

W I L L E T T O N   S E N I O R   H I G H   S C H O O L

# Newsletter

# Bits & Bytes

# ISSUE 8

Information for 2024

DECEMBER 2023

# SCHOOL OFFICE OPENING

**THE SCHOOL OFFICE WILL BE OPEN FROM  
WEDNESDAY 24 JANUARY** (CLOSED FRIDAY 26  
JANUARY AUSTRALIA DAY)  
**STUDENTS RETURN WEDNESDAY 31 JANUARY**

## STUDENTS DAY 1

Year 7 students will be welcomed at 8.15am on Wednesday 31 January on the front lawn by Ms Packirisamy, their Year Coordinator and student Peer Leaders who then accompany the group to the Theatre. Year 8 – 12 students meet in the central quadrangle by 8.30am with Year 8 students seated at the front through to Year 12 students at the back, near the library.

Year 7s will be introduced and welcomed by the rest of the school as they move from The Arts courtyard to be seated. Once they are seated, the Welcome to Country and Mr Hunter's welcoming address are delivered. At the end of the assembly students will be called to move off in their year groups to meet with their Year Coordinator. Here they are called into their tutor groups and move to their tutor group room. Timetables and diaries are distributed there. The first classes will commence around 9.45am and for most students this will be with their tutor teachers in their tutor room.

If students are unable to attend on the first day of schooling, parents/caregivers should inform the school in writing of the reason for the delay in attending and state the anticipated date on which the student will commence classes. This should be sent by email to [Willetton.SHS.Studentdetails@education.wa.edu.au](mailto:Willetton.SHS.Studentdetails@education.wa.edu.au)

Transperth Guide to travelling to school  
[High School Services \(transperth.wa.gov.au\)](https://www.transperth.wa.gov.au)

Our Student Services team provides support for the social, emotional, and educational wellbeing of all students. The goal of the Student Services team is to help students reach their full potential.

The team consists of a Deputy Principal, Program Coordinators, Year Coordinators, Chaplains, Nurses, Psychologists, First Aid Officer and a Teacher in Charge of Learning and Curriculum Support. The team is supported by School Officers. The Program Coordinator along with the Year Coordinators will follow students through their journey over the six years, facilitating parents, students and staff building strong relationships to support students. The key message for 2024 is if we don't know, we can't help so we encourage all parents and students to keep lines of communication open.



**Brad Spicer** Deputy  
Principal Student Services

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Jenny LeSouef

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Nola Regan

# STUDENT SERVICES TEAM

**Program Coordinator Year 9 and 12 – Miss Trish Panikoula**  
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**Year Coordinator Year 12 – Ms Sandra Frew**  
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**Year Coordinator Year 9 – Mr Thomas Coe**  
[Thomas.Coe@education.wa.edu.au](mailto:Thomas.Coe@education.wa.edu.au)



**Program Coordinator Year 8 and 11 – Mr Ben Leech**  
[Ben.Leech@education.wa.edu.au](mailto:Ben.Leech@education.wa.edu.au)



**Year Coordinator Year 11 – Ms Kylie Carroll**  
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**Year Coordinator Year 8 – Ms Kristen Gibson**  
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**Program Coordinator Year 7 and 10– Ms Lana Warner-Gillon**  
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**Year Coordinator Year 10 – Mr Jabe.Stillitano**  
[Jabe.Stillitano@education.wa.edu.au](mailto:Jabe.Stillitano@education.wa.edu.au)



**Year Coordinator Year 7 Mrs Guganeshwari Packirisamy**  
[Guganeshwari.Packirisamy@education.wa.edu.au](mailto:Guganeshwari.Packirisamy@education.wa.edu.au)



# YEAR 6 STUDENTS' TRANSITION TO HIGH SCHOOL

The transition from primary school is a difficult time for both students and parents, communication is the key.

- Be prepared for early ups and downs. Adjusting to change takes time, but if things don't stabilise after the first six weeks, talk to your child's home-room teacher in the first instance.
- Remind your child that it's normal to feel nervous about starting something new – for example, you could share how nervous and excited you feel when starting a new job.
- Talk to other parents to check whether your child's experiences and feelings are similar to those of others. Sporting and school events are a good place to meet other parents.
- Try to make sure your child eats well, gets plenty of physical activity and gets plenty of sleep. The change to secondary school is likely to make your child more tired at first.

## SIGNS YOUR CHILD MIGHT BE HAVING DIFFICULTY

- a lack of involvement in the new school
- little or no talk about new friends
- refusal to talk with you about school
- little or no interest in doing homework
- low confidence or self-esteem – your child might say she's dumb or stupid
- no desire to go to school, or refusal to go
- a drop in grades or academic performance.

If your child is having trouble, **don't wait for things to improve on their own.**

Follow the links for more information on your child's transition to High School.

