



Information Handbook

Ballarat High School
2026 - 2027



Ballarat High School has a tradition of pursuing and recognising excellence under the motto of “Duty Always”. Our ethos is supported by the core values of:

Pride, Respect, and Responsibility

PRIDE is demonstrated by:

- representing our school community in a positive way at every opportunity
- achievement to the best of our ability
- celebrating and observing our traditions and achievements
- our appearance and attitudes

RESPECT is demonstrated by:

- speech, actions, and manners
- appreciation of our environment (grounds, classrooms, resources, community)
- honesty, teamwork, and acceptance of others (opinions and rights)
- care, support, and safety of all members of our school community
- positive communication and connected relationships

RESPONSIBILITY is demonstrated by:

- personal learning and growth
- organisation, management, goal setting and achievement
- modelling and encouragement of positive behaviours
- forward thinking, innovation, creativity, and flexibility
- Informed decision making

pride, respect and responsibility



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Ballarat High School holds high aspirations for every student, grounded in our unwavering belief that all young people can learn, grow and succeed when supported at their point of need. For over one hundred years, we have developed confident, capable young people who make meaningful contributions within their communities and beyond. While our facilities continue to evolve through ongoing upgrades, our core identity remains constant. We are a school defined by strong relationships, a deep sense of belonging, and high expectations, guided by our values of **Pride, Respect and Responsibility**.

We are committed to partnering with you throughout your child's transition to Ballarat High School and look forward to celebrating their growth, achievements and successes. We know that students thrive when they feel connected and known. Strong partnerships between school and home are essential in fostering this sense of belonging and ensuring every student feels valued as a member of our learning community.

SCHOOL VISION: Ballarat High School is a learning community where every person is valued, respected and challenged as a learner.

SCHOOL PHILOSOPHY: Ballarat High School is a learning community built on high expectations and shared responsibility. We believe in the potential of all learners and are committed to instructional excellence through our learning framework. We actively encourage personal growth, innovation and creativity, supporting every student to take pride in their learning and strive for their best.

STUDENT WELLBEING VISION: At Ballarat High School, we provide an inclusive, positive, and respectful environment where every student feels safe, connected and supported. We educate the whole person, recognising the strong link between wellbeing, belonging and academic success. Our mission is to provide the right supports to the right students at the right time.

We expect all members of our community to be Upstanders who demonstrate kindness, respect and responsibility. We insist on every student's right to be accepted for who they are, and our Mental Health Action Plan reflects our commitment to student wellbeing.

As a large school, we intentionally create structures that ensure every student is known and connected through our:

1. Year 7 Program based at the Arch Learning Centre
2. Years 8 and 9 Sub-School focused on targeted intervention and support
3. Year 9 Enrichment Program to develop confidence and sense of self
4. Years 10 – 12 Sub-School to ensure every student chooses a pathway to success

Our high expectations empower students to take responsibility for their learning, while our consistent focus on positive behaviour ensures a safe and nurturing environment where all can thrive.

We value partnership with families and encourage you to be actively involved in your child's education. There are many opportunities to contribute to school life, including involvement in parent groups such as the Boat Club and Performing Arts Support Group.

I look forward to welcoming you to the Ballarat High School community and hope this booklet provides a strong sense of who we are and what we stand for. Should you require further information, please contact the school directly.

Stephan Fields
Principal



STUDENT ENGAGEMENT AND WELLBEING

At Ballarat High School we support the wellbeing of students in a range of different ways. Our learning culture acknowledges individual differences and actively encourages all members of the school community to reach their potential through a variety of pathways and educational options.

SCHOOL WIDE POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR SUPPORT (SWPBS)

The School Wide Positive Behaviour Support program is about embedding a culture of respect, equality and equity across our entire community, from our classrooms to staffrooms, sporting fields and social events. This approach leads to positive impacts on students' academic outcomes, their mental health, classroom behaviour, and relationships between staff and students.

Our collaboratively developed positive behaviours matrix clearly defines our school's expectations across all settings.

	Always	Learning Spaces	Outside Areas	Digital	Community
I demonstrate PRIDE by	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> trying my hardest in all areas of learning wearing my uniform correctly using my manners celebrating the success of others 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> being ready to learn learning from my mistakes being prepared to work beyond my comfort zone 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> leaving facilities clean and tidy including toilets and lockers reporting any damage to staff sharing the space with others 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> taking care of digital devices following the BHS Digital Acceptable Use Policy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> being a positive representative of our school modelling the BHS values in the community
I demonstrate RESPECT by	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> following instructions of staff listening when others are speaking respecting people's differences co-operating with others 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> allowing all students to learn using class time effectively to complete tasks acting on feedback to improve my learning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> playing games in designated areas walking my bike/scooter through the school grounds walking safely on pathways and keeping to the left 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> using kind language when using social media treating people online with respect and kindness using device time appropriately for the set task 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> looking after the facilities and equipment using manners and kindness when communicating with others
I demonstrate RESPONSIBILITY by	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> showing kindness and supporting others being an upstander being mindful of the space of other's and their possessions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> being on time and ready to learn using all equipment responsibly being resilient and taking opportunities for learning growth 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> placing rubbish in bins moving safely and quietly between lessons staying within school boundaries 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> leaving my phone in locker between 8.55am and 3.15pm using my device to assist my learning keeping my device charged ready to learn 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> being considerate of others in the community being involved in community opportunities

1. Build relationships with students

2. Facilitate peer relationships

3. Establish and maintain clear classroom expectations

4. Support inclusion and belonging

5. Foster student self-efficacy

6. Engage students

7. Promote coping strategies and facilitate referrals

Ballarat High School is a learning community where every person is valued, respected and challenged as a learner.

