Our School Vision

Our purpose:
- as a school is to provide learning opportunities for students to develop physically, intellectually and socially to the best of their ability

School Values:
Respect • Responsibility • Trust • Achievement • Community

We provide:
- a broad and balanced curriculum to cater for the needs of all students
- a wide range of subjects valuing both practical and theoretical knowledge and skills
- specialist courses and facilities to cater for students with particular needs
- high quality resources to support learning

We encourage our students:
- to strive for excellence
- to develop problem solving skills
- to become independent, self directed learners
- to participate in decision making
- to develop an understanding of themselves
- to develop a positive self esteem
- to develop a tolerance and respect for others
- to respect property
- to develop self discipline and to take responsibility for their own actions

We want:
- our school to have a warm and friendly atmosphere based on mutual respect between staff and students
- our students to be successful
- students, parents and staff to work closely together to provide the best learning opportunities for all students
- close, constructive relationships with the local community
Welcome

Dear Parents/Caregivers

Welcome to Waikerie High School!

This booklet has been written to provide information on our school to the new parents and students who will be enrolled. For some of you, this will be the first time in which one of your children has been to high school. For you, we offer a particularly warm welcome, and hope that this booklet provides you with information on the routines of high school life. For those parents who have ‘been there, done that’ before, we hope that this information will update you on some of the activities and developments that have occurred in our school recently.

The move from primary school to high school can be quite a challenging one for some students. While some adapt very readily to the new routines and expectations of high school life, others may approach high school with some concerns. Hopefully the information in this booklet, and the information in the student transition booklet, will help the change from primary to high school occur as smoothly and as comfortably as possible.

In the coming weeks Year 7 students will have the opportunity to visit the high school, in order to acquaint themselves with the new surroundings. As parents, you will also have the opportunity to visit the school and meet the teachers later in the year. Further information about these visits will be forwarded to you.

As Transition Coordinator for this year, I hope that your child will find the transition process from primary school to high school to be a successful one, so that they may begin Year 8 with confidence and enthusiasm. Should you have any concerns regarding high school or the transition process for your child please do not hesitate to contact me or their Year 7 teacher.

I look forward to meeting with you in the coming months.

Elissa Koch

Transition Coordinator
Welcome from the Principal and the Chairperson of the Governing Council

On behalf of the Governing Council and school community I welcome all students, parents and caregivers to Waikerie High School. I hope our journey together is rewarding and enjoyable. We believe every student should have the opportunity to reach their potential and use a teamwork approach to work towards this.

Waikerie High School has a proud tradition in academic excellence, sporting success and innovative programs that cater for all students’ needs and abilities.

Students have the ability to set and pursue goals in a wide range of social, spiritual, educational and vocational areas.

This booklet covers some of the information you will require as a caregiver, parent or student. If you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Rob McLaren
Principal
Our School, Our Achievements

We are justly proud of the educational services we are able to provide to our students and our community. Despite being a small country school, we have been able to provide a diversity of courses and programs to suit the needs of students of diverse backgrounds and interests. We have been able to cater successfully for students who wish to attend tertiary education at University or TAFE, as well as developing on-the-job skills for those students whose aim is to enter the workforce upon completion of their schooling.

Our Curriculum
At the Middle School level, all subjects are offered from the Australian Curriculum. Further information on these subjects can be found in the Subject Information Booklets which will be distributed at a later date.

These subjects aim to provide a broad-based education, to prepare students for study at senior secondary level. These subjects are a mix of both practical and non-practical subjects, and aim to cater for students of all interests and abilities. There are no subject choices in Year 8, but students will find that their range of choices increase as they progress through high school.

SACE
At the senior secondary level, students are given the opportunity to complete the South Australian Certificate of Education (SACE). This is a statewide certificate of completion of high school, and is a requirement for further study at University, as well as in some TAFE courses. Students are able to select a program of study in a number of diverse areas.

We have been very proud of our Year 12 results. These results have been, on average, higher than the state average. The vast majority of students who wished to attend University achieved a score that enabled them to do this.

Our school also has a very successful Community Studies program available for students, to cater for the educational needs of all students.

