



Information for Parents and Students

Georges River College Penshurst Girls Campus



Georges River College Penshurst Girls Campus

2 Austral Street
PENSURST NSW 2222
PO BOX 84 PENSURST NSW 2222

Phone: 9580 3141
Fax: 9580 6373
Email: penshurstg-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au
Website: <http://www.penshurstg-h.schools.nsw.edu.au/>

AWARDS

- **2015 Outstanding Contribution to Public School Education** - Excellence in Teaching Award.
- **2014 Outstanding Contribution to Public School Education** - Community Member Award.
- **2011 Cluster for Excellence in Middle Schooling.**
- **2009 Minister of Education acknowledges GRC Penshurst Girls Campus as a Turn Around School.**
- **2007 Director-General's Award for Excellence in Technology** - Transforming Teaching and Learning through the use of Information and Communication Technologies.
- **2006 NSW State P&C Principal's Award.**
- **2005 Director-General's School Achievement Award for 'Growing a Learning Community'** demonstrating excellent professional learning for teachers and excellence in quality teaching of adolescent girls.
- **2005 Australian College of Educators Norman Baker Award for Educational Achievement.**
- **2004 Director-General's School and TAFE NSW Administrative and Support Staff Recognition Award.**
- **2004 Federal Government Sport Achievement Award.**
- **2003 NSW Minister of Education Leadership Fellowship Award.**



**Welcome to
Georges River College
Penshurst Girls Campus**

**Principal:
Ms Noeline Ross**

Georges River College Penshurst Girls Campus is a school with a reputation for excellence in teaching and learning. We take pride in our quality learning environment. Our staff are passionate, talented, dedicated and experienced, providing students with the best learning opportunities inside and outside the classroom. Staff continually update their professional knowledge and expertise and that, in turn, supports excellence in student learning outcomes.

We cater for the individual learning needs of all our students. Gifted and Talented programs and learning strategies are integrated in all classes, as well as in our Selective Class in Year 7, and subject based GAT classes in Years 8 - 10. Our extensive Learning Support programs ensure all student needs are met so they can achieve their personal best. We are proud of our inclusive and caring culture, where every girl belongs and is supported to grow into the best person she can be.

We support all students through our innovative student well being programs so that students can concentrate on their academic performance. The school successfully enters many public competitions throughout the year, and students are encouraged to participate in all activities to develop their talents. Debating, Band, Dance and Drama, Sport, and nationwide academic competitions make sure that Penshurst students have the best all round education.

As a middle school 7 - 10, we make learning as relevant, engaging and challenging as possible. We have outstanding technology facilities, and technology is integrated across all subject areas.

Our SRC (Student Representative Council) provides strong leadership within the school, and advises the Principal on student issues. The school and community, through the P & C, work in partnership to respond to our school communities' needs. GRC Penshurst Girls Campus inspires young women to take their place alongside leaders in our society, and to aspire to the highest levels of achievement across all aspects of their lives.

I personally welcome your family and, most importantly, your daughter to our wonderful school.

Ms Noeline Ross, Principal

Table of Contents

Principal's Welcome	3
Introduction	5
Year Advisers	6
Specialist and Support Staff	7
Student Wellbeing	
Yr 7 Transition and Orientation Programs	8
Peer Support Program	9
Year 7 Camp	9
Peer Reading Tutor Program	10
Student Representative Council (SRC)	10
Merit Award System	11
General School Information	
School Hours	12
Travel to School	12
Term Dates	12
Canteen	12
Parents and Citizens Association	12
Requests for Interviews	12
School Map	13
School Contributions	14
Payments at School Administration Office	14
Student Assistance Scheme	15
School Uniform	15
Attendance, Absences and SMS System	17
Gate Passes and Extended Leave	18
Sick Students, Accidents and Medical Info	18
School Policies	
BYO Device	19
School Diary	19
Homework	20
Assessment and Reporting	21
Curriculum	
Key Learning Areas	22
Excursions	26
Library and Homework Centre	26
Technology and Computer Print Facilities	27
School History	29

Introduction

Georges River College Penshurst Girls Campus

Penshurst Girls Campus is a member of Georges River College. The College group has four campuses. There are three middle schools Years 7 – 10: Hurstville Boys Campus, Peakhurst Campus and Penshurst Girls Campus. Students transition to Oatley Senior Campus for Years 11 and 12. The College has adopted consistent expectations underpinned by the values of respect, responsibility and aiming for excellence.

Our Campus provides a comprehensive education for girls and has a proud tradition of meeting the needs of all students. We have high expectations of student achievement and excellent academic results.

Key features of the school are:

- Gifted and talented learning programs in all Key Learning Areas
- Gifted and talented classes are available in all years
- Innovative Pastoral Care programs
- A focus on Technology in Learning
- Creative and Performing Arts programs
- Student Leadership
- Environmental Education initiatives
- Merit Scheme
- Elite Sports program



VISION STATEMENT

We are a learning community committed to the development of resilient, independent and respectful girls who aim for excellence in all that they do. Our vision is to create a nurturing, collaborative and inclusive environment that prepares our girls to be responsible global citizens with the skills to succeed in the 21st Century.

Year Advisers

Georges River College Penshurst Girls Campus

The main role of the Year Adviser is to identify individual needs and provide support to students. Year Advisers strive to resolve student difficulties and to ensure the most appropriate outcomes for the students in their care are achieved. They encourage students to participate in a range of activities and develop their leadership skills.

The Year Advisers also organise a camp for their students (Year 7 only) and special performances and programs throughout the year.

Year Advisers are available for both parents and students if there is a welfare concern. Where possible the Year Advisers will remain with their students during Year 7 to Year 10 providing continuity of pastoral care for students.

Through the PDHPE faculty, students engage with such topics as conflict resolution, friendship and communication skills, leadership skills, anti bullying strategies, coping with emotional and physical changes, problem solving skills and increasing self esteem.

