



Introduction to Secondary School at Grace Christian School



WELCOME

Welcome to this snapshot of our secondary program at Grace Christian School. It is our hope that you will find this booklet informative as it provides you with a brief insight into our school. You are most welcome to contact us should you have any unanswered questions or be seeking further information.

WHO WE ARE

Grace Christian School is an exceptional learning community in which parents and teachers partner in the task of educating and nurturing children. We accept the Lordship of Jesus Christ over all areas of life and seek to integrate the truth revealed in the Bible in all that is taught. He is at the very heart of our values and is our reason for existing.

Grace Christian School was founded in 1990 and named after the most wonderful gift God has afforded us, that of Grace. As a Pre-Kindy to Year 12 school, students have the opportunity to complete all their schooling on our campus, offering them continuity and the familiarity of their surroundings.



With no separation of the sacred and the secular, we endeavour to teach from a Christian perspective, assist our students to achieve their potential and grow to know Jesus personally. All our staff members are practising Christians who recognise the call of God to serve the Grace community.

We are proud of our school and the ministry it offers to our community.

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

The term *educate* finds its linguistic origins in *educere*, denoting the art of leading out. This etymological foundation captures the essence of education which lies in the 'guiding' of students from their current understanding to a realm of greater understanding. This journey isn't restricted to intellectual growth alone; it extends to encompass emotional, physical, and spiritual well-being, coupled with character development.

Regrettably, the education journey of today often succumbs to an approach driven by assessments, reducing the education experience to mere tasks for completion and hurdle jumping. For the education journey and experience to genuinely transform students, culture, and society, it must adopt a holistic approach within a supportive community (a village) and should be infused with meaning and purpose, fostering enrichment and enhancement across all facets of a child's development.

Grace's *educere*, anchored in a Christian worldview, is holistic in nature and dedicated to cultivating a transformative journey, steering young individuals towards understanding and purpose.



Mr Hugo de Ridder

WELCOME FROM THE DEPUTY PRINCIPAL (SECONDARY)

Mr Andrew Woods



Mr Andrew Woods

As students transition from childhood through adolescence, they need a strong sense of personal connection and value within the family, school and community environments in which they learn and grow. Undoubtedly the teenage years will be accompanied by challenge and change; how better to navigate these moments than in the safety net of the partnership between parents and teachers in a Christian School.

At Grace Christian School, we value working alongside our parents to encourage students to embrace learning opportunities and maximise their potential in academics, character growth, relationships and an understanding that they have been uniquely created by a loving Heavenly Father for purpose. Our dedicated teachers are committed to support students in their learning journey as they discover and broaden their interests and set future goals.

The teenage years are filled with so many opportunities for growth and occasions for celebration. We look forward to navigating this journey with you and encouraging your child in the development of their God-given gifts.



PASTORAL CARE AND HOME GROUPS

At Grace Christian School, we recognise that every individual has been made in the image of God and therefore possesses intrinsic worth. As bearers of His fingerprints, people have dignity and deserve respect and care. It follows that every child has the right to feel safe at school.

Pastoral Care is an integral part of what we do at Grace to enable an environment in which students feel safe, cared for and supported.

This is facilitated through our Home Room structure, where students are supported by teachers who provide care and continuity.

Our Chaplain works closely with teaching staff, Learning Enrichment and the Head of Student Management (Secondary) providing counselling and support to students in small groups or on an Individualised basis.

In addition to the pastoral care offered by teachers and our Head of Student Management (Secondary), a Pastoral Care team comprising our Chaplain, Principal, Head's of Student Management, Deputy Principal's, Student Services Officer and a Learning Enrichment representative, plays a proactive role in the School's network of support and the implementation of pastoral care programs.

As part of our pastoral support of students, we come alongside students facing significant health issues, family breakdowns, personal difficulties or loss. Our Chaplain works closely with parents and students to assist with attendance and provides one-on-one sessions to students to talk through coping strategies. We do not tolerate bullying, vandalism or possession of illegal substances or materials.