SWPBS is an evidence-based framework that enhances behaviour, wellbeing, and learning for all students by fostering positive relationships and supportive classroom environments.



We cultivate positive classroom environments through consistent school-wide routines, ensuring students feel safe and secure, actively participate, and maximise their focused learning time.

At Ballarat High School, we prioritise building strong relationships with all members of our school community, guided by our core values. We believe in working collaboratively with parents, carers, and the wider community to support students in reaching their full learning potential.

When behaviours or actions impact relationships within the school, we take a restorative approach to repair and rebuild trust, allowing all individuals to move forward as valued and productive members of our community.

Our Anti-Bullying Policy outlines a restorative approach to addressing bullying, focusing on rebuilding relationships and fostering an understanding of the perspectives and emotions of all parties involved.

As a lead school in promoting a culture of Respectful Relationships, Ballarat High School is committed to ensuring that everyone in our community is respected, valued, and treated equally. We recognise that lasting change in attitudes and behaviours occurs when respect, inclusivity, and equality are embedded in our educational practices.

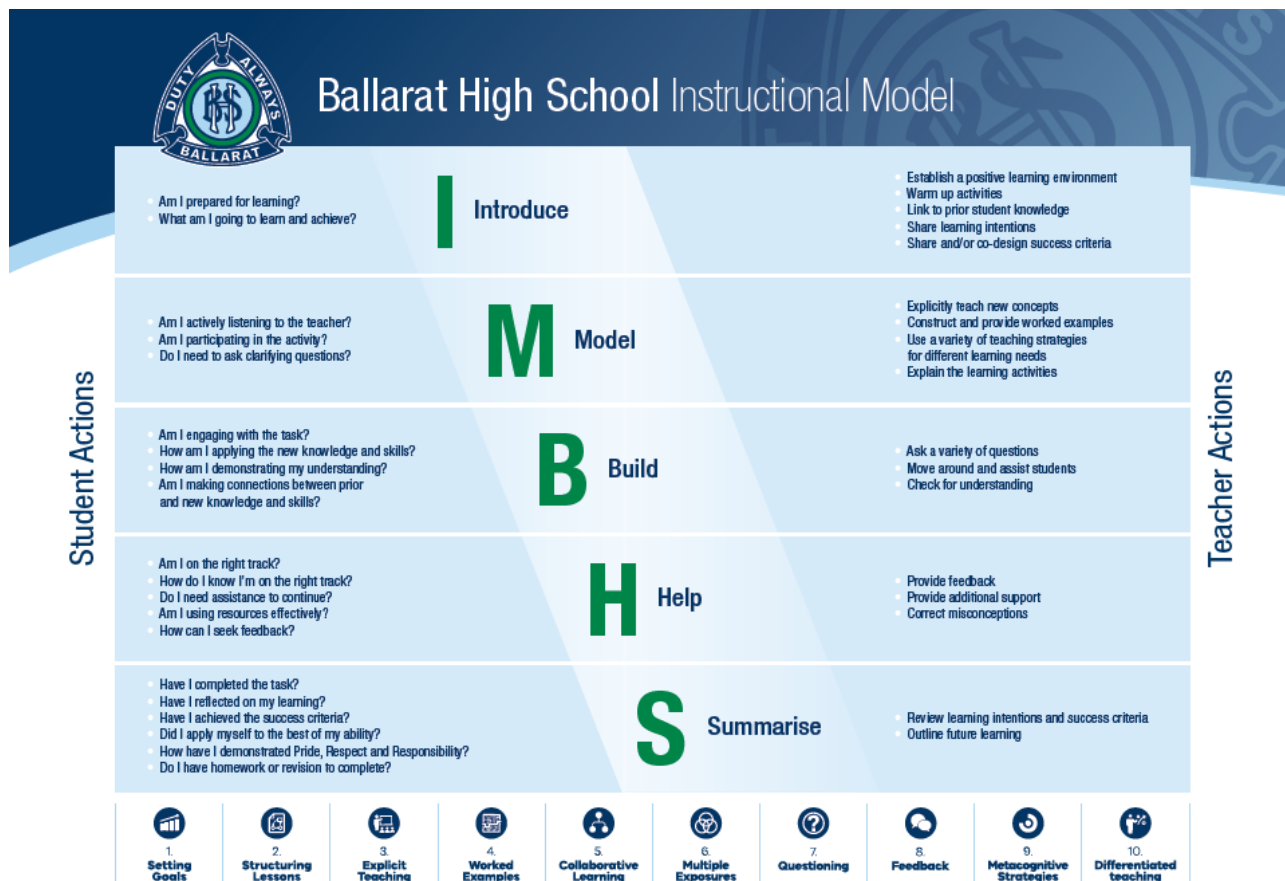
Our wellbeing team, which includes a Mental Health Practitioner, Youth Counsellors, an Adolescent Health Nurse, a First Aid Attendant, and our Therapy Dogs, works to ensure students receive the right support at the right time.





