



Old Airport Drive, P.O. Box 419  
Emerald QLD 4720

**Subscribe:** <https://emeraldshs.schoolzineplus.com/subscribe>



**Email:** [the.principal@emeraldshs.eq.edu.au](mailto:the.principal@emeraldshs.eq.edu.au)

**Phone:** 07 4988 2222

**Fax:** 07 4988 2200

## 26 June 2026

### Principal's Report.

Dearest Emerald State High Community,

I hope that you are well and that you are excited for the ensuing holiday break.

The end of Semester is upon us and reports will be on their way home shortly. I highly recommend sitting with your student to analyse their report for the semester. It is important to celebrate their growth and set some goals for improvement for the final semester of the academic year. Parent Teacher Interviews are an excellent opportunity to further unpack academic reports.

It has been a fantastic few weeks with assessment being the key activity across most classes. I am really looking forward to Spirit Day to finish the term this Friday.

Our Preliminary NAPLAN 2026 Data has yet to be uploaded to QCAA Portal. I look forward to sharing our banded data when it is released.

Onwards and Upwards!!

There are lots of great things happening early next term. Parent-Teacher Night is on the Tuesday 28 July (Week 3), Subject Selection evening is on Tuesday 21 July and our NAIDOC Elders' Luncheon is on in Week 2. Our Year 11s and future school leaders will embark on a Leadership Camp in Week 5. SET Plan interviews are on for Year 10s from Week 6 through 8, there is a Student Free Day on Friday 4 September and, of course, our Year 12 Formal occurs on Wednesday 9 September. Term 3 is always big and busy!

With subject selections occurring soon, it is timely to remind everyone again about our 'ESHS Careers Website' that links from our school website or more directly from <https://www.emeraldshscareers.com.au/>. This is an amazing resource to help young people explore the world of work, university, trades, apprenticeships and post-school study. I would encourage everyone - students and parents - to have a look!! It is a really good tool!

Now is an opportunity for all students to take a well-earned break, relax, refresh, and get ready to go for the second half of the year!!

*"Kindness is the language that the deaf can hear and the blind can see."*

*Mark Twain*

### **Regards**

**Mr. Troy Sanson**

**Principal**

### **From the Garnet Deputy Principal.**

Term 2 has been super busy with sporting opportunities, cultural involvement and loads of learning happening across the school. It has been fabulous to see so many students being recognised for their hard work and talents. Semester 1 Report Cards are being completed and will be sent soon. Remember to celebrate all your successes, especially great results in Behaviour and Effort.

Homework club has been increased to twice a week and is open to all students every Monday and Wednesday from 3 – 4pm if needed. A huge "thankyou" to all the dedicated staff who attend twice a week to help every student have success. Please continue to keep in touch with teachers via email as needed. The earlier we know about an issue the easier it is to help.

It is great to see so many positive postcards going out in the mail at the moment. Your students should also be getting some "High 5" tickets to put into the PCL barrel for the Parade draws. We have great prizes and gift vouchers on offer 3 times a Term, in Weeks 4, 6 and 8.

### **Subject Selection for 2027**

Although it feels like the year is just gaining momentum, we have already started working on the 2027 school timetable. Our Heads of Department have been developing new subjects to be offered in 2026 in order to engage more students in subjects that interest them and prepare them for future pathways.

Subject Information Books will be published for parents and students soon, and a **Subject Information Evening will be held for families on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> July**, which is in Week 2.

Following this, students in Years 8, 9 and 10 will start choosing subjects for 2027.

### **SET Plans (Senior Education and Training Plans)**

Next term our Year 10 students focus on career planning and will each develop their SET Plan. All Year 10 students are required to develop a SET Plan in consultation with their Deputy Principal and parents/carers. Planning your senior pathway requires significant thought and consideration. This starts with reflecting on their own interests, skills and personal attributes. Students will set goals and explore possible careers and pathways. They will then choose subjects for Year 11 that align with their aspirations and abilities.

