



College Update | Week 4, Term 4, 2025

Welcome to Week 4 at Whites Hill State College! We are now well into the rhythm of our final term and looking ahead to our big end of year events and celebrations. As always, your partnership is vital in ensuring every student stays connected, engaged and supported throughout this final quarter.

Online Behaviour & Social Media – Supporting Our Students

**Social Media
Minimum Age
campaign: 'For
the good of their
wellbeing'**



In our increasingly connected world, social media and online behaviour play a significant role in our students' lives—and so do the choices families make around them. As a partner in our students learning journey, I wanted to dedicate this edition of our 'Update' to highlight the upcoming changes and invite you to join us in supporting your child's online safety and wellbeing.

From 10 December 2025, new [Australian legislation](#) requires certain social media platforms to take *reasonable steps* to prevent users under the age of 16 from holding accounts.

Among other things, this means:

- Platforms like TikTok, Instagram, Snapchat and X (formerly Twitter) may become “age-restricted social media platforms”—meaning children under 16 should not hold accounts on them.
- The obligation lies primarily with the platforms to comply, but we know that family guidance, conversation and supervision remain essential.
- A free range of [resources](#) is available at the [eSafety Commissioner](#) website to help parents understand what safe online behaviour looks like and to help guide discussions with children.

As a school community, our goal is to support your child to use technology responsibly, respectfully and mindfully. You can help by:

- Setting clear rules and routines around screen time and social media access.
- Frequently talking about online behaviour—what is expected, what is safe, and how to respond if something feels wrong.
- Monitoring behaviour, device use and the apps your child accesses.
- Encouraging positive offline activities, hobbies and friendships to balance digital time.
- Revisiting and reinforcing platforms' privacy settings and parental controls regularly.

By working together, we can help our students navigate the digital world safely and build habits that support both their wellbeing and learning.

Please refer to the [frequently asked questions](#) that may provide answers to some of your immediate concerns and outline how these reforms will be rolled out, what they mean for families, and how you can best support your child online.

Whites Hill State College

PREP – YEAR 12

Ph: 3900 8333

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Imagine Believe Achieve

Artist: Danielle Leedie Gray

Get Set for Year 7 in 2026!

If you're already part of our WHSC family in Year 6, your enrolment will automatically roll over into the secondary school — one of the many benefits of being part of a seamless Prep–Year 12 college! If you know of anyone who will be joining us in 2026 as part of our Year 7 cohort – please remind them to book their Year 7 enrolment interview.

Over the coming weeks, staff from our wonderful secondary teaching team will be stepping into our Year 6 classrooms to connect, collaborate, and spark excitement for the journey ahead! These visits are all about building relationships and ensuring every student feels known, supported, and ready for the adventure of secondary school.

Through one-on-one transition chats and engaging activities, our teachers will help students imagine what's possible, believe in their potential, and feel ready to achieve their best as they step into Year 7.

For further details regarding our Year 6 into 7 transition, please refer to the detailed email sent by our Head of School Secondary, Samantha Hawkins on 22 October, which contains information about the Transition Chats and our Meet and Greet Day. In addition, please note we have a Parent Q&A Session – Week 9, Tuesday 2 December, 5pm to 5:45pm via Teams. This session is designed to provide current Year 6 parents with insights and practical tips on how to support their child as they transition into junior secondary.

If parents and students would like to meet with a member of the secondary team to engage in a deeper conversation about the opportunities and intricacies of transitioning to junior secondary, please contact our administration office to book a time to meet with a member of the secondary student support team. We are committed to working in partnership with you to support your child to reach their potential, and we welcome the opportunity to have productive conversations with you.

At Whites Hill State College, we've got transition covered — and we can't wait to see our future Year 7s shine!

Get Set for Prep in 2026!

Did you know that Prep attendance is compulsory in all Queensland schools? If your child was born between 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021, they are due to start Prep next year.

Enrolments interviews are in progress for Prep students for 2026, with our very well attended WHSC “*Prep Explores*” transition days already underway (final session Thurs 30 Oct). These *Prep Explorer* sessions have been absolutely wonderful, with our future Preps eagerly engaging in activities, making new friends, and getting to know their teachers and classrooms.

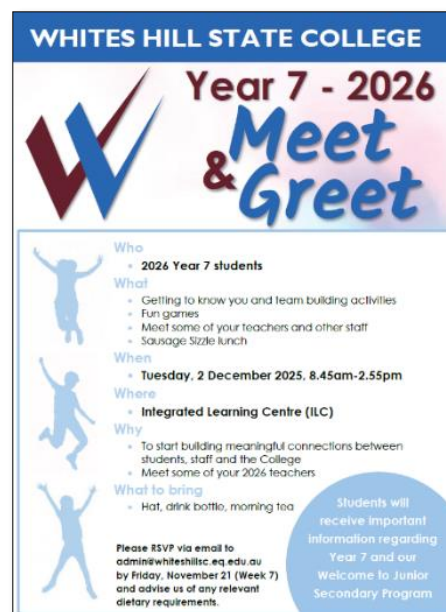
We believe that building readiness begins well before Prep, and these early experiences play a vital role in helping our littlest learners feel confident, connected, and excited to begin their school journey.

Please use the [online calculator](#) to see when your child can start Prep. Simply select your child's month and year of birth. Enrolment information is available from our main office (3900 8333).

Gratitude, Empathy, Mindfulness



This week, our focus is on *Emotional Literacy* - understanding our emotions and how they can be influenced by the world around us. Music is a powerful way to lift our mood, calm our minds, and help us connect with others.



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Activity: Work together to create a “Happy Playlist.” Each family member can suggest one song that makes them feel happy, calm, or positive. As you share your song choices, talk about *why* that song makes you feel that way — does it remind you of a special moment, a person you care about, or just make you want to dance? By listening and sharing together, we can learn more about the emotions that bring us joy — and celebrate how music helps us feel good and stay connected.

This term is a wonderful time to pause and reflect on how far we’ve come together as a college community. Throughout the year, our students have grown in confidence, knowledge, and character—supported every step of the way by dedicated staff and caring families. Each achievement, big or small, represents persistence, learning, and the collective effort that makes Whites Hill such a special place to learn and grow. As we continue to guide our young people toward success, both academically and personally, we’re reminded that education is not just about what we learn, but who we become along the way. Thank you for your continued partnership and support—it truly makes all the difference.

Kind regards,

Richenda Wagener

College Principal

Important Date Claimers for the Weeks Ahead (current)

The Week Ahead ... Week 4		Secondary External Exams
Wed 29 Oct	• P&C Mtg @ 6:30pm online only	
Thurs 30 Oct	• Yr 11 Lovebites – Incursion	
Fri 31 Oct	• Day for Daniel – wear red	

The Week Ahead ... Week 5		Secondary External Exams
Wed 5 Nov	• Instrumental music night	
Thurs 6 Nov	• EcoMarines Karawatha Wave Excursion	
Fri 7 Nov	• Year 7 Civics & Citizenship Excursion - Parliament House	

Helpful WHSC Links

[College Policies](#)

[Uniform Shop information](#)

[Outside School Hours Care](#)

Executive team

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