



College Update | Week 1, Term 4, 2024

Welcome back to Term 4 at Whites Hill State College! I hope you all had a restful break and are ready for what promises to be another busy and productive term ahead.

This term spans 11 weeks (Prep to Year 9 students) and will be filled with learning, growth, and a variety of school activities.

This term features numerous events and opportunities for our students to engage both academically and socially. From sporting events and music performances to academic challenges and special school celebrations, there will be plenty of ways for students to connect with their peers and showcase their talents. These events not only enhance our students' college experience but also foster a sense of community and belonging within the WHSC family.

We recognise that Term 4 can be particularly significant time, especially for our Year 12 students as they prepare for their external exams. As a school, we are committed to supporting them throughout this critical period, ensuring they have access to the resources and guidance they need to excel. We also encourage parents and families to be part of this journey, offering encouragement and support at home. We wish them all the best as they embark on this important final stretch of their schooling journey.

To stay informed and make the most of this busy term, we invite you to regularly check our Facebook page, where we post updates, reminders, and highlights from school activities. Additionally, our twice-termly college newsletter <https://whiteshillsc.schoolzineplus.com/subscribe> will keep you in the loop with key dates, event summaries, and important school announcements.

Why is there a 41-week school year in 2024?

While the school year is usually 40 weeks long, every now and then there has to be a 41-week year, as is the case in term 4, 2024.

The Department of Education School Holidays Policy (<https://education.qld.gov.au/about-us/calendar/school-holidays-policy>) states that:

“Queensland state schools provide for 40 school weeks each year, with the rare exception of a 41-week year on a cyclical basis”.

Important Information for Week 11 of Term 4

The Department of Education has provided guidance to schools regarding Week 11 (9 - 13 December). During this week, depending on the number of students attending, children may be supervised in different classrooms and may not be with their regular class teacher. This flexibility allows our staff to dedicate time to important work on the Australian Curriculum Version 9 and prepare for the 2025 school year.

Key points to note:

- 15 November is the final date for Year 12 attendance (Week 7 Term 4)
- 22 November is the final date for student attendance in Years 10 and 11 (Week 8 Term 4)
- Earlier this year, the Minister for Education acknowledged that the 2024 school year includes 41 weeks of student attendance, while typically the school year is 40 weeks (excluding students in Year 10 -12 as per points above).
- From next year, all Queensland state schools will be required to implement the new Australian Curriculum Version 9.
- To support this transition, the Minister and the Department have advised that schools may deliver an alternative program during the final week of the school year.
- While our school will remain open during Week 11, we are planning a program that will allow teachers to collaborate and develop high-impact learning units for the new curriculum.



Further details about the Week 11 program and our dates for key transition activities, including celebrations, concerts, and graduations, will be shared over the coming weeks.

Gratitude, Empathy, Mindfulness

“Gratitude turns what we have into enough.” - Anonymous.

This week, our GEM focus is on **Gratitude**. Gratitude involves recognising and appreciating the good things in life, which can enhance our overall well-being and strengthen our community bonds. Here are some ways to practice gratitude:



- **Gratitude Journals:** Write down three things you are grateful for each day.
- **Thank You Notes:** Take a moment to write a thank-you note to someone who has made a difference in your life.
- **Mindful Moments:** Spend a few minutes each day reflecting on what you are thankful for.

Did you know ...

Expressing gratitude can:

- Improve your mental health.
- Enhance your relationships.
- Boost your self-esteem.
- Increase your overall happiness.



Semester 2 Assessment Calendars – Secondary

The Semester 2 Assessment Calendars for Years 7 to 12 have been published on our website. You can access the calendars [here](#). These calendars are essential tools for planning and organising academic workload.

We encourage all students to note their assessment due dates in their school planners and set electronic reminders on their phones. This proactive approach will help manage time effectively and stay on top of deadlines.

We wish all our students the very best as they work towards their personal academic goals this semester.

Spotlight on Attendance

Our attendance goal for each student remains at **95%**. Regular attendance is crucial for academic success and overall development. Students who attend school regularly:

- Have better academic outcomes.
- Develop essential social skills.
- Stay connected with their peers and teachers.
- Build a strong foundation for their future.

If your child needs to be absent from school, please ensure that all absences are explained. To notify us of an absence, please call the school directly and follow the prompts for the student absentee line. When possible, please do this before 8:45am for each day your child is absent from school.

Student Absence Text: 0428 632 704

Student Absence Email: admin@whiteshillsc.eq.edu.au

Telephone: 3900 8370

Education Queensland has created a suite of school attendance resources to support parents. To access these resources, please click [here](#)



Final thoughts

As we enter the final term of the year, it's a great time to reflect on the progress our students have made and the goals we still aim to achieve. Whether it's striving for personal bests, supporting one another, or celebrating our collective accomplishments, Term 4 is an opportunity for growth and reflection.

I am incredibly proud of the resilience and dedication our students, staff, and families have shown throughout the year, and we look forward to finishing 2024 on a high note. Let's continue to work together to ensure every student has a successful and rewarding term. Have a fantastic week ahead!

Kind regards,

Richenda Wagener

College Principal



CARES focus this week

We model the CARES philosophy of Cooperation Achievement Respect Enthusiasm Safety

Week 1 – Cooperation - We work together to accomplish goals.

Uniform focus this week

Keeping uniform standards high is always a work in progress. This week our focus is: **jewellery**, please reinforce our clear expectations regarding the type of jewellery that is and is not permitted.

Our uniform policy can be found on our [website](#).

The Fortnight Ahead

Week 1	TERM 4
Mon 30 Sept	
Tues 1 Oct	
Wed 2 Oct	
Thurs 3 Oct	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Secondary Assembly
Fri 4 Oct	
Week 2	TERM 4
Mon 7 Oct	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> King's Birthday Public Holiday
Tues 8 Oct	
Wed 9 Oct	
Thurs 10 Oct	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Secondary Assembly Year 11 & 12 RACQ Docu Drama
Fri 11 Oct	

Helpful WHSC Links

[College Policies](#)

[Uniform Shop information](#)

[Outside School Hours Care](#)

Executive team

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