The SET Plan process is started during their VVP class and finalised once subjects are chosen for Year 11 and 12 in consultation with parents. The SET Plan maps out a plan of action for students to achieve their education goal or intended learning option (ILO) and supports students to remain on track for success in senior secondary and meaningful post-school pathways. Students are encouraged to take ownership of their SET

Plan and to review and revise it at regular intervals during Years 11 and 12 to ensure they remain on track.

## Junior Certificate of Education

At the end of Year 10, most students will receive a Junior Certificate of Education or a JCE. This is a school based junior schooling qualification awarded to eligible students at the end of Year 10 on completion of the junior phase of learning.

At Emerald State High School, the JCE is designed to:

- Be a tool to track, recognise and celebrate student progress and engagement
- Teach students to track their progress in preparation for the QCE process in Senior School.
- Provide a qualification to add to a student's portfolio to present to an employer.
- Reward hard work and commitment to studies in the middle years of schooling.

To be awarded a JCE, students need to achieve a significant amount of learning, at a set standard, in both core and elective subjects. At the end of this term, you will receive a report card for Semester One. Once we have the first Semester's results, DPs will work with students to check on progress towards a JCE and monitor this for the remainder of the year. If successful, JCE Certificates are sent out at the end of the school year.

## Year 10 Immunisations

The Year 10 Immunisation Clinic will be held on **Thursday the 23rd July** as part of our Annual School Immunisation Program. All year 10 students are being offered free vaccinations as rec-

ommended by the National Immunisation Program to protect against Meningococcal ACWY.

**Your participation in the Immunisation Program is entirely up to you. Under no circumstances would the school be allowing vaccinations of any type without express parental approval.** Only those students whose parents have completed the online consent forms will be able to get their free immunisation at school.

**If at any time you wish to change your consent decision or have questions, please contact Ozcare Emerald, directly by ph: (07) 4937 4260.**

## Uniform Reminders

As we enter the cooler part of the year, please be mindful that our uniform rules still apply. We are seeing the resurgence of hooded jumpers and black denim jeans. These are not uniform items. If you do not have a school tracksuit, a plain black jumper with no hood and no logos is able to be worn. Plain black tracksuit pants are also ok on cold days. Big W has a good range at the moment, starting at \$8 an item.

Students who arrive out of uniform are to see their Deputy Principal before school and change the non-uniform item for one that the school can provide for the day. If they refuse to change into the school item, parents may be called to bring a school uniform in.

If families genuinely cannot source an appropriate uniform item, please get in touch with me and we may be able to help you out.

## Banned Items

Students are getting reminders this week about banned items at Emerald State High School.

There are posters up around the school and these are listed in the student diaries on Page 8. In particular, we are noticing an increase in the energy drinks that are being brought to school. Many of these contain high levels of caffeine and are not recommended for adolescents. Soft drinks, fast foods and chewing gum are also banned.

All personal technology devices (mobile phones, MP3 player, Bluetooth headphones, and all similar devices) are not to be used, seen or heard during the entire school day either inside or outside the classroom. This includes during all breaks, on excursions and until the end of the school day. Phones are not to be visible or turned on at any and must remain "Away for the Day". We strongly recommend that these devices not be brought to school and take no responsibility for damage or theft.

Our mobile phone policy is published in the student diary on Page 9. This relates to mobile phones as well as wireless earphones and recording devices. If these are seen at school, they are to be handed to the office. The first offence is a warning, and they will be handed back to the student at the end of the day. After the first time, these items are to be collected by a parent. On the 4<sup>th</sup> instance, the student is likely to be suspended for refusal to comply with school expectations. Please keep them safe by leaving them at home.

Have a relaxing winter holidays!

See you all back on the 13<sup>th</sup> July, well rested and ready to tackle Semester 2.

## Regards

**Mrs. Deanne Lucht**

**Deputy Principal – Garnet**

## From the Cooee Corner.

As we reach the end of Semester 1, it is a valuable opportunity to reflect on the work undertaken by the Cooee team to support students, staff, and families across Emerald State High School.

