking texts and developing their skills as readers, writers, and critical thinkers.

In Year 7, students have been analysing persuasive speeches, learning how language can be used to influence an audience. From identifying emotive language and rhetorical questions to constructing their own arguments, students have shown great enthusiasm and insight.

Year 8 students have stepped into the shoes of characters from *The Outsiders*, crafting creative and reflective journal entries. This task encouraged students to explore themes like adolescence, importance of family, and belonging — all while honing their literacy skills. Students have shown a deep and thoughtful connection to the novel, which has been wonderful to witness.

Looking ahead to Term 2, year 7s will bring their imaginations to life as they write a creative recount based on a scene from the much-loved text *My Place*, while Year 8s will turn their critical thinking to the teen drama *Surviving Summer*, asking the big question: *Is this character believable?*

We're proud of the way students have approached their learning this term and look forward to seeing their creativity and confidence continue to grow next term.

Lauren Stephens

lstep96@eq.edu.au

Message from Mrs Cox– Food Specialist Teacher

Year 7 & 8 – Food Specialisations: Kitchen Creations!

This term, our Year 7 and 8 students have had the exciting opportunity to step into the kitchen and learn the essential skills of cooking while exploring the importance of nutrition and healthy eating. Through hands-on lessons, students have experimented with new recipes, learnt kitchen safety, and developed practical skills that will serve them both in and out of the kitchen.

Each week, students work individually or in pairs to prepare their dishes, practising teamwork, communication, and problem-solving along the way. From practising knife skills to demonstrating different cooking techniques, students have gained confidence in the kitchen and taken great pride in the food they've created.

A highlight of this term was the assessment task, where students demonstrated their cooking knowledge and skills by planning and creating their very own healthy pizzas. This project allowed students to showcase the practical skills they've learnt while focusing on the importance of making nutritious food choices. Students carefully considered their ingredient combinations, thinking about how each one contributed to a balanced diet while also being appealing to teenagers.

Looking ahead to next term, our focus will shift to food waste and sustainability, with students designing and producing their own healthy smoothies. We are incredibly proud of the enthusiasm and effort our students have shown this term, and we look forward to continuing to build on their skills and knowledge in Term 2!

Mrs Cox

ccox88@eq.edu.au

