

SEVEN HILLS HIGH SCHOOL

A VOCATIONAL EDUCATION PATHWAYS SCHOOL

News



**SEPTEMBER
2023**

UPCOMING EVENTS

SEPTEMBER

Thursday 7 September: Kari GWS Mentoring Program
Wednesday 13 September: P&C Meeting
Thursday 14 September: R U OK Day
Thursday 21 September: Year 12 Graduation Ceremony
Thursday 21 September: Kari GWS Mentoring Program
Friday 22 September: Last day of Term 3

OCTOBER

Monday 9 October: First Day of Term 4
Thursday 19 October: Kari GWS Mentoring Program
Friday 27 October: World Teacher Day

Stay in touch



Follow us on Facebook!
facebook.com/SevenHillsHS/

Contact Details

Address: Johnson Avenue, Seven Hills
Telephone: 02 9624 3329 | Email: sevenhills-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au
Website: sevenhills-h.schools.nsw.gov.au

FROM OUR PRINCIPAL

Supporting Individual Growth

At Seven Hills High School we are always working to challenge and extend our students, as well as helping them to develop greater responsibility for their learning.

Opportunities exist for students to engage in tasks that are project based and student directed. Some of the learning strategies incorporated include; utilising different investigation techniques, incorporating group collaboration, accessing technology software and undertaking peer and self-evaluations.

At Seven Hills High School we recognise the need to tailor specific initiatives and programs to each student. Our goal is to identify each child's strengths as well as areas that may require support. We are dedicated to gathering data on student performance as early as possible so that interventions and initiatives are implemented promptly to maximise future success. Our focus is on ensuring every child has achieved the required level in Literacy and Numeracy so that they can access knowledge and materials in the later stages of schooling. The support structures will vary according the need assessed. They range from whole class and small group initiatives to one-to-one tuition.



In Years 7 and 8 we offer a specialised pattern of study, the Self-Select Program. It caters to the independent and self-motivated learner. Students will need to nominate themselves for inclusion. This is so that they commit to the course by taking ownership for their learning, regularly reflecting on their performance and set SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic, Timely) goals to attain their personal best. The Self Select program is not about including those that are the brightest, but rather about gathering together like minded individuals who show a commitment to their education and are dedicated to delivering quality.

Seven Hills High School endeavours to provide an environment that promotes high standards in performance, ensures participation in activities and allows students to create their own learning pathway. By providing a constructive working environment and creating positive relationships in the classroom, we are able to gain the best from our students, strengthen our community and contribute meaningfully to society.

This issue of the newsletter provides an overview of the programs Seven Hills High School offers to students so that they are able to connect with their learning and experience success.

If you would like any further information in regard to the articles, please contact the school.

Ana Macan

SUPPORT PROGRAMS

Ms Jordan - Learning and Support Teacher



The Seven Hills High School Learning and Support team assists teachers in supporting the individual needs of students.

Support is provided in the form of withdrawal programs, small group tasks, differentiated units of work and/or specialised programming within the classroom.

Identification of students with a specific need is based on information received from their primary school, Student Adviser referrals, data records, testing (e.g., NAPLAN), parent requests, and/or referrals from classroom teachers.

Our Learning and Support team consists of Joanna Jordan, Learning and Support Teacher and 12 School Learning Support Officers (SLSOs).

At Seven Hills High School our literacy intervention programs consist of the following:

The MultiLit Reading Tutor Program: This program is designed to improve student reading accuracy and fluency levels. Sessions are delivered one-on-one, for thirty minutes, three times per week with a member of the Learning and Support Team. A pre and post test is undertaken to evaluate student performance. Achievement in each session is entered into student booklets. As students' reading accuracy increases, they progress through the levels.

Upon completion of MultiLit, students undertake a 'transition to reading group' program. Sessions are delivered one-on-one, for thirty minutes, three times per week with a focus on comprehension and fluency and consist of reading and comprehension worksheets.

Reading Group: Identified students engage in a weekly reading group for one hour, where they focus on comprehension and fluency. The program assists students in developing skills that will enable them to independently participate in class activities. Formative assessment is used to determine progress. This includes utilising reading comprehension boxes (fortnightly) and tutor observations. Student progress is regularly evaluated to ensure appropriate strategies are implemented.

SUPPORT PROGRAMS

Ms Jordan - Learning and Support Teacher

Writing Group: Students who require support with elements of writing are invited to participate in a weekly writing group. The program addresses sentence structure, grammar and punctuation, how to write sentences and forming peel paragraphs. Students work through explicit focus areas of writing. As they demonstrate competency in skills, they move to the next level. Student work samples are used to assess progress.

At Seven Hills High School we use QuickSmart as our Numeracy intervention program.

QuickSmart is an evidence-based basic skills intervention program that focuses on understanding and recall of basic number facts, performance of elementary calculations, acquisition of appropriate mathematics language, and problem-solving skills. The primary aim being the development of number facts automaticity. Students who require support with their numeracy will take part in thirty-minute sessions, three times per week. Student performance is tracked each session via flashcards and spreadsheets, weekly OZCAAS and progress testing. As students achieve success at specified level, they move on to the next phase according to their performance.

In addition to our Literacy and Numeracy programs, we support students in the classroom. This helps them understand the content delivered, engage with the resources provided, and develop confidence in their ability. When students feel supported, they are more likely to ask questions, seek clarification, and actively participate in class discussions, which leads to improved learning outcomes.

Each student is unique. Providing support in and out of the classroom allows us to address individual needs. Tailoring teaching methods and offering additional help can make the learning experience more relevant and accessible to all students.



SELF-SELECT CLASS

Mrs Howell - Head Teacher, Wellbeing

At Seven Hills High School, we are dedicated to turning potential into performance in all areas of a student's life. We recognise that some students are independent learners who are able to explore the curriculum in a self-directed and meaningful way.

The Self-Select Program uses innovative teaching models, flexible learning options and creative problem solving techniques that encourage students to challenge themselves to achieve their personal best. By taking ownership of their education, students engage actively in the experiences provided so that they not only set, but also achieve, higher standards throughout their learning journey.



Students wishing to gain a place in the Self-Select class need to complete the Self Nomination Form.

Information in this form is one part of the nomination process. The individual's application will be considered alongside the Student Profile form which is provided by the student's Year 6 classroom teacher.

Criteria for admission to the Self-Select program relate to student motivation, enthusiasm for learning, an ability to work both independently and cooperatively, as well as a history of mature and responsible classroom behaviour.

Students wishing to undertake the Self-Select Program will need to commit to:

- Completing enrichment activities
- Participating in negotiated extra-curricular activities
- Completing homework; and
- Displaying appropriate classroom behaviour

SELF-SELECT CLASS

Enrichment Program

One period per week is dedicated to an enrichment program. It is designed to extend and challenge students through processes associated with Key Learning Areas within the curriculum.

The enrichment program will allow students to develop their research skills, evaluate various forms of media, extend their repertoire of problem solving strategies and develop creative solutions to these problems.

Enrichment activities may include:

- **Excursions and guest speakers:** These events will provide the students with exposure to ideas, processes and techniques beyond the usual range. The opportunity to see and question experts working in their field provides motivation and encourages curiosity and questioning. This in turn may be the basis of further research, independent study and extension activities.
- **Hands-on experiences/projects:** Students will be taught to use sophisticated materials and equipment to undertake research independently.
- **Training in the use of multi-media technologies:** This will enable students to develop independence and responsibility when undertaking research as well as build on their presentation and public speaking skills.