HEYWOOD & DISTRICT SECONDARY COLLEGE NEWSLETTER

MAY 2026

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Welcome back to Term 2 for 2026. It is hard to believe we have already completed the first term of the school year. I hope all students, families and staff enjoyed a well deserved break and are feeling refreshed for another busy and exciting term ahead.

I would also like to again extend a warm welcome to all new students and families who have joined our school community this year. This includes our Year 7 students, along with students who have transitioned to us from other schools across various year levels. Starting at a new school can feel overwhelming, however I trust our students and staff have helped make everyone feel welcome and supported.
Thank you for choosing to be part of our school community in 2026. We greatly value strong partnerships with families because working together gives our students the very best opportunity to succeed.

As always, we continue to focus on improving communication with families and keeping everyone informed about important events and updates throughout the term. We encourage families to regularly check our school website, Facebook and Instagram pages, newsletters and electronic signboard, which is updated frequently. We also communicate through SMS and email, therefore please ensure your contact details are current.
If you ever have questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the school directly.
Some of our key contacts include:

Principal: Kelly Webster
Assistant Principal: Christine Hart
Student Engagement and Wellbeing Leader: Mick Doherty
Teaching and Learning Leaders: Jane Ellem and Jeremy Prevett
Wellbeing: Lynne Kain
Standing Tall Leader: Annie Rowe

Staffing
We are pleased to continue welcoming several new staff members to our school community this year. Mr William Drogemuller has joined us teaching Maths and Science, while Ms Liya Long has joined our Science team. Grace Tabone and Kerrie Lee have commenced as classroom support staff, and Paul Johnstone has joined our farm team. All staff have settled in extremely well and have already developed positive and professional relationships with our students and families.

Kelly Webster
Principal

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School Council President: Alysia Sanderson

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

We are well and truly into Term 2 and already a lot of activities, community connections, and new faces settling into 2026. I was fortunate that I went for one night on the Outdoor Education camp, what a great night (was little chilly, but beautiful setting). Our students love the outdoors and this camp is certainly a challenge physically. It was great to see an old face and the students were thrilled to have Andy Drill on the camp.

The new uniforms look fantastic, and this is evident on community events with the tops looking smart and bright. Please be mindful to wear the approved uniform and visit the school uniform shop to replace any shorts or pants that are not authorised clothing.

We had a great turnout for Information Night, and I had the opportunity to talk to new and existing parents while their children participated in classroom activities. A big thank you to Scarlet for volunteering to assist on the night.

Heywood ANZAC Day was a great turnout as usual. Our school captains Angus Barclay and Sasha Johnstone represented the school with great pride. Many members of the public approached myself, and other staff to comment on how well they spoke and the depth of meaning in the speech. Thank you Dr K for your support in the VM Literacy class. The wreath designed by Carly, a parent at the school, it was stunning.

Maths Games Day is fast approaching when we love seeing all the excited faces of the primary schools. The day could not be possible without the hard work from the Maths Team but also our librarian Sarah who meticulously organises the teams, laminating, and scoring of the day. The support teams from the primary schools support their students to attend and stay focussed on the day and we couldn't do it without them. It is one of the highlights for me during the year.

Christine Hart.
Assistant Principal

HDSC IMPORTANT DATES

Monday 25 May - ADF Visit 2-3pm (Year 9 -12)
GD X Country (Wbool)

Tuesday 26 May - Staff Curriculum Day (No School)

Wed 27 to Fri 29 May - Dental Van Visit

Friday 29 May - Maths Games Day

1 to 5 June - Year 10 Work Experience

Wednesday 8 June - Year 9 -12 GD BBall

Thursday 18 June - Year 10 Immersion Day Deakin

Wed 24 to Fri 29 June - Dental Van Visit

Friday 26 June - Term Ends 2:30pm

For further important dates visit our school website.

NEW STAFF

William Drogemuller
Maths and Science

Paul Johnstone
Farm Team

Liya Long
Science

Kerrie Lee
Classroom Support

Grace Tabone
Classroom Support

DEAKIN UNI VISIT - DIGITAL TECH

Towards the end of Term 1, we welcomed back Professor Juli-Anne Lynch, Dr. Van Thanh Huynh, and PHD students, Riley Bain and Tom Lynch, from Deakin University's Schools of Education, Mechatronics, and Engineering, to facilitate some more Robotics and Haptics workshops with our Year 7 to Year 10 students. This workshop focussed on their new RoboCom platform which enables students to participate in immersive, remote learning experiences, connecting them with advanced laboratory resources that are typically out of reach. This project aligns with our commitment to improving educational outcomes and ensuring that all students, regardless of their geographic location or background, have the opportunity to succeed in STEM subjects.

Christine O'Dea.

2026 HOUSE ATHLETICS

The sun was shining along with a strong early wind as we kicked off our annual House Athletics Carnival. After a quick rescue mission to secure the marquees as they were blown across the field, the day got underway with our field events.