The Year Advisers are:



Year 7
Ms Rose Abas—Library



Year 8
Mrs Lisa Royall - Careers



Year 8
Ms Caroline Jessop - PD/H/PE



Year 9
Mr Phillip Carlon - HSIE



Year 9
Ms Stefanie Verchiani - Languages



Year 10
Mrs Metaxia Sender - English



Year 10
Ms Linda Meogrossi - English/ESL

Specialist and Support Staff

Deputy Principals support the Principal and are responsible for the efficient operation of the school from day to day. The Deputy's responsibilities include the organisation of the school, student learning and staff professional learning, student welfare and discipline.

Head Teachers are responsible for the planning, teaching and assessment of the course of study provided in the Key Learning Areas (KLAs). They place students in the appropriate classes and are responsible for teaching and learning in their subject areas. Head Teachers encourage professional development of their staff in order to improve the quality of teaching and learning programs. Head Teachers are available by appointment for discussions with parents and students.

Our **Librarian** provides support to students and staff in curriculum and technology areas. The Librarian is responsible for acquiring and maintaining Library resources to support the curriculum, assisting students in research and learning skills, and helps co-ordinate Literacy programs.

The **Learning Support Team** works closely with parents and school staff to ensure students individual learning needs are met. For a variety of reasons students may be referred to a **Learning and Support Teacher** to ensure they are achieving the best outcomes possible.

EAL/D Teacher (English as an Additional Language/Dialect) assists in the preparation and teaching of suitable material to develop the English competency of EAL/D students across as many Key Learning Areas as possible. Options for assistance are: team teaching (EAL/D and class teacher together); parallel classes (EAL/D teacher with separate class parallel to subject area); small group tutorials with self-access learning/support lessons (students report to EAL/D staff by appointment).

Careers Adviser is full-time and co-ordinates a program of Careers Education from Year 7 to Year 10, and provides a counselling service to individual students. Parents may also arrange interviews with the Careers Adviser.

School Counsellors visit the School each week. They deal with problems referred to them by the Principal, other members of staff, or through direct referral by a student.



Student Wellbeing



Head Teacher Welfare

At GRC Penshurst Girls Campus we have a strong culture and history of student welfare. Students are nurtured and supported to achieve their individual potential in a caring and positive learning environment. Our school is characterised by its caring and inclusive nature, an environment that encourages self evaluation and the achievement of quality work and quality relationships.

The Welfare Team at the school strive to put in place support networks for any student who is experiencing difficulties at school or outside school. The Welfare Team works hand in hand with the Learning Support Team to ensure both academic and social outcomes are met by all girls. GRC Penshurst Girls offers many opportunities for all young women at the school. Our Head Teacher Welfare has responsibility for the Welfare programs at the school including the Tutorial Program, Transition Programs, Peer Support, Peer Mediation and attendance monitoring.

Students with additional learning needs are supported by our dedicated Learning and Support Team. Our Learning Support Team also works with families and other stakeholders to design individualised and personalised learning plans for students to ensure they achieve their potential.

If any parent has a welfare concern about their daughter or feel events outside the school are impacting on their child's learning you should first try to contact your child's Year Adviser. However any parent for any reason can also contact the Head Teacher Welfare via the School Administration Office.

Year 7 Transition Programs

GRC Penshurst Girls Campus has many programs available to assist students adjust to the demands of entering the high school environment, both academically and socially. These initiatives aim to make the adjustment from Year 6 into Year 7 as smooth as possible for our students. These programs include:

- **Primary Links Program**

Our school runs an extensive Primary Links Program throughout the school year. This is a structured program for Year 6 that runs every Tuesday for the entire school year. Your daughter's Primary School works with our Primary Links Coordinator to enrol students in this transition program. Please contact Mrs Linda Harrison, Primary Links Coordinator, through the School Administration Office if you have any questions regarding this program.

- **Primary School Visits**

In Term 4 Year 7 Year Advisers and members of the school's executive and visit each primary school and inform students about GRC Penshurst Girls Campus and establish a warm and welcoming introduction to high school. Year 7 students answer Year 6's questions and show examples of their work.

- **Partners and Learners (PALS) Program**

This is a Transition Program for students who may need additional support when entering High School. Students identified by their Primary School visit GRC Penshurst Girls Campus in Term 4 for a structured Orientation Program.



Student Wellbeing



- **Year 7 Orientation Program**

The program is two days in duration and involves all Year 7 at the beginning of the school year. It is co-ordinated by the Head Teacher Welfare and the Year 7 Year Advisers.

The Orientation Program:

- assists students in their transition to high school
- encourages friendship and unity
- provides support and understanding of school routine
- develops skills in organisation

- **Peer Support Program**

Peer Support and positive peer influence are further developed through this program. Year 10 student leaders are trained to be group leaders and to work with a small number of Year 7 students. Their activities focus on self development, communication skills and leadership opportunities.

- **Year 7 Camp**

The purpose of the Camp is to provide students in Year 7 with the opportunity to develop friendship and unity as a group through a series of activities. The camp will take place during Term 1 Week 6 (Wednesday 8 March - Friday 10 March 2017) and is co-ordinated by the Head Teacher Welfare and the Year 7 Year Advisers.



This also involves the participation of the Peer Support Leaders, thus reinforcing the importance of positive older peer relationships and role modelling.

The Camp is a popular event in the school calendar and is a wonderful opportunity for Year 7 to bond as a year group. Our camp is held at 'The Tops' at Stanwell Tops, Wollongong.



'The Tops' is located one hour's drive south of Sydney and is situated on 200 acres of bushland overlooking the Illawarra's northern coastline.

Activities available include:

- High ropes
- Giant swings
- Abseiling
- Climbing
- Archery



Price includes all meals, accommodation, activities and travel by hired coach to and from the centre. The deposit is to be paid on Orientation Day if possible.

Parents can view a comprehensive explanation and photos of accommodation and activities by visiting the website www.thetops.com.au

Student Wellbeing

Peer Reading Tutor Program

There may be some Year 7 students whose reading skills are not as well developed as they need to be in order to maximise their learning opportunities in high school. In order to assist these students, volunteer Year 10 students undertake a training course in which they are taught various techniques and strategies that can be used to help Year 7 students improve their reading, spelling and comprehension skills. This program is overseen by our Learning & Support Teachers, ESL teacher and the Head Teacher Welfare.