[School Transitions | Willetton Senior High School \(schooltv.me\)](https://www.schooltv.me/school-transitions-willetton-senior-high-school)

[What\\_are\\_Transitions.pdf \(schooltv.me\)](https://www.schooltv.me/what-are-transitions-pdf)

[Survival tips for high school | Willetton Senior High School \(schooltv.me\)](https://www.schooltv.me/survival-tips-for-high-school-willetton-senior-high-school)

# GOOD STANDING

Our vision statement emphasises the importance of achieving excellence and building bright futures for tomorrow. We provide a distinctive, comprehensive education with strong academic and vocational pathways assisted by effective pastoral care programs, where all students are given the opportunity to become confident, innovative, and successful learners supported in the process of defining themselves as they prepare to meet the challenges of the future.

This policy provides a behaviour framework that students are expected to meet in order to maintain Good Standing status. The intention of the policy is to reward students who are actively participating in their learning and encourage positive attitudes towards learning. It is also the intention of the policy that students see Good Standing as something to be valued and maintained. Students who have relinquished the right to hold Good Standing status, should work towards regaining the status.

All students will commence the school year with Good Standing. This entitles them to the freedom, rights and privileges of every student within the school. If a

student loses Good Standing, it can be regained by fulfilling the requirements. If a student has lost Good Standing, they are unable to attend any extra curricula sporting, social events, or reward activities.

Willetton's Student Services team has the responsibility to oversee and implement the required procedures of the Good Standing Policy. The aim of the policy is to focus on the positives and increasing acknowledgment of those students who maintain their Good Standing through rewards and extra-curricular activities.

Maintaining Good Standing focuses the following five key target areas: Attendance, Punctuality, Behaviour, Devices, Uniform.

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## STUDENT DEVICES

Teachers at Willetton Senior High School often integrate information technologies into their classrooms to provide a wealth of rich educational resources and tools that deliver positive teaching and learning outcomes. The school has adopted a *Bring Your Own Device* model, meaning students are requested to bring

a personally owned tablet to school for the purpose of enhancing their learning experience. If possible, the device should support the use of a stylus/pen which allows students to annotate and highlight work directly on the screen.

Parents are reminded that students are provided with free access to the Microsoft 365 suite of applications including Word, PowerPoint

and OneDrive so there is no need to purchase this. These applications can be installed on five devices. Students should use OneDrive to store their schoolwork as it is automatically backed up without need for a thumb drive or external storage. Further information is available on the school's website under Parent Essentials.

# STUDENT ACCESS TO THE COMPUTER NETWORK

Most students who attended a WA Department of Education school in 2023 will be able to access the school network using their same username and password. However, students will need to ensure their password complies with the stricter secondary school security requirements. This includes a minimum of six characters, and must contain characters from **three** of the following areas:

- uppercase
- lowercase
- digits(0-9) and
- special characters(! # @ etc).

If their current password does not meet these requirements, students are asked to change their password through Connect prior to the first day of school. Those students who forget their password or did not attend a WA Department of Education school in Semester 2 of 2023, will be provided with access to the network on the first days of school. Details of what students need to do to arrange this will be provided by tutorial teachers and the Year Coordinators.

## YEAR 11 AND 12 COURSE CHANGE REQUESTS

**YEAR 12 STUDENTS** in ATAR pathways may continue to submit applications for Private Study up to July 2024.

Requests for course changes can be made during week 5 of Term 1 only.

Students experiencing difficulties with their courses should contact their Year Coordinator or class teacher.

# SCHOOL UNIFORM

**UNIFORM CONCEPTS** Willetton Super Store is located 30 Kembla Way, Willetton, WA 6155

Online Ordering available by visiting website [nellgray.com.au](http://nellgray.com.au)

## OPENING TIMES

**Mon, Tues, Wed, Fri:** 9am – 5pm

**Thurs:** 9am – 6pm

**Sat:** 9am – 1pm

Closed on Sundays, Public Holidays

**Closed for the Festive Season from Saturday 16 Dec 2023 until Tuesday 2 Jan 2024**

Telephone: 08 9270 4669 Email: [willetton@uc.nellgray.com.au](mailto:willetton@uc.nellgray.com.au) Website: [nellgray.com.au](http://nellgray.com.au)

## SECOND-HAND UNIFORM SHOP

We have a second-hand uniform shop run by volunteers located near the theatre.

<b>OPENING TIMES:</b>	Monday	29 January	9.15am-1.15pm
	Wednesday	31 January	9.15am-11.15am
	Every Wednesday		9.15am-11.15am

## SECOND-HAND BOOK SHOP

The second-hand bookshop is located in B23 near the canteen undercover area . Please note, it will be closing by the middle of Term 1 .

Monday	29 January	9.00am-11.30am
Wednesday	31 January	9.00am-11.30am
Every Wednesday		9.00am-11.30am

# SCHOOL UNIFORM POLICY

**Our uniform promotes our public image and enhances a sense of belonging and pride in the members of our school community.**

Learning appropriate clothing is part of student acquisition of a positive self-image and teaches them community and employer dress expectations as they enter the world of work.

The overwhelming majority of our students wear the uniform every day with pride. Full uniform compliance is also essential for staff and students' safety and welfare as it clearly signals those who are and are not permitted to be on-site.