Students are encouraged to talk to their teachers, Home Group teachers, the Chaplain or the Head of Student Management (Secondary) if they require support in learning or on a personal level.



HOUSE SYSTEM

All students are members of one of our 3 Houses:

- ♦ Banksia (yellow)
- ♦ Jarrah (red)
- ♦ Peppermint (green)

Students participate in a range of House competitions including, but not limited to, swimming, athletics and cross country carnivals, contributing points to their house, so active and wide engagement is expected.



STARTING SECONDARY AT GRACE

The transition from primary to secondary school can be daunting for students who have spent most of their time with the same group of peers, with predominantly one teacher, in one room.

Being required to move for each class, being taught by up to 12 different teachers, mixing with varying groups of students for their subjects and being expected to manage their timetable, books and resources, requires organisation and flexibility.

We aim to facilitate a smooth transition for our Year 7's into Secondary School. Key factors involve fostering healthy relationships and developing a sense of belonging. This is supported by our Orientation Day held in Term 4, where students have the opportunity to familiarise themselves with the facilities in secondary, meet fellow students and have a few introductory lessons with some of our teachers. We commence the new school year with further measures to assist the transition of our students to secondary. This includes Orientation Days at the commencement of the year to facilitate this integration and a camp early in the term.

Parents have an important role to play in assisting students to transition successfully into secondary school, so the partnership between home and school is crucial.

STRATEGIES FOR PARENTS

- Assist your child to establish routines by having books, uniform and homework prepared the night before. This includes bringing PE gear to school on the correct day.
- Stay in touch with your child's teachers through SEQTA Engage, using Direct Messages in SEQTA or email. Attend Parent-Teacher Interviews and community events.
- Communicate readily with teachers or the Head of Student Management (Secondary) if you have questions or concerns.
- Place spare copies of your child's timetable on the fridge and above their designated homework area.
- Download the School Stream App for information on upcoming events and insights into school activities.
- Follow us on Facebook and Instagram.
- Make time to chat with your child weekly about social and learning matters.
- Encourage self-management; gradually allow your child to assume increasing responsibility for their organisational skills and learning.
- Be positive and enthusiastic.
- Adhere to school expectations—these are important for teaching life skills that flow into the workplaces your child will enter in the coming years.



CHANGES FROM PRIMARY TO SECONDARY

Apart from the obvious escalation in complexity and scope of curriculum content as students progress from year to year, the most notable changes as students move into the secondary school are the variety of teachers they will have, the increase in workload, and adjusting to moving between classrooms.

A significant positive for Grace Students is that students remain on the same grounds as they progress from Primary to Secondary and will generally have less difficulty becoming familiar with the Secondary learning spaces. They may also see familiar faces of Primary teachers too.

What is different?

- No personal desks—replaced by lockers
- Subject specific teachers
- Wear school uniform to school every day
- Change into PE gear before and after PE lessons
- Increase in the amount of homework
- Greater organisational skills required
- Deadlines for assignments must be met
- Many more teachers to interact with and get to know
- Moving and being prepared for each class efficiently
- Adjustment to different teaching styles
- Making sure they have the right equipment for lessons.

There are strategies that students may adopt to assist them in being prepared for class, such as having a spare copy of their timetable displayed inside their locker, colour-coded by subject.

Students must leave valuables, including phones and other devices, at Student Services for safekeeping. Leaving these items in lockers, bags or elsewhere is entirely at the student’s own risk and the School accepts no responsibility to locate or replace lost items.

TIMETABLE

Students in Year 7 are fully integrated into secondary school and move between all their classes. There are 25 periods in the week, with 5 teaching periods per day. All lessons are one hour in length except Home Class which is twenty minutes.

A five minute break between double periods provides time for students to arrive at the following class on time.