For those students who might prefer more of a vocational pathway, we offer a number of subjects that develop job skills and experiences. Further information on these pathways can be found in the next section.

Vocational Education and Work Experience
One of our school priorities has been a focus on Vocational Education and Training (VET). Vocational Education places a greater emphasis on developing job skills, as well as enabling students to achieve TAFE modules that will assist them should they wish to study at TAFE after completing their secondary schooling. Vocational Education opportunities are available in a wide range of areas including: business, technology, agriculture, tourism and hospitality at our school, and all of these are areas of growth in the workforce.

All Year 10 students are required to undertake a week of Work Experience as part of their PLP studies. This is a valuable experience and allows them to gain an introduction to life in the workforce.

Trade School – Australia School Based Apprenticeship (ASBA)
Waikerie High School is a branch of the Riverland Trade School. An apprenticeship broker attends Waikerie High School most weeks to link senior students with apprenticeships. Students also have access to school based apprenticeships where they combine a trade apprenticeship with school.
Our Facilities
Waikerie High School has extensive facilities that enable students to learn a diversity of subjects. Students have access to woodwork, metalwork, electronics and photography facilities for their study of Technology. Also, the school has up-to-date computer facilities that enable students to develop ICT skills - an ever-increasing area of importance in today's society.

The school's hall, oval and access to the combined sporting facility enables students to develop physical education skills in a diversity of sports. Students have access to cooking and sewing facilities for Home Economics, and we have Drama, Music and Art rooms to cater for students with creative interests. An up-to-date Resource Centre is available for students and teachers to use in the development of research and information-gathering skills. The grounds of Waikerie High School are spacious and attractive.

We hope that you agree with us when we say that Waikerie High School has the facilities and programs in place to provide a high quality education for the young people of the Waikerie and nearby districts.

School Website - www.waikeriehs.sa.edu.au
The school operates a modern website that provides a wide range of information. The site is updated regularly with newsletters, current events and photos.

Opportunities for Parent Involvement
At Waikerie High School, we recognise the importance of parental involvement in education, and we strongly support parents becoming involved in the decision making body of the school.

We encourage all interested parents to consider becoming involved with the Governing Council and its sub-committees.

Governing Council
The Governing Council is the key decision making body for the school. Decisions affecting staff, students and parents are made at these meetings. This is a valuable and important forum for interested parents to contribute actively in the running of the school.

Interested parents are encouraged to attend the Annual General Meeting for the School Council, where nominations and elections will be held.

Canteen Volunteers
Any parent who is able to volunteer to assist in the canteen at any stage during the year will be most welcome! Information regarding volunteering will be forwarded to you later.

Other opportunities
Volunteers may be requested from time to time in a number of different areas. For example, parents may wish to assist in the running of school sports' days, or other similar activities. Requests for assistance will be printed in the school newsletter and help is always greatly appreciated.
Fees and Charges

The School Material and Service Charges will be approximately $330 for Year 8 students. This entitles each student to the use of textbooks, library, audio visual equipment, sports equipment, computer/photography technology, an initial stationery pack and a school diary. Parents are advised that all text books and materials supplied remain the property of the school and must be returned on request, accounts will be sent home for lost or damaged books.

Other Fees - students are provided with materials for skills acquisition in many subject areas, eg Technology (Wood/Metalwork, Photography, Design/Art), Home Economics and Physical Education. Where students choose to make projects outside the core curriculum, accounts will be sent home for these materials.

School Card application forms are available from the school during fee taking time. Assistance is available if you have any queries or need help to complete forms. Only some health care cards are acceptable. Please ensure your card has the appropriate code before paying for fees, but if there are any questions please ring the school.

Payment can be made at the Bookroom using cheque, cash or EFTPOS. Arrangements for payment by direct debit or installments is also available. Payment can be made during the week prior to school beginning for 2016. Times will be advertised in The River News during January 2016 and on our website.

Should payments be required at other times during the year, these can be made before school or recess time at the bookroom counter. If you are unsure where this is, please seek assistance at the front desk.

Open Access College Fees - Open Access College charge fees of $1100 (paid by WHS) per subject, with an additional charge per subject of $110 to be paid by parent/caregiver.