Student Representative Council (SRC)

The Student Representative Council is the student leadership body of the school. The SRC is elected by the whole student body to represent students in all years. The SRC is responsible for various student activities, makes many recommendations for the school, and works hard to improve student participation in the school.

The Council meets regularly with the Principal and invited staff members to discuss issues raised by the students they represent, including improvements and changes.

The SRC is an important student leadership group. Each SRC member wears a badge of office and abides by the SRC Pledge.

SRC Elections for Years 8 - 10 are held towards the end of Term 4, while Year 7 students are elected at the end of Term 1 after they have settled in.



Student Wellbeing

Our Merit Award System

Our Merit Award System formally recognises students' efforts both in and outside the classroom, and encourages effort and achievement. The foundation of our Merit Award System is based upon fostering learners who are respectful, responsible and aim for excellence. The basic award is the Merit Award which can be built upon, allowing students to receive the Year Adviser's Award, the Principal's Bronze, Silver and Gold Awards.



10 Merit Awards	=	Year Adviser Award
3 Year Advisers Awards (30 Merit Awards)	=	Bronze Award
2 Bronze Awards (60 Merit Awards)	=	Silver Award
1 Bronze Award + 1 Silver Award (90 Merit Awards)	=	Gold Award
1 Bronze Award + 1 Gold Award (120 Merit Awards)	=	End of Year Celebration



Year assemblies provide a regular opportunity to recognise student achievements. The presentation of certificates for competitions, SRC activities, Peer Support and Peer Mediation training, or student success in academic, sporting or community activities take part during assembly.

Presentation Day, held in December, formally recognises student success in the academic, sporting and community arenas.

School Administrative Staff are located in the School Administration Office and are available to parents and students for general information on school activities. Requests for appointments to see the Principal or other members of staff should be made through the School Administration Office. Enquiries concerning student travel, payment of school contributions and lost property should also be directed to the School Administration Office.

General School Information



School Hours

A bell sounds at 8.30am so students can proceed to Roll Call/DEAR. A final bell then sounds at 8.35am each day and Roll Call commences. If students arrive at school after this time they report to the School Administration Office. School finishes at 3.00pm on Monday, Tuesday and Friday and 2.35pm on Wednesday and Thursday. There is also compulsory school sport on Wednesday afternoons. The normal school day is divided into 5 periods with recess after period 2 and lunch follows period 4.

Travel to School

Transport NSW have recently introduced the School Opal Card which provides eligible students with free or discounted travel between home and school. Students will receive a School Opal Card brochure and are required to apply online for their School Opal Card directly with NSW Transport. Students over 16 years of age can obtain a concession card for travel from the School Administration Office.

Term Dates for 2017

Term 1 - Tuesday 31/01/17 — Friday 07/04/17

(Monday 30/01/17 Year 7 only. All other years commence Tuesday 31/01/17)

Term 2 - Thursday 27/04/17 — Friday 30/06/17

Term 3 - Tuesday 17/07/17 — Friday 22/09/17

Term 4 - Monday 09/10/17 — Tuesday 19 /12/17

These are the dates students attend school.

Canteen

A privately run healthy canteen is available for the students. The canteen has been fully refurbished and provides a variety of nutritious food with changing menus.

Parents and Citizens Association

Our Parents and Citizens Association meets on the third Tuesday of each month in the Staff Common Room at 6.00pm.

Attendance at the P&C meetings provides an opportunity to meet other parents and to find out what is happening at the school, and communicate directly with the Principal about school life.

