

# LIBRARY & LEARNING SERVICES

## Welcome to the Gold Creek School Libraries

At the heart of the school, the Gold Creek School Libraries are places that welcome all members of the school community. There are two libraries, one located on each site. The primary site library is run as a joint facility with Holy Spirit Catholic School which operates next to the primary site. Our libraries play a vital role in collaborative curriculum development and implementation across the school. They support whole-school planning, leading collaboration and literacy development, providing resources to support all staff, students and the parent community. Literature is celebrated in joint events such as Book Week and visits across the junior site for shared reading opportunities.



Figure 1 - Junior Site Library



Figure 2 - Senior Site Library

### Our Philosophy

Our philosophy is to inspire and encourage a lifelong love of reading and learning whilst supporting the school's curricular and co-curricular activities. The Libraries are a safe place where the community engages positively in citizenship, embraces and respects individuality, and where people can be curious, creative, critical and reflective citizens. The community is encouraged to consider their learning positions from different global perspectives, and to communicate and collaborate in different ways as they engage actively in their learning.

### Our Services

The libraries are staffed by a Teacher Librarian on each site and a Library Assistant shared across the two sites. Students and teachers are supported in developing information and digital fluency skills and have access to the library's resource collections and flexible learning spaces.

Every day the libraries are a hive of activity and are open for students to research, complete homework, read, practise their oral and written communication skills or simply interact and play cards or board games during their breaks.

We encourage students to read for pleasure utilising an array of print and digital materials; fiction, popular magazines, picture books and graphic novels. Students also have access to the Sora App for eBooks and audio books. The non-fiction collection and our online encyclopedia called *Britannica School*, provides students and teachers with materials that have been carefully selected to support the curriculum and to encourage self-directed learning. As an inclusive community, we are investing in international literature to encourage students to consider global perspectives in their approaches to

learning. Books are available in several languages to cater for our multicultural community, including the Britannica School's translation tool. We ensure that students with disabilities have access to adjusted resources to support their learning. This an area that we are always investing in developing further.

The library catalogue is available via the Internet and can be accessed from any computer at school or home. Students and staff can log in to the Digital Backpack to access Oliverv5, LearnPath, Sora, our free Referencing Generator and online Britannica Encyclopedia.

## What do we deliver?

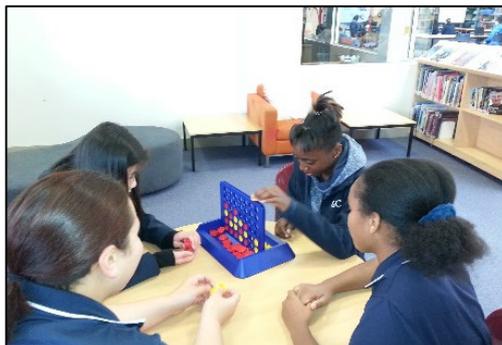
- We guide students through our Fiction and Non-Fiction selection, referencing, correct citation, understanding the policies related to Academic Integrity (avoiding plagiarism), research skills and evaluating data
- We collaborate and team teach with classroom teachers to support Units of Inquiry
- We offer professional development workshops to staff and promote our extensive Teacher Reference collections (such as audio-visual materials, Breakout EDU kits and the hiring of virtual reality goggles)
- Cameras are also available for use during school time

## Key Resources for Students

- *Oliver*, our central digital catalogue can be accessed through the Digital Backpack: <https://backpack.ed.act.edu.au/>
- *LearnPath* is our new resource and information platform embedded in *Oliver* containing curated information pathways to assist students with their units of inquiry.
- <https://soraapp.com> – for borrowing up to 10 e-books and audiobooks at a time. This can be used on any device or accessed through Oliver (Password requires normal school credentials)
- *Britannica School Online Encyclopedia*: <https://school.eb.com.au> (Password protected and embedded in *Oliver*).
- *SLASA* – Our free online differentiated Referencing Generator (Password protected and embedded in *Oliver-LearnPath* - 'Academic Integrity')
- *National Library of Australia* – Open the link: [National Library eResources](#).
- *Libraries ACT* Research sources - The ACT Library Service provides a wide range of online databases. Use your ACT Library membership to search via their website. Register for a free ACT Public Library membership to choose from 4,000 eBook titles: Open this link: [eBooks from the ACT Library](#).

## International and EAL/D Student Support

At Gold Creek School, we understand the challenges and complexities faced by students arriving in Australia from overseas and those that speak English as an additional language or dialect (EAL/D). We are committed to supporting every student so that they can achieve the expected learning outcomes under the school's curriculum.



There are many opportunities where students can celebrate the cultural richness that they bring to our community. Students have access to academic and wellbeing assistance through a variety of

programs including pastoral care which also takes place in the library at times, additional in-class student support for Languages and Literature classes, bilingual and mother-tongue dictionaries, and library workshops on how to access automated digital translation tools to assist and enhance their understanding of original documents.



