PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Begin As We Intend To Proceed



Ms Meg McLellan
Acting Principal

Welcome to all new and returning members of the Ashwood High School community.

You will notice the refreshed look of our school newsletter, developed in response to community feedback and consultation. This new format is designed to provide a clear and concise overview of school initiatives and achievements, making it easier for our community to stay informed and engaged.

The school year has commenced on a highly positive note, with students and staff settling in well and contributing to a focused, welcoming learning environment. Our new staff members have integrated seamlessly into the Ashwood High School community, demonstrating strong alignment with our values and a genuine enthusiasm for supporting our students. I would also like to acknowledge and thank our existing staff for their generosity, professionalism and ongoing support in welcoming new colleagues to our growing school community.

It is with great pleasure that I announce the new staff members joining the wonderful Ashwood High School team in 2026:

- **Ms Lauren Arnett** – Music / English Teacher
- **Mr Parth Davda** – Mathematics / Science Teacher
- **Ms Zeba Delmurut** – Education Support, Executive Assistant to the Principal
- **Ms Catherine Liu** – Education Support, Integration Aide
- **Ms Hervaye Lobriza-Kalt** – Health & Physical Education / Mathematics Teacher
- **Ms Fiona Maher** – Food Studies / Science Teacher
- **Ms Kellie May** – Science Teacher
- **Ms Gilli McKenna** - Education Support, Mental Health Practitioner
- **Ms Keira McLean** – Education Support, School Nurse
- **Ms Bridget Montague** – Humanities & Economics Teacher
- **Mr Dan Slater** – English Teacher

It was also a great pleasure to welcome our new Year 7 students and their families at our annual Year 7 Welcome Barbecue. This event provided a valuable opportunity for students and families to connect with one another and with staff, while strengthening our sense of community. We were especially grateful to our Parents and Friends Network (PFN), whose members generously volunteered their time to oversee the sausage sizzle and support the smooth running of the event. Families had the opportunity to meet key staff members, including Year 7 teachers, House Coordinators and Assistant Coordinators, and to learn more about the role of the PFN and the initiatives it leads in support of outstanding educational outcomes for our students.

As our community continues to grow, Ashwood High School is currently undertaking a review of the PFN's structure and function. The PFN remains a highly valued group within our school, and expressions of interest to be involved are warmly welcomed via the link available on Compass in the near future.

On a personal note, it has been an honour to lead such a kind, optimistic and united school community in my role as Acting Principal. To our new families, I extend a very warm welcome. To our returning members, thank you for your continued support and alignment with our school's vision and values. I look forward to our ongoing partnership in ensuring strong social and academic outcomes for all students.

COMMUNITY
of Learning and Trust

Year 7 Camp
11 - 13 February 2026



Ms Zoe Schinina
Paterson House Coordinator





On 11 February 2026, the Year 7 cohort attended camp at CYC Adventure Resort in Phillip Island - the largest group ever to attend a school camp in Ashwood High School's history.

Across three days, students stepped outside their comfort zones with activities such as the giant swing and flying fox, while also developing teamwork and problem-solving skills through raft making, team rescue and initiative challenges. Students enjoyed a beach walk and time with their groups by the water, along with some evening activities including a lively trivia night and a relaxing movie night to conclude their final night. Most importantly, this camp provided the Year 7s with an opportunity to make numerous connections with their new year level, setting a positive tone for the year ahead.



"The part I really liked the most during camp was being able to meet new people and make friends with them and communicate with them. I also really enjoyed going on the giant swing and flying fox."

– **Mairwen Lee**

"One of my highlights of camp this year was how I pushed myself to try and communicate with people I've never talked to before."

– **Paria Allahdadi**

COMMUNITY
of Learning and Trust

Year 11 Camp
2 - 4 February 2026



Mr John Sheehan
Year 11 Coordinator



Ms Fiona Maher
Year 11 Assistant Coordinator





The 2026 school year began on a high note, with our Year 11 students attending a team-building camp from the 2 to the 4 of February at Camp Adanac. Set against the stunning backdrop of Yarra Junction, the venue offered sweeping mountain views and an ideal setting for connection and growth. While temperatures were warm at times, the weather proved perfect for the many water-based activities on offer.

