



February 7, 2025



Dear students, parents and carers,

Welcome to the 2025 school year, an exciting time as our students start or return to their high school! To all our new families and especially Year 7, welcome to the MHS family! I mean that very sincerely. We take great pride in looking after the whole child: nurturing their wellbeing and providing a happy, safe and supportive learning environment. I'll say right at the top, I don't tolerate bullying or harassment, which thankfully means that physical conflict is a true rarity at our

school. To be honest, most verbal conflict arises from friendship fall outs over social media contact out of school or during the holidays. However, no school, if it is being honest, can say that conflict that impacts the wellbeing of young people never occurs. If your child comes home worried or anxious about any aspect of school, please contact us- we'd rather know sooner than later so that any issues can be addressed while they are small. Struggling to make friends? – call the Year Adviser; problems in class?- call the head teacher of the faculty concerned; conflict with another student?- call the deputy principal of the Year group; a serious concern about anything- call me, the principal. Please see a list of contact details on the back page, which can also be found on our website: [Home - Maitland High School](https://www.maitlandhighschool.nsw.edu.au/).

We've had a most wonderful start to the year!

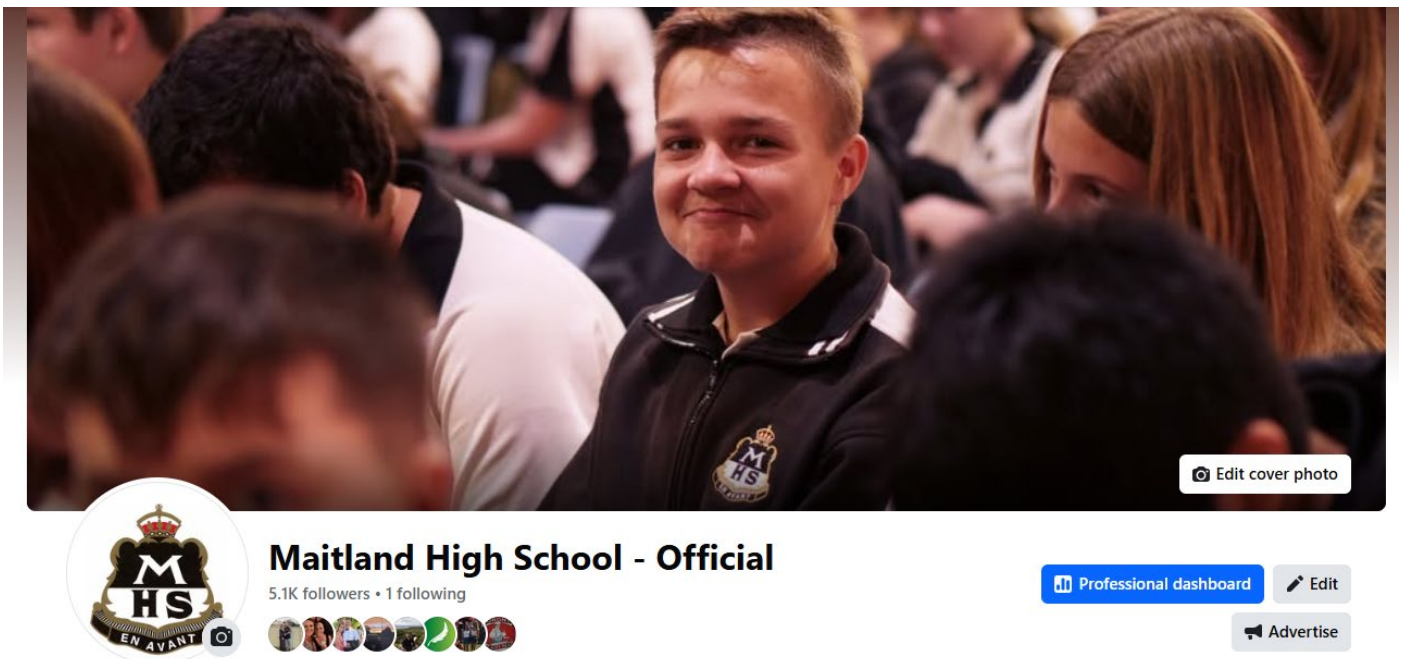
It was wonderful to see our students again, yesterday and, I kid you not, the smiles were everywhere! Working with young people is the best job anyone could ever wish for!





