



YEAR 7 2024 INFORMATION

PRINCIPAL'S WELCOME

Dear Year 7 2024 Students,



I want to welcome you and your families to Gold Creek School for the beginning of 2024. We are all incredibly excited about your impending arrival and the team are looking forward to having you start in February.

Gold Creek School is proudly an International Baccalaureate World School and also a part of the high performing ACT Education Directorate, where we strive to provide our students with the opportunity to become knowledgeable learners with a well rounded understanding of local, national and global perspectives. We encourage our students to take carriage of both their own success as well as that of the school's through the promotion of student agency and fostering school pride. Welcome to Gold Creek School, class of 2027.

Daniel Breen

SCHOOL VISION AND MISSION

Gold Creek School is proudly an authorised International Baccalaureate World School, offering the Primary Years Programme (PYP) from Preschool to Year 6 and the Middle Years Programme (MYP) from Year 7 to 10.

Gold Creek School Vision Statement

We inspire individuals to flourish, embrace challenge and make a positive difference to our world.

Gold Creek School Mission Statement

The Gold Creek School learning community fosters innovative life-long learners who:

- Strive for excellence
- Think critically, creatively and collaboratively
- Model inclusiveness, intercultural understanding and respect
- Positively engage in citizenship
- Celebrate their own and others success

This is achieved by focussing on developing the IB Learner Profile attributes so that our graduates are well rounded, engaged citizens.



YEAR 7 2024 LEADERSHIP TEAM



Steven Sengstock
Year 7 Coordinator

Steven.sengstock@ed.act.edu.au



Belinda Chapman-Smith
Year 7 Coordinator

Belinda.Chapman-Smith@ed.act.edu.au



Niels Hider
Year 7 Executive

Niels.Hider@ed.act.edu.au



Nicole Jagers
Year 7 Associate Principal

Nicole.Jagers@ed.act.edu.au

YEAR 7 PASTORAL CARE TEAM

Pastoral Care (PC) teachers play a vital role in the lives of students. PC teachers commence with their group at the start of Year 7 and where possible, stay with their PC group until they graduate Year 10! Students meet daily with their PC teacher for 10 minutes, where they have a roll call, check in and raise any concerns, hear important announcements and make connections with their peers.

PC teachers are the first point of call regarding a student's attendance, academic learning, social emotional needs and behaviour. Our Year 7 PC teachers will work closely with our Year 7 Coordinators at the start of the year to get to know our cohort and identify and communicate where needed with parents/carers.

If your child has an ongoing Individual Learning Plan (ILP) from primary school, please make contact with their PC teacher at the start of the year to organise a meeting to discuss your child's needs. PC teachers will work in consultation with families and the Year 7 leadership team to develop ILP goals during early Term 1.

If you would like to make earlier contact with the school regarding your child's ongoing ILP or any individual learning needs we need to be aware of to support you child transitioning into Year 7, please contact Rebecca Duncan executive of Student Advancement: Rebecca.Duncan@ed.act.edu.au

STUDENT SERVICES TEAM

Our Student Services team provide additional support, as required, to ensure each individual succeeds. The Student Services team assists all students in improving their wellbeing both in and outside of school. The team provides both wrap-around, case management and universal supports for students. Specialised programmes are run each term to cater for the needs of students and they may include programmes on friendship, anxiety, role modelling, arts and health. We also liaise with community organisations and outside agencies to improve supports for students outside of the school. We work closely with all classroom teachers to assist students when they are having facing challenges and work with year coordinators to help identify areas of need. Students can self-refer; or parents or teachers can suggest they seek support in a welcoming environment outside of the classroom.

Key members of our Student Services team include:

- Principal- Daniel Breen
- Associate Principals- Nicole Jagers (Years 7 and 8) and Tamsyn Terry (Years 9 and 10)
- Student Services Executive Teacher – Hamish “Macca” McDonald
- Student Services Coordinator - Anne Blackmore
- School Psychologist
- Youth Workers
- Attendance officer
- Defence Transition Mentor

STUDY HUB

Study Hub is a dedicated learning space, to maximise individualised instruction and support student achievement. Targeted assistance is offered for students enrolled in specialised programmes, or those requiring additional support. Assistance is offered by experienced teachers and learning support assistants in individualised and small group tutoring. The number, frequency and scope of sessions attended by students is related to the individual student needs.

Students are referred to our Study Hub program in consultation with parents and via referral from their class teacher, PC teacher or Year Coordinator.