The uniform has been designed by students, parents and staff so that it is comfortable, affordable and attractive. A continual review of the uniform is undertaken to ensure this remains the case.

The Willetton Senior High School Board has endorsed this School Uniform Policy stipulating that every student will wear all items of school uniform and uniform items are purchased from the School Uniform Shop.

## SCHOOL UNIFORM ITEMS

- School, rugby or knitted jumper worn with shirt underneath
- Blue Lower School short sleeve shirt
- White Senior School short sleeve shirt
- Blue Lower School long sleeve shirt
- White Senior School long sleeve shirt
- Summer Skirt
- Navy blue school pants
- Navy blue shorts
- Dress
- School scarf
- leggings are not permitted
- stockings only with skirt or dress – not with shorts
- stockings must be plain black or nude in colour
- minimal ear piercing with stud/sleepers or one small nose stud only permitted
- a school shirt must be worn beneath the school uniform outer garments
- dangling earrings, spikey bracelets and chokers are health and safety hazards and are not permitted
- t-shirts/undershirts are to be short-sleeved and white only, with no motifs and not to protrude beyond the sleeves/hemline
- extreme hair colours and styles are discouraged. Only natural colours and hues are acceptable, such as blonde, brunette, black or auburn
- students are not permitted to wear clothing or other items that will cause offence to a reasonable person
- caps are encouraged for sun protection
- Students wearing clothing associated with religious or cultural identity should keep within school colours.

There are issues which we consider to be important in setting the appropriate tone. They are as follows;

- denim garments and tracksuits are not part of the school dress code
- shoes must be closed

## PHYSICAL EDUCATION UNIFORMS

### LOWER SCHOOL

WSHS PE shorts

WSHS light blue PE top

WSHS dark blue PE top for Lifecare students

### SENIOR SCHOOL

WSHS PE shorts

WSHS dark blue PE top



# FINANCE FOR PARENTS

Proposed 2024 Charges and Voluntary Contributions (C&VC) have recently been emailed out to the parent account holder. All information about 2024 Charges and Voluntary Contributions, course costs and other optional costs can be found on the school website.

## FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE (SECONDARY ASSISTANCE SCHEME)

A reminder that Secondary Assistance in the form of financial subsidies is available to holders of Health Care and Pensioner Benefit cards or Veterans' Affairs Pensioner Card who meet the eligibility criteria. Further information and application forms can be downloaded from the school website under Financial Assistance. Applications close 28 March 2024.

### SECONDARY ASSISTANCE SCHEME

Years 7 to 12 you may be eligible for up to \$350 towards school expenses if you hold a:

- Centrelink Health Care Card
- Centrelink Pensioner Concession Card
- Veterans' Affairs Pensioner Concession Card.

Applications close 28 March 2024

## 2024 BOOKLISTS & PERSONAL ITEMS

Booklists & Personal Items can be downloaded from the school website or below.

- [Year 7](#)
- [Year 8](#)
- [Year 9](#)
- [Year 10](#)
- [Year 11](#)
- [Year 12](#)

Parents who choose to purchase from Campion will be assisting the school. Free delivery is available for orders placed by 15 December 2023. Items can be purchased from any store that stock the required items.

## 2024 EXCURSIONS, INCURSIONS & OTHER ACTIVITIES

A list of possible excursions, incursions & activities for 2024 and associated costs are available on our school website. The list is an indication of what may occur up to the maximum value. Not all excursions may proceed.

For any general enquiries, please first refer to the school website. Alternately please contact the Finance Office via email [Willetton.SHS.Finance@education.wa.edu.au](mailto:Willetton.SHS.Finance@education.wa.edu.au) or by telephoning 9334 7200.

## LIBRARY

### Summer Reading

In previous years the Library hasn't allowed borrowing over the summer break; however this year we are encouraging students and staff to loan items for the summer holiday break before school finishes for 2023. The items for the holidays will be due February 2024 when school commences. Remember to bring your Smart Rider card to loan items. Students who don't read over the summer break are in fear of losing an average of 2-3 months proficiency, which can add up over time.

Additionally, students and staff have access to ebooks online 24/7 using ePlatform. Students have been shown how to access this resource on their devices where there are ebooks and audiobooks. The facility to translate the ebooks into over 100 languages is also a benefit of this platform to read.

Audiobooks are great for long car journeys. Reluctant readers can enjoy the story no matter what their ability or the whole family can listen together.

Please visit the Willetton SHS library if you need assistance to sign in to ePlatform to loan ebooks and audiobooks using your device or to loan items from the library before the term finishes for 2023.

Happy holiday reading.

## CANTEEN

The canteen is open to students and staff from 7.30am.

Orders can be made for pick up at recess and lunch from that time, or students can order at recess for lunch pick up.

A menu is available and there are specials which change each day.

The canteen staff thank all for their support. Volunteers are welcome.

We wish all our families a very happy Christmas  
and a healthy and restful holiday break .