Keeping up to date with MHS

Speaking of communication channels and keeping up to date with all the happenings at MHS, please make sure you access the Sentral Parent Portal – a link for which can also be found on our website [Portal Login](#). We use facebook extensively to capture events and also push out some notifications, so please ensure you follow our [Facebook](#) – Maitland High School- Official which looks like this:



Make sure you choose 'Official' as you could end up at a school with the same name in South Africa, or a bogus site!

Important Term 1 2025 dates:

February 11	Year 7 & new enrolments ID photographs
February 12	Whole School Swimming Carnival
February 25	Defence Forces Year 10 Information Session
February 26	P&C Meeting 6pm in Principal's Office
March 4	Year 7 immunisations
March 4	2025 University Showcase Years 11 & 12
March 12	Year 7, 2026 Parent Information Evening
March 28	Road Whyz, Life Ready Years 11 & 12
April 7	Good Fellas Wellbeing Program Year 9 Boys
April 7	The Butterfly Foundation Wellbeing Program Year 9 Girls

Congratulations, Year 12 2024!



Congratulations to our Year 12, 2024! This was such a beautiful Year group, who tragically lost one of their Year 12 friends, while a number of others who battled significant illness. However, your hard work and dedication is testimony to your determination to succeed in your many and varied post-school futures. I would like to particularly acknowledge the achievements of those whose personal best results are testimony to their outstanding academic ability and unwavering commitment. Congratulations!

Mobile Phones

Reminder - Phones are banned in all public schools in New South Wales. At Maitland High School, phones are to be locked in a pouch or handed into the Front Office upon arrival until the end of the school day. Period 1 teachers will check at the beginning of the lesson. As a guide: first phone breach = Formal Caution; 2nd phone breach = Suspension.

Uniform expectations



All students are required to be in correct school uniform, every day. This means that that black shorts MUST be no shorter than mid-thigh length; tights worn as long pants are unacceptable; any brand logos on pants, shorts, jumpers etc must be no bigger than a 50 cent piece; shoes must have solid leather uppers for all practical lessons, including Technology, Science, Visual Arts classes especially, and; coloured tops or bottoms are not permitted.

Any student who is out of uniform for a valid reason must bring a note from home and present to their rollcall teacher at the beginning of the day to be issued a uniform pass.

Swimming Carnival requirements

Our Whole school Swimming Carnival is on **next Wednesday 12 February** and sun safety is a high priority during this fun, all day event outside. As we know, even sitting in the shade in the stands results in sunburn from reflected heat (I know having managed to get significant sunburn watching the New Years Cricket Test Match in Sydney!). **All students MUST wear a rashie or T Shirt whenever not in the water** competing; put on sunscreen before leaving home; wear a hat, and; bring a water-bottle which can be refilled as required at the pool. There will be a canteen in operation and students can either buy or bring their lunch and snack as they would usually do at school.

Time – 9.00am – 2.40pm (200m Freestyle and Medley events to start at 8.30am)

Cost - Students \$5.50 paid via Schoolbytes, season passes accepted / Spectators \$4.00 pay on entry

Permission - Consent forms will need to be completed via Schoolbytes by Tuesday 11th February.

Students can walk or be driven straight to the pool. Students who arrive at school as normal will walk to the pool from 8:45am under the supervision of teachers.

At 2:40pm, students who are returning to school to catch buses etc. will make their way back to school under the supervision of staff members. Remaining students will be dismissed at 3:00pm. There will be supervision at the pool until 3:10pm while students are waiting to be picked up by parents/caregivers, after this time students will then walk back to school under teacher supervision.

Students can wear their Sports Uniform or dress in their house colours, which are:

House & Colour	Surnames
Fraser (Green)	All surnames starting A-E
McMullen (Yellow)	All surnames starting F-L
Scobie-Hughes (Red)	All surnames starting M-R
Waddy-Portus (Blue)	All surnames starting S-Z

Sport notice

Wednesday Sport will commence on 19th February. Students should already be allocated their sport, if there is any issue with this, students should speak to Mr Bower or Mr Stawski before this date to ensure problems are solved before sport begins.