UNIFORM

Gold Creek School promotes excellence in all that it does. The school expects students to take pride in their appearance through the wearing of the correct uniform. The uniform identifies children with their school, promotes student allegiance and it also acts as a means towards providing equality amongst children, regardless of socio-economic background. The wearing of a uniform unites the school publicly, as well as being practical. The uniform supports occupational health and safety issues of safe and practical clothing particularly in workshops and practical areas.





The wearing of school uniform is regarded as a core behaviour expectation at Gold Creek School; in the same way as handing in assignments and abiding by playground rules.









Any students or family experiencing financial difficulty may seek assistance in the purchase of uniform from the school's 'Equity Fund'. Contact the front office for more information.

Our School Uniform Policy has been set by the School Board, which has the responsibility under the Education Act, for setting the policy and directions of the school.

The school uniform can be purchased from **Lowes School Wear in Gungahlin or Chilada at Mitchell & Gungahlin.**

Students will be excluded from certain activities if they are not wearing school uniform. These include but are not limited to excursions, formal occasions such as school assemblies and access to certain parts of the school grounds. Students who persistently do not wear uniform will be spoken to by their Pastoral Care teacher counsels student on their and the Pastoral Care teacher will contact home to inform parents/carers of uniform infringement.

<p>TOP OPTIONS</p> <p>White poly/cotton oxford fabric, short sleeve, GCS embroidered in navy</p> <p>OR</p> <p>Polo- Navy/white polyester with Gold Creek School embroidered in navy left side.</p> <p>No other top/shirt options will be acceptable. Students MUST be in a GCS shirt.</p>			
<p>BOTTOM OPTIONS</p> <p>Navy GCS uniform items-tailored shorts or navy GCS sports shorts</p> <p>OR Skirt or Dress: Royal, Navy, Grey Chq pattern, Two inverted pleats front and back, knee length.</p>			

<p>OR Plain BLACK shorts/pants/skirt (black introduced as an acceptable bottom colour from 2023)</p>			
<p>WARMTH LAYERS</p> <p>Navy 'layer' jacket with GCS in white embroidered left side or micro fleece ¼ zipper. OR</p> <p>Navy pullover woollen jumper</p> <p>Or GCS Hoodie- School P&C do fundraising orders during the year.</p> <p>OR- Plain NAVY jumper/hoodie</p> <p>*NOTE: Black jumpers will not be allowed as a school uniform.</p>	 <p>OR NEW GCS HOODIE- WATCH 2024 NEWSLETTER FOR P&C order dates</p>		<p>Navy or black tights under skirt/dress</p> <p>Socks: White or navy short or long socks.</p>
 <p>For more information, see our school website.</p>	 <p>Optional: GCS SCHOOL BAG</p>	 <p>Hat required for outdoor activities as we are a Sunsmart school</p>	<p>SHOES</p> <p>Black leather lace ups or Mary Janes with strap</p> <p>OR</p> <p>Runners/Joggers - any colour acceptable</p> <p>*Closed in shoes must be worn at all times</p>

HOUSE SPIRIT!

Gold Creek School has a strong house system operating across Preschool to Year 10 to build a sense of belonging and connection. From 2024 students will be allocated randomly into either Eucalyptus, Blue Gum, Waratah or Wattle. We no longer allocate houses based on surnames from next year.

During selected SEL time on Fridays, Year 7 pastoral care groups come together to verse each other in a range of fun challenges and games to get to know each other, earn House points and ultimately our Year 7 PC end of year winning class!



Students also compete for their House in our annual swimming, cross country and athletics carnivals, along with other special event days throughout the year.

Students and teachers alike all love to get into the spirit and dress up in a range of colourful costumes to support their House on these days!



SENIOR SCHOOL TIMETABLE

Our Senior School operates on a 5 day/weekly timetable. The timetable does not change week to week. Each week students will have the same subject on the same day and at the same time. If there is a public holiday, the students return to school and go on with the regular next day timetable.

Students in Year 7 study eight (8) subjects. Each subject has three lessons (periods) per week allocated on a 'line' (eg: Line A, Line B etc). Each lesson is one hour in duration. Students will be emailed their Term 1 timetable before school begins. Students soon get used to which subject they have on each 'line' eg: Maths on Line A, PE on Line B etc. Every day students attend their PC class for 10 minutes at 9.50am.

