



Maitland High School

Term 2, 2024 Newsletter

1 May 2024



Dear MHS families,

I hope that the holidays were well enjoyed by all in our community but we are all very happy to see our students return for a term of personal best learning achievement, growing friendships and developing a strong and positive sense of self. As outlined last year, we aim to keep our communication dynamic and targeted by publishing in real time, student successes, opportunities and educational experiences on facebook and provide activity notifications via Sentral relevant to specific cohorts. We use our website to provide more over-arching and static information. If you have not already done so, please follow us on facebook and refer to our website for general information. [Facebook](#) Website: [Home - Maitland High School \(nsw.gov.au\)](https://www.maitlandhighschool.nsw.gov.au)

Important dates!

The new Timetable for the remainder of the year, will commence on Monday, 6 May (Week 2). Timetables will be handed out in Year Meetings this Friday. Week 2 is 'B' Week.

School Photographs day is this Friday, 3 May. Please ensure that your child is in full school uniform. Student should all have received their MSP Photo Information Slip already, however, any students who haven't should see their year advisor or the Front Office.



Athletics Carnival, Wednesday 15 May @ Maitland Athletics Centre. Buses are available from school and students may also make their own way there with a parent/carer. There will be a limited canteen running. Please ensure that your child is in Sports Uniform, has a water bottle, food and has appropriate clothing for the weather conditions.

Year 7 Camp – Great Aussie Bush Camp 15-17 May.





Parent/Teacher Afternoon/Evening in MPC

Years 7-12 from 4:00pm-7:00pm

General Information

Excursions

There are a number of excursions running this term and it is very important that all permission notes are returned by the due date so that we can determine if the excursion is viable. Additionally, it is critical that all students attending an excursion must be in full school uniform.



Students are asked NOT BRING their own footballs, soccer balls, basketballs to school. This is posing a safety risk between classes and in classes. If you bring these to school, you will be directed to leave with your Deputy Principal. Sport equipment can be loaned at break times from the PDHPE Staffroom.



Aerosol cans are BANNED at Maitland High School. Please do not bring to school. These too, present a safety risk. If you have an aerosol can at school, you will be directed to hand it in to your Deputy Principal. Parents/carers will need to arrange to collect the aerosol can from school.

The 2024 NSW Department of Education Student Behaviour Policy

The NSW Department of Education's [revised Student Behaviour Policy](#) and new [Suspension and Expulsion Procedures](#) came into effect at the start of Term 1 2024. The policy and procedures support an inclusive and safe learning environment for your child, staff and every child in NSW public schools. With the revisions to the policy, we now have clarity and consistency of how we manage disruptive and challenging student behaviour in the classroom, so our teachers can teach, and our students can learn.

The guidelines allow us to work closer together with you to support your child to behave positively and respectfully and when developing individual plans with clear expectations, so they can achieve their best.

We have many practices in place to help our students engage respectfully with each other and their learning. You can find out more about these and advice and support strategies to help you work with their us to achieve positive outcomes for your child through the department's [Behaviour Support Toolkit](#). Violence in our schools

is never acceptable. Suspension is a critical safeguard for ensuring the safety of our students, teachers and staff. The staff and I are reviewing our current approach in line with the revised policy and procedures and will share any changes we believe need to be made with you this term.

Parents and carers play an important role in the school community. We will continue to engage and communicate with you around our School Behaviour Support and Management Plan that outlines our school processes and practices moving forward.

Our school already takes a strong, positive, student-centred approach, and we look forward to continuing to work closely with you and all our families to maintaining a safe learning environment so our students can thrive.



Positive and productive classrooms

This term, our focus on settled, productive and positive classrooms continues. All students have a right to learn in a quality learning environment, free from disruption. Our school operates on consistent learning routines, high expectations of behaviour and achievement and pro-social, esteem-building interactions. I am sharing with you our classroom learning expectations:

MHS Learning Expectations.

