



College Update | Week 3, Term 3, 2025

As we settle into Week 3 of Term 3, we enter what is often referred to as the “*third quarter*”—a time that can test our stamina and focus, both in sport and in schools. This stage of the term is known to bring challenges as energy dips and routines can feel repetitive. That’s why our connections with each other—between school, home and the wider community—are so essential. Together, we can keep students motivated and supported through this middle stretch of the term.

At Whites Hill State College, everything we do is grounded in our School Improvement Priorities, which aim to ensure that we know, value, and support every student. Our three key priority areas are:

- Educational Achievement – Curriculum

We are committed to delivering a high-quality curriculum that is rigorous, relevant, and accessible. This includes making sure our teaching is aligned across year levels and subjects, and that all students are challenged and supported to progress in their learning. Teachers use data to monitor progress and adjust instruction to meet students’ individual learning needs.

- Wellbeing and Engagement – Pedagogy

We know that students learn best when they are engaged. Our pedagogical approach places students at the centre, recognising that relationships, inclusive practices, and a strong sense of belonging are critical to success. We are investing in professional learning for staff to strengthen teaching practices that build both knowledge and confidence in every learner.

- Culture and Inclusion – Case Management

Our staff work in collaborative teams to ensure we know every student and their story. This includes using case management processes to identify barriers to learning and wellbeing and provide tailored supports. Whether it's academic extension, targeted intervention, or social-emotional support, we aim to respond to individual needs with care and consistency.

We believe that partnerships with families and carers are crucial to this work. You are our students’ first teachers and greatest supporters. By working together, sharing information, and communicating openly, we can build strong foundations for every student to feel seen, supported, and successful.

Thank you for your continued engagement and support as we work together to make this “third quarter” a strong and positive one for all at WHSC.

Primary Students - Get Ready to Dress Up for Children’s Book Week

Our Primary students are invited to celebrate Children’s Book Week 2025 by dressing up and enjoying all things books and reading! This year’s theme is “*Book an Adventure!*”—a perfect invitation to dive into imaginary worlds and let our love of reading take us anywhere.

We’ll be celebrating during Week 6 with our Book Week parade on Friday 22 August, as part of the CBCA’s 80th anniversary of inspiring young minds through storytelling.

Start thinking about your favourite book characters or the amazing places you’ve travelled to in stories—and get ready to bring them to life!



Whites Hill State College

PREP – YEAR 12

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Imagine Believe Achieve

Artist: Danielle Leedie Gray

School Opinion Survey – Check your inbox

Each year, the School Opinion Survey gives parents, students, and staff the opportunity to share their views on what our school is doing well and how we can improve. The survey is confidential and includes responses from:

- Parents/caregivers of all enrolled students (Prep – Year 12). An invitation to complete the parent/caregiver survey is emailed to 1 parent/caregiver per family in the week before the survey opens. The invitation is sent from the department, not the school.
- Students in Years 5, 6, 8 and 11
- Staff—both teaching and non-teaching

The survey covers topics such as school climate, learning, wellbeing, and staff workplace experiences. Conducted in Term 3, the timing ensures respondents have had time to form considered views. Your input helps shape our school's improvement journey—thank you in advance for taking part.

Facilities

Over the recent break, several key areas of our school received a fresh new look, with our Main Administration, OSHC, and Primary Hub buildings freshly painted as part of our long-term plan to repaint all major buildings externally.

Inside, our dedicated Schools Officers have been hard at work refurbishing and painting, including fit outs to refresh teaching and learning spaces, as well as some bright and beautiful concrete painting in our Primary sector. You may also have noticed the installation of new roller blinds across all classrooms as well.

A new electronic sign is also being installed at the corner of Burn and Samuel Streets, replacing our older signage and improving communication with our community. A huge thankyou to our Business Manager, Jolene Dargie, for her exceptional coordination of these projects. More exciting upgrades are on the way as we continue to invest in quality learning environments for our students.

Gratitude, Empathy, Mindfulness

This week, we're focusing on *mindfulness* and being in the moment. Try some of these this week:

- Practise mindful yoga. Notice how your body moves. Feel the stretch in your muscles. Listen to your breath.
- Pick one daily activity – brushing your teeth, walking to school, or eating lunch – and use it as your mindfulness moment. Focus on your five senses:
 - What do you see?
 - What do you hear?
 - What do you feel?
 - What do you smell?
 - What can you taste (if you're eating)?



Even a few minutes of mindfulness each day can help you feel calmer, clearer and more connected.

Kind regards,

Ríchenda Wagener

College Principal

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Important Date Claimers for the Weeks Ahead

The Week Ahead ... Week 3

| | |
|---------------|---|
| Mon 28 July | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year 7 vaccination Year 10 vaccination |
| Tues 29 July | |
| Wed 30 July | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> P&C Meeting 6:30pm in AALC |
| Thurs 31 July | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year 11 Character Builders Year 8 Geography excursion School Photo catch up day |
| Fri 1 Aug | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year 11 Character Builders French Bilingual Puppet show (primary French Bilingual classes) |

The Week Ahead ... Week 4

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|-------------|---|
| Mon 4 Aug | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yr. 10 SET Plans South District Athletics – day 1 |
| Thurs 7 Aug | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yr. 12 First Aid Course Welcome to Mayfield SS students – “Try Highschool for a day” |
| Fri 8 Aug | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> South District Athletics – day 2 |

Helpful WHSC Links

[College Policies](#)

[Uniform Shop information](#)

[Outside School Hours Care](#)

Executive team

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