P	TIME	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
H	8.35 - 8.55					
1	8.55 - 9.55					
M	9.55 - 10.00					
2	10.00 - 11.00					
B1	11.00 - 11.30					
3	11.30 - 12.30					
M	12.30 - 12.35					
4	12.35 - 1.35					
B2	1.35 - 2.05					
5	2.05 - 3.05					

HOMEWORK

The aim of homework is to revise and consolidate the learning, and to complete unfinished work or assessment tasks, which has taken place at school. It supports the formation of sound disciplinary habits for later study and it gives parents an ongoing glimpse into their child’s progress. Students should be engaged in homework or revision of prior learning most days.

CURRICULUM

We believe that every student at Grace Christian School should have the opportunity to learn and demonstrate progress in a supportive environment. In keeping with the vision of our school, we endeavour to assist our students in becoming lifelong learners who reflect the attitudes, authority, and actions of Christ. We are intentional in providing programs that develop students' knowledge, understanding, and character, in keeping with their developmental level, interests, and abilities.

Each student in Year 7 is provided with a laptop computer to assist them in their learning. The laptop remains the property of the school; however, it must be cared for by the student, and any loss or breakage will need to be covered by the student.

Bible and Christian Living is an important subject in our curriculum and is taught in addition to the compulsory learning areas taught in other schools.

In Year 7 and Year 8, students participate in a number of mandatory elective tasters of some of the electives offered in Year 9 and Year 10, where students are able to select electives of interest for the year.

Grace Christian School offers two pathways for Year 11 and Year 12 that cater to the diverse needs of our students. Both of these pathways are routes to university, study or employment.

- ATAR Pathway: Full-time study, with students studying ATAR subjects, e.g. Human Biology, Physics, and English to complete their WACE (Western Australian Certificate of Education) and potentially gain university entry.
- VET Pathway: Students attend school part-time, and the remainder of the week is filled with Workplace Learning and/or studies at an RTO (Registered Training Organisation). Students also aim to complete their WACE.

Students in Year 9 and Year 10 have career guidance each week, where they explore their interests and strengths, and consider potential careers to assist them in the selection of the appropriate pathway and subjects in Year 11 and Year 12.



ASSESSMENT AND REPORTING

School assessment is an integral part of the educational program, enabling teachers to measure student achievement, develop meaningful learning programs, identify areas where students may have difficulty and provide feedback to students on their progress.

Parents are provided with semester reports. However, your child's progress can be monitored through SEQTA Engage, details of which can be provided by the Administration staff. Parent Teacher Interviews are scheduled annually. Parents are also welcome to contact their child's subject teachers to discuss academic matters after school or alternatively through Direct Messages.

EXAMS

Students in Year 7 and Year 8 do not sit examinations. Examinations are introduced from Year 9. It is important that students learn the skill of sitting examinations, reviewing their work, and developing revision techniques in preparation for the demands of senior secondary school.



STUDENT LEADERSHIP

The Student Leadership program at Grace Christian School focusses on Jesus' example, and provides opportunities for students to develop the necessary skills and character to become people of positive influence in the spheres they serve in.

The various facets of our Leadership Program, and years of eligibility include:

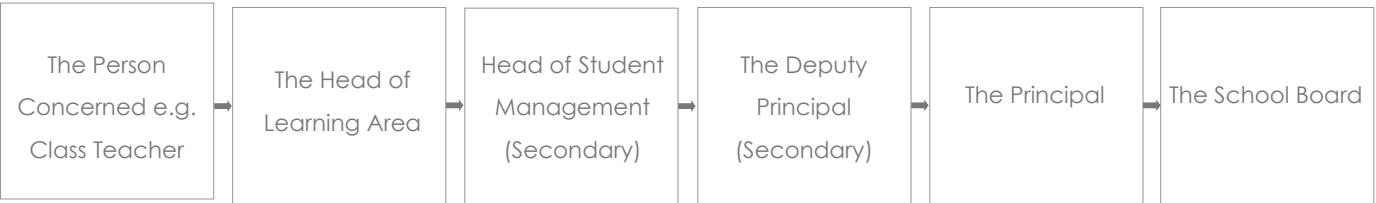
- Student Councillors (Final year of Primary)
- Library Monitors (Year 6 to Year 10)
- Canteen Service Team (Year 7 to Year 10)
- House Captains (Year 6 and Year 11 / 12)
- Grace Service Team (Year 8 to Year 11)
- Year 7 Mentors (Year 11)
- School Prefects (Year 12)

CONCERNS OR SUGGESTIONS

Grace Christian School values feedback from its community. Concerns will be received in a positive manner and people can expect concerns or suggestions to be managed in confidence, taken seriously, and followed up with sensitivity.