A key component of our work this term has been the Nationally Consistent Collection of Data (NCCD) moderation process. NCCD moderation provides an opportunity for schools to review the adjustments and supports being provided to students with disability, ensuring that evidence is accurately documented and that students continue to receive the assistance they require.

The team has also been involved in ongoing monitoring of students working towards a Queensland Certificate of Individual Achievement (QCIA). Regular reviews of learning goals, evidence collection, and progress monitoring help ensure that students are working towards meaningful outcomes that align with their individual strengths, interests, and post-school aspirations.

Beyond academic support, one of the most important aspects of our role as case managers is building and maintaining positive relationships with students and their families. Strong partnerships between home and school are essential in supporting student wellbeing, engagement, and success. We greatly value the communication, collaboration, and trust that families have shown

throughout the semester and appreciate the opportunity to work together to support each student's individual journey.

As we move into the semester break, we would like to thank our students, families, teachers, and support staff for their ongoing commitment to inclusive education. We are proud of the growth and achievements our students have demonstrated this semester and look forward to continuing to support their success in Semester 2.

**Regards**

**Mrs. Ashley Stoker**

**Teacher**

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**From the Science team.**

As Semester 1 comes to a close, students across all year levels have been busy exploring the world around them through a range of engaging scientific investigations and learning experiences.

Our Year 7 students have successfully completed their first semester of high school science. This term, they have been learning about ecosystems and food webs, investigating the complex relationships between living organisms and their environments. Students have enjoyed applying their knowledge to real-world examples and developing their understanding of how ecosystems remain balanced. We are also excited that some of the Year 7 classes will be participating in a QMEA (Queensland Minerals and Energy Academy) activity day this week, providing students with valuable hands-on STEM experiences.

Year 8 students have been exploring the fascinating world of body systems. Throughout the term, they have investigated how different sys-

tems work together to keep us alive and functioning every day. From the circulatory system to the respiratory system, students have developed a greater appreciation for the complexity of the human body and the importance of maintaining a healthy lifestyle.

Year 9 students have recently completed a major research task examining Earth's four interconnected spheres: the geosphere, biosphere, hydrosphere, and atmosphere. As part of their studies, students investigated the role of greenhouse gases and evaluated their impacts on Earth's systems. Their research highlighted the importance of understanding environmental challenges and considering sustainable solutions for the future.

Our Year 10 students have been developing their practical investigation skills through a student-designed experiment focused on reaction rates. Students explored how different catalysts can influence the speed of chemical reactions and analysed their experimental data to draw evidence-based conclusions. It has been fantastic to see students applying scientific inquiry skills in a laboratory setting.

Across our senior science subjects, students have continued to work diligently on a range of student experiments and research investigations. From conducting practical experiments to analysing complex scientific concepts, our senior students have demonstrated commitment, curiosity, and resilience as they prepare for future studies and careers in STEM-related fields.

We would like to congratulate all students on their efforts throughout Semester 1 and thank families for their ongoing support. We look forward to another exciting semester of scientific discovery in the second half of the year.

**Regards**

**Miss. Ainslee Fittler**

**Teacher**

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## From the English team.

It has been an exciting and productive year so far in the English Faculty, with students across Years 7–12 engaging in a wide range of texts, topics and learning experiences designed to strengthen their reading, writing, speaking, viewing and critical thinking skills.

Across Junior English, students continue to develop their confidence as readers, writers and creators. Year 7 students are exploring rich storytelling through texts such as *Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief*, *Black Snake: The Daring of Ned Kelly* and a creative animation unit. Year 8 students are building their analytical and imaginative skills through advertising, *Remember the Titans*, *Catching Teller Crow* and a video game design unit. In Year 9, students are examining important ideas such as stereotypes, justice, propaganda and science fiction through texts including *Zootopia*, *12 Angry Men*, *The Hunger Games* and *Back to the Future*.

Year 10 students have now made their Semester 2 English pathway selections and will move into either Extension English or regular English/Literacy pathways. This is an important step as students begin preparing for senior schooling. In Semester 2, Year 10 students will continue developing analytical and creative skills through the study of texts such as *Romeo and Juliet*, *To Kill a Mockingbird* and *The Book Thief*, while Literacy Short Course students will focus

on practical reading, writing and communication skills connected to personal identity and the workforce.

