

Student Wellbeing

Returning to the school routine

Starting the new school year can bring a range of emotions to the forefront for both students and parents. Whether your child is returning to school, new to the school, or if you and your family are just beginning the school journey, it can be a time that raises a variety of feelings and challenges.

It is important to remember that it may take a few weeks to find a routine and feel comfortable. Children and young adults should take care of themselves by getting a good amount of sleep and exercising and eating well as the school routine is re-established after the summer break.

Talking with your child about their school day is a great opportunity for them to know that you are interested in their lives and learning, but it can be very difficult to respond to the big question, "How was school?" - you might get a limited response! [Raisingchildren.net.au](https://www.raisingchildren.net.au) offers some useful advice around strategies for talking about school with your child to really get the conversation going.

If you would like further information on this or other topics around supporting children and parenting, visit the [Australian Parenting Website](https://www.austlii.edu.au/au/other/austrlii/other/austrlii/parenting/) which has great information and tips for parents and guardians of children from newborns right up to young adults. Here, you can subscribe to their newsletter or try their new Raising Healthy Minds app and tailor information to your family and interests for free.

Student Wellbeing Team

STAR Program



A big congratulations to all students and staff for the wonderful way in which the STAR (Students, Teachers, All Reading) program has begun in 2022. It has been fabulous to see how quickly the students have settled into this daily reading routine, with many staff commenting on how well the students have taken to this new routine. It is a wonderful way to start the day and it creates a real sense of calm across the whole school.

Students are to be commended for bringing in their texts to read and enjoy, with very few reminders having to be given. Staff members are also enjoying reading alongside their Tutor Groups. Thank you also to our parents for ensuring their children have been able to bring in texts and get reading!

Our wonderful librarians on both campuses are always more than happy to support students with reading choices, as are their teachers. We are in the process of working out logistics for all classes to regularly attend the library to access the great resources we have here at school. Junior classes already have access to their Classroom Libraries which have been curated with care by their teachers and with some student selections too.

Please continue to encourage a reading culture in your homes where possible and ask your children about the STAR program and what they are reading, while also sharing your own reading with them. The difference you can make to your children in this regard is immeasurable.

Well done to all on an awesome start – I look forward to seeing the program grow and develop over time and play a part in increasing literacy outcomes and a love of reading for all students at Bacchus Marsh Grammar.

Mrs Kelly Dilges - Director of Literacy Education and Development

Valentine's Day

Please note that the school will not be accepting any gifts, flowers or cards for students on Valentine's Day. If a delivery arrives for a student, it will be refused.

Current BMG Families – Important Reminder

Prep Reception, Prep and Year 7 2023 Enrolment Applications

Please be aware that enrolment applications for the following entry levels have now **closed**.

- **Prep Reception 2023**
- **Prep 2023**
- **Year 7 2023**

If any **current families**, who have a child who is attending **another Primary School**, and is not registered for Year 7 2023 entry, please contact the School Registrar as a matter of urgency – registrar@bmg.vic.edu.au.

Mrs Shona Hiscock - School Registrar

COVID-19 Update – Testing and Reporting

Rapid Antigen Testing

The next batch of Government provided Rapid Antigen Tests have now been distributed to students. I would ask you to follow up with your children if you have not sighted them yet. Information about how to do a test, including a how-to video translated into 33 languages, is [available online](#).

We would ask that parents test on the following days to enable us to deal with the administration of the test results.

- **Years 7 to 12** **Test: Tuesday and Thursday**
- **Years Prep to 6** **Test: Monday and Wednesday**

Reporting a Positive Case

In the event that your child is required to isolate, either as a confirmed COVID-19 positive or as a household contact, we request that you notify the school via school@bmg.vic.edu.au with the following information:

Student Full Name	
Date of Birth	
Form/Class	
Campus	
Last Date of Attendance	
Symptoms eg. None, Symptomatic, Asymptomatic, Unknown	
Test Date:	
Test Type eg. PCR or RAT	
Symptoms Onset Date:	
Exposed/Infected Outside of School	

If your child is absent from school due to COVID, their teachers will provide lesson materials via Schoolbox in the event that they are well enough to complete some learning at home. Your child's tutor group teacher will also be in contact to check-in and to see if any other support is required.