Students are required to come to school prepared for learning i.e. at its most basic, it is a book for each subject and a pen to write with. If any families are experiencing financial difficulties, please contact the school to apply for Student Assistance to help with equipment, uniform, Elective contributions, excursions etc.

Disruptive behaviour in class is unacceptable. The teacher will give one general warning to the class if it is becoming unsettled, after that, the teacher will summon the principal. Time taken away from learning due to poor behaviour of the minority is unfair and negatively impacts on other students who have their learning halted while the teacher addresses behaviour. This behaviour is unacceptable in our school.

	Every teacher, every student, every classroom, every period.	
Learning Routine		
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ 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		
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ 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		
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ 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.		

Students must be prompt to class. Rolls are marked every period and students who are late to class without good reason have a partial truancy recorded against them.

There are consequences and follow up for disruptive behaviour. Every teacher logs behaviour incidents in Sentral each day and deputy principals of each year group check these logs throughout the day and interview students. If the principal is required to remove a disruptive student from class, the student will be placed on a Break 1 Detention and Behaviour Monitoring. After review of their behaviour referrals, the student may be formally cautioned of suspension for continued disobedience if there are a number of concerning referrals. The Deputy Principals also formally caution students whose behaviour is impacting on both their learning and the learning of others.

Behaviour Monitoring Cards

Each deputy principal has students who see them before school, before each break and after school to have their Behaviour Monitoring cards checked. If a student receives a 'C' or 'D' for any subject, they will have a Break 1 Detention with the Principal either that day, or on the next day. Our Behaviour Monitoring Cards have five periods and the class teacher indicates if the student has fulfilled their expected learning requirements for the lesson. Students should also take their card home to show their parent or carer.

Students may be placed on behaviour monitoring if their escalating misbehaviour places them at risk of Formal Caution of Suspension. It is designed to provide a layer of close accountability to prevent a formal caution or suspension occurring.

	Subject & Room	Behaviour Grade A-D	Signed Class Teacher	A = Excellent B = Good C = could do better D = Poor				Homework
Roll call				<input type="checkbox"/>	Present			
Period 1				<input type="checkbox"/>	Arrived on time	<input type="checkbox"/>	Followed directions	
				<input type="checkbox"/>	Worked quietly	<input type="checkbox"/>	Respectful interactions	
				<input type="checkbox"/>	Prepared for class	<input type="checkbox"/>	Completed best work	
				Comments				

Teachers are asked to make calls home if a student's behaviour is of increasing concern, so the first you hear of a concern should not be from the deputy principal. This is an opportunity that parents/carers really value to work on the issue with the school and their young person early in the piece, before the deputy principal gets involved. The deputy principal will contact you if your child has been placed on behaviour monitoring to prevent formal caution or if your child has been formally cautioned. You will also receive a written notification of Formal Caution of Suspension.

Formal Caution and Suspension

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.

If a student continues to engage in misbehaviour after receiving a formal caution, they may be suspended.

Suspension

Anti-social behaviour is never acceptable. These things will result in suspension.

Helpful links:

[Parents and carers \(nsw.gov.au\)](https://nsw.gov.au/parents-carers) [Accessing support for parents and carers \(nsw.gov.au\)](https://nsw.gov.au/support-for-parents-carers)