TEACHING AND LEARNING

Our vision at Ballarat High School is to have a learning community where every person is valued, respected and challenged as learners. We focus on developing engaged and independent learners who are committed to our school values of Pride, Respect & Responsibility.



The Ballarat High School Instructional Model has been developed by staff, in consultation with students and parents and is unique to Ballarat High School.

Our model is based on the Gradual Release of Responsibility Theory. This theory centres on the idea that there is a shared responsibility for learning between teacher and student, but the weight of responsibility is transferred from the teacher to the student as the student becomes more independent with their learning.

This model informs all aspects of teaching and learning at our school and supports our vision: *Ballarat High School is a learning community where every person is valued, respected, and challenged as a learner.*

At Year 7 our program is designed to facilitate a successful transition from Primary School to Secondary School. All Year 7 - 10 students will undertake a range of subjects as outlined by the Victorian Curriculum which outlines what is essential for all Victorian students to learn from Prep to Year 10. This incorporates studies from the following learning areas: Arts; English; Health and Physical Education; Humanities; Languages; Mathematics; Science and Technologies.

For further information about the Victorian Curriculum please see: <http://victoriancurriculum.vcaa.vic.edu.au/>



YEAR 7 CURRICULUM

YEAR 7 PROGRAM

Our Year 7 program is designed to support our new students' transition into our school as smoothly as possible. Our focus is on ensuring students feel confident, happy, connected and ready to learn. Our curriculum is designed to meet the specific needs of our students with a targeted focus on literacy and numeracy.

The Year 7 program is located in the ARCH Building. We have a dedicated team of staff, including a Year 7 Sub-School Leader, assigned to ensure this program meets the learning and wellbeing needs of our students.

STRUCTURE OF THE YEAR 7 & 8 CURRICULUM

In Years 7 and 8 all students undertake a combination of studies from both Core subjects and Art and Technology subjects as listed below.

Core studies must be studied by all students, for example, all Year 7 and 8 students study English and Humanities for 8 periods per week and Maths and Science for 8 periods per week. Students also study a Language subject, Music, Drama, Health and Physical Education.

Year 7 and 8 students rotate through Art and Technology subjects. The **rotational subjects** offered are: Ceramics, Home Economics, Technology - STEM, Metal, Wood, Textiles-Clothing & Design, Visual Arts and Visual Communication & Design (VCD).

The following tables provide a summary of the Year 7 and 8 programs:

Year		Core Subjects			Language	Music	Rotations	
7	Sem 1	English/ Humanities (8ppw)	Maths/ Science (8ppw)	Health and PE (5ppw)	Japanese or German (3ppw)	Music or Drama (2ppw)	e.g. Home Eco (2ppw)	e.g. VCD (2ppw)
	Sem 2	English/ Humanities (8ppw)	Maths/ Science (8ppw)	Health and PE (5ppw)	Japanese or German (3ppw)	Music or Drama (2ppw)	e.g. Visual Arts (2ppw)	e.g. Metal (2ppw)

Note: ("ppw") refers to periods per week.





YEARS 8 & 9 PROGRAM

The Year 8 program builds on the key competencies developed in Year 7 with students continuing with core classes and completing the remaining art/technology rotation subjects not studied at Year 7.

Year		Core Subjects			Language	Music/ Drama/ Health	Rotations	
8	Sem 1	English/ Humanities (8ppw)	Maths/ Science (8ppw)	PE (4ppw)	Japanese or German (3ppw)	E.g. Music or Drama (3ppw)	e.g. Ceramics (2ppw)	e.g. Textiles (2ppw)
	Sem 2	English/ Humanities (8ppw)	Maths/ Science (8ppw)	PE (4ppw)	Japanese or German (3ppw)	e.g. Health (3ppw)	e.g. Wood (2ppw)	e.g. STEM (2ppw)

Note: ("ppw") refers to periods per week.

At Year 9, students are encouraged to consolidate their learning by choosing elective subjects within their area of interest. This allows students to study in areas they enjoy and explore other learning opportunities. Our Year 9 structure includes both compulsory core subjects and a range of electives.

The Year 9 program sees students participate in a core curriculum containing the following areas of learning:

- English
- Humanities
- Mathematics
- Science
- Physical Education
- Health
- Applied Learning
- Health

The core curriculum is supported by an extensive elective program where students select two electives per Term for each of the four Terms. The elective program comprises a range of options across the following areas of learning:

- Visual Arts
- Performing Arts
- Health and Physical Education
- Technology
- Science
- Humanities
- English
- Languages



YEAR 10 - 12 CURRICULUM

The Year 10 -12 curriculum is structured to enable students to pursue pathways which suit their individual needs, interests and abilities.

At Year 10, students must undertake English, Maths and a Science subject. In addition to this, they choose from a selection of subjects that are provided within the Victorian Curriculum framework. Year 10 students can also apply to undertake a VCE (Victorian Certificate of Education) subject or a VET (Vocational Education & Training) program.