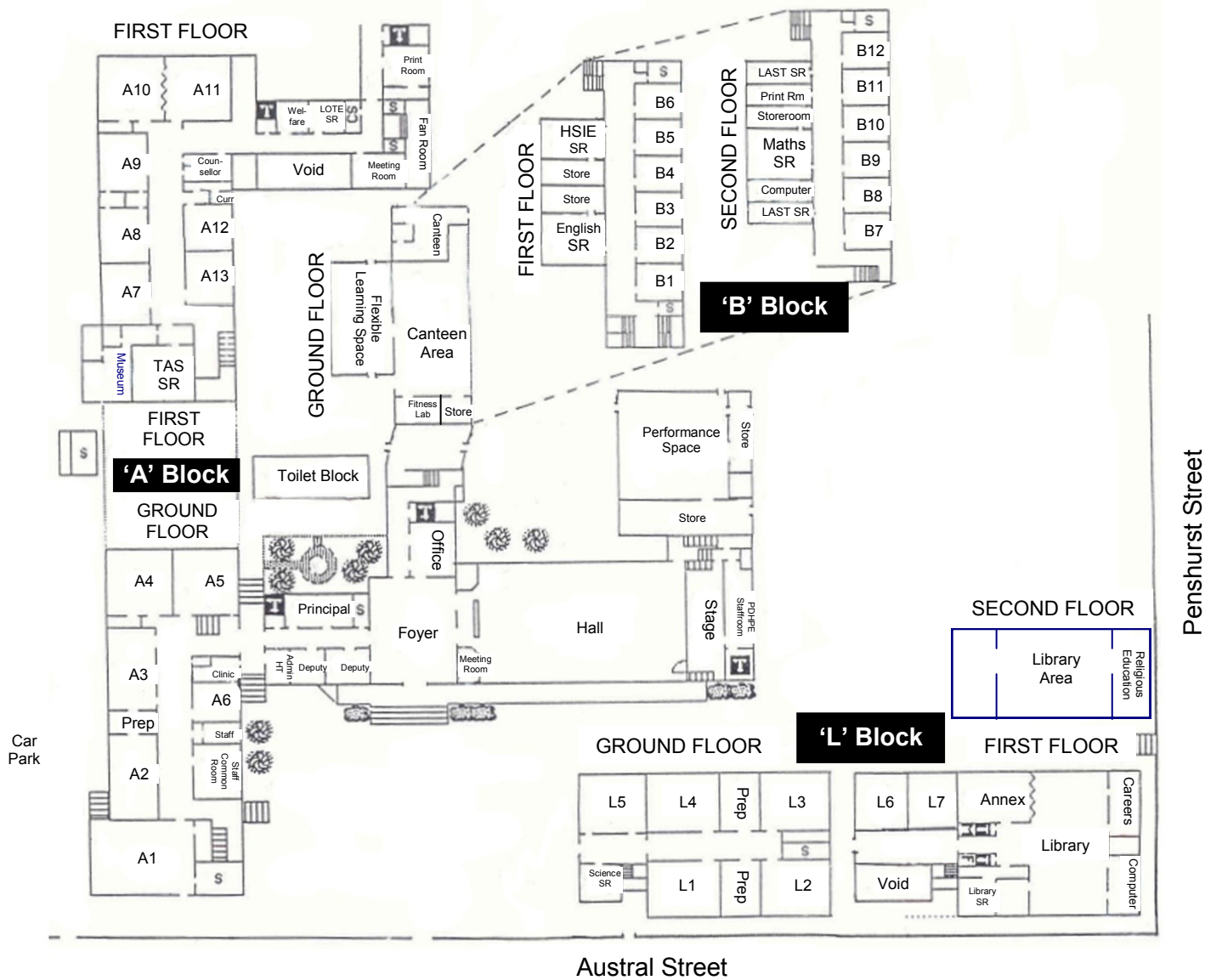
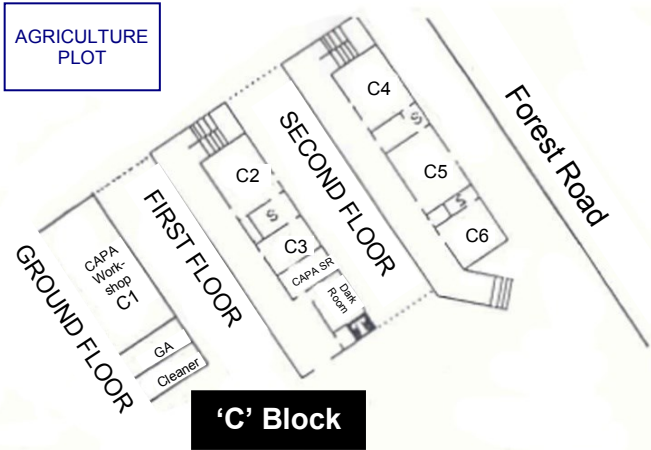
P&C volunteers run a Second-hand Uniform Shop in the school on the last Friday of each month from 7.45am to 8.20am. Dates are advertised on the school website and in the school calendar.

Requests for Interviews

The Principal and members of staff are happy to arrange personal interviews about matters affecting the welfare and progress of students. However, to ensure the appropriate person is available, please phone for an appointment before coming to the school.

General School Information

School Map



General School Information

School Contributions

Funds raised through the **General Contributions** are used for education resources and facilities in the school. **Subject Fees** are used to purchase specialist equipment and consumables. Payment of the General Contribution is voluntary. However, parents need to pay both the General Contribution and Subject Fees to assist the school in significantly enhancing the resources and educational experiences provided for the students.



The P & C approved an annual fee for **Information Technology Support**. This provides funding for quality and innovative learning experiences across all Key Learning Areas.

Additional costs such as excursions, sport, water safety program, and optional activities (eg. band and music tuition) will occur throughout the year.

The **P & C School Support** has allowed for many school initiatives including:

- Interactive Whiteboards for classrooms
- Technology trolleys for classrooms with data projector and laptop
- Screen for the Performance Space
- The refurbishment of the school Clinic
- Lockable security cages in PE change room
- Purchase of mini DVD video camera
- Funding support towards reading books for Literacy programs
- Honour Boards in the Hall and upgrading perpetual sporting shields
- Extension of "tracking" system in exhibition spaces such as the Hall and Foyer

Payments at School Administration Office

School Administration Office hours are 8.15am – 3.15pm.

Students can make payments of fees and excursions by cash, cheque or EFTPOS before school, at recess and at lunch. In addition the school provides a convenient and easy to use online payment portal on our website for credit card payments. If paying at the School Administration Office before school please try to bring correct money as no cash is kept overnight on the premises. Receipts can be issued for all money received. Parents can make payments by cash, cheque, EFTPOS or credit card at any time during office hours.



Last date for payment of excursions is set by the teacher organising the excursions. A minimum of two weeks' notice is usually given for payment – longer for camps. Unfortunately, late payments cannot be accepted except in *exceptional* circumstances. Please try to pay early to avoid disappointment.

General School Information



Student Assistance Scheme is available to help families who may be experiencing financial hardship. The assistance may be for items such as uniform, elective subject fees or excursions. Applications for assistance under this scheme should be made in writing to the Principal.

School Uniform

GRC Penshurst Girls Campus is a uniform school. All students must wear the correct school uniform at all times. We ask that parents support the school in ensuring their daughters come to school in the correct school uniform every day. The school uniform can be purchased from Lowes at Hurstville and Roselands.

Students coming to school out of uniform must have a note signed by a parent/caregiver specifying the reason. This must be given to the Roll Call/DEAR teacher who will issue a blue **Uniform Pass**. This pass should be shown to any teacher who queries a student's incorrect uniform during the day.

A breach of the uniform code will result in either one or a combination of the following:

- a recording of out of uniform
- a detention for disobedience

Students can choose a combination of blouse with either skirt or pants with a jumper or blazer on cooler days.

Students may choose, due to religious reasons, to wear blue pants, a long sleeved blue school blouse, and a matching plain blue scarf.

A school backpack has been designed to transport equipment safely to and from school and is compulsory. The school backpack is compulsory. The P&C runs a Second-hand Uniform Shop that operates through the school on the last Friday of each month (not in school holidays). It is run by P&C volunteers from 7.45am to 8.20am and carries limited stock of items that have been donated.