The camp was an overwhelmingly positive experience, and we were incredibly proud of the way our students conducted themselves throughout the three busy days. It was wonderful to witness the strong sense of cohesion within the group and their enthusiasm as they participated wholeheartedly in the camp program. Students engaged respectfully with staff and embraced each challenge with maturity and teamwork.

We extend our sincere thanks to the staff who attended and supported the camp, and to Year 11 student, **Eunseo Cho**, for thoughtfully sharing their reflection and experience.

"Year 11 Camp was a great way to start off the school year! We had so many fun activities suited to the beautiful weather, such as a very long water slide and the water playground, along with other typical but enjoyable camp activities. My personal favourite was the mud run, which was the first time our school had participated in it. It was a short, muddy run completed with friends that involved climbing and trekking through dirt and water. Besides the camp activities, the food was delicious. I enjoyed the DIY taco bowls and the personalised breakfasts that they served every morning. Along with this, camp encouraged us to talk to more peers during the free time and activities. Overall, Year 11 Camp was a great way to begin the year, strengthening friendships and creating memories."

– **Eunseo Cho**

COMMUNITY

of Learning and Trust

Year 12 Study Advance

2-4 February 2026



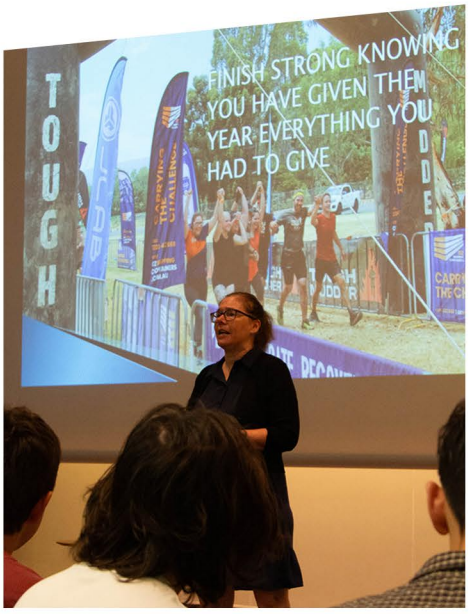
Ms Jordyn Pearse
Year 12 Coordinator



Ms Tavsaran Kakkar
Year 12 Assistant Coordinator

To kick off their year, the 2026 cohort of Year 12 students ventured to Deakin University, RMIT University and Swinburne University, respectively, for their Study Advance program in Week Two of Term One.

The Study Advance provided students with the opportunity to familiarise themselves with the university landscape, learn more about pathway options post-schooling, and develop study skills to assist them in succeeding this year.



On Monday at Deakin, students enjoyed a talk by speaker, Luke Atkins, who spoke to students about building resilience and its importance in Year 12 and life beyond. They also participated in Respectful Relationships and Future Ready programs. Students and staff then gathered for the Year 12 dinner that evening at Sofia Restaurant, in Burwood. This was with the purpose of celebrating their achievements thus far and to look ahead with excitement at the upcoming year.





Students were on campus at RMIT University in the Melbourne CBD and spent the day listening to valuable sessions on VCAA regulations and a Careers presentation from **Mrs Julie Huggins**, VCAA Curriculum Services Coordinator, and **Ms Jodie Hechenberger**, Careers Coordinator, respectively. The focus of the day was to empower them to feel prepared heading into the year. Staff and students then finished off the day with some fun at Kingpin Bowling to verse each other in some bowling and competitive arcade games.