Time	Monday		Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday		Friday
Lesson 1: 8:50 - 9:50	A	Lesson 1: 8:50 - 9:50	B	C	D	Lesson 1: 8:50 - 9:50	E
PC 9:50 - 10:00	PCG	PC 9:50 - 10:00	PCG	PCG	PCG	PC 9:50 - 10:00	PCG
Lesson 2 10:00 - 11:00	F	Lesson 2 10:00 - 11:00	C	H	A	Lesson 2 10:00 - 10:40	Assembly / SEL
Break 1 11:00 - 11:30	30 mins	Break 1 11:00 - 11:40	40 mins	40 mins	40 mins	Break 1 10:40 - 11:20	40 mins
Lesson 3 11:30 - 12:30	B	Lesson 3 11:40 - 12:35	G	D	E	Lesson 3 11:20 - 12:15	F
Lesson 4 12:30 - 1:30	G	Lesson 4 12:35 - 1:30	H	A	B	Lesson 4 12:15 - 1:15	H
Break 2 1:30 - 2:00	30 mins	Break 2 1:30 - 2:00	30 mins	30 mins	30 mins	Break 2 1.15-1:45	30 mins
Lesson 5 2:00 - 3:00	D	Lesson 5 2:00 - 3:00	E	F	G	Period 5 1:45-2:40	C

ARRIVAL and DEPARTURE

A teacher is on duty in the Senior Site concourse from 8.30am each morning. School commences each day with an 8.45am warning bell. On this bell, students begin to move into the buildings and line up at their first class that begins at 8.50am.

If students arrive at 9am or later, they need to obtain a late note from the student attendance officer in Student Services to provide to their class teacher. Pastoral Care teachers monitor student attendance and notify parents of any concerns or unexplained absences.

If students need to leave school with permission of parents, they are required to have a note from their parents to sign out at Student Services. Parents can also use the school APP or call the Attendance number to notify of an early departure: **(02) 6142 1323**

SCHOOL APP & REPORTING STUDENT ABSENCES

Option 1

Using the school App allows you to report student absences, check the school calendar, read newsletters and receive important information via sms on your mobile phones (provided you allow push notifications). All this is available through our school App!

Download the school App NOW, to help us keep in touch!



(Download from Apple Store or Google Play).

Option 2

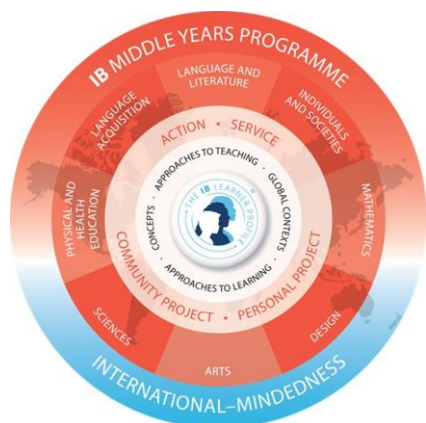
Email **senior site absences** GoldCreek.StudentSeniorAbsences@ed.act.edu.au

Option 3

The other option is by leaving a short message via our dedicated absence number: **(02) 6142 1323**

If using the number above, please leave a short message stating student name, year, PC class and reason for absence eg. Late/Sick or Leave.

IB MIDDLE YEARS PROGRAMME (MYP)



The MYP is designed for students aged 11 to 16 (Years 7-10). It provides a framework of learning which encourages students to become creative, critical and reflective thinkers.

The MYP emphasises intellectual challenge, encouraging students to make connections between their studies in traditional subjects and to the real world. It fosters the development of skills for communication, intercultural understanding and global engagement – essential qualities for young people who are becoming global leaders.

The MYP

- addresses holistically students' intellectual, social, emotional and physical well-being
- provides students with opportunities to develop the knowledge, attitudes and skills they need in order to manage complexity, and take responsible action for the future
- ensures breadth and depth of knowledge and understanding through the study of eight subject groups

- requires the study of at least two languages (English and an elective language) to support students in understanding their own culture and those of others
- empowers students to participate in service with the community
- helps to prepare students for further education, the workplace and a lifetime of learning.

For more information- visit the [IB Website](#)

MYP YEAR 7 COURSES 2024

The MYP consists of students studying eight subject groups, aligned to Australian Curriculum content and achievement standards. Course Outlines for each subject are published on our [website](#) at the start of each semester.

Arts and Design- Year 7 students will 'taste' a range of Art or Design classes in 2024- randomly allocated in Year 7. From Year 8, students will select arts and design electives, regardless of what 'taster' class they experienced in Year 7.

