

SEVEN HILLS HIGH SCHOOL

A VOCATIONAL EDUCATION PATHWAYS SCHOOL

News



**OCTOBER
2023**

UPCOMING EVENTS

OCTOBER

Monday 9 October: First Day of Term 4
Tuesday 10 October: World Mental Health Day
Wednesday 11 October: P&C Meeting
Monday 16 - Friday 27 October: Years 9 and 10 Examinations
Thursday 19 October: Kari GWS Mentoring
Monday 23 October - Friday 3 November: Years 7 and 8 Examinations
Friday 27 October: World Teacher Day

NOVEMBER

Tuesday 2 November: Kari GWS Mentoring
Wednesday 8 November: Nirimba Collegiate Year 12 Formal
Friday 10 November: Year 7 Vaccinations (2nd dose HPV)
Wednesday 15 November: P&C Meeting
Thursday 16 November: Kari GWS Mentoring Program
Tuesday 21 November: Year 11, 2024 Orientation/Senior Preparation Day

Stay in touch



Follow us on Facebook!
facebook.com/SevenHillsHS/

Contact Details

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Phone: 02 9624 3329

Email: sevenhills-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au | Website: sevenhills-h.schools.nsw.gov.au

A FAREWELL MESSAGE

Mr Greg Johnstone -Principal

Dear students, parents and carers,

This short note is to let you know that I have retired as Principal of Seven Hills High School.

It has been an honour to serve our community.

The past 14 years have seen many positive changes to the learning environment within the school, these have been achieved through the efforts of the staff. The energy they put into craft, and the dedication they have shown to the students has always been a source of pride for me as Principal.



I have been very fortunate to lead a school with such a supportive community of parents and carers and I would like to thank you for your efforts in championing the school, supporting the staff and the students through your attendance at school and community events, and the messages of appreciation sent to staff over the years.

Our school has always had an active Parents and Citizens Association. Thank you, to the current and former executive and members of the school's P&C, not only for the wonderful work you do for the school, but for the positive manner with which you have worked with me throughout my time at the school.

To the students, the greatest satisfaction I gained from being a Principal, was the daily interaction with you, watching you mature whilst at school and hearing wonderful stories of you achieving success in life. That is one thing I will definitely miss in retirement.

I am very proud of what we, as a school, have achieved during my time here and I will look on with great interest at the accomplishments of both staff and students in the times ahead.

All the best for the future.

Greg Johnstone

MOBILE PHONE *POLICY*

To align our policy with the NSW Government initiative to ban mobile phone use in schools, from the beginning of Term 4, **we will be making our school a phone-free space to improve teaching and learning.** To assist in the implementation of this initiative, we will be using a system called Yondr.

Yondr has been implemented in over 1,000 schools across 21 countries to facilitate an engaging learning environment and has substantially improved learning and wellbeing outcomes for students.

The Yondr Program utilises a simple, secure pouch that stores a phone. Every student will secure their phone in a personally assigned Yondr pouch when they arrive at school. Students will maintain possession of their phones and will not be permitted to use them until their pouches are opened at the end of the school day. Students will be required to bring their Yondr pouch to and from school each day and will be responsible for them at all times.

Loss, damage, or destruction of the pouch will result in a replacement pouch that will incur a cost of \$20.

We understand that from time to time it may be necessary for students to access their phones for medical, learning or wellbeing purposes throughout the day. This will be negotiated with and supervised by the Principal or Deputy Principals with students and their families.

We believe that phones have great utility. We have also found that learning and social behaviour improve dramatically when students are fully engaged with their teachers and classmates.

Yondr recently surveyed over 1200 school partners to measure the effects of creating phone-free educational environments. These schools achieved notable progress in multiple areas:

- **84% saw a change in student engagement.**
- **72% saw a positive change in student behaviour.**
- **68% saw a positive change in academic performance.**

Our Mobile Phone Policy can be viewed on our website: <https://bit.ly/3ZoPbuB>
If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the school directly on 9624 3329.

In an effort to best serve your child, we appreciate your full support in adoption of the Yondr Program.

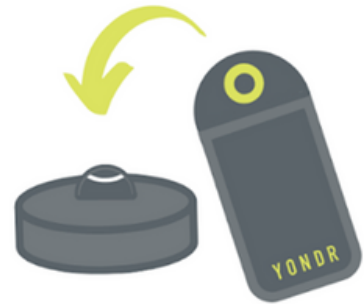
MOBILE PHONE *POLICY*



As students enter school, they place their phone in their assigned Yondr Pouch.



Students close and secure their Pouch, keeping it on them throughout the day.