COMMUNITY
of Learning and Trust

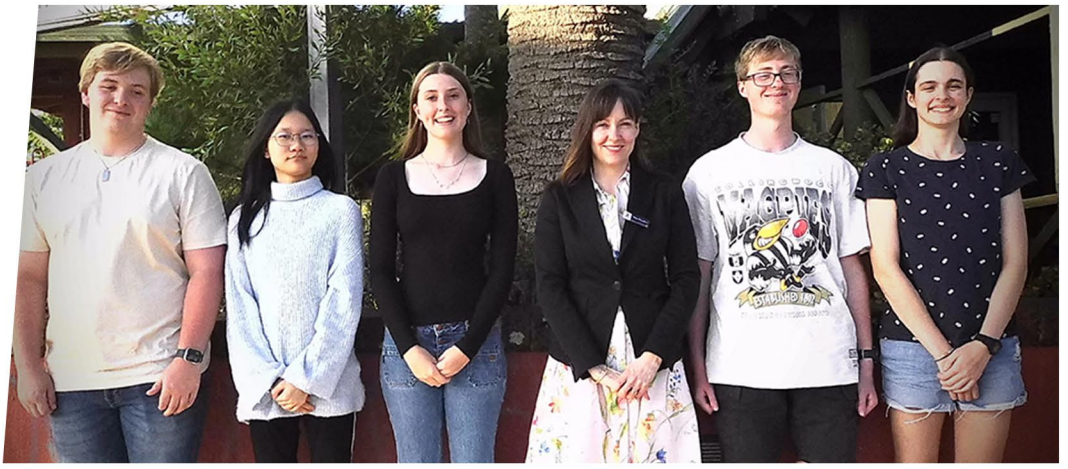
Year 12 Study Advance
2-4 February 2026

On Wednesday, students explored Swinburne University's Hawthorn Campus, where they took part in numerous university-related activities, such as a Moot Court case. Students also learned valuable information to prepare for their upcoming English, Literature and Maths exams from experts in the field, including Helen Billet from Access Education, Ashwood High School Maths staff members, **Ms Lexi Wang** and **Dr Bruce Verity**, and some of Ashwood High School's successful Year 12 students from 2025, **Leah Reid** and **Ava Lillywhite**.

The students carried themselves with grace and were highly engaged throughout the whole experience. Congratulations to Year 12s on an excellent Study Advance! We are really looking forward to the rest of the year.

"Study Advance was a real eye opener in terms of the mindset shifts, study habits and planning our futures. It provided many great opportunities to socialise with our peers. Through activities such as the Year 12 Dinner, and the bowling alley, we were able to build connections with others whilst also socialising with our teachers."

– Jack Gebka Reid





HIGH EXPECTATIONS

Aspire to be Your Personal Best

Arts and Technologies Learning Area



Ms Carolyn Hamilton
Arts and Technologies Learning Area Coordinator

It has been a busy start to the year, but this hasn't stopped the creativity and enthusiasm of our new and returning students. This year promises to be filled with new experiences, challenges, and opportunities for growth.

Reflecting on 2025, we are incredibly proud of our VCE students' outstanding results, with several students achieving study scores of 40+ in VCD and Food Studies, and a perfect score of 50 in Art Making and Exhibiting. Students have had their films selected for Top Screen and their designs chosen for Top Design. These results and opportunities are a credit to the dedication of our VCE team, as well as all of our Arts and Technology teachers.

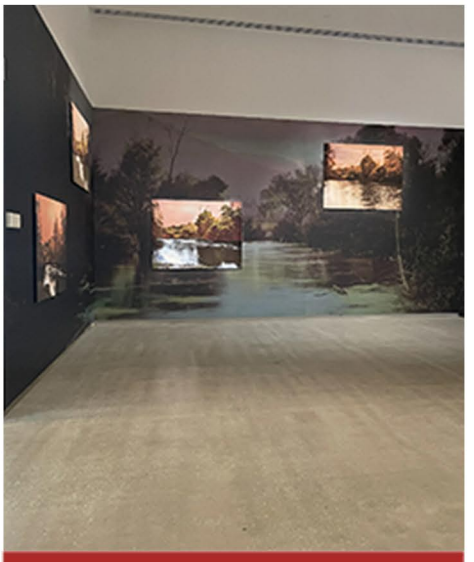


Year 7 Art
Exploration of Automatism Drawing

In the year ahead, we have plans for students to experience exhibitions and excursions, curate and showcase student work in the gallery, engage in hands-on practical tasks, explore innovative curriculum opportunities, and continue building literacy skills across all year levels.
Best wishes for a creative year ahead.