Bushfire Warnings
In the event of a CATASTROPHIC warning being issued for our region the school will be open but NO school buses will operate. This information will be broadcast on the ABC during the evening prior to the day. We will also ensure information is on our website and answering machine after hours.
Important Information and Dates

The Term Dates for 2016 are:

TERM ONE  1st February – 15th April  TERM THREE  25th July – 30th September
TERM TWO   2nd May – 8th July      TERM FOUR    17th October – 16th December

DAY-TO-DAY PROCEDURES

Student Absences
If your child is absent from school, please inform your child's homegroup teacher via a note in the school diary. This note should outline the reason for the student's absence. If away for an extended period a letter requesting an exemption for the specified dates and explaining the absence should be addressed to the Principal. The Principal can approve an absence of one calendar month. For longer periods, an exemption application will need to be made to the Department of Education.

Lateness
If your child is late for any particular reason, please provide a note explaining this lateness in your child's diary. The student is to show this note to the front office staff as soon as they arrive at school.

Appointments
Should your child need to leave school during the day, such as for a dentist or doctor's appointment, please write a note explaining this in your child's diary. This note must be signed by the homegroup teacher, and shown to the front office staff, prior to the student leaving the school grounds.

Sickness at School
If your child has any specific medication that may be required during the day, this can be kept at the front office. Please contact the school should you have any concerns over illness or medication. Should your child become ill whilst at school you or your nominated emergency contact will be contacted to collect them from school.

STUDENT MEDICAL INFORMATION
Parents will be required to complete a form outlining any medical conditions their child suffers from, as well as any treatments or medications we should be informed of. Emergency health care plans are also required for serious illnesses and asthma. Ongoing health problems can be accommodated through an Individual Learning Plan.

BUSES
Information regarding students travelling to school via bus will be forwarded to you with this booklet.

EXCURSIONS
Information regarding excursions will be sent home to parents prior to the scheduled activity. While parents will sign a general consent form for local excursions early in the year, trips that occur outside of the township will require another consent form to be completed. The teacher organising the event will send these consent forms home prior to the event.

PAYMENTS
Should students be required to pay for an excursion, or another activity, they must do this at the bookroom counter, before school each morning, or during recess.
ASSESSMENT and REPORTING
There are a number of ways in which student progress is reported to parents. A detailed written report will be sent home at the end of Term 1 and Term 3, which includes detailed information on your child’s achievement in each subject. In Terms 2 and 4 a report will be sent home with your child’s overall grade for each subject.

HOMEWORK
All Year 8 students are expected by their teachers to do homework that is set. This may be up to one hour per night.
Should your child be unable to complete his or her homework for any reason, please write a note of explanation in the student’s diary.

DUE DATES
Parents should be informed that the school has an established deadline policy. In the interest of fairness, students are required to meet all due dates set for assignment work. Failure to do so will result in the student receiving a reduced grade for that piece of work.

Students are able to negotiate extensions to due dates before the day, should a valid reason, such as illness, be given.

COMMUNICATION WITH THE SCHOOL/DIARIES
Most communication to the school will be done via the school diary. Should you wish to speak to a staff member, either personally or by phone, the first contact will usually be the homegroup teacher. For matters of greater importance, you are able to contact the Year Level Coordinator to discuss issues. Matters of a serious or personal nature may be discussed with the Assistant Principal or the Student Counsellor.

Students are encouraged to maintain an orderly and neat diary. The diary is used to record homework, as well as to pass information to and from parents. The diary is to be signed each week by a parent or caregiver.

A Parent Newsletter will be sent home to parents once a fortnight. These will be distributed to the youngest member of the family that attends the high school. This newsletter will contain both school and community news. The Parent Newsletter is uploaded to our website on the day it is published.