MHS Canteen Price List

CANTEN PRICE LIST 2024	
Sandwiches, Rolls & Wraps	
SALAD	\$4.00
CHICKEN /SALAD	\$5.00
CHICKEN/ LETTUCE / MAYO	\$4.00
CHICKEN/CHEESE	\$4.50
CHICKEN	\$4.00
CHICKEN/TOMATO	\$4.50
HAM / CHEESE /TOMATO	\$4.50
HAM/CHEESE	\$4.00
HAM / TOMATO	\$4.00
HAM/ SALAD	\$5.00
EGG	\$4.00
HAM/PICKLE	\$4.00
EGG/LETTUCE /MAYO	\$4.50
EGG /SALAD	\$5.00
CURRIED/EGG	\$4.50
CHEESE	\$3.00
VEGEMITE	\$3.00
VEGEMITE / CHEESE	\$3.50
SALMON	\$4.50
SALMON/LETT/MAYO/ONION	\$6.00
CHEESE/TOMATO	\$4.00
ROAST BEEF & TOMATO	\$4.00
ROAST BEEF & PICKLE	\$4.00
ROAST BEEF	\$4.00
ROAST BEEF /SALAD	\$5.00
Hot Food	
CHAR GRILLED CHICKEN BURGER	\$6.00
HAMBURGER	\$6.00
VEGE BURGER	\$6.00
CHEESE ROLL	\$5.00
LASAGNE (WINTER ONLY)	\$5.00
FRIED RICE	\$5.50
SATAY CHICKEN (WINTER ONLY)	\$5.50
CHICKEN FRIED RICE (WINTER ONLY)	\$5.50
CORN ON THE COB	\$2.00
PIES PLAIN,	\$5.50
PIES CHEESE & BACON	\$6.00
SAUSAGE ROLLS PLAIN	\$4.50
SAUSAGE ROLLS C&B	\$5.00
CHICK BREAST NUGGETS (5)	\$3.50
CHICKEN GOUGONS (5)	\$3.50
HOT DOGS	\$3.50
GARLIC BREAD	\$3.50
CHICKEN TENDERS GF	\$3.50
Drinks	
WATER 600ML	\$2.00
ORCHY 250ML ORANGE	\$3.00
ORCHY 250ML APPLE	\$3.00
FLAVOURED MILK 250ML	\$3.00
FLAVOURED MILK 500ML	\$4.00
UP & GO CHOCOLATE	\$3.00
UP & GO VANILLA	\$3.00
JUICE BOMBS CAN (RASPBERRY, GRAPE)	\$3.00
CHILLICE TEA NO SUGAR 500ML (PEACH, BLACKCURRENT, RASP)	\$4.50
WATERFORDS LITE & FRUITY NO SUGAR 475ML (BLACKCURRENT, RASPBERRY,)	\$3.50
NO SUGAR PASSIONFRUIT, PINE LIME, MANGO	\$3.50
ICED OPTIONS	
FROZEN YOGHURT (STRAWBERRY, MANGO)	\$2.50
JUICE CUPS	\$1.50
ICE CREAM CUPS	\$1.50
JUICIES	\$2.00
SNACKS	
RED ROCK DELI CHIPS 28G (HONEY SOY & SEA SALT)	\$1.20
FRUIT IN SEASON	
BANANAS, APPLES, ORANGES MANDARINES.	\$1.00
MUFFINS CHOCOLATE, BLUEBERRY	\$3.50
LAMINGTONS	\$3.50
PRICES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE & AVAILABILITY OF GOODS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR	

Student behaviour expectations

As mentioned earlier, student wellbeing is a critical focus for the school and I am aware that every parent's first priority is that their child is happy, safe, respected and supported in their learning at school.

I have three critical expectations that are reinforced in this school:

1. **Classrooms are positive, settled places focused on learning.** I don't tolerate disruption to the learning environment. All my teachers have my mobile number and I have requested that they call for me to remove disruptive students from

classrooms. On the odd occasion that this occurs (as the widely known expectation and consequence tends to ensure settled classrooms) the student with additional learning or behavioural needs receives the appropriate support and remediation required through a learning and support team meeting with their parent/carers and other relevant support staff.