In Years 11 and 12, students will complete a pathway to further study or employment. They may choose to do this through studying for the following certificates:

- VCE – Victorian Certificate of Education
- VCE VM – Victorian Certificate of Vocational Major

All VCE Certificate Vocational Major students study a VET subject. Our other students can also apply to study a VET subject, either at Ballarat High School or through the Highland LLEN Cluster.



See [High Facts](#) on our school website for more detailed information.

CAREERS

The Careers' program assists students in Years 10, 11 and 12 with their transition from school to further education. Pathways may include university, TAFE, full-time employment, apprenticeships, and traineeships.

We support students with a wide range of careers resources to help navigate and simplify the many options young people have available to them, including:

- Developing and updating career action plans.
- Researching university options and applying for courses.
- Assisting students applying for part time and full-time work.
- Coordinating work experience and school-based apprenticeships.

Students are welcome to book Pathways Counselling Sessions and can access the Careers' Office before or after school, at lunch time or recess. Parents are also welcome to call or visit us on any matters that relate to student pathways. The Careers Team at Ballarat High School is Adrian Maude and Kerrie Hammond.



SUMMARY OF SUBJECTS AT YEAR 11 & 12

LEARNING AREA	VCE YEAR 11 (Units 1 & 2) and YEAR 12 (Units 3 & 4)
ARTS	Art: Creative Practice Art: Making and Exhibiting Media Studies Visual Communication Design
ENGLISH	English English Language Literature
HAPE	Health & Human Development Outdoor & Environmental Science Physical Education
HUMANITIES	Accounting Business Management History Legal Studies Philosophy
LANGUAGES	German Japanese
MATHS	Foundation Maths General Maths Maths Methods Specialist Maths
PERFORMING ARTS	Drama Music Contemporary Performance
SCIENCE	Biology Chemistry Environmental Science Physics Psychology
TECHNOLOGY	Food Studies Information Technology – Applied Computing Software Development Systems Engineering

LEARNING AREA	VCE Vocational Major Subjects
APPLIED LEARNING	VM Literacy VM Numeracy Personal Development Skills Work Related Skills



SUPPORT STRUCTURES

PRINCIPAL

Mr. Stephan Field's role is whole school leadership, which includes teaching and learning and student wellbeing.

ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS

Mrs. Donna Phillips	Years 7
Mrs. Michele Kennedy	Years 8 & 9
Ms. Narelle Bean and Ms. Natalie Maher	Years 10 - 12

SUB SCHOOL LEADERS

Mr. Jacob Borner	Year 7
Mr. Ben Krol	Years 8 & 9
Ms. Jenni Nicholls	Years 10 – 12 (Wellbeing)
Mrs. Belinda Wehl	Years 10 – 12 (Learning)

YEAR 7 & 8 TEAM LEADERS

Ballarat High School has four Year 7 Team Leaders and two Year 8 Team Leaders, that are responsible for students in Year 7 & 8. It is their job to ensure that students are given the opportunity to succeed in all areas of education whilst at Ballarat High School. Team leaders aim to ensure that students feel comfortable and happy and are able to concentrate on learning and participating in extracurricular activities. Team leaders are the first port of call for parents with questions regarding their child's learning program and are available to answer any questions or concerns.

The Year 7 and 8 Team Leaders are:

Year 7	Year 8
Ms. Gillian Bennett	Mr. Simon Coles
Ms. Courtney McKenna	Mr. Lachlan Marr

CORE TEACHERS

Each class has two main core teachers, one for Maths/Science and one for English/Humanities. The core teachers play a vital role in ensuring a smooth transition from Primary to Secondary School.



TRANSITION LEADER

Mr. Jacob Borner is responsible for developing and fostering positive links with our community. One of the key aspects of this is to coordinate the transition programs for Year 6 students moving into Year 7 at Ballarat High School. Mr. Borner is another key person you can refer to if you have any questions or queries regarding Ballarat High School or the transition process.

YEAR 9

Year 9 students have two core teachers and are supported by two Team Leaders: Mr. Simon Coles and Mr. Lachlan Marr.



SUPPORT STRUCTURES

YEARS 10-12 TEAM LEADERS

Team Leaders are usually the first point of contact for parents. Team Leaders are responsible for each year level which consists of approximately 250 students. Team Leaders move each year with their students which assists in fostering strong and meaningful relationships with students and parents. The Team Leaders' role is to ensure each student is learning effectively and reaching their overall potential. They also lead a team of Mentors who support students with academic achievement and social and emotional well-being. Mentors meet with their students once a week.