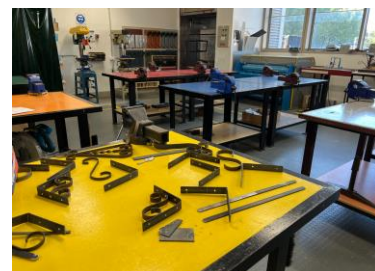


Arts

Students work in the purpose-built environments of the Drama and Dance studios, Visual Arts and Music rooms. They are encouraged to identify particular creative abilities and to master techniques appropriate to that form of expression. Students are brought into contact with the art forms and aesthetic values of other cultures as well as their own and develop their creative energy, communication, interaction and reflection skills both through ensemble work and as individuals.

Design

Technology at Gold Creek School ensures that all students benefit from learning about and working with traditional, contemporary and emerging technologies that shape the world in which we live. We encourage students to apply their knowledge, practical skills and processes to create innovative solutions, independently and collaboratively. The practical nature of Design at Gold Creek School engages students in critical and creative thinking, including solving complex problems. A systematic approach instils in students the value of planning and reviewing processes to realise ideas.



Year 7 students will be allocated arts and design subjects in Semester 1 and Semester 2 based on timetabling and staffing requirements. Students do not get to select their arts/design classes, but the following may be on offer.

- wood and metal work
- digital design
- food technology
- textiles
- visual arts
- music, dance and drama

In years 8, 9 & 10 students then choose from elective subjects within Arts and Design subjects.

Individuals and Societies (Humanities)

Individuals and Societies provides students at Gold Creek School with the opportunity to explore and investigate the human story and the world around them. Included in Individuals and Society are the studies of History, Geography, Economics, Business Administration and Civics and Citizenship. Students learn about past societies and events and relate them to the modern world, learn to understand and appreciate the planet on which we live, gain knowledge and competence in economic and business matters, and understand how government, law and citizenship in Australia works.

History

The study of history is a core subject at Gold Creek School for all students in years 7 to 10. In year 7, students study the ancient societies of Greece, Rome and China. In year 7 students study: Investigating the Ancient Past, Deep Time of Australian history, and Legacies of Ancient Civilisations.

Geography

From years 7 to 10, students study a wide range of topics related to human interaction with the natural world. In year 7, students study: Water and the World and Place and Livability.

Civics and Citizenship

From years 7 to 10, students learn about Australian law; the rights and responsibilities of Australian citizenship; the democratic process in Australia; and Australian government. In year 7, students study: Democracy



Language Acquisition

Students complete 4 years of study of a language at Gold Creek School. The study of languages provides the vital skills and develop new thinking patterns across all their subjects and is an integral component of an IB education to help students become internationally-minded, active world citizens. Language study empowers students to gain new perspectives and accelerates their acquisition of all language skills. Study of a language offers students a distinct advantage in their future careers where the ability to exchange information with other countries and cultures can give an employee a distinct professional advantage.

Students are supported in their language learning by access to ICT and involvement in a wide variety of cultural activities and excursions. Students study a language from year 7 to year 10 providing them with a solid grounding in the language of their choice. Student international exchange and travel are being planned as annual events in the school calendar.

Year 7 2024 students have recently received a Languages preference form via email. The school will review these preferences and decide which Languages will be offered in 2024 and notify students via their term 1 timetable, sent out before the start of next year.

Language options in 2024 Year 7 may include, depending on staffing:

- French
- Japanese
- Indonesian

Language and Literature (English)

The Language and Literature curriculum aims to develop learners who have an appreciation of language and literature broadened by a global perspective. Language proficiency provides students with a powerful tool for confident communication and imaginative thinking.

Students have the opportunity to study a balanced curriculum experiencing inquiry driven teaching and learning that enhances their conceptual development. Students are supported to cultivate an intercultural understanding, developing them into responsible members of local, national and global communities. This includes valuing, respecting and exploring the contribution of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to the literary heritage of Australia.

Year 7 units include:

- Novel study- Identity
- Myths and Legends
- Imagined Worlds
- World Cinema

Mathematics

Gold Creek School promotes both inquiry and application in developing mathematical knowledge and skills, helping students to develop problem-solving techniques that transcend the discipline and that are useful in the world outside school. The study of mathematics is a fundamental part of a balanced education. It promotes a powerful universal language, analytical reasoning and problem-solving skills that contribute to the development of logical, abstract and critical thinking. It also promotes careful analysis and the search for patterns and relationships, skills necessary for success both inside and outside the classroom. Our mathematics programs are tailored to the needs of students and align with the national curriculum. We seek to intrigue and motivate students to want to learn mathematical principles.