2. **Students have a right to be free from anti-social, aggressive or threatening behaviour in the playground.** Anti-social, bullying behaviour has no place in this school. Every reported incident is investigated and strong action is taken – Formal Caution or Suspension.

3. **Learning achievement and individual success require recognition of individual student learning needs and a high expectations, high support environment.** To achieve academic excellence, we use explicit teaching strategies to build higher order learning skills across all Key Learning Areas, forged on a foundation of strong literacy and numeracy skills development to prepare students to achieve their personal best at the HSC and post-school employment, further study pathways.

High expectations for student learning and positive behaviour at all times: no tolerance of disruptive or poor behaviour.

The school's high expectations for learning embraces all students. This involves our students: coming to school on time; being prepared for learning with all equipment; in correct school uniform and; demonstrating considerate and positive behaviour at all times. It is well known in our community that Maitland High School does not tolerate disruptive or poor behaviour from its students. The school has highly effective student wellbeing and discipline systems in place to ensure that the learning needs of all students are met with care and fairness. Support and extension are provided based on each student's unique learning needs.

Our Student Discipline Code is simple and transparent:

1. All students have the right to learn in settled and productive classrooms.
2. All students are valued, equal and unique and are supported to set high personal learning goals for a positive future.
3. All students have a right to be free from anti-social, aggressive or threatening behaviour in the playground.

All students at MHS are aware that transgressing these basic rights of fellow students is not tolerated.

Student learning routines and behaviour expectations



Every teacher,
every student,
every classroom,
every period.



Learning Routine

- **Students line up quietly and are settled outside the classroom** before entering. **Teachers check the line for phones & earphones**, hats off.
- **books and equipment out** on desk immediately.
- Sit at desks correctly, without unnecessary chatter.
- **'fast start' learning recap** drill / quiz to start the lesson.
- **Roll is marked every period** and after movement to another venue during the same period. Roll is marked for SPORT in classroom at the beginning and the end of the lesson.
- **Literacy / numeracy referenced activities are explicit** in every lesson.

High Expectations

- **Getting the 'Big Idea'** and problem-solving steps are explicitly modelled by the teacher for **ALL** classes.
- **Quality work** is always completed, with a focus on: neatness, correct spelling and legible handwriting.
- **Exit Slips** occur to feedback your understanding to the teacher
- **Homework** is about consolidating what you have learned through practice and occurs **at least once a week in every subject**.

Consequences and follow up

- **Assessment Tasks are completed** and parents called if not completed.
- **Persistent talking and disruption is not tolerated in class. Parents called and head teacher interview every time** this occurs then whole school detention at lunch.
- **Anti-social behaviour is never tolerated. No bullying, no harassment, no verbal or physical abuse.**
- **Verbal abuse of a staff member = immediate suspension.**
- Poor behaviour = Deputy Direct, Formal Caution, Suspension, Expulsion.

P. Graham
Principal

MHS Values

All students have the right to learn in settled and productive classrooms.

All students are valued, equal and unique and are supported to set high personal learning goals for a positive future.

All students have a right to be free from anti-social, aggressive or threatening behaviour in the playground.

All students have the right to make a fresh start, every day, knowing that teachers believe in them to become their best selves.

All students have at least one identified staff member at MHS who they can trust and turn to for support.

All students belong in this school.



Hard and Fast 5

At MHS, the following are never tolerated:

- Physical violence
- Bullying, harassment
- Alcohol or drug use
- Swearing at a teacher
- Persistent disruption



**They will result in
Suspension.**

Attendance



Attendance is a foundationally critical area of focus for all schools following the COVID Pandemic interruption. The school has a strong commitment and processes to improve student attendance. All parents, carers and students are provided with clear information regarding attendance requirements:

- On our school website <https://maitland-h.schools.nsw.gov.au/about-our-school/attendance-and-absence.html>
- School newsletter/Sentral Parent Portal at the start of each school year
- By email Weeks 5 and 10 of every term (attendance snapshots tailored to their child's attendance tier).
- Week 5 every term, students in Tier 1 are identified and contacted by their rollcall teacher to follow up on unexplained absences and to encourage families to improve attendance where appropriate (e.g. unjustified leave).
- Students with over 90% attendance by Week 5 each term receive a post card.
- Students with 100% attendance receive a postcard and an SMS of congratulations.
- By the schools Facebook page during attendance week once per term.