We anticipate that most students will not miss more than a week of school due to COVID however recognise that in some unique circumstances the isolation period may be longer than this. If it looks like your child will be isolating for more than a week due to COVID, please contact the relevant Head of Sub-School so that we can ensure appropriate support of their learning from home.

Rapid Antigen Testing After a COVID-19 infection

Students who return to school after their seven day isolation with a COVID-19 infection do not need to do Rapid Antigen Testing for a 30 day period.

Mrs Michelle Graham – Executive Assistant to the Principal

The Podium

Achieving Optimal Academic Performance – Online gaming and learning. Something to think about.

This week the eSafety Commissioner released the 2021 Research report entitled Mind the Gap: Parental awareness of children's exposure to risks online <https://www.esafety.gov.au/research/mind-gap-parental-awareness-childrens-exposure-risks-online>.

I would encourage all parents to take the time to read this research. This report certainly makes for some interesting reading and reinforces the important role that parents play in their child's education around technology.

Returning to school, I have also had some interesting conversations with students regarding their study habits and the time they spend on their interests and activities outside of school. I remember growing up in the 70s and 80s when our afterschool hours were filled with riding bikes, kicking footballs, shooting hoops, reading, studying and adventuring until it was time to come inside for dinner. However, many things have changed, the world has moved on, and now with the prevalence of technology our students, sons and daughters, spend their social hours very differently to the way we used to. Many of our students are actively involved in gaming platforms for their recreation.

Research shows that online gaming is becoming ever more popular and taking up a great deal of our students' spare time. On average, Australian teenagers spend at least 15 hours per week online outside of school hours and 77% of this time, particularly for boys, is spent online gaming.

How common is it?

- 81% of children aged 8 to 17 have played an online game.
- 64% have played a multiplayer online game with others.
- 52% have played with people they did not know.
- 17% have experienced bullying or abuse while playing a network game with others.
- 34% have made an in-game purchase and this rose to 45% when they played a network game with others.
- Online games can be great fun for your child, but make sure you can help them manage the risks.

<https://www.esafety.gov.au/parents/big-issues/gaming#is-your-child-spending-too-much-time-gaming>

Students need to be guided and educated around this platform. We also need to reinforce to all our students the great importance in prioritising study and academic effort. With the start of the academic school year, Tutor Teachers will be in the process of helping your child manage an effective study routine and reinforce the need and school requirement of after- hours homework and study. I would ask all parents to have conversations with their children around their home study routines and to have them ask for help in Tutor Group if they are struggling with their organisation in this area.

Mr Andrew Perks - Assistant Principal: Optimal Performance Learning

ICAS 2021 Results

Please be advised that the school has not received the 2021 ICAS certificates for distribution. The ICAS Assessments were conducted later than usual in 2021 (November) due to COVID and this has impacted the results process.

An individual code (TAP-ID and PIN) on the back of each student certificate is required for parents to access results online. In the meantime, as we are unable to specify when the certificates will be received and, in turn, posted to families, you may wish to contact ICAS Customer Service on **1800 931 775** to obtain the relevant TAP-ID and PIN and log on to access results.

To access your child's ICAS results online:

1. Visit ICAS website homepage [icasassessments.com](https://www.icasassessments.com)
2. At the top of the homepage, select Portals and click Results Portal.
3. Click on Sign in under Student Results tab half way down the page.
4. At the Student Result Login, enter the 10-digit TAP-ID followed by the 4-digit PIN and then click Login.

We thank parents for their patience and understanding at this time.

Mr Kevin Richardson - Senior Deputy Principal

Junior School News

Spotlight on Maddingley Prep

*Goodbye Mum, Goodbye Dad,
A new adventure is to be had.
It's my first day of Prep,
13 years of education begin with the first step.
At BMG I will begin,
To read, write and count with a big, big grin.
Goodbye Dad, Goodbye Mum,
Look out world here I come!*



Last week our Preps embarked on their learning journey at BMG! Plenty of grins (from the Preps) and plenty of tears (from the parents) were in evidence. We are so proud of how quickly they have settled and they have already shown us they are ready to learn!

We have been focusing on our school values – kindness, respect, confidence and discipline and what they look like at school. The Preps have started our phonics program by learning about the letters **m** and **c**. In Numeracy we are learning about the numbers 1 to 10.

