



Aspire. Strive. Achieve.



Year 7

2023 Transition Handbook

Principal's welcome

Dear Parents and Families,

Welcome to Kew High School. On behalf of the staff, students and families in our community, I extend a warm welcome to both you and your child.

This first communication from Kew High School marks the start of a six-year partnership where we join together to nurture, guide, challenge and support the intellectual, emotional, physical and social development of your child.

Your child is making an exciting journey from primary to secondary school. This transition package provides information that will support this significant step in learning and development. Kew High School recognises the importance of a caring and attentive environment for Year 7 students. A range of orientation and information activities have been designed to support your child and assist them to connect to our school and to our values: **accountability, social equity, participation, integrity, respect and excellence** (ASPIRE).

I very much look forward to meeting you in the near future and wish your child a successful transition to Kew High School.

Yours sincerely,



Josie Millard
Principal



Aspire . Strive . Achieve.

Accountability
Social equity
Participation
Integrity
Respect
Excellence



Transition to Year 7

The Kew High School transition program aims to facilitate a seamless move for students from the primary school to the secondary school setting.

Skilled and experienced staff, together with student mentors, provide a range of academic and social supports that promote student engagement and wellbeing, allowing students to step into their new environment feeling confident and ready to learn.

Through the deliberate promotion of a sense of wellbeing in our learning community, Kew High School builds a sense of connection and a motivation for students to belong to their new school.



The transition program includes the following:

- Year 7 Student Ambassadors visit key primary schools in November and December each year to speak to Year 6 students about their transition to Kew High School.
- Parents of incoming students attend an information session where they are provided key details about transition and daily life at Kew High School. These information sessions will be held onsite, if possible, and/or online using WebEx.
- Key staff from Kew High School visit primary schools to speak to Year 6 teachers about the learning and wellbeing needs of incoming students.
- All Year 6 students attend an Orientation Day in early December to meet their Year 7 classes and teachers.
- Year 7 students commence their first day of secondary school one day before Years 8–11 students and have the school largely to themselves. They are supported by Year 7 Year Level Coordinators, the Leader of Junior School, Year 7 teachers and the Year 10 Peer Support students.
- Throughout Term 1, Year 10 students lead the Peer Support program, which involves getting to know the school and their peers.
- During Term 1, the Year 7 Meet the Teachers Evening enables parents to meet their child's teachers in an informal setting.
- Year 7 students attend a two-day Learning to Learn Program in Term 1, designed to assist them in developing the learning and study habits that they will need in secondary school.
- Year 7 students are in the same class groups for all subjects and participate in a comprehensive wellbeing program.

Student wellbeing

At Kew High School, the wellbeing of the individual and the learning community is at the centre of everything we do. We believe that the success of our students as learners is built on a foundation of connectedness to school, community and the wider world. When we feel a sense of connectedness and belonging, we are able to project a positive vision of the world and our place in it.

We prioritise the development and maintenance of positive relationships between all members of our learning community. A restorative practices framework guides interactions with and between students. This focuses on ensuring individuals feel heard and valued; respect, responsibility and relationship-building are at its core.

Kew High School is also a participating member of the Department of Education's School-wide Positive Behaviour Support program, which seeks to reinforce whole-school wellbeing through building an environment of support and care for self and others.

Our **Connect** and **Peer Support** programs aim to create and strengthen connections between students, teachers and the whole school community.

As a result of these guiding principles, frameworks and well-established programs, we are a calm school, where teachers and students are able to focus on learning because of the positive relationships that underpin it.

While the focus of our everyday wellbeing practices is on establishing resilience and proactive care for the wellbeing of ourselves and each other, we recognise that sometimes students and families need additional support. Our designated Wellbeing Centre provides a welcoming safe space for students, and through our trained staff, including a Mental Health Practitioner, Psychotherapist and Chaplain, together with external provider partnerships, we are able to offer an extensive support system, with services including:



- person-centred counselling
- psychotherapy
- Department of Education cognitive and behavioural testing
- mindfulness-focused yoga
- parent seminars on youth mental health
- body image positivity workshops
- police liaison services
- cybersafety counselling programs.



CONNECT

As its name suggests, the Connect program aims to promote connectedness, to build community, and to enhance student learning and wellbeing. All students in Years 7–12 are allocated to a Connect group, which meets weekly with a designated teacher.