Students are expected to wear footwear which meets the Department of Education's safety guidelines.

Correct sports uniform (available from Lowes Hurstville and Roselands) is **compulsory every Wednesday** and for students to get changed into for practical PD/H/PE periods on other days and consists of:

- Sky coolmesh polo with GRC logo in short sleeve OR long sleeve for sun safety or cultural preference
- Navy microfibre sports shorts with GRC logo OR trackpants with GRC logo
- Optional - navy microfibre trackjacket with GRC logo
- Optional - navy paneled cap.

See over for examples of what is acceptable and not acceptable.

SPORT SHOES



*Supportive leather lace-ups white
Acceptable*



NOT Acceptable



*Dunlop Volley
NOT Acceptable*

SPORT UNIFORM



*Navy microfibre shorts with emblem OR
Navy microfibre trackpants with emblem
Acceptable*



*Shorts folded or rolled up
NOT Acceptable*



*Tights, bike pants or oztag
shorts
NOT Acceptable*

SCHOOL SHOES



*Covered leather upper
Acceptable*



*Mary Jane
NOT Acceptable*



*Ballet Style
NOT Acceptable*



*Fabric Shoes
NOT Acceptable
for school or sport*

General School Information

Attendance

Each day the roll is marked electronically at DEAR/Roll Call. If students are not present they will be marked as absent for the day. Teachers also mark their class roll electronically each period, comparing this against the daily absentee notice issued to staff, thus allowing for identification of unexplained absences.

Absences

Parents/Caregivers of students with an unexplained absence will receive an SMS mid morning on the day of the absence requesting an explanation. Parents/Caregivers are encouraged to reply immediately to that absence notification in order for student records to be updated. All absences must be explained within 10 days as per departmental policy.

Late Arrival

School commences at 8.35am each day. A warning bell sounds at 8.30am and students should proceed to class.

If a student is late to school she should report to the School Administration Office to obtain a late note with a note explaining her late arrival. Arriving late continuously without a note will result in disciplinary action or an after school detention. These are held on Thursdays in Room A6 between 2.35pm and 3.10pm.

Parents/Caregivers of students with an unexplained late arrival will receive an SMS mid morning on the day of the late arrival requesting an explanation. Parents/caregivers are encouraged to reply immediately to that notification in order for student records to be updated. All late arrivals must be explained within 10 days as per departmental policy.

Students should arrive to class on time. If there is a reason for lateness to class, a note from the teacher detaining you should be obtained and presented to the teacher of your next class. If students need to finish a task prior to their next lesson, permission should be sought from their next teacher before completion of the task.



General School Information



Gate Passes

Students need a gate pass to leave school early. Students must bring a note stating the reason and time of departure. This note is to be taken to the Deputy Principal or Head Teacher Administration **before school**. Students should collect their gate pass from the School Administration Office during recess or lunch. If a student is to be collected during recess, lunch or sport please allow additional waiting time as locating the student can often be more time consuming. Wherever possible, appointments should be made outside school hours.

Extended Periods of Leave

Extended leave of more than 4 days must be applied for and approved by the Principal. The necessary form can be obtained and returned to the School Administration Office. Leave may be granted to cover absence from the school's educational program for short periods, providing the reason for absence is substantial and progress will not be unduly affected or jeopardise eligibility for the RoSA. This leave must be applied for in advance.

Students should notify each of their teachers and ask if there are any assessments which should be done prior to the leave. Also they should arrange a buddy for each subject to keep notes for them.

Sick Students

If a student is ill at school, she should obtain a note from her teacher and report to the School Administration Office where her condition will be assessed.

- The student will be sent to Sick Bay where her condition will be assessed. A video camera monitors students in the Sick Bay from the School Administration Office.
- If a student is too ill to continue the school day, parents will be telephoned and arrangements made for her to be collected. If parents cannot be contacted, School Administration Office staff will refer to the emergency contact person on the student's file.

Accidents at school

Where an accident has occurred, first aid will be administered and, if possible, the student will return to class. If not, parents will be contacted. If necessary, an accident form will be supplied to be completed and returned to the Deputy Principal. Any first aid supplies that are loaned to students should be returned the next day of attendance at school.

Medication is not available from school personnel. Students need to be responsible for their own medication. Students who need an asthma inhaler are reminded to carry their inhaler at all times. There is a spare inhaler in the School Administration Office if required.

Medical Conditions

It is the responsibility of the parent/caregiver to inform the school in writing of any special medical conditions affecting their daughter.

School Policies

School Policies

GRC Penshurst Girls Campus has a range of school policies that are available on the school website:

www.penshurstg-h.schools.nsw.edu.au/our-school/rules-policies/school-policies or from the school.

The School Policies are:

- Mobile Phone
- School Uniform
- Anti-Bullying
- Discipline
- Welfare
- Enrolment
- Gifted and Talented
- iPods and Portable Devices
- Attendance and Late

Bring Your Own Device (BYOD)

All students at GRC Penshurst Girls Campus are expected to bring a tablet or laptop to school to enhance and support their learning. In 2016/2017 the school's preferred device for Year 7 and Year 8 is an iPad.

For device specifications for Years 9 and 10, please see the school website:

<http://www.penshurstg-h.schools.nsw.edu.au/curriculum-activities/technology/byod-bring-your-own-device>

Parents will need to sign a user agreement prior to students bringing their device. This process and information will be given to students at the start of the school year.

Care of Personal Property

Students are responsible for the care of their own property, which should be clearly labelled with their name. This applies to all their equipment and items of clothing. Staff will return labelled lost items to the owner. Lost property can generally be collected from the Print Room.

Reminder: Wallets and mobile phones should not be left in unattended bags.

School Diary

To assist our students to manage their time and organise themselves effectively a School Diary is provided for each student. The diary should be carried at all times in school and used to record information such as homework, assessment due dates, excursions, exams, interviews with teachers and personal commitments.