Early leavers processes – send note to school or phone early.

All parents and carers are reminded that the school needs to have prior permission note or phone call request to pick up students before the end of the school day. It is extremely inefficient and results in unnecessary delay for parents to have haphazard requests for early departures at the school gate, or phone calls from the car waiting outside. It takes time to locate the classroom your child is in; write the student note authorising the student to come to the front office; organise a student on School Service to go to the classroom and; sign out a student and check the bonafides of the adult collecting the student.

Early leaver notes

The Education Act 1990 requires that parents ensure that any absence from school is for a justifiable reason. On occasion, your child may need to be absent from school. Justified reasons for student absences may include:

- being sick, or having an infectious disease
- having an unavoidable medical appointment
- being required to attend a recognised religious holiday
- exceptional or urgent family circumstance e.g. attending a funeral.

Following an absence from school you must ensure that within 7 days you provide your child's school with a verbal or written explanation for the absence. However, if the school has not received an explanation from you within 2 days, the school may contact you to discuss the absence. Principals may decline to accept an explanation that you have provided if they do not believe the absence is in the best interest of your child. In these circumstances your child's absence would be recorded as unjustified. When this happens the principal will discuss their decision with you and the reasons why.

How can I send notes to the school to explain my child's absence? – Respond via SMS or through the Sentral Parent Portal.

The school follows up student absences on the same day or following day and effectively documents that the follow up has occurred. SMS messages are sent to parents every day that a child is absent, SASS staff record responses and update the rolls accordingly. Parents can also access the Sentral Parent Portal, to easily update their child's attendance. [Portal Login](#)

Monitoring Absences Maitland High School follows Department of Education policy for managing and monitoring attendance. Students identified to have missed 20 school days or have other wellbeing concerns are run on the Mandatory Reporter decision tree. Educational Neglect, Nonattendance is lodged for these students.

Partial Attendance

Students arriving at school late are required to sign in at the front office, their time is registered, and an SMS generated to be sent home. Students who are absent from lessons throughout the day are marked absent by their class teacher. If these students are involved in school business such as Small Group Tuition etc., a roll will be taken and submitted to SASS staff. The roll is updated by 3:30pm to reflect these absences. At 3:30pm the Head teacher Attendance & Engagement (HT A&E) draws roll data and identifies students who have been marked absent from class and have not been marked as attending a school business activity.