Senior Art Excursion



Senior Art Excursion

HIGH EXPECTATIONS

Aspire to be Your Personal Best

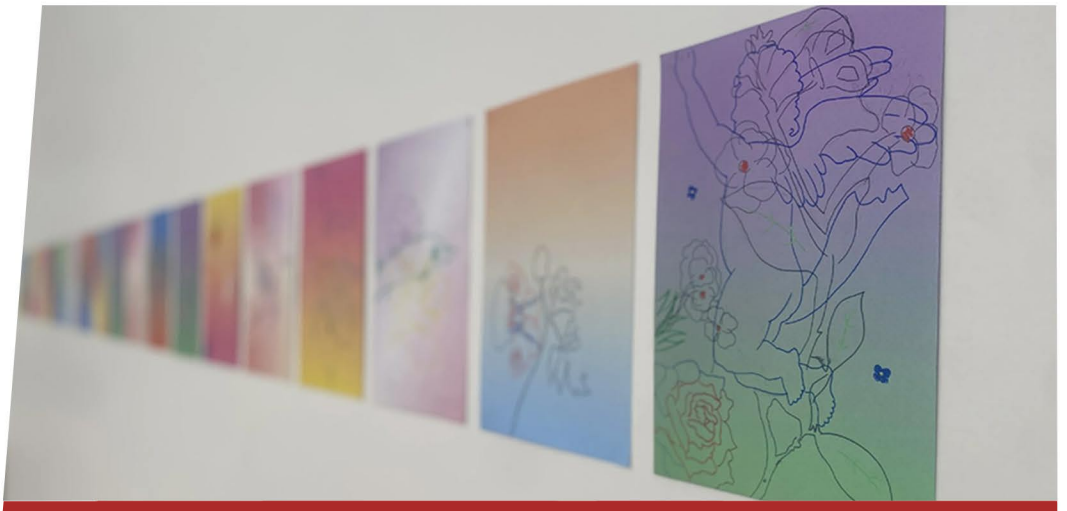
Arts and Technologies
Learning Area



Gallery
Student Curated Exhibitions



Gallery
Student Curated Exhibitions



Gallery
Student Curated Exhibitions

H

HIGH EXPECTATIONS

Aspire to be Your Personal Best

Professional Learning at Ashwood High School



Mrs Katrina Ketsakidis
Director of Enrichment and Professional Learning

At Ashwood High School, we begin 2026 with a clear sense of purpose. As part of our CHOIR values, the *H — High Expectations* reminds us that the standard we set from day one is the standard we carry throughout the year. We believe strongly in beginning the year as we intend to proceed.

This year, our professional learning is centred on the Victorian Teaching and Learning Model 2.0, with a particular focus on 'Enabling Learning'. A key part of this work involves our teachers creating calm, consistent learning environments where every student feels safe, supported, and ready to learn. When students walk into a classroom at Ashwood, we want them to experience the same high standards of structure and care regardless of which room they're in or which teacher they're with.

To support this, we have introduced learning walks and peer observations across the school. These give our teachers the opportunity to step into one another's classrooms, observe great practice firsthand, and have genuine professional conversations about what works. Rather than operating in isolation, our staff are building a shared understanding of quality teaching and investing in a culture of continuous improvement.

We know that when teachers grow, students benefit. By fostering an environment where professional learning is ongoing, collaborative, and grounded in real classroom experience, we are reinforcing our commitment to high expectations — not just for our students, but for ourselves as educators.

We are proud of the thoughtful and dedicated work our staff bring to Ashwood each day, and we look forward to sharing more about our teaching and learning journey with our community throughout the year.



H

OPTIMISM

Reflection and Resilience

Lunar New Year Celebration

17 February 2026



Mrs Yonghong Williams
International Student Program Manager

At Ashwood High School, we take great pride in the development and diversity of our International Student Program, and we are delighted to celebrate this diversity with our annual Lunar New Year celebration.