Students have the opportunity to see authentic examples of how mathematics is useful and relevant to their lives and are encouraged to apply it to new situations. In mathematics we aim to equip all students with the knowledge, understanding and intellectual capabilities to address further courses in mathematics, as well as to prepare students to use mathematics in their studies, workplaces and lives in general.

Year 7 units include:

- Arithmetic
- Number Systems
- Statistics
- Algebra
- Rational Numbers
- Probability
- Measurement
- Geometry

Sciences

Gold Creek School's science framework aims to guide students to independently and collaboratively investigate issues through research, observation and experimentation. Students explore the connections between science and everyday life. As they investigate real examples of science applications, students will discover the tensions and dependencies between science and morality, ethics, culture, economics, politics, and the environment.

Scientific inquiry also fosters critical and creative thinking about research and design, as well as the identification of assumptions and alternative explanations. Students have the opportunity to appreciate and respect the ideas of others, gain good ethical-reasoning skills and further develop their sense of responsibility as members of local and global communities.

Science provides opportunities for students to develop an understanding of important science concepts and processes, the practices used to develop scientific knowledge, of science's contribution to our culture and society, and its applications in our lives. The curriculum supports students to develop the scientific knowledge, understandings and skills to make informed decisions about local, national and global issues and to participate, if they so wish, in science related careers.

Year 7 units include:

- Introduction to Science
- Properties of Matter
- Forces & Machines
- Resources
- Our place in space
- Living Things
- Classification
- Ecosystems

Physical and Health Education

There is an increasing recognition of the importance of living an active, healthy life and of the need to make informed, responsible decisions about personal health. Physical and Health Education aims to provide the knowledge, understanding and basis of physical skills and experiences for students to be able to make their own healthy life choices. Students who study this subject experience a range of benefits, including:

- ➔ A better understanding of the importance of personal health and fitness and a strong understanding of the many specific health issues relevant to young people today

- Being active and developing lifelong healthy activity habits
- Learning concepts about play, games, sport and recreation, and the roles these play in leading an active healthy life
Understanding the rules, etiquette and culture associated with all forms of physical activity
- The development of a range of interpersonal skills such as communication, assertiveness, conflict resolution, leadership and teamwork
- The learning and application of self-management skills such as decision making, problem solving, planning, time and stress management
- The development of a range of movement skills that will enable students to reduce the risk of ill health
- The development of strong self-esteem and personal confidence through successful experiences in a range of enjoyable physical activities
- The development of flexibility, endurance and strength - components of fitness which allow people to lead functional healthy lifestyles.

Year 7 units include:

- Fitness testing
- Kicking
- Throwing and Catching
- Striking
- Nutrition
- Dance
- Puberty
- Cultural Games

ASSESSMENT

In Year 7 subjects run over one semester (20 week course). Each subject will set ongoing work to be assessed formatively throughout the unit, along with setting 3 assignments for the semester. Students are expected to complete weekly in-class and homework tasks along with set assignments. An Assessment Calendar is published at the start of each semester on the school [website](#) and provided to students. Subject teachers will support our Year 7 students with understanding assessment requirements and time management skills.

Written reports are sent home to parents at the end of both the first and second semester. Student achievement is determined through reference to both the MYP marking criteria and the Australian Curriculum Achievement Standards. Pastoral care teachers also provide a pastoral care comment to parents. Midway through each semester parents are provided with 'mid term' progress reports and these reports are followed with parent teacher interviews for parents to discuss student progress in more detail.

CHROMEBOOKS

The Device Access & Equity (DAE) program is an ACT Government initiative to help bridge the equity gap in technology by allocating all Canberra public secondary students with personal electronic devices for learning - anywhere, anytime. The program will continue into 2024 for students commencing Year 7 and students in other years who are new to the ACT Government School system. The DAE program enables all secondary students to have a Chromebook for school and home use for the purpose of learning.

Parents can elect not to participate, and students may bring their own device to school.

Please indicate your decision for participation on the Chromebook Acceptance Form (available from the front office) and sign and return it to school. Your child will also be required to read and sign the Chromebook Acceptance Form before being allocated a Chromebook.



The ACT Education Directorate's ICT network is equipped with internet content filtering for age-appropriate access and schools and users are bound by the school's Acceptable Use of ICT Agreement. Outside of the school network, internet access and filtering is the responsibility of students and parents and is not monitored by the Directorate. If you have questions about the program, please do not hesitate to contact the school on 6142 3100.