Year 10	Mrs. Dani Bjelanovic
Year 10	Ms. Elizabeth Till
Year 11	Ms. Sarah Jane
Year 11	Mr. Nathan Thomas
Year 12	Mrs. Karen Lee
Year 12	Mr. Mark Verberne



STUDENT WELLBEING

Student Wellbeing at Ballarat High School is a team of professional and dedicated staff consisting of:

Assistant Principal - Wellbeing and Tiered Support: Mrs. Donna Phillips

Leading Teacher Inclusion: Ms. Kristy Gatens
Inclusion Coordinators: Ms. Karla Davey, Mrs. Linda Peverill

Wellbeing Leader: Mrs. Esther Hockey
Mental Health Practitioner: Mrs. Georgia Gregor
Youth Counsellor: Ms. Grace Milne
Adolescent Health Nurse: Mrs. Yewande Lee
First Aid Officer: Mrs. Robyn Creelman

First Nations Officer and Student Engagement: Ms. Shirlene Laurie

The team specialises in helping students with their physical, intellectual, emotional and social wellbeing.

Students and families are welcome to approach any member of the team to assist in a variety of issues to ensure that students have support, understanding and direction. The Student Wellbeing Team can also refer to outside agencies should more specific assistance be required.

Student Wellbeing at Ballarat High School is supported through several policies and programs which aim to provide a positive and supportive school environment for all students. Some of these programs include:

- Resilience Building
- Drug Education
- Social Skills Development
- Emotion Regulation
- Body Esteem

If you would like to contact the Student Wellbeing Team, please phone the school on 5338 9000.



STUDENT LEADERSHIP

HOUSE SPIRIT

The house system at Ballarat High School has evolved over the school's long history.

Named after those who had an impact on the school's early development, the names Baird (Green), Brawn (Blue), Greenfield (Yellow) and Lawson (Red) are widely recognised within the Ballarat High School community.

In 2023, the School Captains presented a proposal to strengthen the house system and raise house spirit within the School Community. Student voice was amplified at this time and changes to our house system began with the vision to develop an inclusive house spirit program to build student agency, connectedness, positivity and school pride.

Additional staff and student leadership opportunities were established to undertake this initiative. With students as the drivers of this program, new opportunities were established to earn house points beyond the traditional sporting carnivals.

Connected with the School Wide Positive Behaviour focus, students can now earn house points for displaying the school values of Pride, Respect and Responsibility. Points can also be earned by representing the school (debating, sports, chess tournaments) and by being involved beyond the classroom (Art Club, School Production). Staff and students are committed to growing our house system and making this an integral part of the daily activities.

LEADERSHIP AT BALLARAT HIGH SCHOOL

The history and traditions of Ballarat High School are grounded in developing the leadership qualities of all students that attend the school. Ballarat High School's priority is to develop leadership qualities and capabilities in all students. The school sees leadership and its underpinning attributes as being essential to successful personal outcomes both at school and in the broader community as a citizen and in employment. Ballarat High School provides students with a range of opportunities to develop their leadership skills including specific leadership programs, camps and seminars that further build on the foundations developed in the classroom learning program. The school's strong traditions and celebrations provide explicit opportunities for students to experience and participate in leadership through student leadership positions that extend from Years 7 -12.

STUDENT LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

Each class elects two student leaders who will attend fortnightly meetings run by the Year 12 leadership team. The role of the student leader is to communicate leadership information and represent the views of their class. Two student leaders from each year level will be selected as representatives on the Student Council. The role of the year level student leaders is to represent the students' views at Student Council meetings.





EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Our school offers a diverse range of extracurricular opportunities, allowing students to explore their interests beyond the classroom. For those who enjoy sports and teamwork, our Rowing program provides a fantastic chance to develop discipline and resilience on the water. Students can also take part in the Energy Breakthrough, an exciting program that combines engineering, creativity, and endurance.

We have a variety of clubs catering to different passions. With so many options available, every student can find a place to connect, grow, and pursue their interests. Students can suggest what clubs they would like to see happening and our staff will support the establishing of these clubs.

AFTER SCHOOL SPORT

Ballarat High School provides a wide range of sporting opportunities. If you have any questions, please contact the Sports Director, Mr. Robert Simmonds or Sports Assistant Mr. Ashley Rogers.

Ballarat High School is a member of two sporting associations. The first is Ballarat Associated Schools (BAS), where most sporting events take place after school with the Swimming, Athletics and Cross-country taking place during school time. We are also part of the Schools Sports Victoria (SSV) - Eureka Division. These sports are all completed during school time. Wherever possible, if a student shows interest in a particular sport we include that student in a team. Our main emphasis is on participation and involvement. We encourage students to play on behalf of the school to enable them to become part of the school community and to identify with the traditions of the school. We also have a range of summer and winter sports, ranging from lawn bowls and croquet to tennis and cricket, just to name a few. The school offers rowing for both boys and girls and operates a fully maintained boat shed on Lake Wendouree. On average twenty boys' and girls' crews are entered in the annual Head of the Lake Regatta, and we have an average of 150 sporting teams per year. For those interested in sport Ballarat High School has a sport to suit you.

CAMPS & EXCURSIONS

Camps and excursions are a valuable part of the school learning program and provide a range of social and practical experiences for students. Year 7 students participate in a two-night, three-day camp. This camp is run in the first weeks of Year 7 and is an important part of the transition program as it focuses on getting to know each other.

CLUBS

Our student clubs include Drama Club for aspiring performers, Book Club for avid readers, Art Club for creative minds, Choir, Dance Club, Chess Club and the Create It Club that encompasses colouring and craft. Those who enjoy strategy and storytelling can join the Dungeons and Dragons Club, where imagination and teamwork come to life.