UNIFORM SHOP
Our uniform shop is open Tuesday afternoons 3:00pm – 3:45pm and Thursday mornings 8:30am - 9:30am.
School Uniform

School Colours: Bottle green, grey and white

Girls Uniform:
Summer Dress: Check WHS dress
Skirt: Bottle green with white check pattern. Short (minimum length is 5cm above knee) for summer and long (below knee) for winter.
Trousers: Mid grey pants available from uniform shop. (NOT track pants. NOT Jeans)
Blouse: White blouse with WHS logo on collar
Jacket: Charcoal grey WHS jacket
Shirt: White with bottle green WHS polo shirt
Socks: White
Stockings: Black tights or stockings with winter skirt for warmth. NOT leggings
Shorts: Mid grey mid thigh to knee length tailored shorts

Boys Uniform:
Trousers: Mid grey tailored pants available from uniform shop (NOT track pants. NOT Jeans)
Shorts: Mid grey shorts
Shirt: White with bottle green WHS polo shirt. Long sleeved polo’s also available.
Jacket: Charcoal grey WHS jacket
Socks: White or grey

General:
Sports Uniform: Black basketball shorts and WHS Phys Ed green polo shirts are expected to be worn.
Hats: Waikerie High School expects the wearing of hats that offer full protection. Hats will to be worn for all outdoor activities including Physical Education and Agriculture lessons. Green bucket hats are available from the Uniform Shop. Hats will be removed when indoors. No caps.
Jewellery: Jewellery should be minimal and inconspicuous. Least conspicuous body piercing is accepted in line with the WHS Body Piercing Policy.
Footwear: Lace up or enclosed shoes. (Obligatory for all technology laboratory and workshop areas)
Thongs and slides are NOT permitted on any occasion, including Casual Days. (OHSW regulations)

Optional Items:
Blazer: Bottle green with school emblem on the front pocket
Scarf: Dark green
Plain white, green or grey long sleeved T-shirts may be worn underneath polo shirts for winter warmth.

Year 12 students may design and wear their own commemorative polo shirts and windcheater in line with the uniform code and colours.
Sports and Extra-Curricular Activities

Our school has a well-established sporting and extra-curricular program. We encourage all students to become involved in extra-curricular activities, as it helps students to develop their health, confidence, leadership and social skills. Students who break the Behaviour Code will not be taken on Excursions and Camps.

All students who enrol at Waikerie High School will be assigned to a House. These Houses are:

- Cadell
- Randell
- King
- Ritchie
- Green
- Red
- Blue
- Black

The School will make every attempt to put students into houses of their preference, based on family tradition.

The following sporting competitions are held at Waikerie High School each year.

- Swimming
- Splash Heats
- Splash Carnival
- Interschool Swimming
- Adelaide Swimming
- Athletics
- Standards Morning
- Sports Day
- Interschool Sports Day
- Adelaide Athletics

Cross Country Running
- School X-Country
- Interschool X-Country
- Adelaide X-Country

While competition is a key aspect of many of these events, we would like to point out that the school strongly encourages the participation of all students, no matter what their ability level is.

The school also offers less formal sport such as:

- Lunchtime sport, such as soccer or netball
- Year level sporting competitions between homegroups
- Knockout Sport/Sports Carnivals (5-aside soccer etc.)
  Available to students who consistently wear school uniform and follow school expectations.

A number of subject-related competitions are held each year, such as the Maths and Science Competitions, which students are encouraged to participate in.
The Year 8 Camp

A camp for Year 8’s is planned for early Term 1. Further information will be provided once arrangements have been finalized, we endeavour to keep costs to a minimum.

Student Representative Council

The SRC is elected by the students to represent the students. Years 9 to 12 are elected in Term 4 of the previous year. Year 8 representatives will be selected early in Term 1. The SRC consists of twenty students from all year levels.

The SRC plays an important role within the school and aims to do the following:

- To improve the communication between staff and students
- Help create a better environment around the school
- To provide students with a forum to discuss views and ideas
- Raise money to benefit both the school and several charities

SRC members are included on all committees within the school community and perform a very valuable service to both themselves and their school.
Behaviour Expectations

Students can expect consequences for unacceptable actions. Waikerie High School has a well-established behaviour management program, ensuring the rights of all students and teachers are maintained. The Behaviour Code is attached and the fundamentals of this are:

Attendance
- Be punctual
- Attend regularly
- Explain absences – diary note, phone call, Doctor’s certificate for longer absences

Uniform
- Be dressed neatly in school uniform
- Be dressed appropriately in specialist subjects/areas
- No huge jewellery
- Piercings must be subtle and covered or removed for specialist activities
- Shoes must be fully enclosed and safe for science and technology classrooms