Groups are formed on a year-level and House basis, and students remain in the same group throughout their time at Kew High School. The Connect program offers an opportunity to engage with a broad range of general wellbeing-related topics, and issues relevant to different ages and stages are able to be explored in this safe, supportive environment. The program supports student learning and offers another level of pastoral care.

Vision for learning and teaching

At Kew High School, our vision is to provide an outstanding holistic education that supports and encourages every student to aspire, strive and achieve. Kew High School students and staff are confident, generous people who feel connected to the school and its community. Instructional practice at Kew High School is centred around students as active learners who are able to take responsibility for and direct their learning.

We have high expectations of our students. We ask every one of them to ASPIRE. The values of accountability, social equity, participation, integrity, respect and excellence are embedded in the daily life of the school. Our classroom learning norms are framed by these values, which are explicitly taught and celebrated across our school. Students are accountable for their learning, they participate with respect and integrity, and they strive towards excellence.

In Years 7 and 8, students undertake studies in the following areas:

- English
- Mathematics
- Science
- Humanities
- Physical Education
- Visual Arts
- Drama
- Food Studies
- Health
- Music
- Digital Technologies
- Sport
- Languages – French or Japanese.

Embedded within and taught explicitly through these subjects are the discrete set of knowledge and skills articulated in the four Victorian Curriculum capabilities:

- Critical and Creative Thinking
- Ethical
- Intercultural
- Personal and Social.

While we have high expectations of every student, we also expect our school to provide a learning program that engages and includes every student. To this end, we offer a huge range of subjects across the Victorian Curriculum (Years 7–10) and in the Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE), as well as access to many Vocational Education and Training (VET) subjects through our

partner provider. At Kew High School, students have choice. With the support of our comprehensive careers education program, students can choose to explore and excel in the learning areas they are most passionate about.

Kew High School is a proud coeducational government school. We know that it is within public schools that our public is created, and so we commit ourselves to educating young people such that they in turn will feel empowered, equipped and confident to make their very best contribution to our society.



Classroom norms and expectations

A

Accountability

- Organised and prepared for learning
- Clean environment for learning
- Lead own learning

S

Social Equity

- Inclusive and supportive of everyone's right to learn
- Understanding of strengths, differing abilities and beliefs

P

Participation

- Involvement of all
- Proactive in learning
- Be your best

I

Integrity

- Clear learning goals
- Positive learning environment

R

Respect

- Respectful of all
- Following instructions

E

Excellence

- Positive attitude
- Commitment for personal best
- High expectations of yourself and others
- Celebrate success

Non-negotiables

- Wearing correct uniform
- Adherence to phone policy
- Prepared with correct subject equipment



Houses at Kew

All students are allocated to a House group when they start at Kew High School and remain in the same House throughout their six years at the school. The House system provides another level of connection to the school and fellow students.

Kew High School has four Houses:

Through these Houses, students can participate in a range of different activities and House events. During Terms 1 and 2, students participate in the three big House events – House swimming, House athletics and House cross-country. Every event that the student participates in earns points for their House. These points are tallied at the end of the year to determine the House winner at every year level.

Other House activities held throughout the year include:

- House soccer competition
- House basketball competition
- Battle of the Bands
- House debating.

Students are encouraged to participate in as many House events as possible to foster team spirit and to help their House succeed.



BOROONDARA

Mascot: Bear

Colour: Green



WILSMERE

Mascot: Warrior

Colour: Yellow



COTHAM

Mascot: Devil

Colour: Red



BARKER

Mascot: Bull

Colour: Blue

Co-curricular programs

MUSIC

The music program at Kew High School is comprised of classroom and instrumental music programs. Students are able to study both of these subjects up to Year 12.

The classroom music program forms part of the core curriculum at Years 7 and 8. Across four lessons per fortnight for one semester each year, students learn music theory and keyboard skills. From Year 9 onwards, music becomes an elective study option.

In the instrumental program, students may choose from the following instruments to study:

- Bass clarinet
- Bass guitar
- Cello
- Chinese instruments
- Clarinet
- Double bass
- Drums and percussion
- Euphonium
- Flute
- Guitar (electric and acoustic)
- Piano
- Saxophone
- Singing
- Trombone
- Trumpet
- Tuba
- Viola
- Violin.

