



College Update | Week 2, Term 4, 2024

We've had a great start to Term 4, and it's wonderful to see the energy and enthusiasm from our students as they settle into the rhythm of the new term. Week 2 brings even more opportunities for learning and engagement, with a variety of activities planned across all year levels.

For our Year 12 students, we are now in the final stretch before external exams. We continue to offer a myriad of supports to ensure they feel prepared and confident. Parents, please continue to encourage your Year 12s to use these resources and stay focused during this critical time.

Our Prep to Year 11 students are also diving into their Term 4 learning, with many exciting activities to look forward to in the coming weeks. From excursions and special projects to sports events and creative performances, this term offers students many chances to shine in areas both inside and outside the classroom.

Stay Connected

As always, we encourage you to stay connected with us through our Facebook page for updates on upcoming events, important reminders, and student achievements. Our twice-termly college newsletter <https://whiteshillsc.schoolzineplus.com/subscribe> will also provide a detailed overview of key activities, so be sure to check your inbox when it arrives.

Looking Ahead

As we progress through the term, we'll continue to share information about important dates and events. Whether it's our Year 12s preparing to graduate or younger students making the most of the many opportunities ahead, this term is an important one for all.

Thank you for your ongoing support, and let's continue working together to make Term 4 a rewarding and successful term for everyone at WHSC.

Why is there a 41-week school year in 2024? – A reminder ...

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 is not only the greatest of virtues, but the parent of all others.” - Cicero

In Week 2 of our GEM focus on Gratitude, we’re diving deeper into how we can cultivate gratitude in our daily interactions. Beyond recognising what we’re thankful for, expressing gratitude to others can have a ripple effect, spreading positivity throughout our school community.

Here’s how you can make gratitude a daily habit:

- **Gratitude Conversations:** Start or end your day by sharing something you’re grateful for with a friend, family member, or colleague.
- **Random Acts of Kindness:** Show your gratitude by doing something kind for someone, whether it’s a small gesture or a meaningful act of support.
- **Gratitude Walks:** Take a few minutes each day to walk and reflect on the things you are thankful for in your surroundings—nature, people, or even the simple moments.

Did you know ...

Expressing gratitude can:

- People who regularly express gratitude are more resilient in times of stress.
- Gratitude can reduce feelings of envy, making us more focused on our own journey.
- Being grateful helps shift your mindset from “scarcity” to “abundance.”



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 move through the early weeks of Term 4, it’s inspiring to see the effort and enthusiasm from both students and staff. This term is a time of focus, growth, and celebration.

We are proud of the progress so far and look forward to seeing what the rest of the term will bring. Let’s continue to support one another to ensure a successful finish to the year.

Kind regards,

Richenda Wagener

College Principal

CARES focus this week



We model the CARES philosophy of Cooperation Achievement Respect Enthusiasm Safety

Week 2 – 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 2	TERM 4
Mon 7 Oct	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> King’s Birthday Public Holiday
Tues 8 Oct	
Wed 9 Oct	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> P&C
Thurs 10 Oct	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Secondary Assembly Year 11 & 12 RACQ Docu Drama
Fri 11 Oct	
Week 3	TERM 4 Year 12 Study Week
Mon 14 Oct	
Tues 15 Oct	
Wed 16 Oct	
Thurs 17 Oct	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Secondary Assembly
Fri 18 Oct	

Helpful WHSC Links

[College Policies](#)

[Uniform Shop information](#)

[Outside School Hours Care](#)

Executive team

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