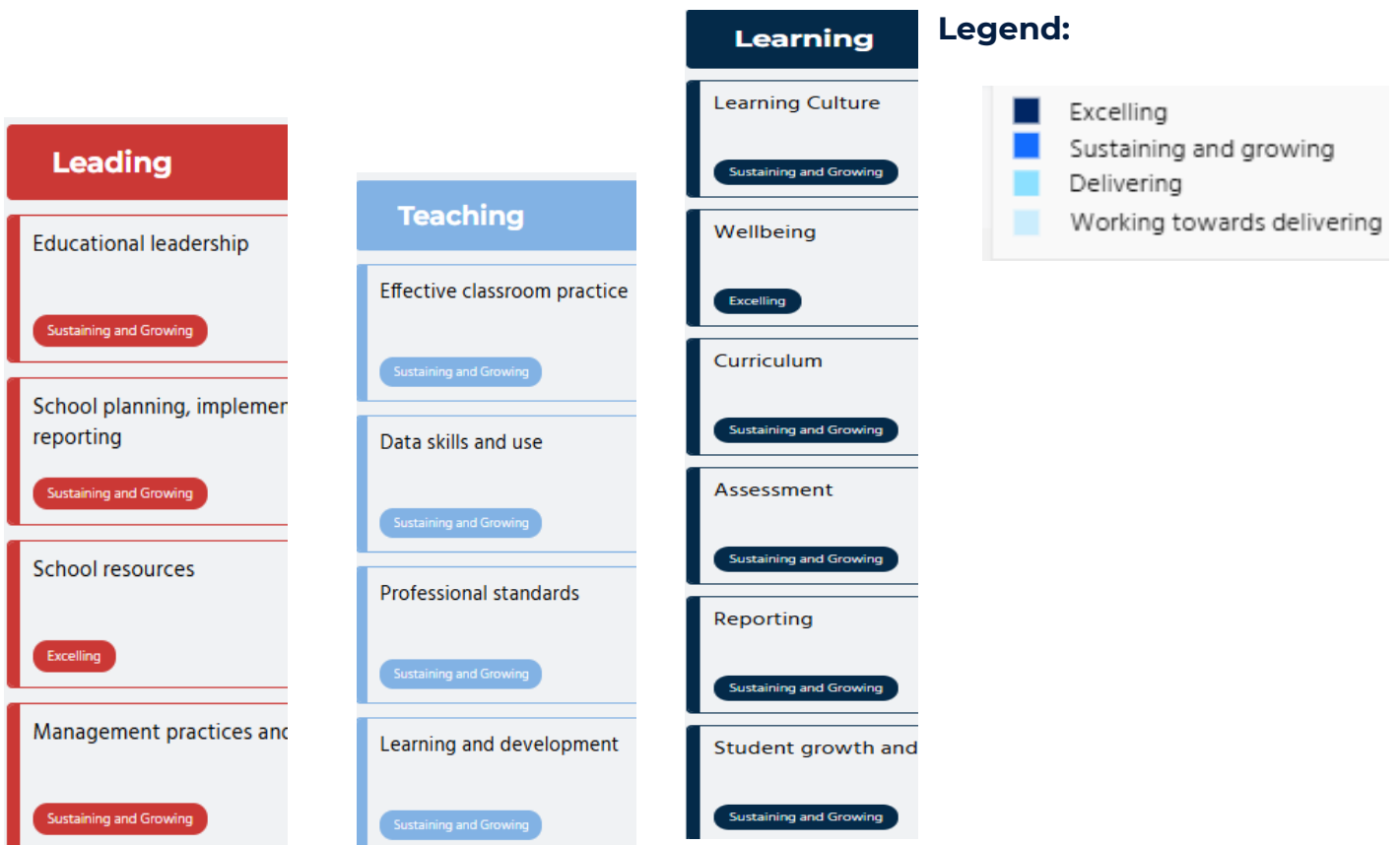
An SMS is generated and sent to parent/carers. Parent responses are collated, and the roll adjusted accordingly. Students who are identified as having a pattern of truancy are interviewed by their deputy principal or head teacher in charge of Attendance (HT A&E) Ms Megan Elliott. The reasons for missing class are discussed. Students may be placed on an attendance support card for accountability of class attendance. HT A&E and deputy principals run manual checks and issue attendance support cards to students with a pattern of class truancy. Responses from parents are registered and the roll updated appropriately.

High Potential students

Maitland High School is committed to developing the unique potential in every student! We have identified students in Years 8-12 with exceptional skills across the four High Potential and Gifted Domains: Intellectual; Creative; Physical; Social-Emotional, and we will start to identify those students amongst our new Year 7 cohort. These students will have extension plans developed in conjunction with parents/carers, however, all students' learning progress is tracked to ensure that they are meeting their full potential and not under-performing according to their own potential measure. Students are regularly discussed in Executive Learning Support meetings and when concerns are identified, a learning support team will be co-ordinated to work with parents to best develop a plan for support and improvement to get students back on their individual trajectories and meeting their individual goals.

External Validation

Every four years, every school in the state undergoes the External Validation process to track improvements against a standard measure called the School Excellence Framework (SEF). This is used to guide schools' next steps in improvement across all the SEF domains which characterise and measure the performance of a school. There are four measures or levels of improvement: Working towards delivering; Delivering; Sustaining and Growing, and Excelling. Last term, our school was **validated in the top two tiers as Sustaining & Growing or Excelling in all measures**, as indicated in detail below. I am extremely proud of the strong commitment, growth and ongoing improvement our school and its staff have achieved. We provide the quality education our wonderful students and community deserve!