Communication
- Use respectful speech and body language and respectful tone
- No phone use in class

Learning
- Come to lessons prepared
- Participate actively in learning programs
- Meet work requirements by the due dates
- Ask for help when you need it

Movement
- Move in a safe manner in classrooms, corridors and around school buildings
- Use established procedures to move between classes, to the library, between school and home at lunch breaks or for special appointments

Organisation
- Use the diary to be organised for lessons, and to keep track of assignments and tasks to complete at home
- Lockers should be tidy and locked with a padlock

Safety
- Keep our environment alcohol and drug free

Relationships
- Keep our environment free of aggression, violence and harassment
- Report all bullying on a green form

Respect for property
- Keep our environment free of litter, graffiti, vandalism and theft

HARASSMENT POLICY
A copy of the school’s Behaviour and Harassment Policy has been included with the transition information.

CONSEQUENCES OF INAPPROPRIATE BEHAVIOUR
Consequences of inappropriate behaviour can range from warnings, note in diary, yard duty, detention, and parental contact. Repeated or more serious behaviours may lead to timeout, take home, exclusion from extra curricula events, suspension or exclusion.
Behaviour Code of Waikerie High School

WAIKERIE HIGH SCHOOL BELIEVES:

- We must provide a safe, orderly and comfortable environment in which the rights of all students to learn, and all teachers to teach are respected. The school must be welcoming for parents and the wider community.
- All members must work together to develop a collaborative culture and maintain a positive environment in which all accept responsibility for their own behaviour and choices.
- We must actively pursue a success-orientated environment in which each individual has the right and opportunity to experience a range of academic, social and physical success.
- We must acknowledge all responsible behaviour.
- As irresponsible behaviour can severely affect and hamper the learning opportunities of students and the effectiveness of teachers, it is important that our school has practices which reflect the intent of the State school discipline policy and are owned, supported and endorsed by the school community.

OUR FIVE CORE VALUES ARE

- Respect
- Responsibility
- Trust
- Achievement
- Community

RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

ALL STUDENTS:

- Are required to participate in a wide range of social and academic endeavours knowing that they are valued and have opportunities for positive interactions and successful learning outcomes.
- Are required to participate in decision-making activities at a personal and school-based level.
- Are involved in the learning process and have access to experiences which strengthen self-esteem, self-confidence and encourage further effort.
- Should enjoy co-operative and supportive relationships.
- Understand what is responsible behaviour and take responsibility for their own behaviour and the consequences of that behaviour.

ALL STAFF ARE COMMITTED TO:

Working toward a success-oriented learning environment in which student outcomes are improved by:

- Developing stimulating and relevant curricula and using a range of methodologies that allow for differing student needs.
- Incorporating social justice principles into the whole school environment and operations at all levels.
- Modelling co-operative behaviour that clearly shows that all are valued as individuals.
- Conflict resolution methods that recognise the rights of all individuals.
- Keeping their right to teach as a focus knowing they are supported by school and department structures.

ALL PARENTS:

- Are encouraged to participate in decision-making process of the school.
- Are given access to and input to the development of Waikerie HS policies.
- Are encouraged to respond to different varieties of communication - diary note, email, letter, telephone call, and to use the diary as a formal means of communication between home and school.
- Are supportive of the school processes following irresponsible behaviour and will be involved in the development of strategies to change unacceptable behaviour.
- Are made to feel welcome and valued.
RESPONSIBLE BEHAVIOUR IS:
"Behaviour that maintains and increases the positive learning for students whilst not infringing the rights of other students and rights of teachers to teach".

As we encourage responsible behaviour, our students will develop independence, self-confidence, self-esteem, a sense of achievement and a feeling of empowerment. Therefore, by promoting responsible behaviour we are enabling students to develop strategies so that they can effectively participate in a changing world.