GOOGLE CLASSROOM



Google Classroom

We use the [Google Suite](#) as our principle platform for managing class content. The Google Suite includes Docs, Slides and Sheets as the word processing, presentation and spreadsheeting tools respectively. The suite also includes a digital portal called 'Google Classroom', which facilitates paperless communication between teachers and students and streamlines educational workflow.

Students will be enrolled in a Google Classroom for each of the subjects they study at Gold Creek School. That Classroom will allow students to be assigned work, submit formative and summative assessment tasks, access class material and receive reminders and feedback from teachers.

Parents/carers can choose to receive email summaries showing your child's progress in their Classroom. You can choose the frequency of the emails, such as daily or weekly.

Guardian email summaries include: • missing work—work that's late at the time the email was sent • upcoming work—work that's due today and tomorrow (for daily emails) or work that's due in the upcoming week (for weekly emails) • class activity—announcements, assignments, and questions recently posted by teachers.

In order to receive these emails, you must receive and accept an email invitation from one of your child's teachers. When you accept an invitation, you, your child, and the person who invited you receives an email confirmation. Once you are registered as guardian in one of your child's classrooms, you are registered in them all. To manage your email summary settings, you need a free Google Account. You do not need a Gmail address to create the account. You can use your current email address.

Google has prepared an excellent detailed information page which includes all the details above, with further information. The easiest way to access this information is go to www.support.google.com

SENIOR SITE LIBRARY

Libraries inspire and encourage a lifelong love of reading and learning - curiosity, creativity, critical and reflective citizens.

Our Gold Creek Senior School Library:

- Develops effective research and self-management skills.
- Engages our students positively in citizenship (embrace diversity, global perspectives, mother tongue, cultural integrity).
- Supports the school's curricular and co-curricular activities.
- Arranges a range of guest author visits & workshops.
- Hosts incursions with Museums and other organisations across Australia.
- Involves students in Lit Quiz Competitions (to promote reading and collaboration).
- Is open at break times on roster for book borrowing, games, quiet / warm space, charging Chromebooks.
- Hosts Homework Club - Every Wednesday.
- Provides access to a Chromebook Charging Booth (only permitted during breaks)



Digital Backpack

The '[Digital Backpack](#)' is our online portal which provides safe and secure access to a range of online learning platforms for students. Continuing students from ACT Education Directorate primary schools will have continued access to the Digital Backpack in year 7. Students new to the ACT Education Directorate will be able to access Digital Backpack once they have been issued their Chromebooks and set up a new password.

The Digital Backpack:

- can be accessed from any device with a modern internet browser at school, home, anywhere!
- Is an easy way for students to access all of our online learning services with just a single SchoolsNET username and password.
- Is hosted and protected by secure ACT Government identity and access management systems.
- Google Suite access
- ClickView



Subscriptions accessed in Oliver via Backpack include:

- ✓ Oliver (Library Management System)
- ✓ LearnPath Guides - Assignment Help resources
- ✓ Sora (eBooks and audio books)
- ✓ Online Britannica Encyclopedia
- ✓ ClickView - educational video content linked to the Australian Curriculum
- ✓ Referencing Generator (School Library Association of South Australia)
- ✓ Screen Castify (video recordings)
- ✓ Read Write
- ✓ Book Bot
- ✓ A wide range of magazine subscriptions (print and digital)

For more information, please see our school website https://www.goldcreek.act.edu.au/our_school/library

CO-CURRICULAR AND CLUB ACTIVITIES



The Senior School provides a range of co-curricular activities and clubs for our students participate in, organised by our dedicated staff and also led by students. Being part of a co-curricular activity or club has a range of benefits, including meeting new people, increasing confidence, expanding interests, trying something new and above all building a sense of belonging to Gold Creek.



Information about 2024 opportunities will be posted on our Year 7 2024 Google Classroom at the start of next year, along with being publicised in the PC daily notices each day.

Opportunities include: sporting teams, musical and vocal groups, dance groups, chess club, Queer Straight Alliance, Tournament of Minds, Maker Space, debating, SRC and academic competitions, to name just a few!



SENIOR SITE BAND

On the Senior Site, band runs for 1 hour a week rotating within the schools timetable. If you already know how to play an instrument, you can come and join us – just bring along your own instrument, or fill in the form below if you are interested in hiring one.

If you would like to learn an instrument in band, you will also need to attend a compulsory extra weekly session during a break time. We also have a Jazz Band for advanced students.

Band is free of charge to join, but we do expect students to commit for the whole school year. Information on how to join band in 2024 and instrument hire is available on our [website](#).