School Policies

Homework

We want every child to reach their potential academically. It is important that schools and parents work together to help their children achieve. Success for students involves working in class and following up at home with homework and study. Learning to manage homework and develop effective study techniques are very important skills for high school students. Parents can help their children in a number of ways:

- Be interested in the homework and assignments your child is given

Teachers give assignments to make sure that all necessary knowledge and skills are being developed in your child. Homework is also a way of helping your child to learn:

- responsibility
- independence
- confidence
- organisational skills
- problem-solving techniques
- how to keep working when it is tough or long
- the pleasure of achievement

- Make sure your child has a proper study area

This area should be a quiet well-lit place where your child can concentrate without being disturbed by television or other family members. This work area should have the necessary materials eg. pens, pencils, tape, glue, scrap paper, dictionary, computer, printer, calculator, calendar, study planner etc.

- Make sure that the homework is done on time

Homework needs to be fitted in with other activities in the home. Your child needs to organise their time so that homework is ready by the date it is due. Remember it is unfair to expect children to do their homework late at night when they are most tired. If they have to help the family, time should be set aside either in the morning or soon after school.

- Children should do their homework by themselves (independently)

Children should be told that they are expected to do homework on their own. If your child has difficulty starting you could read the instructions together and encourage her to work out what is required. Usually this would have been explained by the teacher during class. If the work is a big assignment remind your daughter that it can be broken down into a number of smaller tasks. Start working on the first task together. Praise the result and encourage your child to go on with the rest of the work.

- Motivate children to do their best work

Praise your child's efforts. Tell them what you like about their work. This can range from a comment about the presentation of their work (neatness, etc), or how interesting it is, how organised they are becoming or how they have improved.

- If your child says that they have no homework

It is school policy that homework should be given on a regular basis in each subject and that it should be checked by the teacher. You will be notified in writing if your child is not completing homework tasks. If they do not have set homework encourage your child to read over their latest work or revise earlier work.



School Policies

Homework (con't)

- Homework and study

Homework: set tasks and assignments that must be completed so that the objectives of the courses are fulfilled.

Study: revision of work and extension of knowledge and skills. Study is usually done after homework is completed. It may be that there will not be time to study each day but they should aim to have at least one study session per week. Students should have started to study approximately two weeks before examinations begin. Study can include:

- going to libraries for wider reading
- reading over lesson notes, handouts and parts of textbooks
- practising skills they have been taught
- thinking about what they are learning and why it is important

- Examination Times

Your child may experience some anxiety around examination time. This anxiety can motivate your child to continue with homework and study. If your child becomes so anxious that they give up doing work or cannot sleep you should contact the school as teachers, students and parents need to work together to overcome this. Encourage your child to develop a study timetable to help plan revision and homework.

- What if a family commitment prevents a child doing homework?

Please write a brief note and sign it. Tell your child to show it to the teacher. Remind your child to catch up the missed work quickly. Our staff look forward to working with parents as important partners in the education of their children.

Assessment and Reporting

An outcomes approach to assessment and reporting provides information on individual student achievement and progress.

All years receive Semester 1 and Semester 2 reports which include:

- A grade (A, B, C, D or E),
- A personal profile based on students ability to complete set work, demonstrate organisational ability, work co-operatively with others and accept responsibility for their own learning.
- A teacher comment identifying strengths and successes and where improvement could be achieved.

Parent/Teacher Nights are held toward the end of Semester 1, but parents should feel free to contact the school at any time to discuss their daughter's progress.



Curriculum

GRC Penshurst Girls Campus is focused on providing an excellent teaching and learning environment for students. All staff are experienced and continuously update their knowledge of teaching and learning. Staff attend many professional courses during the year that have a direct impact on their teaching practice. This means that individual student learning needs are identified and supported.

Year 7 students have the opportunity to sit a selective class test for entry to the Year 7 Gifted and Talented Class. This takes place in Term 3 at GRC Penshurst Girls Campus. The other classes are formed as ungraded classes based on information supplied by feeder schools. From Year 8 onwards, students from all classes are again identified for a range of talented classes in individual subject areas.



English

The English faculty welcomes all new students and hope your time at Penshurst is a rewarding, creative and worthwhile experience.

In English, students will find interesting and stimulating texts and text types which will develop writing and thinking skills. We offer students novels, articles, plays, film and poems to challenge them. The English faculty also has a wide variety of visual texts which form part of the coursework. Through dealing with the above, students will develop important skills in reading, writing, speaking, listening, viewing and representing. Students will be encouraged to participate in English, Spelling and Writing competitions, debating and public speaking.



Mathematics

Year 7 students revise and learn the basics and move onto the abstract concepts such as algebra and the mathematics notation required for high school Mathematics. The students also learn the Mathematical techniques, skills and strategies required to solve everyday maths problems. Year 7 make use of technology using their iPads and a variety of applications. In Year 7 teachers have integrated the iPads into their teaching and learning programs. Major topic areas are those from the NSW Syllabus for the Australian curriculum: Number, Algebra, Measurement, Geometry, Statistics and Probability.



All students are enrolled in HOT Maths as it is used as part of the teaching resources. Homework is set from the current topics in class. The students enjoy the instant feedback and the maths tutorials online.

Problem Solving is catered for by practical hands-on activities as well as students being taught appropriate problem solving strategies. Each year in Term 2 or 3, Year 7 students participate in a Maths Day, which involves different Maths activities including the World of Maths (practical hands-on maths problems incursion).

There is a strong emphasis on understanding mathematical concepts, being organised and completing set topic work. Students are encouraged to discuss, reason and reflect through investigations in group work activities focusing on working mathematically. Students are also given the opportunity to challenge their Maths knowledge and ability by competing in the Australian Maths Competition and the International Competitions and Assessment for Schools (ICAS) in Term 3.