## Collaborative Workshops

A key role of Teacher Librarians at Gold Creek School is to connect with classroom teachers across all faculty areas with the focus on supporting students to strengthen their research fluency skills, academic honesty practices, celebrate their growth and achievements through exhibitions and displays, and to promote a love of reading. We continually review and develop well-structured programs across K-10 where staff and students collaborate to foster these critical learning foundations.

## Parent Partnerships

Parents are welcome to use the library and may register to borrow items. We have available a small 'Parent Collection' at both sites that include books on parenting, literacy, reading, and health and well-being. If you are interested in volunteering or joining our 'Adopt a Shelf Program' to assist with our book returns, we would be most grateful.

We always welcome your feedback and any suggestions you may have to improve our space and services in the library. Please contact our friendly Office Staff or email the Teacher Librarians directly.

## Staff Wellbeing

Looking after the wellbeing of staff at Gold Creek School is important to us. Yoga is offered to staff every Monday in the library after school hours. This activity promotes the importance of maintaining a healthy balance in our busy lives, and we also believe it is important to model the importance of maintaining a healthy work-life balance.

## Academic Honesty Policy and Procedures

Gold Creek School is committed to developing students as lifelong learners who demonstrate all attributes of the IB Learner Profile. Academic Honesty is integral in developing principled citizens who take responsibility for their own learning and communication of their ideas using academically honest practices.

Our students learn the skills of good academic integrity through team-teaching experiences and library workshops throughout K-10. Please be aware that the Harvard style (6<sup>th</sup> Edition) should only be used as part of the IB expectation. Students have access to Referencing Guidelines and the online

referencing generator from SLASA (password protected). All students are encouraged to seek support at any time from the Teacher Librarians to ensure they know how to reference and cite their work appropriately.

Academic Integrity Policy and Procedure documents can be accessed on the School website and will be distributed during the Library Workshops as required.

## **Senior Site Clubs for students**

### Homework Club – Every Wednesday from 3:15-4:30pm

This is a very popular after-school session where all students are welcome to attend and get assistance on assignments or to consolidate classwork. Our dedicated teaching staff volunteer to help.

### Chess Club – Every Friday from 3:15-4:15pm

This is a new after-school session where all students can unwind and relax playing chess in a teacher-supervised, fun and guided environment.

## **K-6 Library**

At Gold Creek Junior Site, the Teacher Librarian provides release for Kindergarten and Year 1 classroom teachers. Students borrow books each week and engage in activities which introduce them to the library environment, procedures and expectations. We teach students strategies to select just the right book for them, introducing them to different genres and authors and generally encouraging a love of reading and literature. These classes are also an opportunity to teach inquiry skills within the context of their units of inquiry and the concepts through literature.

The Teacher Librarian works with Years 2 to 6 throughout the year in alternating units of inquiry, working collaboratively to plan, implement and assess these units. During these sessions students have the opportunity to develop necessary lifelong skills on Academic Honesty, being able to critically evaluate and use a variety of resources, including digital media. Skill workshops are also available at point of need for classes and small groups throughout the year. Class teachers can book any of the four flexible teaching areas to utilise the library resources.

Students enjoy the space during break 2 for reading or quiet activities with friends. Volunteering student-mentors play a leadership role during this time to re-shelve books, tidy shelves and games and mentor younger students in using the library.

## **Years 7-10 Workshops**

At Gold Creek School we believe in providing a collaborative learning environment that nurtures the development of 21<sup>st</sup> century lifelong learners. Ongoing future planning takes place with teaching staff to carefully craft well-sequenced library workshops for our students. These workshops are delivered in a co-teaching environment alongside faculties such as Languages & Literature and Individuals & Societies, and at any point of need across all disciplines. The workshops provide students with authentic opportunities to develop the necessary knowledge and skills needed to analyse information effectively, efficiently and safely. Academic Integrity skills and learning how to evaluate research materials are explicitly taught. Teachers work together to construct units of inquiry that stimulate new understandings and different global perspectives that enable students to explore the rich information world that they live in.

GCS is committed to supporting this dynamic learning journey through these workshops and to nurture a strong reading culture. Classes regularly visit the Library to read, explore and borrow

resources and can enjoy the comfortable area called the Reading Nook, which is designated as a technology-free zone.

## **Library Opening Hours**

### Junior Library

Monday to Friday between 8:30am - 3:00pm

### Senior Library

Mondays and Tuesdays: 8:30am - 3:15pm

Wednesdays: 8:30am – 4:45pm

Thursdays and Fridays: 8:30am – 3:15pm

## **Contacts**

Please contact our friendly Office Staff at Gold Creek School via email or by phone:

Junior Site Teacher Librarian - Keryn Hoeschle

Email: [keryn.hoeschle@ed.act.edu.au](mailto:keryn.hoeschle@ed.act.edu.au)

Tel: 02) 61421340

Senior Site Teacher Librarian - Bianca Porcheddu

Email: [bianca.porcheddu@ed.act.edu.au](mailto:bianca.porcheddu@ed.act.edu.au)

Tel: 02) 61421300.

Library Assistant (both sites) – Julie Sherd

Email: [julie.sherd@ed.act.edu.au](mailto:julie.sherd@ed.act.edu.au)