YEAR 7 CAMP 2024

Due to the increasing costs associated with school camp, the school has made a decision to have Year 7 Day one day 'camp' in lieu of a two day overnight camp. The Year 7 Day will have a focus on team-building, confidence and connection with others at 'Be Firm' in Canberra.

This will happen in Term 1 with an estimated cost of \$90. Notes will go out to families in Term 1. The school has a Student Equity Fund available if families would like financial support for camp. Please contact the front office for more information.

CANTEEN

The Senior Site Canteen is open from Monday to Friday during both breaks. The canteen has a range of hot and fresh food available as well as beverages.

Food can be purchased over the counter or ordered online in advance via [Flexischools](#).

Please note that charges apply if using EFTPOS under \$5



LOCKERS

Lockers are available for students to 'loan' each year for a small cost if they wish to have a secure place to store their bag and belongings during the school day. We have found most students prefer to carry their bag with them all day and often don't want to have a locker. Due to having a digital resource (Education Perfect) that replaced hard copy text books, students often carry minimal items in their bag- usually their Chromebook, exercise books/pens for the day and food!

Locker loan forms will be handed out to Year 7 students on the first day of school and can be returned to the front office to organise a locker number and location. A combination lock is provided by the school as part of the 'loan' process

MOBILE PHONES



Gold Creek School has a mobile phone rule. When students are in the buildings their phones must be off and in their bags.

If you need to contact your child in an emergency, please call the school direct on 6142 1300 and we will get the message to them.

For non-urgent messages you can send an SMS and students can check their phones during breaks.

The Year 7 executive team will conduct a periodic mobile phone 'blitz' to ensure all students are respecting this rule.

Students will receive a warning from their teacher to put their phone away. If there is a further issue, the student is asked to put their phone in the 'phone box' in the classroom. If they refuse to comply, an executive teacher will be notified to come to the classroom and remove the device and take it to a secure location at the front office. The student can collect their phone

after the 3pm bell from the front office. For ongoing misuse of phones within class time, parents will be contact by the class teacher.

STATIONERY AND BOOK PACKS

A 2024 book pack list will be available on our school website before the start of the school year and a link will also be emailed out to families. It is necessary for families to purchase these book packs as they provide essential resources for students to engage adequately in our curriculum. The information provided will include a number of options for ordering book packs, including online purchasing.



However, parents are welcome to source their own resources as suits the needs of each family. If you would like an indication of what may be on the list and approximate costs, please view our book list on our school website late November. Students will also need to pay for online subscriptions from Education Perfect to support their learning, this will be handed out as a separate note and payment is made to the school. These digital resources replace the need for textbooks.

EDUCATION PERFECT



Education Perfect (EP) is an online learning tool that Gold Creek School integrates into the curriculum. Education Perfect enables students to focus on learning, providing structured lessons suitable for both the classroom and individual learning. These lessons start with introductory slides, so students gain a good understanding of the topic before it's taught. Rich images and videos break down difficult concepts and give students a thorough understanding of the topic. It also allows the teacher to monitor student progress and pass this feedback onto parents/carers through a feature called the Control Panel. Parents and Carers can engage in their child's learning by allocating regular time to work together through Education Perfect Smart Lessons and encourage participation in Education Perfect competitions.

Parents and Carers can assign their email address to a student account to receive regular updates as work is due and results released. The resource has been successfully implemented in over a thousand schools from around the world, with notable impacts on student motivation and grades. Students gain points for every question they answer, they can therefore compete against their friends in a fun, educational and safe environment at their own pace. You are welcome to visit their website for more information – <http://worldseries.educationperfect.com>.

Education Perfect has replaced textbooks and an annual levy is required to access this resource in 2024. A Voluntary Contribution Letter will be sent to families at the start of the year.

VOLUNTARY FAMILY CONTRIBUTION 2024

Family contributions support the school in many ways where funding allocated by the Education Directorate needs support. Some examples are sporting equipment, library books, resources, and computer technology. Contributions are also used to fund curriculum materials in science, technology, languages, as well as International Baccalaureate PYP and MVP programs. (NB: Tax deductible donations are non-refundable). While contributions are voluntary under the ACT Education Act 2004, and no student will be disadvantaged by not paying their family contribution, your school community relies on every family contributing to the financial viability of the school.

The Gold Creek School Board reviews the level of family contributions each year and can be found on our [website](#) when 2024 costings are finalised.