Maddingley Prep Team

Spotlight on Woodlea Year 4



What a fabulous start to Year 4 here at the Woodlea campus! Our students have enjoyed getting to know their new teachers and making lots of new friends. Over the last few weeks, we have been exploring our school values of RESPECT, DISCIPLINE, KINDNESS, LEADERSHIP, AMBITION and CONFIDENCE. Students have engaged in meaningful discussions about what it means to belong to the Bacchus Marsh Grammar community where we uphold and embody these values and strive to achieve our personal best each and every day.

The students have created engaging classroom displays as a way of representing our shared understanding of the value, Respect.

We look forward to the year ahead.

Woodlea Year 4 Team

Woodlea - Middle School News

Welcome back to the Middle School for the 2022 school year! It has been a pleasure to meet and greet everyone back to the school over the last week and it is fantastic to welcome everyone back into the school, especially during these uncertain times.

Over the last week, it has been a pleasure to see our new students settling into their new environment with support from their peers; this kindness and respect is seen daily as part of our core values.

As students move into the Middle School for the first time, it is important for our students and parents to familiarise themselves with, and adapt to the new routines. Our Tutor Teachers are on hand to support this transition, with student wellbeing being a key priority. Our Tutor Teachers have already been in contact with you and will continue to do so to ensure the best possible outcomes for all students.

As we move into the second week of school, we have already had some fantastic events taking place. Our students took part in the swim trials at Bacchus Marsh, coordinated by Mr Gill. This was a huge success and these now lead onto the carnival for several of our students. We have also had our first Staughton Vale trip for Year 7 students coordinated and led by Mr Monaghan. This is a fantastic opportunity for all students in Year 7 to experience learning in a different environment and we hope it provides them with some fantastic opportunities and experiences. We hope these events will continue for all our students across the academic year.

I look forward to continuing to meet you all over the next few weeks and working with you across the academic year and beyond.

Mr Thomas Meakin - Head of Middle School: Woodlea

Multimedia Consent for 2022

The process to obtain BMG student Multimedia* Consent for 2022 was emailed to families via EdSmart on 2 February. If you have not completed the consent process, please locate the email in your inbox and submit your response at earliest convenience. Please note a response is required for each child. Students will be marked as DO NOT CONSENT for 2022 if not completed by **16 February**.

*Multimedia is defined as photography, video, audio or any other form of electronic recording. It can be used in school publications such as the Yearbook, Grammarian, weekly BMG eNews and the school website and can extend to advertising and social media.

If you have any questions or require the EdSmart email to be resent, please make contact with the school via [email](#) or call the Maddingley Administration Office on 03 5366 4800.

Mrs Casey Ryder – Marketing and Social Media Coordinator

2022 New Student ID Photos

A 2022 new student ID photo session will be held at Woodlea Campus on Friday 18 February for all new BMG students and students who have returned to the school after an extended absence period. Student ID images are used to create Student ID cards which are used for bus travel and school purposes. All students will have their ID photos taken during class time. Students may be photographed in either summer or sports uniform. Maddingley Campus student ID photos were taken on Friday 11 February.

Formal School photos will be scheduled for early in Term 2. If you have any further enquires please contact Mrs Cathy Perconte on 5366 4800.

Mrs Cathy Perconte – Community Development and Event Coordinator

Conveyance Allowance News

Government Travel Allowance

Depending on individual circumstances, parents/guardians may be entitled to claim a Conveyance Allowance. Parents/guardians should understand that the allowances are discretionary, they are based on State Government guidelines and do not cover the full cost of student travel.

The Conveyance Allowance will be paid directly to parents/guardians at the end of each semester. Parents/guardians may authorise the school to put their conveyance allowance towards procured transport services by providing written consent. The application form contains a section for parents/guardians to provide this authority.

Conveyance Allowance Information

The Conveyance Allowance is a government subsidy for student travel to and from school if the student lives more than 4.8 km from their school and in an area not serviced by a free school bus. All Conveyance Allowance applications will be assessed by the Department against the Departmental policies and regulations that apply at the time of application and will only be paid if the BMG student meets the relevant eligibility criteria.