Curriculum



Science

In Year 7 students develop skills to perform their own investigations in the laboratory. Emphasis is on safe handling of chemicals and work practices. Students can enjoy the hands on aspects of this course while learning about scientific concepts. They also gain practical skills on a wide variety of scientific equipment such as microscopes and Bunsen burners. Units of study cover all aspects of Science – The Living World, The Chemical World, The Physical World and Earth and Space. ICT AND scientific literacy are important focus areas. Students also develop skills of observation, inference, analysing and interpreting as well as communication skills including a range of recording methods including data-loggers. Students are introduced to laboratory work and then the Water Cycle in the Water Planet topic. A visit to Taronga Zoo is the focus for learning about living things in The Living World Topic. Students also take a close look at how body systems work and present their findings to the class. The fun of Physics is explored when we study The Science of Toys. Year 7 concludes with an explorative study of the surface of our planet and the rock cycle in the topic The Changing Face of OZ.



Human Society and Its Environment (HSIE)

Year 7 students learn about Human Society and Its Environment through understanding Geography, History, Civics and Citizenship.

Geography – the study of Geography prepares students for life by developing an informed perspective about the world around them. Year 7 focuses on global environments.

History – Year 7 History is designed to provide students with an understanding of ancient civilisations and their legacy.

Civics and Citizenship – is an integral part of both courses. Students consider how we govern ourselves and what role they can play as active citizens in a democracy.



Languages

At GRC Penshurst Girls Campus we offer Italian, Japanese and Chinese in Year 8 for the 100 mandatory hours of language learning. At the end of Year 7 students can choose which language they would like to study as their language elective for Year 8.

The study of languages benefits students by providing learning skills which also enhances their English literacy development.

Technology and Applied Studies (TAS)

Students learn how to design and produce solutions to various design briefs using a variety of tools and materials. Students document the process of designing their solutions in a design portfolio. Course work is enhanced with an excursion to Luna Park in Year 7 and a related design assessment task.

- In the area of Promotional Design students create Multimedia advertisements based on healthy eating at the canteen.
- In the area of Fashion Design students create boxer shorts and design a swing tag and product care label.
- In the area of Industrial Design students create a clock for a specific environment.

In the computer labs, students learn computer skills such as word processing, spread sheets, databases, and desktop publishing that can be applied to all subject areas.



Curriculum

Technology and Applied Studies (TAS) (con't)

Year 8 builds on the experiences of Year 7 using different areas of study and design specialisations. The briefs given to the students offer more choice in their selection of solution, allowing for individual expression and further skill development.

Years 9 and 10 start the process of specialisation. The Electives offered are:

- Food Technology
- Textiles Technology
- Design and Technology
- Information and Software Technology
- Industrial Technology - Multimedia
- Agricultural Technology

Creative and Performing Arts (CAPA)

The CAPA Faculty offers students in Year 7 a variety of experiences in the creative and performing arts. In regard to subjects timetabled for Year 7 students, Music and Visual Arts are offered twice or three times per fortnightly cycle.

While studying **Visual Arts**, students are given an introduction to the major concepts, language and a variety of media and expressive forms in art today. Students follow an integrated practical program which involves the study of artists and their work and the process involved in artmaking. Students have the opportunity to explore drawing, painting, basic ceramics, sculpture, printmaking and basic photographic and digital media platforms including both traditional and digital methods.

In **Music**, students are introduced to the concepts of music through the development of practical skills in guitar, keyboards, drums, bass and vocal technique. While students learn some musical theory, this is always connected to their practical work. In addition students learn how to compose music using 21st century technology and are exposed to a broad range of listening experiences in class.

Extra-Curricular Activities

The Music Tutorial Program

Music tutorials, for voice and instruments, are organised in order to provide an opportunity for students to extend their learning. A 'Meet the Music Tutors' Night is provided in Week 2 of Term 1 so that parents can meet the music tutors and sign up for lessons.

Hire and Instrument

In order to assist students to either continue or start studying an instrument, we have a number of instruments available to rent. These instruments are available at a very reasonable rate.

Performance Groups

These groups provide students with an opportunity to be involved in activities that are designed to extend their talents.

Dance Ensemble—Students are able to audition for this ensemble early in Term 1. Our Dance ensemble will be competing throughout 2017 and will be involved with performance opportunities both inside and outside the school.

Drama Club—Are you interested in Acting and Performing? Why not join the Drama Club and get involved in pursuing your talents further

GRC Band Program—Both our Stage and Concert Bands have performed at the Sydney Opera House, various band festivals and events around Sydney and Inter-State. The Band program draws from all of our GRC campuses. Entry to the band program is by audition and students who show talent in playing a band instrument are encouraged to join one or both of the College Bands.



Curriculum



Creative and Performing Arts (CAPA) (con't)

Vocal Group—Our GRC Penshurst Girls Vocal Group has performed at the Sydney Town Hall with the Arts Unit Combined Choir and at the Schools Spectacular on numerous occasions as well as at key school and local events. If you enjoy singing then sign up.

String Ensemble—Our brand new string ensemble allows students at various levels of ability to play and perform together.

Other Performance Groups—School Jazz Band, Guitar Club, Drummers Group and the Rock Band.

Personal Development, Health and Physical Education (PD/H/PE)

PD/H/PE is a compulsory subject and sport is a Department of Education compulsory requirement. Students with a valid reason for not participating in practical lessons on occasions must bring a note to their PD/H/PE teacher. For reasons of hygiene, students must change into PE uniform for both practical PD/H/PE and sport. PD/H/PE is concerned with the development of the whole person and the improvement of quality of life. In Year 7 students are able to experience a wide range of both practical and theory areas of study. These include:

Practical

- Invasion games eg: hockey and touch football
- Athletics
- Fundamental movement skills
- Global dance
- Fitness
- Net/Court games eg volleyball, striking/fielding games eg cricket
- Healthy me—developing a healthy lifestyle and sense of self

Theory

- Our body: Puberty
- Smoking - Don't be a sucker
- Keeping myself safe

PD/H/PE is concerned with developing knowledge and skills, and fostering the attitudes that will empower students to adopt healthy lifestyles.