Ashwood High School Acting Principal, Ms McLellan gave a heartful speech recognising the commitment, effort and dedication required by international students to study in Australia, a new country thousands of miles away from home. Ms McLellan also expressed gratitude for international students' contribution to our school community and acknowledged the challenges they face. Ms McLellan's words resonated the school's commitment to supporting diversity and inclusivity. The students were very grateful to receive the red packets with Ms McLellan's blessing for the Lunar New Year.







Ava Morrin and **Gilbert McCann**, the School Captains delivered a welcoming and encouraging speech. They wished all our international students the best of luck for the Year of the Horse. Our Middle School International Student Captain, **Wilson Xu** and our International Student Captain, **Anya Zhu** also delivered an inspirational speech at the event.

OPTIMISM

Reflection and Resilience

Lunar New Year Celebration

17 February 2026









The highlight of the celebration was undoubtedly the student performances, which showcased the talent and diversity of our students. Our Year 7 students, **Cameron Halpin-Bulner** and **Lilith Corponi's** lion dance was absolutely one of the highlights at the event. A huge thank you to all our voluntary student performers, **Cameron Halpin- Bulner**, **Lilith Corponi** from Year 7, **Siyang (Amy) Liu**, **Zhihan (Daisy) He** and **Zilin (Lynn) Wang** from Year 8, **Clarisse Soesanto** and **Pok Man (Anthony) Tam** from Year 10, **Ngounseng (Stephen) Tea** from Year 11 and **Anya Zhu** from Year 12. Also, a big thank you to **Mr Sam Bugeja**, Director of Music for his professional instructions and supervision to our student performances.



OPTIMISM

Reflection and Resilience

Swimming Carnival and Lunchtime Competitions



Mr Tom Grbac
Director of Sport



Mr Declan McLaughlin
Assistant Director of Sport



Ashwood High School has continued its commitment in 2026 to providing students with not only opportunities to participate in sport, but also events targeted more towards high-performance development.

Our annual Swimming Carnival was held on Thursday 19 February 2026 and featured impressive participation levels across all Houses and year levels. Congratulations to all students who swam on the day, whether it was in every event or stepping outside one's comfort zone for a singular event. Our Principal, **Ms Meg McLellan** was present to celebrate the wonderful day, as well as presenting the age group champions and winning House with their awards. A huge congratulations to Paterson House for taking out this year's title! Events like this are at the heart of Ashwood's values, with a primary focus on building a sense of community across the whole school. We are excited to be taking a strong group of swimmers to the Mullum Division Swimming Carnival on Friday 6 March 2026.





The 'Lunchtime Competitions' program has been a huge success to start 2026. With a large focus on inclusivity this year, the 'Ashwood Basketball League' has had significant interest from students as spectators, as well as providing valuable opportunities for students to play, coach, umpire or even score, depending on their comfort level. We have had an impressive 22 teams register, which includes 154 students spanning across all year levels, as well as 10 staff members. We do our best to provide opportunities for students with passions for different sports by adjusting the sport each term. Please see below the schedule of competitions for the school year:

Term 1 : Ashwood Basketball League
Term 2 : Ashwood Premier League (Futsal)
Term 3 : Ashwood Netball Competition
Term 4 : Ashwood Volleyball Association

Mr Declan McLaughlin will post relevant information on how to register teams for the future competitions on Compass at the beginning of each term.

INNOVATION

Creativity and Sustainability

Whole School Transition to Continuous Reporting and Student-Led Conferences



Ms Peta Gannoulis
Director of Assessment

Ashwood High School has now fully transitioned to a Continuous Reporting model across all year levels.

Students at all year levels receive ongoing feedback on their learning progress through Common Assessment Tasks (CATs - Years 7-10) and School Assessed Coursework (SACs – Years 11 - 12) in each subject. Following each CAT/SAC, students complete a reflection on their progress that is shared with families once results have been released.

Grades and a comment for each CAT/SAC are published regularly on Compass, thereby enabling students and parents/carers to monitor progress in real time. By providing timely and targeted feedback, this model supports students to take greater ownership of their learning and ensures parents and carers remain well informed throughout the year.