Instrumental music lessons are conducted in small groups, with students grouped according to ability. Students learning an instrument are enrolled in ensembles, in which they learn the musical skills and experience the enjoyment of playing in a group. The school's numerous ensemble groups are varied, encompassing a range of skills and genres from classical, to jazz, to rock.

Throughout each year, music students have the opportunity to perform at a range of events, both within the school and in the wider community. These include:

- Chaplaincy dinner
- Jazz and Swing Night
- Lunchtime concerts
- Regional music concert
- Classical Guitar Society evening
- School production
- Presentation Night
- Mid-year and end-of-year concerts
- Victorian Schools Music Festival.



Co-curricular programs

ART

The Visual Arts program at Kew High School is aligned with the Victorian Curriculum. In Years 7 and 8, students study art, ceramics, and visual communication and design (VCD). From Year 9 onwards, the Visual Arts form part of the elective offerings from which students are able to create their course of study. A wide range of study options are available, including painting, drawing, urban art, film, photography, textiles, printmaking, and VCD.

Our experienced, talented and dedicated staff guide students in the development of their creativity and skills, critically exploring visual culture through works that involve the fusion of traditional and contemporary forms, including digital media. The focus is on encouraging the development of a personal style through divergent thinking, risk-taking and creative problem-solving.

Students' work is regularly displayed around the school, as well as being used in publications and promotional materials.



Co-curricular programs

PERFORMING ARTS

The Performing Arts at Kew High School is an integrated and engaging program comprising Drama, Theatre Studies and Music. Each of these disciplines is a recognised learning pathway at the school, and we aim to provide a variety of performance opportunities throughout the year that cater for all levels of ability, from beginners to advanced. Our program is designed to build students' confidence and abilities in myriad ways, as well as to have a significant positive impact on student wellbeing, and growth through leadership.

Performance opportunities include Junior One Act Play festivals, the Senior Theatre Fest for Years 9 and 10 and The Malthouse Theatre Suitcase series. There are also many opportunities for students to build on skills introduced in our Drama and Theatre Studies curriculum, with many students choosing to be involved in areas such as stage management, set design, costuming, make-up, lighting and sound design.

The centrepiece of our program is a biennial school production, involving students from every year level. This production is a highlight of the school calendar for students, staff and the wider community.



SPORT

Physical activity is recognised as being fundamental to young people's development, so at Kew High School students are encouraged to maximise their participation by enjoying a wide variety of the sporting opportunities available to them. In addition to our core curriculum Health and Physical Education program, we offer a range of sports for students to participate in, both within the school, through various House competitions and carnivals, and at interschool, division and national competition events. These include:

- all-school House sports carnivals — swimming, athletics, cross-country
- interschool sports — a variety of sports to choose from each term, including baseball, basketball, cricket, tennis, softball, badminton, netball, soccer, AFL, hockey, volleyball, table tennis and ultimate frisbee!
- our renowned volleyball program — Kew High School Competition, Victoria Schools Cup, Volleyball Victoria Junior Open.

Students are also able to participate in other activities such as orienteering, mountain bike orienteering, golf, lawn bowls and cycling at various events held throughout the school year.

Students of all abilities are supported and encouraged to enjoy the benefits of sport, and students who have a real love of sport are provided a multitude of avenues through which to pursue that passion.

Important dates

2022

Tuesday 6th December – Friday 9th December	Second-hand books selling week.
Monday 12th December	Deadline for ordering new books and stationery from Campion. Booklist and Campion order information will be provided early Term 4 via Compass News Feed.
Tuesday 13th December	Grade 6 Orientation Day – second-hand uniform shop open. Times to be confirmed.

2023

Monday 30th January	Years 7 and 12 commence
Tuesday 31st January	Years 8 to 11 assemblies
Wednesday 1st February	Years 8 to 11 commence classes
Tuesday 7th February	School photos
Monday 13th February	House swimming
Tuesday 4th April	House cross country
Thursday 6th April	Student-led conferences
Friday 7th April	Last day of Term 1
Monday 24th April	First day of Term 2
Wednesday 3rd May	House athletics
Friday 23rd June	End of Term 2
Monday 10th July	Start of Term 3
Thursday 14th September	Student-led conferences
Friday 15th September	End of Term 3
Monday 2nd October	Start of Term 4