DEBATING & PUBLIC SPEAKING

All students can participate in debating as an extracurricular activity through the South Street competitions which are held in Term 3 and through DAV competitions which are held throughout the year. All students may also participate in Legacy and public speaking competitions as representatives of the school. Year 7 students also participate in a public speaking competition, which is run as an inter-class competition in Term 4.



INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

Ballarat High School are very proud to offer an Instrumental Music Program. In Year 7 students can learn Brass, Woodwind and some Contemporary Instruments in small groups from specialised Instrumental Music Teachers. Students also rehearse in a Year 7 band which helps develop performance skills for concerts throughout the year. Instrumental hire is available from the school.

All Year 7 students and their families are invited to attend the Instrumental Music Information Session held early in Term One. More information is provided during the Grade 6 to Year 7 Transition process.

There are a variety of pathways for students to continue with Instrumental Music all the way through to Year 12 including participation in a range of extra-curricular bands, as well as playing their instrument in Music classes, VCE & VET Music exams. Ballarat High School continues to offer performance opportunities and workshops both inside and outside of the school.

SCHOOL PRODUCTION

Ballarat High School produces a School Production every year. Our School Productions are all inclusive, so any student in Years 7 to 12 can join in the fun.

Ballarat High School alternates a musical / play arrangement each year. For the 2027 school year Ballarat High School will produce a play, for 2028 a musical, 2029 a play and so on.

Rehearsals are held after hours, some weekdays 3.30pm-4.30pm as well as Sunday rehearsals. Sign-ups and auditions occur in the first few weeks of Term 1.

SPECIALIST SPORT

Ballarat High School runs a Specialist Sports program which includes netball, basketball, football, soccer and strength and conditioning. This program caters for students who have been identified by sporting associations as talented sports people, with both the potential and application to be successful at an elite level. The school offers these students an opportunity to continue their education while at the same time, receiving specialist coaching in their chosen sport. Students may apply to become involved in the Specialist Sport program from Years 7 to 11. The program includes a range of specialist camps, excursions, parent evenings and a focus on developing their sporting talents and abilities and their leadership.





GENERAL INFORMATION

CANTEEN

The Canteen is open at recess and lunchtime and sells a wide range of healthy food & beverage items.

COMPASS

Ballarat High School utilises an online learning management system called Compass. This program allows staff to place student assignments and homework online which students and parents can access from home at their convenience. Student attendance can also be checked, and other information gained about your child and the school, including school reports and assessment results.

DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES

All students bring their own laptop. These are their own devices and travel from home to school to support both schoolwork and homework. We have established a partnership with Learning with Technologies who can provide the laptop and accessories with educational discounts, but parents are able to purchase a laptop from any provider if they prefer. Further information is available on the school website.

GENERAL OFFICE

Student payments or general enquiries can be made at the General Office before school, recess or during lunch time. The office is open to our community between 8.15am to 4.30pm Monday to Friday.

LIBRARY

The Library provides a supportive environment for student study and recreational reading. Book enthusiasts might like to join Book Club or share their reading interests via one of the library blogs. The Library is open for all students before school (from 8.40am) and after school for study.

SICK BAY

The school provides a fully operational Sick Bay, always staffed during the school day by our First Aid Officer. Robyn will attend to the medical needs of students and make immediate contact with parents where the need arises. If your child is unwell, they are required to report to Sick Bay.





UNIFORM AND GENERAL APPEARANCE OF STUDENTS

PURPOSE

The purpose of the Student Uniform Policy (Dress Code) is to outline Ballarat High School's requirements for student dress and appearance and to provide information about uniform purchase and support, uniform policy implementation and exemption processes.

This uniform policy has been developed by Ballarat High School's School Council in close consultation with our school community to ensure that it respects the rights of individual students whilst reflecting the values and interests of our community.

The Student Uniform policy aims to:

- foster a sense of community and belonging and encourages students to develop pride in their appearance and their school
- support Ballarat High School's commitment to ensuring that our students feel equal and are dressed safely and appropriately for school activities
- reduce student competition on the basis of clothing
- enhance the profile and identity of the school and its students within the wider community
- provide uniform which is durable and therefore more economical
- provide a safety element through easy identification of students when outside the school and the detection of outsiders in the school grounds.

The School Council has developed a Student Uniform policy that we believe provides a range of choices for students and is cost effective for families.

SCOPE

Students are expected to comply with this Student Uniform Policy while traveling to and from school, during school hours and when attending school activities and excursions, unless otherwise specified.

This policy recognizes the importance of parents/guardians in ensuring that students are able to meet the policy requirements.

UNIFORM AND GENERAL APPEARANCE

The full list of Ballarat High School's compulsory and optional school uniform items are available in Appendix A of this policy.