In addition, the following reporting modes provide further insight into your child's academic progress:

Interim Progress Reports

Interim Progress Reports reflect each classroom teacher's assessment of your child's Learning Behaviours. These are published twice yearly:

- Mid-Term 1 (published Thursday 26 February 2026)
- Mid-Term 3 (published Thursday 20 August 2026)

Access to the reports can be found via the Compass portal, on the left-hand side, under the student profile.



Student-Led Conferences (SLCs)

All students in Years 7–12 are required to attend Student-Led Conferences with their parents/carers via WebEx, in full school uniform. These occur twice a year:

- Term 1, Week 6 (Tuesday 3 March 2026 and Friday 6 March 2026)
- Term 3, Week 7 (Tuesday 25 August 2026 and Friday 28 August 2026)

Bookings are made via the Compass portal.



Semester Reports

Semester Reports provides a formal confirmation and compilation of a student's results in one document at the conclusion of each semester. These are published on the final day of Term 2 and Term 4.

Interim Reports are now available on Compass. For families who have scheduled Student-Led Conferences, we look forward to meeting with you and your child to discuss their learning progress.

INNOVATION

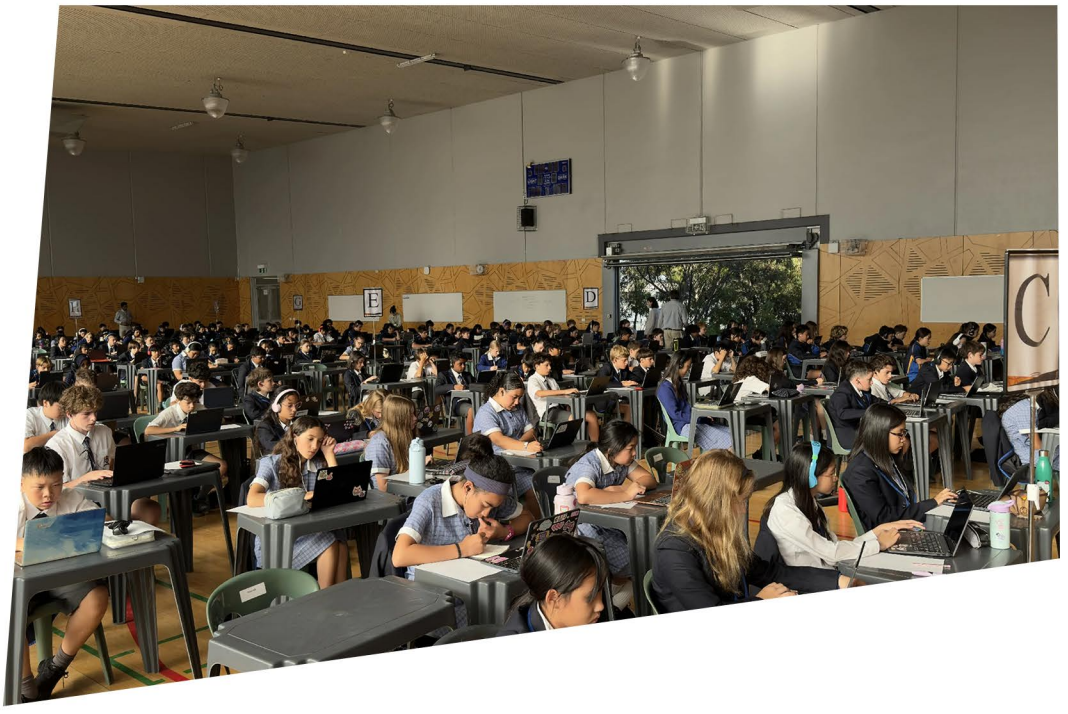
Creativity and Sustainability

NAPLAN

11 - 18 March 2026

Mr Rob Gray
Middle School Student Outcomes Leader

NAPLAN is a rewarding time in our school calendar with Ashwood High School students taking the opportunity to demonstrate their excellent progress in literacy and numeracy skills. Students also receive invaluable practice writing under timed conditions in an exam-style environment, furnishing them with experience and familiarity of test conditions for high performance in their senior schooling years. The NAPLAN Writing Test commences for students in Years 7 and 9 on Wednesday 11 March, followed by Reading on Friday 13 March, and in the following week we will have the Conventions of Language test on Tuesday 17 March and then Numeracy on Wednesday 18 March. Our students continue to perform highly in all domains of NAPLAN assessment, and we are looking forward to seeing our students' trend for high growth continue to increase in 2026 and beyond.