In Senior English, Year 11 students are now working through Unit 2. Essential English students are exploring human experiences through documentary-style texts, General English students are studying texts and culture through *Persepolis* and *Jojo Rabbit*, and Literature students are engaging with intertextuality through *Everything Everywhere All at Once* and poetry by Kae Tempest and Sarah Holland-Batt.

Year 12 students are now in Unit 4 as they move toward the final stages of their senior English studies. Essential English students are exploring representations and popular culture through texts such as *Spider-Man*, *Black Panther* and *Memorial*. General English students are preparing for their external examination, with a close study of *Othello* forming a key part of their final preparation. We wish our Year 12 students all the very best as they continue to refine their skills and prepare for their final assessment.

Across all year levels, our focus remains on supporting students to become confident communicators, thoughtful readers and effective writers. We look forward to seeing students continue to grow throughout the semester.

**Regards**

**Mr. Graham Fandrich**

**HOD**

## From the Hospitality and VET team.

### Year 10 – Certificate I in Hospitality

This term, our Year 10 Hospitality students have been working towards achieving two competencies:

- SITXCCS009 Provide customer information and assistance
- BSBTWK201 Work effectively with others

Throughout the term, students have prepared a variety of recipes designed to meet different dietary and customer requirements. These have included burgers, brookies (a brownie-cookie combination), gluten-free gnocchi and stir fry. Through these practical activities, students have developed their food preparation skills while also considering the needs and preferences of different customers.

A strong focus this term has been on teamwork and communication. Students have worked collaboratively in a range of groups, building their confidence and developing positive working relationships with their peers. It has been fantastic to see students stepping outside their comfort zones to work with new people and to support one another in the kitchen.

### Year 11 – Certificate II in Hospitality

In Week 8, our two Year 11 Hospitality classes participated in their Family Dinner functions. These two events provided students with valuable hands-on experience in catering and delivering an alternate drop dinner service in a real-world setting.

In the evening, students welcomed and served their guests and showcased their food preparation and customer service skills. It was fantastic

to see students step up into leadership roles and demonstrate excellent teamwork.

Some of the dishes include:

Entrees:

- Aranchi Balls
- Focaccia with Beetroot Hummus
- Chicken Rice Paper Rolls with Peanut Sauce
- Mini Cob Loaves

Mains:

- Beef Ragu with Homemade Pasta
- Chicken Parmi with Salad and Chips
- Mongolian Beef Stir-fry

Desserts:

- Mars Bar Cheesecake
- Chocolate Brownie
- Vanilla Panna Cotta with Berry Coulis
- Pavlova Trifle

The evening was a great success, with many positive comments from guests about the quality of the food and the high standard of service. We are incredibly proud of the effort our students put into this event.



## Year 12 – Certificate II in Hospitality

Our Year 12 Hospitality students have been running café again this term, continuing to build on the skills they developed earlier in the year.

Following the success of our "Coffee and Cake" offering in Term 1, students expanded the café menu to include a wider range of food and beverage options.

This has provided students with the opportunity to further develop their customer service, food preparation and barista skills, while also learning to coordinate the timing of food and drinks to ensure customers received a quality dining experience. Students were responsible for taking orders, preparing menu items, making beverages and serving customers in a professional manner.

It has been fantastic to see the growth in students' confidence and independence as they take on increasingly complex tasks in the café environment. We'd like to thank our staff and community members for their ongoing support of the café and for providing our students with valuable opportunities to gain real-world hospitality experience.

**Regards**

**Mrs. Michelle Watkin**

**Teacher**

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**From the Technologies team.**

## Technologies Faculty – Semester 1 Wrap-Up

Semester 1 has been an exciting and productive period for students across the Technologies Faculty, with a strong focus on innovation, creativity, and future-focused learning.