General Appearance

Ballarat High School students must comply with the following:

- Uniforms must be clean and in good condition.
- Uniforms must be clearly marked with the owner's name.
- Additional layers of clothing worn underneath the school uniform must be hidden from sight.
- Black leather, lace-up shoes (traditional style) must be worn and should be regularly cleaned.
- Ballet shoes, slip-ons, sneakers, T bars, and boots are NOT permitted.
- The wearing of ties is compulsory for boys, optional for girls.
- For formal events, including school photos shirts must be tucked in.
- No visible tattoos.
- Religious headwear must be in school colors – navy blue or bottle green.
- All accessories (i.e. ribbons, gloves, scarves) must be in school colors – navy blue or bottle green.
- The only jackets permitted to be worn at School are either a school blazer, school spray jacket or school puffer jacket.



- If any item is deemed unsafe to be worn for a specific activity students will be required to remove the item.
- For certain school events and activities students are able to wear specially designed Ballarat High School clothing (full details Appendix B).

Students can wear any uniform item regardless of gender.

Physical Education Uniform

Physical Education uniform is compulsory for all students.

- In 2026 students in years 7,8 and 9 are permitted to wear their PE uniform (inclusive of sports shoes) on the day of their compulsory practical PE class. If year 7,8 and 9 students have an additional practical class on the day of their PE class, they must bring their normal school shoes as well and change into them for that class. In order to support foot safety students cannot complete these practical classes in sports shoes.
- Students studying PE electives in years 9 – 12 with a practical component are still required to bring their PE uniform to school to change into for their practical class only.
- Only trackpants are to be worn – leggings/tights are not acceptable.
- Sports shoes with non-marking/white soles are required for use on the gymnasium floor.
- Students representing the School in interschool sports competitions are required to wear the Physical Education uniform and are required to wear the sports socks with the school colors band.

Jewellery

In order to ensure safety in classes and in the school yard the following guidelines must be followed:

- Students with pierced ears are permitted to wear studs (no bigger than 5mm) or sleepers (no bigger than 14mm).
- Students are permitted one nose stud (no bigger than 3mm).
- No other piercings are permitted.
- Necklaces should be worn under clothing and should not be long. This is especially important in practical classes for safety reasons.
- If requested for safety reasons in classes, items must be removed.

Hair and cosmetics

- Hair must be kept clean and tidy; only natural hair colours are permitted, and extreme fashion styles are not acceptable.
- Students with hair below shoulder length must wear it tied back securely for practical classes. This is an Occupational Health and Safety requirement.
- Only natural looking makeup is permitted.

Sun Safety

- As a secondary school, students are expected to take responsibility for being sun smart by wearing a hat during outdoor activities or staying in the shade, if they are not wearing sunscreen. Students can wear a navy blue brimmed hat or cap.
- The only other headwear that can be worn is the school beanie.
- The wearing of headwear in the buildings or classrooms is not permitted without specific permission.



PURCHASE OF UNIFORMS

Uniform items can be purchased from PSW through their store located at 1013 Howitt Street, Wendouree or via their website at [Making your school look great Ballarat High School - Schools](#)

Second hand uniform items can be purchased through the Sustainable School Shop at

[Sustainable School Shop - Second hand Textbooks, Uniforms etc](#)

Permitted non-branded uniform items can also be purchased from other retail outlets.

SUPPORT FOR FAMILIES EXPERIENCING DIFFICULTY

The Ballarat High School Council has consulted with the school community and worked to ensure the student uniform is affordable. However, if you are facing difficulty meeting uniform costs the [Help with school costs and fees](#) page provides advice on support offered by the Victorian Government. If your child is starting year 7 and is eligible to receive support via the [Camps, Sports and Excursions fund](#) you may be eligible to access the Affordable School Uniform program through [State Schools Relief](#).

Please contact the School to discuss support that we may be able to provide.

IMPLEMENTATION

Ballarat High School will ensure that this Student Uniform Policy is communicated to all families and students through our website and via email annually to all families and will assist students who may be experiencing difficulties in complying with this policy where possible.

If a student is unable to wear a uniform piece for any reason their parent/carer must provide satisfactory written explanation and the student will be issued with a uniform pass, which they must carry throughout the day. Students out of uniform without the required permission and pass will be given a detention or they may be asked to change into a compliant item of clothing provided by the school.

If a student breaches the Student Uniform policy on a recurring basis, Team Leaders will contact parent/carers to discuss the breaches and work with the student and family to support compliance. Continual non-compliance may lead to the involvement of the Principal in achieving a resolution with further implementation of consequences possible.

Measures taken by Ballarat High School to address concerns about student non-compliance with the Student Uniform policy will also be addressed in accordance with our Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy.

EXEMPTIONS TO STUDENT UNIFORM POLICY

We acknowledge that the enforcement of this uniform policy may impact students differently.

Students and their parents or carers may apply in writing to the Principal for an exemption to this Student Uniform policy if:

An aspect of this policy:

- Prevents students from being able to attend school or participate in school activities on the same terms as other students because of the personal characteristics referred to in human rights and anti-discrimination requirements
- Offends a religious belief held by the student or parents/carers
- Prevents students from complying with a requirement of their religious, ethnic or cultural background.
- The student has a particular disability or health condition that requires a departure from the uniform policy
- The student or their parents/carers can demonstrate financial hardship that prevents them from complying with the uniform policy



When the Principal receives a request for an exemption, they will:

- consider the grounds for the exemption request
- explain the process to the student and/or their parents/carers
- guarantee that issues of a personal nature revealed to substantiate the request will be strictly confidential
- encourage the student and/or their parents/carers to support their application with evidence.