Sport is compulsory during Years 7 to 10. Sport is held on Wednesday afternoon, and includes recreational and grade sport. **Gifted and Talented students in sport from Year 7 will be given an opportunity to trial for the Year 8 grade sport teams.**

Year 7 sport on Wednesday afternoon will comprise of a specific program where students will rotate every five weeks through a number of traditional sports as well as swimming and gymnastics. Students are taught the basic foundations and fundamentals of team sports, including basketball, volleyball, hockey, netball, OzTag/touch and soccer. The following content is included:

- Interpersonal relationships
- Movement sense and skill
- Influences of skill development
- Competence in specialised movement skills
- Locomotion/non-locomotion
- Object manipulation and control
- Practice, feedback and training
- Participation in physical activity
- Accessing physical fitness
- Goal setting
- Rules, leadership, basic team sport
- Competitive but friendly spirit

Curriculum

Personal Development, Health and Physical Education (PD/H/PE) (con't)

With these basic skills Year 7 students are able to take part in Gala Day and knockout teams, confident they know the rules to participate fairly. There are three sport carnivals held each year: Swimming, Cross Country and Athletics. Students gaining success at these carnivals may have the opportunity to compete at Zone, Area and State level.



Special Religious Education (SRE)

SRE is offered at GRC Penshurst Girls Campus by Penshurst Combined Churches Christian Education Board Inc, a multi denominational group supported by local Anglican, Baptist, Presbyterian, Uniting and Australian Christian Churches.

Students learn about Christian beliefs, and what these mean in their lives. Students not wishing to take part in SRE lessons must have a note from their parents requesting exemption. These students are supervised and undertake private study.

Excursions

Many excursions are planned throughout the year. To attend, students need to return their Permission Notes and money on time. On most excursions the wearing of school uniform is compulsory and students should present a good image of the school. Some Student Assistance is available through the Principal if families cannot afford an excursion which is relevant to the mandatory curriculum.

Year 7 students usually attend –

- Luna Park as part of their studies in Design and Technology
- Taronga Zoo in conjunction with their Science studies

As part of the Welfare Program various activities are represented by guest speakers performers and motivational multimedia presentations for all years.

The cost for these activities will vary depending on transport fares, entry costs to the events etc.

Library

The Library at GRC Penshurst Girls Campus is open to students from 8.15am to 3.00pm daily including recess and lunch.

Homework Centre

The Library has a Homework Centre every Monday and Tuesday from 3.00pm to 4.00pm supervised by two teachers, including a Maths Teacher. Students can access all Internet and computer facilities, the library collection and have access to tutorial help with research topics. Apart from housing an up-to-date fiction collection, the Library provides an extensive non-fiction collection. Computer facilities include 30 networked computers, all with Internet facilities, with access to a colour laser printer.



Curriculum



Library (con't)

Enquiry terminals provide students with access to the Library collection. All students require a Library Photo ID Card (\$6.00) which is necessary for borrowing and provides access to the Library's colour photocopier and the school's print facilities. Year 7 students will have their photos taken for their cards during the Orientation days at the commencement of Term 1 and cards will be issued within the first three weeks of term.

The photo ID card provides:

- proof of age and identify for use outside school eg. public transport
- library barcode and proof of identity for Library Staff
- access to the student photocopier and
- access to the computer network

It is essential that students have their Library Card with them at all times, otherwise some services may be denied. If a student loses her card she should report this to the Librarian as soon as possible and arrangements will be made for a new card (\$6.00 replacement fee payable at the School Administration Office).

New students will be given a copy of the Library Contract which outlines student (and parent) responsibilities towards Library material, and the school's Internet Policy. Both these documents should be signed by students and parents and returned to the Librarian. Classes will visit the Library regularly for research periods associated with all subjects. In addition students will take part in literacy programs such as the Premier's Reading Challenge and MS Readathon.

The Library has a colour photocopier for use by students and staff. Students have access to the copier only by their Library Photo ID Card, similar to those used in university and municipal libraries. These cards have a facility allowing students to add credit to their card. Copy costs are deducted automatically as the student uses the photocopier. Photocopying for black and white costs 10c per page and colour at 50c per page.



Technology

At GRC Penshurst Girls we are fortunate to have an extensive computer network. Students use computers in all subjects in their learning to:

- access the internet for research
- create presentations
- publish documents
- analyse statistical data
- create movies and video clips

Computer Network Print Facilities

Students are able to print documents in black and white or colour at school. Students have a photocopy/printing account which is accessed via the student's Library Photo ID Card. Students are given a quota each semester which they must manage. This year the quota is \$10.00 per semester. Black and white printing is charged at 10c per page and colour at 50c per page. This system encourages students to print only what they really need, helping them to become selective in the information they use, and assisting to reduce paper wastage.

Providing this facility for students at the school is expensive. We therefore charge an Information Technology Support Levy to help cover paper and consumable costs.

Once the student's quota is used, credit can be purchased from the School Administration Office.



School History



- 1917 - School began as Hurstville School of Household Arts and was part of Hurstville Primary School.
- 1923 - Renamed Hurstville Girls' School.
- 1935 - School separated from the Primary School and became Hurstville Central Domestic Science School.
- 1935 - Block of land procured to build new school.
- 1939 - War broke out, all plans for new school shelved.
- 1950 - Foundation Stone laid.
- 1954 - Building work completed.
- 1955 - School Official Opening and first students.
- 2000 - NSW Government buys educational site at Oatley from University of NSW. Department of Education establishes Georges River College consisting of four campuses - Hurstville Boys, Peakhurst High, Penshurst Girls and Oatley Senior Campus.
- 2001 - Last year of Year 12 students at Penshurst Girls.
- 2005 - 50th Anniversary celebrations.
- 2010 - Refurbishing of school buildings back to Retro-vintage style of 1950s.
- 2011 - The School Museum was conceived.
- 2012 - The first Australian female Prime Minister visits GRC Penshurst Girls Campus on International Women's Day.
- 2013 - The School Museum Flat officially opened.
- 2015 - The first Australian female Foreign Minister visits GRC Penshurst Girls Campus.
- 2015 - 60th Anniversary celebrations.