One of the most exciting developments for our school is the progress of our new Technologies Building. Construction is now well underway and we look forward to seeing the project completed in the near future. This state-of-the-art facility will provide students with enhanced learning environments and access to modern equipment, further strengthening our Engineering and Design Technologies pathways and creating exciting opportunities for future learners.

Throughout Semester 1, students have engaged in a wide range of digital technologies and design experiences across all year levels.

### **What Students Have Been Learning**

#### **Years 9, 11 and 12 – App Development**

Students explored the fundamentals of software development by designing and creating their own applications. Through this process, students developed skills in problem-solving, user interface design, coding, testing, and evaluation.

#### **Years 9 and 10 – Game Development with Godot**

Students learned how to create interactive games using the Godot game engine. They explored coding concepts, game mechanics, character movement, and digital design while bringing their own game ideas to life.

#### **Year 8 – Digital Technologies Foundations**

Our Year 8 students focused on developing essential digital technology skills and computational thinking. Students also explored game creation using Kodu, allowing them to build simple games while learning the foundations of programming and digital design.

#### **Digital Solutions – Website Development**

Students undertaking Digital Solutions investigated modern web design principles and devel-

oped their own websites. This included planning user experiences, creating website layouts, and implementing interactive features.

### **Looking Ahead – Artificial Intelligence in Education**

As part of our commitment to preparing students for emerging technologies, two staff members have successfully completed training in the Education Queensland Corella AI platform.

During Term 3, selected classes will participate in a school-based trial exploring the ethical and responsible use of artificial intelligence in education. The trial will focus on helping students understand how AI can be used to support learning while maintaining academic integrity, critical thinking, and responsible digital citizenship.

We are proud of the enthusiasm and creativity demonstrated by our students throughout Semester 1 and look forward to continuing to build innovative learning opportunities in Semester 2.

#### **Regards**

**Mr. Callum Simmons**

**Teacher**

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**From the Interact Club and Student Leadership Committee.**

### **Interact Semester 1 Wrap-Up**

Semester 1 has been another busy and rewarding period for the members of Interact, with students contributing countless hours of service to both the school and wider Emerald community.

Throughout the semester, members have participated in a variety of fundraising and volunteer activities. Students assisted Emerald Rotary at the Festival of the Bands, helped operate the Brothers' canteen at McIndoe Park and managed

entry gates at the Emerald Rodeo. Members also took part in a Movie Marathon, a unique overnight event running from 8.00 pm until 8.00 am, featuring movies, karaoke, ping pong, dance competitions and a range of team-building activities.

The highlight of the semester, however, was Interact receiving the Rotary International Excellence Recognition Award. This prestigious international award recognises outstanding Interact clubs that demonstrate excellence in service, leadership and community impact.

With approximately 250–260 Interact clubs operating across Australia, fewer than 20 clubs receive this recognition in a typical year. Receiving the award places our club among the top-performing Interact clubs in the nation and reflects the dedication, enthusiasm and commitment shown by our members over the past eleven months.

The award was earned through a wide range of projects and initiatives. Members expanded club membership, developed their understanding of Rotary and its values, organised the annual Haunted House fundraiser, contributed towards the installation of a water well in Cambodia and began planning the upcoming Striding to End Polio (STEP) fundraiser. Each of these projects has helped strengthen both the club and the community it serves.

Term 3 is shaping up to be even busier. On 11 July, members will once again assist with gate operations at the final Emerald Rodeo of the year before helping with the clean-up the following day. The following weekend, Interact will host its annual Christmas in July fundraiser and market at Emerald Rotary Park on the 18th. Members will then run the Striding to End Polio

(STEP) Walkathon on 1 August, raising both awareness and funds to support Rotary's global mission to eradicate polio. Another Movie Marathon is also planned later in the term.



Interact is open to students from all year levels and provides a fantastic opportunity to develop leadership skills, build friendships, contribute to the community and gain valuable experience for future resumes, scholarship applications and employment opportunities. Meetings are held during First Break in C8 on odd school weeks, and new members are always welcome.

### **SLC Semester 1 Wrap-Up**

The Student Leadership Committee (SLC) has enjoyed a busy and successful first semester, delivering a range of activities for students while supporting important charitable causes.