The Principal or delegate will then try to negotiate a resolution that is acceptable to all parties, including providing advice about support with meeting uniform costs. If an exemption is not allowed, then written reasons will be provided to the student and/or their parents or carers.

CONCERNS ABOUT THIS STUDENT UNIFORM POLICY

Ballarat High School welcomes feedback from the school community in relation to this Student Uniform policy. If you have a concern or complaint about the Student Uniform policy, further information about raising a concern or complaint is available in our school's Complaints Policy, available on the school website.

COMMUNICATION

This policy will be communicated to our school community in the following ways:

- available publicly on our school's website
- reminders in our school newsletter
- discussed in student forums
- included in staff handbook/manual
- discussed at staff briefings/meetings as required
- included in transition and enrolment packs
- discussed at parent information sessions
- hard copy available from school administration upon request
- direct email to families on an annual basis.

Views on our student uniform policy have been invited from the whole school community including:

- Parents/carers
- School staff
- Students

The school community consultation invited feedback about uniform cost and affordability. This feedback has been recorded, carefully considered and incorporated into the student uniform policy where appropriate.

FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

- Ballarat High School Complaints Policy
- Ballarat High School Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy
- Department of Education and Training [Student Dress Code](#)
- Department of Education and Training [Student Engagement policies and guidelines](#)



APPENDIX A: Uniform Items

ITEM	DESCRIPTION, COLORS, NOTES
BAGS/BACKPACKS	Blue with school logo
BEANIE	Blue with school logo
BLAZER	Green (optional – can be worn instead of jumper)
DRESS	Gingham (knee length)
JACKET – SOFT SHELL	Navy (optional – can be worn instead of jumper)
JACKET – HOODED PUFFER	Navy (optional)
JUMPER (Years 7 – 11)	Green V-neck
PANTS *	Dark Grey tailored trouser or Navy Blue tailored pant
SHORTS *	Grey tailored short (knee length) or Navy Blue tailored short (knee length)
PE UNIFORM RUGBY TOP	Dark/light blue
PE UNIFORM SHIRT	Light blue, short sleeve
PE UNIFORM SHORTS *	Navy Blue sports shorts (mid-thigh length, non-branded)
PE UNIFORM SPORT SOCKS *	White or White with school colors band (required for competitions)
PE UNIFORM TRACKPANTS *	Navy trackpants (non-branded)
SHIRT	Light blue, long sleeve/short sleeve with school logo.
SHOES *	Black leather lace up
SKIRT	Monteith tartan, box pleat (knee length)
SOCKS (worn with dress or navy pants/shorts)	White with school colors band
SOCKS (worn with grey trousers/shorts)	Grey with school colors band
TIE (Years 7 – 11)	Green
TIGHTS (worn with skirt) *	Navy blue
YEAR 12 JUMPER	Navy blue V-neck
YEAR 12 TIE	Blue
YEAR 12 VEST	Navy blue V-neck

Students can wear any uniform item regardless of gender.

In general, male students choose grey trousers/shorts and female students choose navy blue pants/shorts.

Please note: All items are school specific and supplied exclusively by PSW, except for asterixed items. These clothing items can be purchased either from PSW or a supplier of your choice as long as the above specifications are met. Shoes are not available from PSW.

Students selected into the Specialist Sport program need to speak with the Specialist Sport program Co-ordinator prior to purchasing PE uniform as the requirements are different for those students.



APPENDIX B: BHS Special Event Items

NAME OF EVENT	TYPE OF CLOTHING	WHEN IT CAN BE WORN
Year 12 Celebration	Year 12 Hoodies	Last week of Term 3 & Term 4 (not during exams)
Rowing	Hoodies	The week before the Head of the Lake and only to be worn to rowing training and events
Specialist Sport	Jackets	PE classes and when competing in School Sports
Japan Trip	Hoodies	Commencing the week before leaving for Japan (early September) until departure
German Trip	Hoodies	Two weeks before Term 3 Holidays and first 2 weeks of Term 4
Energy Breakthrough	Polo Top / Team Jacket	One week prior, during and one week after the November EB Event.
Performing Arts	Hoodies	Three weeks prior to school production, including production week; three weeks prior to Performing Arts Variety Night
VCE Drama classes	"Theatre Blacks"	Practical drama classes as advised by the teacher



CONTACT INFORMATION

BALLARAT HIGH SCHOOL

1726 Sturt Street,
Lake Gardens, VIC, 3355

Telephone: (03) 5338 9000
Email: ballarat.hs@education.vic.gov.au
Website: www.ballaraths.vic.edu.au

School Principal

Mr. Stephan Fields

Assistant Principal Year 7

Mrs. Donna Phillips

Assistant Principal Years 8 - 9

Mrs. Michele Kennedy

Assistant Principals Years 10 - 12

Ms. Narelle Bean and Ms. Natalie Maher

Business Manager

Mrs. Lesley Thorpe

Transition Leader

Mr. Jacob Borner



Ballarat High School is a learning community where every person is valued, respected and challenged.

pride, respect and responsibility