RESPECT

for Teachers, Students, School and Community

Every Day Counts

The importance of regular school attendance.

At Ashwood High School, we have High Expectations and prioritise regular school attendance. We will work with families to ensure students are in class with their peers and teachers and enjoying all the benefits that brings.

Attending school every day means experiencing what counts – the learning, friendship, fun and opportunities that can shape your child's future.

We understand that there are times when your child will need to miss school, but to ensure minimal disruption to their education, please consider scheduling family holidays or medical/dental appointments outside of school time.

If your child is having difficulty attending school, please talk with their House or Year Level Coordinator about supports we can offer.

If your child must miss school, notify us as soon as possible via Compass or call the school directly, so we can work together to support them.



Attendance Is Key

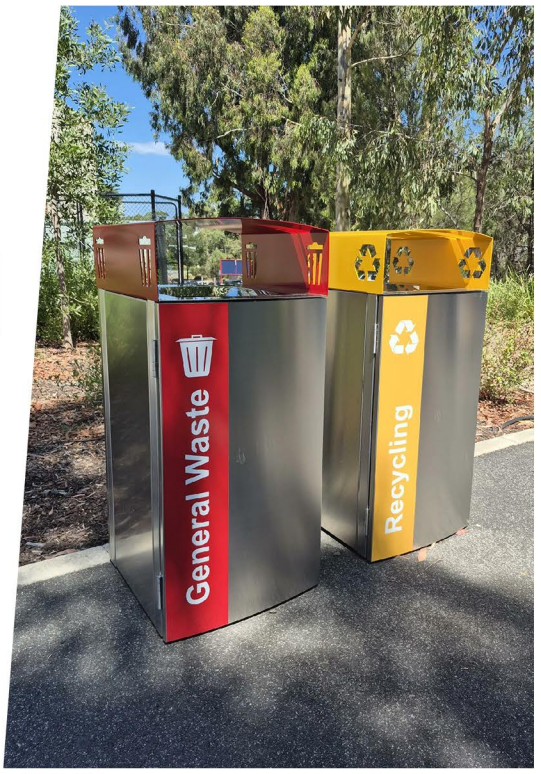


Mrs Caroline Servadei
Acting Middle School Assistant Principal

Recycling Bins



Ms Sarah Reynolds
Senior School Assistant Principal



New Recycling Bins Installed at Ashwood High School

Ashwood High School has recently installed new recycling bins in the school yard as part of our ongoing commitment to environmental sustainability. The bins are located in key outdoor areas to ensure students have easy access to proper waste disposal during recess, lunch, and other outdoor activities.

Each bin is clearly labelled to help students correctly separate general waste from recyclable materials. The Sustainability Club is currently working on information posters to be distributed to our school community regarding recycling guidelines.

This initiative reinforces the importance of shared responsibility. With everyone's cooperation, Ashwood High School can create a cleaner environment and promote sustainable practices within the school community.

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KEY DATES

Monday 9 March	Labour Day Public Holiday
Tuesday 10 March	Years 11&12 Interschool Sport
11 - 18 March	NAPLAN Testing
Thursday 12 March	School Photographs Catch-up Day
Monday 16 March	Years 9&10 Interschool Sport
Friday 20 March	Year 8 Interschool Sport
Wednesday 25 March	Public Reporting Meeting (AGM) of School Council
Thursday 26 March	Autumn Music Concert
Friday 27 March	Year 7 Interschool Sport
Monday 30 March	Region Swimming Carnival
Tuesday 31 March	VCE Special Programs Day
Tuesday 31 March	School Cross Country Carnival
Thursday 2 April	End of Term 1

DE Privacy Policy