Students arrived dressed in their house colours and gave their best efforts within their age groups to earn valuable house points and compete for Age Group Champion honours. The morning saw strong participation across events including high jump, long jump, triple jump, shot put, javelin and discus. With house points extremely close at the conclusion of the field events, the overall shield was set to be decided on the track.

Following a great BBQ lunch, prepared by our students, we returned to the oval for an exciting afternoon of track events.

With only a handful of points separating the houses at the end of the day, it was **Dooliba** who claimed overall victory, narrowly ahead of **Tallawalla** in second, with **Gumerooka** finishing third.

2026 HOUSE SWIMMING

We were fortunate to enjoy fantastic weather and a strong turnout from our students as we kicked off our annual House Swimming Carnival at the Heywood Swimming Pool in Term 1.
It was great to see so many students embracing the day, proudly dressed in their house colours and showing outstanding team spirit.
Events ran smoothly and on schedule, with students eagerly participating in both competitive and novelty events to earn valuable points for their houses. From traditional races to fun activities such as the cork scramble and bombing competition, there was something for everyone to get involved in and enjoy.

At the conclusion of the day, **Tallawalla** took out overall victory, with **Dooliba** finishing second and **Gumerooka** in third place.
A big thank you to all staff and students who contributed to making the day such a success, and to the parents and friends who came down to support throughout the day.
Three swimmers progressed to the Glenelg District Carnival, with all three finishing on the podium an outstanding achievement. Daniel S. placed 2nd in the 17 Boys, Lydia S. finished 3rd in the 16 Girls, and Matthew S. won the 13 Boys age group, scoring nearly double the points of the second-place finisher.
Matthew then qualified for the Greater Western Regional Swim Meet in Horsham, where he placed 4th in the 50m Butterfly an excellent result. He represented our school with great pride.

YEAR 7 CAMP

Y7 Camp this year was held at The Outside Inn at Wannon Falls.

The goal was to connect with each other, challenge ourselves, make new friends, team building and understand the school values.

We explored the local area by bushwalks, rode surrey bikes, played frisbee golf along with climbing and abseiling. We had night challenges, lego challenges, and watched films.

YEAR 8 RUBICON CAMP

With some uncertainty leading into camp due to forecast high winds temperatures in the High Country, it was a pleasant surprise to learn just a day before departure that we would begin our camp at Phillip Island for the first two days.

Upon arrival, we were welcomed by Kieran at the campsite, where we outlined our goals and purpose for the week. A key focus for the group was making choices that had a positive impact on both themselves and the wider group. Students were given responsibility for decisions throughout the week, including bedtimes, wake-up times, activities, and even meal planning. It was extremely impressive to see how thoughtfully the group approached each decision, working collaboratively and respectfully to agree on the best way forward.

Our second focus was how to respond to challenges. Students considered strategies they could use before facing different situations whether it was something simple like preparing lunch, or more demanding challenges such as navigating underground caves. With the support of one another, every student rose to the occasion and successfully completed each challenge presented throughout the week.

During our time at Phillip Island, students participated in a range of activities including surfing, hiking, fishing, and visiting the penguins. We then travelled to the High Country, where we stayed at the Rubicon Outdoor Education Campus. Here, students took part in navigation, mountain biking, river floating, and caving.

After an action-packed week, it was time to board the bus for the long journey home. The camp provided an amazing opportunity for students to strengthen their bonds as a group, while developing resilience and confidence. The way our students supported each other, overcame challenges, and represented themselves and the school with pride was outstanding.

A big thank you to Mr Doherty and Kerrie for leading and supporting the students throughout this memorable experience.

YEAR 9/10 OUTDOOR CAMP - GLENELG

This year our Outdoor Education students were fortunate to have Mr Drill return from his overseas adventures to help transform the traditional one night camp into a two night, three day adventure along the beautiful Glenelg River.

With perfect weather, students hiked 15km through the Lower Glenelg National Park from The Inkpot to Pritchards Campground, spotting kangaroos, wallabies, leeches, and even a snake along the way.

Students enjoyed meals prepared during cooking classes, spent time fishing on the riverbank, gathered around the campfire roasting marshmallows, and experienced spectacular frosty sunrises overlooking the river each morning.

The second day saw students canoeing in ideal conditions along the Glenelg River, practising their skills, enjoying games on the water, and stopping at Skipworth Springs for lunch before returning to camp for a relaxing afternoon by the dock and a BBQ dinner with visiting families.

On the final day, students packed camp before completing a 15km bike ride through the national park, taking in incredible scenery and native wildlife along the trail. The camp provided students with an outstanding opportunity to challenge themselves, build resilience, strengthen friendships, and develop a deeper appreciation for the outdoors.

A huge thank you to Mr Drill, Mr Doherty, Ms Hart, and Grace for supporting students throughout the experience.

SCHOOL GALLERY