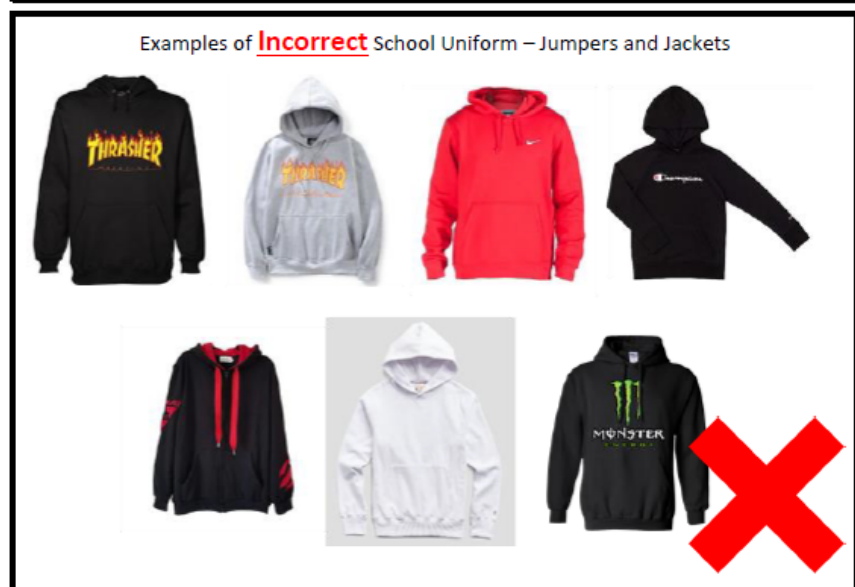
School Uniform

With the cooler weather soon settling in, we understand many families may be purchasing new uniform items over the school break. Please refer to the attachment for the correct school uniform requirements - jumpers/jackets and long pants.

The wearing of school uniform by students assists school communities in:

- developing students' sense of belonging to the school community
- providing an opportunity to build school spirit
- enhancing the health and safety of students when involved in school activities
- promoting a sense of inclusiveness, non-discrimination and equal opportunity

- increasing the personal safety of students and staff by allowing easier recognition of visitors and potential intruders in the school
- making school clothing more affordable for families by eliminating the risk of peer pressure to wear transiently fashionable and expensive clothes.



For information on how to purchase school uniforms via our Alinta School Uniform Shop, please follow the link: <https://maitland-h.schools.nsw...>

If you require assistance to access the correct uniform for your child, please do not hesitate to contact the school on 4933 7933 and speak with our Wellbeing Team or the Front Office. All matters are dealt with confidentially.

Correct School Pants

Students must wear either the school pants supplied by Alinta Uniform Shop OR Plain black pants.

Examples of shorts that **ARE** acceptable school uniform:



A person wearing black pants

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Examples of pants that are **NOT** acceptable school uniform:

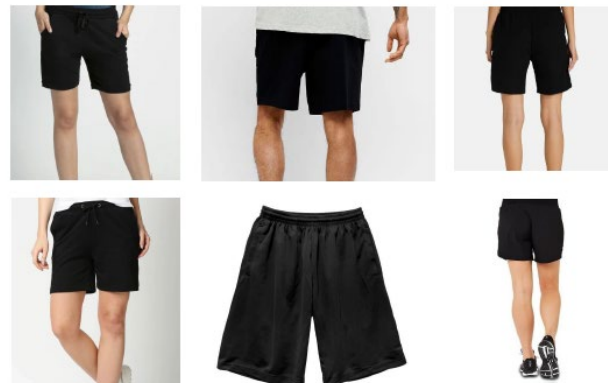
- ⊗ tights
- ⊗ Logos (other than the MHS logo)
- ⊗ Any other colours (including white)



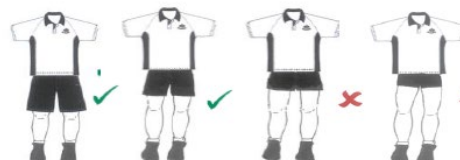
Correct School Shorts

Students can wear either the MHS School Shorts or PLAIN black shorts.

Examples of shorts that **ARE** acceptable school uniform:

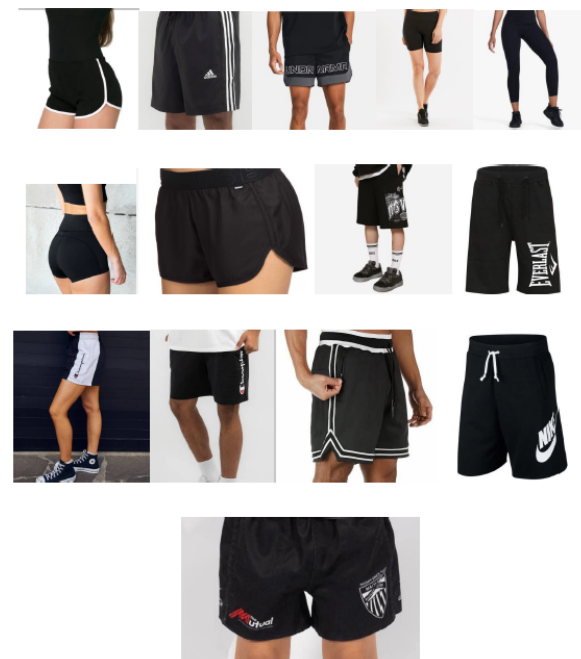


To meet Workplace Health and Safety (WHS) requirements, shorts and skirts must be a minimum of mid-thigh length.



Examples of shorts that are **NOT** acceptable school uniform:

- ⊗ Shorts shorter than mid-thigh length
- ⊗ Logos (other than the MHS logo)
- ⊗ Any other colours (including white)
- ⊗ Tights



Incorrect Uniform procedures

Do not be fooled that short shorts, tights worn as pants, or jumpers with large, distracting logos are acceptable at school – they are not. An explanatory note must be provided for any student temporarily out of uniform. Students who are persistently out of uniform will be offered correct uniform or Student Assistance. Persistent refusal to wear school uniform results in Break 1 Detentions and parent/carers being contacted to bring appropriate attire to school if the student refuses appropriate clothing offered by the school.

Please review your child's attire before they leave for school. The social pressures from society to show skin and present it to young people as fashionable should not be allowed to impact on our young people's comfort and healthy self-concept. As the cold weather advances, there is no reason for students to freeze because they feel they must wear short shorts or thin tights to be socially accepted. If we all support our young people in this, it makes it easier for all parents and carers to ensure their young person is warm and wearing appropriately protective clothing. Tracksuit pants are warm and very comfortable and all students are allowed to wear plain black tracksuit pants as part of the school uniform.

Our 2024 School Plan (in a nutshell!)

Strategic Direction 1 – Successful Students



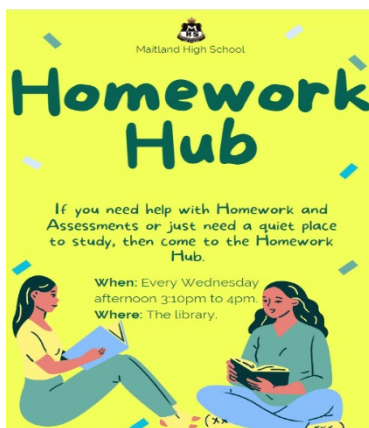
- Reading, Writing and Numeracy skills development is embedded across all learning sequences.
- Teachers mark rolls accurately every period; and follow up on class truancy with home.
- Teachers make phone calls to students' parents on Attendance Week.
- Teachers design in Aboriginal student PLP goals achievement in lesson programming. And each classroom recognises Aboriginal culture and achievements.
- HSC study is driven by teacher-set homework/milestone/ study tasks i.e. Y11: 2hrs/wk. Y12: 3 hrs/wk. every subject.
- We use ALARM to improve written responses.



- We use student performance data to ensure that all classes are differentiated for lower, middle and top students in every class. We do not teach 'one size fits all'.
- Teaching programs design in explicit teaching practices and higher order thinking learning activities.
- Community of Practice: Explicit Programming time is dedicated to every faculty.
- HGPE students are identified across all domains and are supported through excelled learning opportunities.



- High Expectations learning:
- Quick start lessons; no disruption; no students out of class.
 - We use REAL schools classroom management strategies.
 - Meaningful homework is set, used in class and feedback given
 - We follow up all behaviour concerns with Head Teacher and parents.
 - We give regular student encouragement and recognition - PBL Maggies.



Don't forget Homework Hub!

Homework Hub is back for Term 2 in the Library every Wednesday afternoon. All years are welcome! 😊. For more information see Ms Beer.