Who to contact list

Senior Executive	<p>Ms Paula Graham, Principal paula.graham10@det.nsw.edu.au</p> <p>Ms Melissa Schatz, Deputy Principal Yrs 9 & 11 melissa.schatz@det.nsw.edu.au</p> <p>Mr Andrew McKay, Deputy Principal Yrs 8 & 12 andrew.mckay16@det.nsw.edu.au</p> <p>Ms Nicole Thompson, Deputy Principal Yrs 7 & 10 nicole.n.thompson@det.nsw.edu.au</p> <p>Ms Michele Burgess, Deputy Principal Inclusion & Support (SSU) MICHELE.ATKINS2@det.nsw.edu.au</p>
Wellbeing	<p>Mrs Sarah Gambrill HT Wellbeing, Years 8, 10, 12 sarah.gambrill@det.nsw.edu.au</p> <p>Ms Stephanie Ryan, HT Wellbeing, Years 7, 9, 11 stephanie.ryan25@det.nsw.edu.au</p>
Year Advisers	<p>Year 7</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mr Josh Russell joshua.russell15@det.nsw.edu.au• Ms Isabella Devetak isabella.devetak2@det.nsw.edu.au <p>Year 8</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mr Ryan Ewing Ryan.Ewing2@det.nsw.edu.au• Mr Johnnie Dobija john.dobija3@det.nsw.edu.au <p>Year 9</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Jake Fletcher Jake.Fletcher10@det.nsw.edu.au <p>Year 10</p>

<p>Year Advisers</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kirstyn Taylor Kirstyn.Bradley1@det.nsw.edu.au <p>Year 11</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Robert Walker ROBERT.J.WALKER@det.nsw.edu.au <p>Year 12</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Josh Noble josh.noble4@det.nsw.edu.au
<p>Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Student Support</p>	<p>Wil Reuben, AEO Wilfred.Reuben@det.nsw.edu.au</p>
<p>Careers & Transition</p>	<p>Nadine Goring, Careers Advisor nadine.goring1@det.nsw.edu.au</p> <p>Ms Deborah McCrohon - Careers Community Partnerships Officer deborah.j.mccrohon@det.nsw.edu.au</p>
<p>Head Teachers KLA</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Matt Rogers HT Maths matthew.rogers22@det.nsw.edu.au • Ms Chantelle Howlett, HT English Chantelle.Howlett2@det.nsw.edu.au • Mr Scott Parrey, HT Science scott.parrey@det.nsw.edu.au <p>Mrs Michelle Matthews, HT HSIE michelle.l.matthews@det.nsw.edu.au</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms Brittany Benton, HT CAPA brittany.benton@det.nsw.edu.au <p>Head Teachers KLA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr John Lawson HT PDHPE

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- Mrs Donna Howarth, **HT TAS**

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- Mrs Donna Chapman-Hardy, **HT Administration**

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- Mrs Jayne Cameron, **HT SSU**

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Kind regards and En Avant!

Paula Graham

Paula Graham

Principal | Maitland High School



Who we are...

We are proudly your local comprehensive public high school committed to providing the *'BEST education money can't buy'*, for our community.

What do we stand for?

- High expectations learning achievement for *every* student;
- All students have the *right* to learn in **settled and productive classrooms**.
- All students are **valued, equal and unique** and are supported to set high personal learning goals for a positive future.
- All students have a *right* to be **free from anti-social, aggressive or threatening behaviour**.
- We use student performance data to ensure that classes are **explicitly taught**, and **learning is differentiated for foundational, consolidating and extension level students**, in every class right across the curriculum.

What's our proof that we deliver?

- One of two high schools in the Hunter with a student on the NSW 2023 HSC Honour Roll for **Band 6 achievement in every subject** and; remember, we're *comprehensive*, we don't select based on ability or social/ economic advantage. We believe in the very best for *every* student.
- Ask around the community, our **parent testimonies are strong**.
- Our NSW Education Standards Authority Random Inspection in both Curriculum and Wellbeing- classed as **"Outstanding"** by the inspectors.
- The External Validation of the school concluded as being **Sustaining & Growing and Excelling** across 13 areas.

En Avant!