**Responsible behaviour is fostered at school and at home by:**
- using a conscious and planned approach to promoting responsible behaviour
- ensuring that all persons in the school community are committed to and understand the aims and objectives of the SBM Policy of Waikerie High School
- use of logical and consistent consequences for irresponsible behaviour
- teachers and parents supporting each other when dealing with student behaviour problems
- recognising individual differences - choosing appropriate teaching and learning strategies

This process requires patience, tolerance, understanding and mutual respect by all parties. All decisions and actions need to be balanced and consistent and all parties need to be involved in the decision making process and be aware of the logical process. It requires people to understand their values, expectations and impact on others so they can effectively assist students to have and maintain responsible behaviour.

The following are some examples of responsible behaviour:
- treating others with respect and being courteous
- respecting others' rights and property
- punctuality to school and class
- completing all set work and homework to the best of their abilities
- using class time effectively
- bringing all equipment necessary to complete all set tasks
- following teachers' instructions
- maintaining a diary which is signed by parents
WAIKERIE HIGH SCHOOL

BULLYING AND HARASSMENT

At our school, every person has the right to feel safe. Every person has the right to learn in an environment, which is free from bullying and harassment. Every person has the right feel safe while travelling to and from school.

No person has the right to be a bully or to harass another person.

Waikerie High School will not tolerate bullying or harassment.

Help make our school a safe place.

Waikerie High School expects respect, consideration, courtesy and cooperation from students, teachers, support staff and parents. Any bullying or harassment breaks that code and in some instances is against the law. Harassment or bullying are unwelcome behaviours and must be stopped. It might involve teachers, students, support staff or parents. It might happen in many ways, by an individual or by a group.

It might include:

- hitting, punching, jostling, grabbing, flicking, rubbing, pushing or spitting
- sexual abuse – written, verbal or physical
- using an object as a weapon – or to threaten
- threatening others – physically or verbally
- hiding, damaging or destroying property
- putting others down – to their face or to others
- spoken or written insults or threats, suggestive comments, name-calling, unfair criticism, spreading rumours or lies
- looks, stares, hand signs, facial expressions
- using offensive names of abusive language
- sexual harassment including suggestive comments
- making degrading comments about another person’s culture, gender, religion, background or level of family income
- discriminating because a person is different in any way
- ridiculing a person about their body or face
- being cruel about a person’s disability or learning ability
- writing graffiti about others
- writing crude notes or making crude drawings
- using pictures, tags or unpleasant words to make a cruel comment
- spreading rumours about a person or their family
- influencing others to bully or harass
- deliberately leaving a person out and encouraging groups to exclude that person
- offensive gestures
- ignoring or disrespecting a person during group work in class
- extortion and blackmail
- sending mean or offensive text messages or mean or offensive emails
- laughing at the victim or failing to intervene when others harass or bully
- using facebook or twitter for unpleasant purposes
BULLIES
People who harass will be counselled to stop, and will be given a formal caution. Further instances of bullying or harassment to any person will result in suspension.

DO YOU BULLY OR HARASS?
STOP
You will be breaking the rules.
You might be breaking the law.
You can expect consequences.
Police will be involved for a number of the above incidents.

ARE YOU BEING BULLIED?
You can:
- Think of ways to stay safe
- Ignore it. The harasser might stop
- Tell the person to stop, if that is a safe thing to do
- Tell yourself that you never deserve to be bullied or harassed
- Talk it over with a friend, a parent, your teacher, a Counsellor and make a plan to stop the bully, in a way that makes good sense
- Report the bullying on the green report form
- Expect the school to respond to your report
- Expect the school to suspend any students who continues to bully, after you have made your second report.

To plan some effective ways of thinking and reacting to a bully:
Visit
www.kidshelp.com.au
www.bullyingnoway.com.au
www.racism.com.au
www.beyondblue.org.au
www.headroom.net.au www.netalert.net.au
www.cybersmartkids.com.au
STUDENT INFORMATION

Routines and Rules

How does the canteen work?
There are few routines about the canteen that you will need to get used to. The canteen is a very popular place, and our canteen manager – Mrs Maywald - is one of the best you can get! Since the canteen gets busy, there are a few things you should know:
• You can order your lunch before school or at recess time by filling in a lunch order bag, which are found near the canteen counter. Place your money in the bag, and put the bag into the metal container.
• If you order your lunch, line up in the line nearest the wall. These people get served first.
• There are two other lines. The one furthest from the wall is an ‘Express Lane’ - you can only buy one or two items from this lane.
• You cannot buy anything for anyone else. You also cannot ask anyone to buy things for you. Lastly, you cannot push in, or let your friends push into the line.
• The canteen will close a few minutes before the end of recess or lunch, so get in early!
• Mrs Maywald can also provide hot water for noodles, etc.