When leaving school, students tap their Pouch on a Base to retrieve their phone.

Frequently Asked Questions

What if I want to reach my child during the school day?

We want our students to be engaged in their learning. If you need to contact your child during the day, call the school office on 9624 3329 and the information will be passed on.

What if there is a school emergency?

In the case of a school emergency, we direct our students to safety first, following our school emergency response protocols.

Will my child's mobile phone be safe?

The policy states phones will be locked in Yondr pouches and stored in their bag. Phones will remain the responsibility of students.

What if the Yondr pouch gets damaged or lost?

The Yondr pouch, whilst allocated to students, remains the property of Seven Hills High School. The pouches are not easily broken; however, they are not indestructible. Students that lose or damage a pouch will be allocated a new one at a replacement cost of \$20.

Note: Damage consists of any signs that the physical integrity of the pouch has been compromised, whether intentional or unintentional, as determined by the school or Yondr staff.

What if my child uses their mobile phone during school time?

Students that use their mobile during the day are in breach of the policy. They will be referred to their Deputy Principal and the phone will be confiscated for the remainder of the day.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR *ACTIVITIES*



Homework Centre

Our Homework Centre provides students with the opportunity to complete homework and assessments, while utilising library resources and teacher support. If your child would like to attend, please complete, and return the permission note.

Tuesday and Wednesday | School Library | 3:03pm - 4:00pm



Games Club

Games Club builds problem solving, critical thinking skills and teamwork. Players must work together to overcome obstacles and failure, which helps to develop determination and perseverance. It is a great opportunity for students to come together in a fun environment.

Thursday Week A | LAB 3 | 3:03pm - 4:20pm



Reading Cafe

Our Reading Cafe is a social club where we read and discuss books over a milo. It is a great way to motivate students to read, encourage them to talk about books, and share their ideas and perspectives.

Tuesday | School Library | Lunch Time



After School Dance Company

Participating in After School Dance Company will help build strength, stamina, and flexibility, while also encouraging good posture and body awareness. Students learn to dance while working towards our CAPA Showcase performance.

Styles offered are Jazz, Contemporary and Hip Hop.

Monday - Jazz and Contemporary | Wednesday - Hip Hop | 3:10pm - 4:14pm



Chess Club

Chess Club is open to all students who want to play for fun, or competitively. Chess helps to exercise both sides of the brain - improve memory function, increase problem solving skills, deepens focus and boosts planning skills.

Wednesday | Library | Lunch Time

EXTRA-CURRICULAR *ACTIVITIES*



STEM Club

STEM Club is for students to have fun, be creative and expand subject knowledge and awareness of the role these subjects have in the world around them. STEM Club is learning to solve problems through the use of coding skills, robotics and other STEM related technologies.

Monday | R014 | Lunch Time



Breakfast Club

Breakfast Club is a social gathering before the start of a school day where toast, a variety of cereals and fruit (when available) are served. Breakfast replenishes your supply of glucose or blood sugar to boost your energy levels and alertness, a great way to get ready for the day.

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday | Kitchen 2 | 8:10am - 8:35am



Drama Club

Drama Club allows students to further their interest in Drama and Performing Arts, while working on scripting an original piece for the School Showcase. Drama helps to improve verbal and non-verbal communication skills, nurture spontaneity and help students think on their feet through games including Zip Zap Zoom, Bus Stop, Bang and Space Jump.

Tuesday Week A | R010 | Lunch Time



Art Club

Our Art Club is the perfect opportunity for students to boost their creativity, develop greater problem solving and fine motor skills. It is a calm environment allowing students to relax and exercise their creative expression. Students create artworks over several weeks.

Monday | R111 | Lunch Time

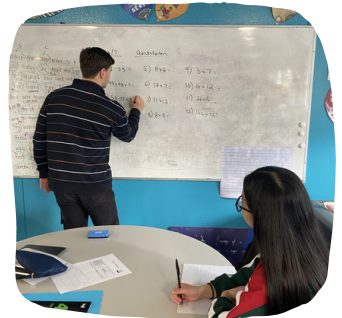


After School Music

Did you know that learning music helps to develop the left side of the brain? This is associated with language and reasoning. It assists with sound recognition and teaches rhythm and rhyme. Students are encouraged to attend and have a jam.

Wednesday | Music Room | 3:03pm - 4:00pm

A LOOK BACK ON *Term 3*



We hope everyone is having a happy and safe holiday.
We look forward to welcoming students back in Term 4.

Don't forget to follow our Facebook page!



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facebook.com/SevenHillsHS/