

As we reach the end of Term 3, it's worth pausing to reflect on what has been a significant and at times challenging term for Hester Hornbrook Academy. I continue to be thankful for the support and remarkable work of our students, staff, families and partners.

I'm reminded often of the privilege of leading a school community so committed to young people who've faced real barriers to learning. This term I've watched students show courage and persistence — some through better attendance or finishing key assessments, others through building confidence, independence, or taking steps toward work, training or further study. Every one of these achievements matters.

The term has also shown, once again, the strength of our multidisciplinary model. Teachers, youth workers, wellbeing staff, allied health professionals, education support and corporate services teams work as one to keep students safe, connected and moving forward.

That collective effort is what makes the real difference.

It was also a term full of highlights! Participation in a wide range of learning, wellbeing and community activities, alongside continued work on attendance initiatives, pathways programs, and literacy and numeracy support — all helping students experience success and see a positive future for themselves.

We've continued building toward our Geelong Campus opening in 2027, with strong interest from local families, schools and community organisations. Thank you to our Geelong Campus Development team for driving this forward

To every staff member: thank you. This work is complex and demanding. Your commitment, compassion and belief in our students shows up every day. It is the reason our young people experience hope, belonging and opportunity.

Thanks too to our families, carers and community partners for the trust you place in us.

I hope the break gives everyone a chance to rest and reconnect with the people who matter most. I look forward to welcoming everyone back for Term 4 as we keep working to create brighter futures for every young person we serve.

Sally Lasslett
Executive Principal
Hester Hornbrook Academy





VIETNAM EXTEND TOUR

Students and staff had the opportunity to experience a whole new world away from home this term, in Vietnam!

Each year, Hester Hornbrook Academy runs an Extend program that provides opportunities for young people to stretch their capacity. In Term 2 students explored Central Australia, in Term 4 a group will jet off to Singapore and this term our intrepid travellers discovered beautiful Vietnam.

Our Vietnam crew volunteered, ate delicious food, sailed through the streets on the back of motorbikes, tried their hand at lantern making and met many wonderful people throughout their adventure. We can't wait to see how this experience shapes our students throughout the their education journey.



"VIETNAM HAS BEEN AMAZING AND MORE EXCITING THAN I EVER COULD'VE DREAMED. I HAVE BEEN ABLE TO GET CLOSER WITH OTHERS AND LEARN A NEW CARD GAME THAT OTHERS ARE ADDICTED TO! THERE HAS BEEN A SIGNIFICANT DECREASE IN MY SCREEN TIME AND A MASSIVE INCREASE IN MY HEALTH BOTH PHYSICALLY AND MENTALLY. THE PEOPLE HERE ARE SO KIND, AND THEIR CULTURE IS BEAUTIFUL AND INTRIGUING. IT HAS BEEN A PLEASURE CONNECTING WITH EVERYONE."

STUDENT.



What is your role at Hester?

Head of HOPE which is our Healing Oriented Program of Education™ and Senior Leader of the Teaching and Learning team.

What drives you in work and life?

What drives me is supporting children and young people to achieve their potential and realise that they have so many paths forward. In both work and life I love connecting with others and co-creating meaningful experiences.

MEET THE TEAM!

What do you do to look after your mental health and wellbeing?

I find spending quality time with friends and family fills my bucket, especially spending time with my nieces and doing art activities with them. My house is where they can experiment and make a mess whilst having fun. Recently we've been focused on making Oobleck and creating clay figures and jewellery.



Sapna Sachdeva
Head of HOPE &
Senior Leader Teaching &
Learning

WEAR IT PURPLE

Wear It Purple Day. Students from across campuses did an amazing job creating beautiful spaces that celebrate the LGBTQIA+ community at our school and beyond.

The fabulous installations are still up around campuses to remind us that as a school, this work happens in the way we treat each other and the choices we make every day.

We are also celebrating Hester Hornbrook achieving bronze status in the Health and Wellbeing Index. Awarded by Pride in Health and Wellbeing (PIHW). The next stage of the LGBTQIA+ Inclusion journey is taking Hester Hornbrook Academy through the HWEL from Foundation to Advanced.



"I LIKE THAT WE CAN CELEBRATE WEAR IT PURPLE DAY AT HESTER HORN BROOK BECAUSE YOU CAN BE YOURSELF AND NO ONE JUDGES YOU." STUDENT



MEET THE GEELONG TEAM

After 16 years in education and leadership, I'm driven by the opportunity to make a meaningful difference in the lives of young people, families and the communities I work alongside. My experience in leadership, including working remotely with First Nations communities and EAL/Refugee students and families, has strengthened my belief in the importance of relationships, cultural connection, trust and creating environments where people feel safe, respected and valued.

I'm motivated by leading with intention, supporting young people to recognise their strengths and potential, and creating meaningful opportunities for growth. I bring a calm, warm and curious approach to my work and am passionate about building strong connections with young people and families, so they feel supported, understood and empowered.



Danielle Cameron
Wellbeing for Learning Team
Leader



What drives me in my career is a passion for helping young people access education and the opportunities it can create for their future. I enjoy supporting young people to learn, grow, and work towards the future they want, regardless of the barriers they may have experienced.

I'm passionate about creating a school environment where students feel safe, supported, and valued. For me, one of the most rewarding parts of my role is building strong, authentic relationships with students and their families, and working alongside them to help students achieve their goals.

I also love being part of a team that shares the same commitment to young people. Working closely with colleagues to create the best possible learning environment is something I really enjoy, and I believe great outcomes happen when people come together with a shared purpose.

I'm especially excited about bringing the Hester Hornbrook Academy opportunity to Geelong. It's a chance to create meaningful pathways for local young people and make a real difference in their lives. Seeing students gain confidence, find success, and work towards a future they're excited about is what motivates me every day.

Bronwyn Johnson
Senior Youth Worker
Geelong Campus

TERM 4 - IMPORTANT DATES



TERM BREAK

Monday 21st September until Tuesday October 6th

CLASSES START

Tuesday October 6th 10am.

Classes run from 10am-12pm Tuesday 6th,
Wednesday 7th, Thursday 8th.

No classes Friday 9th October.

PROGRESS MEETINGS

Tuesday October 6th 12:30pm-6:00pm.

Wednesday October 7th 12:30pm-6:00pm

Thursday October 8th 12:30pm-6:00pm

Friday October 9th 9:30am-1:30pm

OTHER IMPORTANT DATES

Student Free Day - November 2nd

Public Holiday - November 3rd

Community Night - November 17th

Last Day of Classes - November 27th, 1:30pm finish

Graduation! - December 2nd