Families in rural and regional Victoria can get help with the cost of transporting their children to their nearest school or campus. This is known as the Conveyance Allowance.

The Conveyance Allowance is available to students travelling by:

- public transport;
- private car; or
- private bus if their nearest school is not serviced by a free school bus.

The Conveyance Allowance is a contribution towards transport costs and is not intended to cover the full cost of transporting children to and from school.

Eligibility

The eligibility criteria vary depending on the type of school attended and where it is located; however, to be eligible, students new to the school in 2022 must:

- attend their nearest government or non-government school/campus appropriate to their year level at which admission is permissible;
- reside outside Melbourne's metropolitan conveyance boundary;
- reside 4.8 km or more by the shortest practicable route from that school/campus attended; and
- be of school age (5 to 18 years old at time of application) and reside in Victoria. Parents/guardians wishing to apply for the Conveyance Allowance must complete and submit, by the due date, an individual application form for each student.

Completed application forms were to be submitted to the school by Friday 4 February 2022, however, we will be accepting applications during Term 1 up until **Friday 11 March**, otherwise parents/guardians risk their claim not being accepted.

Please contact the school office for an application form.

If your decision to send your children to Bacchus Marsh Grammar was because you felt that it was the nearest appropriate school that respected ecumenical values and did not require your child to participate in religious instruction or religious celebrations, then you might (subject to other Conveyance Allowance rules) be eligible for the Conveyance Allowance.

If this statement applies to you, whilst I can make no guarantees, I believe it is in your interest to submit a Conveyance Allowance Application for 2022.

Applications

Parents/guardians wishing to apply for the Conveyance Allowance must complete and submit an individual application form for each student. Applications will still be accepted during Term 1 up until Friday 11 March.

Coveyance Allowance continued.....

Application forms are available from the school's main office at both campuses and from the myBMG Parent Portal. The application should be **accompanied by a simple letter** stating that the reason you believe Bacchus Marsh Grammar is the nearest appropriate school is because of its values and its lack of a requirement to participate in religious instruction or religious celebrations of any particular faith.

For more information on the Conveyance Allowance, please refer to the School's 2022 Business Notice or please contact Suzanne Pollard on 03 5366 4800.

Mrs Suzanne Pollard - Conveyance Allowance Coordinator: School Administration

Book Club News – Catalogue for Issue 1 is out now



Issue 1 catalogue is out now!

Visit the [school website](#) for more information regarding the latest catalogue and how to order.

**Scholastic Book Club Coordinators - Mrs Diane Dunn (Maddingley Campus)
& Mrs Feona West (Woodlea Campus)**

BMG Community Contacts

Bacchus Marsh Grammar On Campus Uniform Shop

Phone Orders – 5367 4072

Uniform information and shop business hours are listed on the [school website](#).

Out of School Hours Care (OSHC) – YMCA Ballarat

YMCA Ballarat operate the Out of School Hours Care at Bacchus Marsh Grammar.

Enrolments are completed online. For full information please visit the [school website](#).

Email: chrisie.ashmore@ymca.org.au **Phone:** 0490 178 638 **W:** www.ballarat.ymca.org.au

Maddingley:

bacchusmarsh.oshc@ymca.org.au

0438 154 842

Located: South Maddingley Road, Maddingley, Victoria 3340

Woodlea:

woodlea.oshc@ymca.org.au

0490 490 362

Located: 111 Frontier Avenue, Aintree, Victoria. 3336.

Regular Contacts

Student Absentees

Maddingley Campus

Absentee Line 5366 4888 or Absentee Email – maddingley_absentees@bmg.vic.edu.au

Woodlea Campus

Absentee Line 5366 4988 or Absentee Email – woodlea_absentees@bmg.vic.edu.au

Maddingley Campus

South Maddingley Road
Bacchus Marsh VIC 3340

P +61 3 5366 4800

F +61 3 5366 4850

Woodlea Campus

111 Frontier Avenue
Aintree VIC 3336

P +61 3 5366 4900

F +61 3 5366 4950

Woodlea Early Learning Centre

5-7 Quarry Road
Aintree VIC 3336

P +61 3 5366 4999

General School Email: school@bmg.vic.edu.au

School Website: www.bmg.vic.edu.au