TRAVELLING TO SCHOOL



Transport Canberra

There are a variety of transport options for children to commute to and from our school. Walking or riding is the preferred option, as it helps to reduce congestion, increase safety and ensures children arrive invigorated and ready to learn. Our new secure bike storage space is located in the fenced area directly behind the main front office.

For information about Transport Canberra and bus options, see our school [website](#).

SCHOOL BOARD

The Board is the policy-making body of the school. Its major functions are to: • determine the educational policies to be implemented at the school • determine the purposes for which funds made available for the school are to be expended • develop relationships between the school and the community and between the school and community organisations. More information about the Gold Creek School Board can be found on our [website](#).

PARENTS AND CITIZENS (P&C)

The Gold Creek P&C Committee plays a vital role in assisting in the day to day running of the school and is involved in making decisions on some of the programmed activities and excursions and enhancing the development of students at the school. All parents are encouraged to attend meetings. As well as its more official activities, the P&C provides an informal meeting ground for parents and teachers and serves an important fundraising function for the school. The P&C hold meetings at 6.00 pm in week 4 and 8 of each term. You can reach out to the P&C through their Facebook page.

P&C President: David Pollard goldcreekschoolpandc@gmail.com

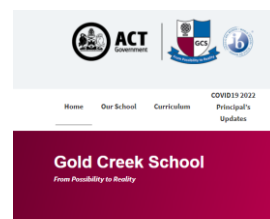
Gold Creek P&C Facebook: Follow our P&C page for updates on school events and information run by our amazing P&C group!
<https://www.facebook.com/GoldCreekPandC>



COMMUNICATION

Our School [website](#) is the main source of information relating to all things Gold Creek!

Newsletters: 'Senior Site Bites', the senior site specific newsletter, is sent home throughout each term. It provides a range of information about the school and includes upcoming events. The Gold Creek P-10 newsletter is sent home three times a term. Newsletters are published on our website.



Gold Creek School Facebook: Our school has a Facebook page to update our community about our events, activities, excursions and happenings at the school. Go to GCS Facebook page and 'Like' our page.
<https://www.facebook.com/GoldCreekSchool/>

Instagram: We have just launched our Gold Creek Instagram in 2022!
https://www.instagram.com/gcs_official98/
Jump on and follow us!



Are you details up to date? It is important to keep the school informed of any change to your home address and contact telephone numbers (including work numbers) so that immediate contact can be made if necessary. Please email changes to your information to info@goldcreek.act.edu.au.

SCHOOL CALENDAR

For important dates please visit our calendar via the school [website](#) and click on a particular event to display more information such as times, locations etc. The calendar can also be viewed via the school website.

TERM DATES 2024

ACT Education Directorate [website](#)

New students start school on Tuesday 30 January 2024. **This is the first day of school for ALL Year 7 students and any new students from Years 8-10.**

Continuing students (Years 8-10) return to school on Wednesday 31 January 2024.

WHAT TO EXPECT- FIRST DAY OF YEAR 7!

Tuesday 30 January 2024

- Pack your recess, lunch and something to write in and write with.
- The canteen will also be open on this day if you wish to order online or buy over the counter.
- Leave your Bookpack at home on the first day. It is best to meet your teachers first and work out what items you require for each subject before lugging all the items in to school!
- Arrive between 8.30am- 8.50am to the main Concourse
- Our friendly staff and Year 10 Peer Support Leaders will be waiting to welcome students before school.
- Come to the front office if you need any support.
- Parents usually don't accompany their child on the first day, however if your child is anxious, you are welcome to attend to support them.
- Please also let one of our Year 7 coordinators know in advance if your child may be anxious on the first day so we can have support, buddies and meeting places ready to go.
- At 8.50am all Year 7 students will gather in the Concourse for quick introductions, before heading off with their Pastoral Care teacher for the first session to have their timetable handed out, basic housekeeping explained and go on a tour of the school. Notes such as the ICT permission form can be handed in to the PC at this time.
- Students will then experience tasters of each of their subjects for the rest of the day in a series of 'mini-lessons' to meet their teachers and locate their classrooms.
- End of the day is 3pm. Make sure you have a plan for how you are getting home! If being picked up by car, the main location is our turning circle at the front of the school.
- Come back and do it all again the next day, with the rest of the senior site students!



TRANSITION SUPPORT DURING THE HOLIDAY BREAK

If your child is feeling anxious and would like to visit Gold Creek Senior School in the week prior to school commencing please contact Nicole Jagers to arrange an additional visit.

Nicole.jagers@ed.act.edu.au