The year began with the annual Valentine's Day fundraiser. Senior leaders created and sold artificial flowers, organised biscuit sales through the tuckshop and entertained students with the

popular First Break Serenade. Funds raised from the event were donated to the Heart Foundation.

Junior leaders then took centre stage with the school Handball Competition. The event attracted strong participation across all year levels, with Garnet House claiming victory after recording the highest number of participants.

Term 2 proved just as busy. Senior Leaders hosted a decades themed Trivia Night, which was moved from Term 3 to Term 2 for the first time. The change was a great success, resulting in the highest attendance the event has seen and raising funds for domestic violence prevention initiatives.

The SLC also assisted with the Athletics Carnival barbecue, helping to keep students, staff and spectators well-fed while contributing to the smooth running of one of the school's biggest sporting events.

To conclude the semester, the SLC will host the annual Spirit Cup Day during Period 4 on the final Friday of term. Students will rotate through four activities, including Capture the Flag, Dodgeball and Volleyball, earning valuable house points while enjoying some friendly competition. Points earned throughout the afternoon will contribute towards the overall House Cup, making every activity count. Students are encouraged to get involved, support their house and finish the term on a high.



There is still plenty to look forward to in Semester 2. The SLC will begin next term by organising the annual SHINES Talent Show. Auditions will be open to students from all year levels during Week 1, with the final performance taking place on Tuesday of Week 4. All types of acts are welcome, from singing and dancing to musical performances, comedy, or event juggling. SHINES provides a fantastic opportunity for students across all year levels to showcase their talents and build confidence in front of a supportive community audience.

The Student Leadership Committee works tirelessly throughout the year to create opportunities for students to connect, participate and enjoy school life. At the same time, members remain committed to supporting charities and community organisations, demonstrating the positive impact student leadership can have both within and beyond the school.

Regards

Ms. Leanne Ross

Club Coordinator

## From the Positive Behaviour for Learning Team.

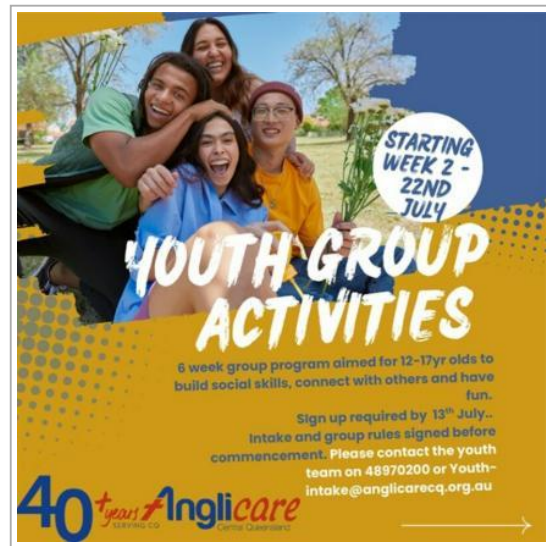
At Emerald State High School we are:

- Polite,
- Prepared, and we
- Participate

## Behaviour Focus

Our current behaviour focus is "Wear The Uniform With Pride."

## Community Notices





OUR RAINBOW HOUSE PRESENTS

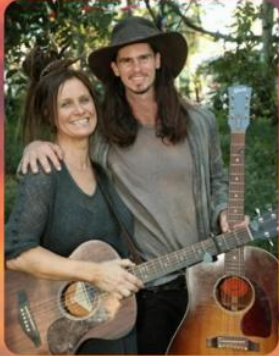


# RAINBOW CONNECTION

SATURDAY 15<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2026, EMERALD

Featuring a special performance by  
**Our Rainbow House Ambassador Kasey Chambers and Dingo**

Also featuring: The Zac Cross Band and Emma Sproxtton



Tickets include finger food served throughout the event, in a beautiful garden setting and tea/coffee/sweets station and fresh damper and baked ham at the end of the evening.

Tickets - <https://www.humanfix.com/rainbow-connection>  
or see Our Rainbow House Facebook page