Concerns or suggestions can be made in writing, verbally, or in person. We encourage parents to speak directly with the person concerned where possible.

The recommended order of approach is as follows:



CAMPS

Students in Year 7, Year 9 and Year 11 participate in highly structured camps designed to grow and nurture young men and women at these pivotal stages in their lives.

All camps seek to provide an opportunity for our students to gain skills, to be challenged, encouraged in their faith and to foster healthy relationships with peers and teachers. Attendance at school camps is compulsory.

The Year 7 Camp focuses on students building relationships with peers and staff, while participating in activities that encourage team work, focus, effective communication and mutual support.

Year 10 students have the option of travelling to Canberra for a week long educational visit which compliments the HaSS and Science curriculum.



BEHAVIOURS AND EXPECTATIONS

A Christian worldview shapes the ethos of the School, underpins the content and purpose of learning, and defines relationships within the School community.

Our teachers emphasise mutual respect, cooperative learning and promote a positive self-image. The School, in partnership with parents, understands the importance of training students and developing Godly character.

Our Student Code of Conduct describes the behaviours expected of all our students regarding academic endeavour, treatment of others, care of resources and upholding the reputation of our School in the wider community.

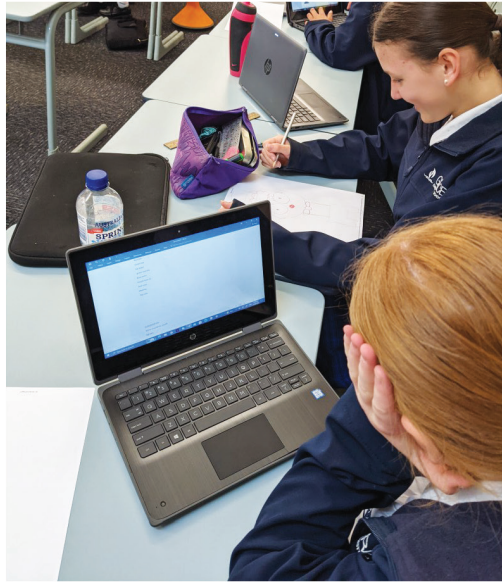
Behaviour is managed through the School's Discipline Policy. At every stage of student management is the hope that there will be a change of heart, ownership of words and actions, and the restoration of relationships.

Harassment, bullying, teasing, intimidation and other such power plays will not be tolerated at Grace Christian School. If your child feels they are a victim of such behaviour or a witness to such activities, they have a duty to report it to a prefect, a teacher, Head of Student Management (Secondary), Deputy Principal (Secondary) or to the Principal.

Students are expected to wear their uniforms correctly and with pride, as these identify them as valued members of our student body.

It is the responsibility of all our community members to ensure that we uphold a safe environment at school where students feel safe, look out for the wellbeing of others and report matters of concern.

We are committed to safe-guarding and promoting safety, welfare, and wellbeing of children and young people and expect all staff, volunteers and visitors to share this commitment. Students have the opportunity to raise concerns through our Students Complaints Process.



OUR MOTTO

"Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked,

Or stand in the way of sinners,

Or sit in the seat of mockers.

But his delight is in the law of the Lord,

And on His law he meditates day and night.

He is like a tree planted by streams of water,

Which yields its fruit in season,

And whose leaf does not wither.

Whatever he does prospers."

Psalm 1 : 1-3



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