

# Whites Hill State College

PREP – YEAR 12

Ph: 3900 8333

E: [admin@whiteshillsc.eq.edu.au](mailto:admin@whiteshillsc.eq.edu.au)



Imagine Believe Achieve

Artist: Danielle Leedie Gray

## College Update | Week 1, Term 1, 2026

### Welcome to Term 1

Welcome to the start of the 2026 school year at Whites Hill State College. I hope you and your family enjoyed a restful and rejuvenating break, with time to relax, reconnect and recharge. As we begin Term 1, I look forward to the opportunities ahead and to another year of learning, growth and connection within our college community.



cares

Whites Hill State College is guided by our CARES values — **Cooperation, Achievement, Respect, Enthusiasm and Safety**. These values underpin all that we do and remind us of the importance of working together, striving for excellence, and fostering a safe, respectful and inclusive learning environment for every student.

Our college continues to work in partnership with The Resilience Project, with GEM — *Gratitude, Empathy and Mindfulness* — forming the cornerstone of this program. Students engage in at least one GEM-focused activity each day, supporting their social and emotional wellbeing.



In 2026, our **GEMS** focus remains central to our wellbeing approach. Through Gratitude, Emotional Literacy, Mindfulness and self-regulation, we continue to empower students to develop resilience, manage challenges and build strong, meaningful relationships. These skills are essential for both academic success and personal wellbeing.

Whether through The Resilience Project, co-curricular opportunities or everyday interactions across our campus, we want every student to feel a strong sense of belonging at Whites Hill.

### Leadership Updates

As communicated late last year, Mrs Hawkins is acting as Principal at another school for Term 1. During this time, Mr Mark Granrose will be Acting Head of School – Secondary for Term 1, 2026.

We will also continue recruitment for a leadership position within the French Bilingual Program. In the interim, Mrs Emma Van Cuylenberg will be Acting Deputy Principal – French Bilingual, supporting both Whites Hill State College and Tingalpa State School, and will now be based at Whites Hill State College.

### Student Attendance

Our students begin transition to class from 8:40am, with lessons commencing at **8:45am** for both Primary and Secondary students each day. Please ensure students arrive on time and are ready to commence learning promptly.

If your child is absent, it is important that the absence is recorded correctly. Families can notify the school by:

- **Email:** [admin@whiteshillsc.eq.edu.au](mailto:admin@whiteshillsc.eq.edu.au)
- **Student Absence Text:** 0428 632 704
- **Telephone:** 3900 8370

Where possible, please notify the school of absences prior to **8:45am**.

### Back to School Boost (Primary Students)

The Queensland Government's Back to School Boost is available to support families with Primary-aged students (Prep to Year 6). This initiative provides financial assistance (\$100) to help with the costs associated with school expenses such as SRS fees. This credit will be automatically applied to your school account.

At Whites Hill State College, Secondary students (Years 7–12) have been part of the Textbook and Resource Allowance (TRA) for a number of years, the Back-to-School Boost is a Primary only initiative.

Please have a read of the [parent information sheet](#) about the Back to School Boost. More information about how you would like to use the Back to School Boost will be sent shortly.

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## Important Reminder – Early Date Claimers

### Secondary Swimming Carnival

A reminder to our Secondary families that the **Secondary Swimming Carnival will be held on Friday 30 Jan (Week 1).**

### ID Photos

Thursday 5th February, is ID photo day for our new students. Photos are not bought from this day, as these photos are for ID purposes, and ID cards for our secondary students.

Any students missed due to absence will have a catch-up photo taken by admin when possible.

### Investiture Ceremony

We will formally acknowledge and celebrate our 2026 student leaders at our Investiture Ceremony, scheduled to be held on Monday 9 February (Week 3). Further details will be shared with students and families via usual communication channels.

### Pedestrians and Parking

I would like to remind students and families to prioritise traffic safety, particularly during busy drop-off and pick-up times. We are fortunate to have several designated pedestrian crossing zones around our campus, and it is vital that students use these to ensure their safety.

Please also be mindful of no-standing and no-drop-off zones around the college perimeter. We kindly ask families to respect parking signage, avoid blocking driveways and remain considerate of our neighbours in surrounding streets.

Brisbane City Council has advised that our college will continue to be included in their school patrol program during 2026.

### Looking Ahead

As the term unfolds, we look forward to celebrating achievements both big and small. Regular updates, events and key dates will continue to be shared through our newsletters, Facebook page, SMS and Q Parents.

Thank you for your ongoing partnership and support. Together, we look forward to making 2026 a year of growth, wellbeing and success for every student at Whites Hill State College.

Have a wonderful start to the year and a fantastic Week 1.

Kind regards,

*Richenda Wagener*  
College Principal

## Important Date Claimers for the Week Ahead (current)

### The Week Ahead ... Week 1

Mon 26 Jan	• Public Holiday
Tues 27 Jan	• First day of school (our day commences at 8:45am)
Wed 28 Jan	• Flexible Timetable finish for eligible Year 10, 11 and 12 students from 12:55pm
Fri 30 Jan	• Swimming Carnival (Secondary)

### The Week Ahead ... Week 2

Mon 2 Feb	• School Based Health Nurse – Year 11 Talks
Wed 4 Feb	• Year 7 Character Builders – <i>incursion</i> • Flexible Timetable finish for eligible Year 10, 11 and 12 students from 12:55pm

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## Thurs 5 Feb

- ID photos for new students
- Year 7 Character Builders – *incursion*

## Fri 6 Feb

- Year 12 Biology Excursion – Numinbah Valley EEC
- Year 7 Character Builders – *incursion*

## Helpful WHSC Links

[College Policies](#)

[Uniform Shop information](#)

[Outside School Hours Care](#)

## Executive team

Richenda Wagener	College Principal	<a href="mailto:principal@whiteshillsc.eq.edu.au">principal@whiteshillsc.eq.edu.au</a>
Briohny Cuskelly	Head of School (Prep-Year 6)	<a href="mailto:bcusk1@eq.edu.au">bcusk1@eq.edu.au</a>
Mark Granrose	Head of School (Years 7-12)	<a href="mailto:mgran66@eq.edu.au">mgran66@eq.edu.au</a>
Jolene Dargie	Business Manager	<a href="mailto:bsm@whiteshillsc.eq.edu.au">bsm@whiteshillsc.eq.edu.au</a>