How do I catch a bus to high school?
If you need to catch a bus to school next year, please read the information included in the transition kit. This explains the rules for bus travel, and includes an application form for travelling on the bus.

How does the Resource Centre work?
On transition day you will be shown the library (called the Resource Centre) at our school. All students will receive a photo ID when you arrive in Year 8. When you wish to borrow a book, you must bring your ID card with you. You cannot borrow a book if you have an overdue or if you don't have your card.
For some subjects, like Maths and English, you will be given a book that you need to bring to every lesson. Each book will have your name printed inside the front cover. Make sure you look after this book - if you lose it, or any other library book, you will need to pay for it. If you lose a book, or if your book is stolen, let the librarians know as soon as possible.

Where do I store all of my books and things?
Every student will receive a locker, lockers are located outside of your homegroup class room. If you want to lock your locker, please bring a padlock with you on your first day, we encourage you to lock your locker. Make sure you bring a spare key, and give it to your homegroup teacher to look after. If you lose your key, and you don’t have a spare, then your padlock will be cut, and you will need to buy another one.

What happens during a normal school day?
On your first day, you will be given a map and a time-table, that will outline who your teachers are, what rooms the lessons will be in, and what time each lesson begins and ends. On a normal school day, you will begin by meeting with your homegroup teacher for a period we call ‘Class Teacher Period’ (CTP), or ‘Homegroup’. During this time, the morning notices will be read out to you, and the roll will be taken. Then, you will go to lesson 1, and then lesson 2 before you go to recess. After recess, you have lessons 3 and 4, and then it's time for lunch. After lunch, you will have another two lessons! After lesson six, you return to your homegroup for a five-minute CTP, where you pack your things and clean your homeroom. Except for Thursday when we have only 5 lessons and you get to go home a bit earlier, but your teachers stay and go to meetings!
What is there to do during recess and lunch?
For those of you who are interested in sport, then sports equipment can be borrowed. Cricket and football can be played on the oval, and tennis and basketball can be played on the courts. Most students seem to enjoy spending recess and lunch sitting on the front lawns, and talking with their friends.
The Library is open for the second half of lunch, for those students who enjoy some peace and quiet, or want to read quietly.
Year 12 students run lunchtime competitions in tennis, indoor soccer, volleyball, netball and basketball. You can join some of your friends from within your house to form a team.

What do I do if I get sick at high school?
If you get sick at high school, then please let your teacher know. If necessary, you may need to have a lie down in our sick room. For particularly bad illnesses, the school will ring a parent or guardian, and ask them to come and pick you up, so you can recover at home!
If you are sick during lesson, let your teacher know. They will write a note in your diary, that you then take to the front office. There, you will be given assistance by the staff members in the front office.
If you get ill or injured during recess or lunch, let the yard duty teacher know, or check in at the front office, where you will be given assistance.

Do I have to wear a school uniform?
Wearing of school uniform is compulsory. Many successful and prominent people have studied at our school. We should be really proud of this fact, and should show that we are proud to belong to such as successful school community by wearing our school uniform.
Further information on the school uniform will be provided to your parents with the transition information.
Some people think wearing a uniform is boring and unnecessary. We really disagree with this at our school. We have achieved great things as a school - won awards for some of our programs, and most students who want to go to university achieve scores that enable them to do this. We have also had major success in sports. We are very proud of our school, and we hope that you will share in our pride by wearing our uniform.
It is also a safety issue – all students must wear uniform so we can identify who belongs at the school and who doesn’t.
PE Uniform – you must change into this for every practical lesson.

What do I do if I am late, or if I am away sick?
If you are away sick, or if you have a doctor’s appointment in Adelaide, or a family commitment to attend to, we require you to get a note in your school diary, from your parents or guardians explaining why you were away. If you are away without getting a note or giving us a reason, we may need to phone your parents to find out what is going on.
If you come to school late, you will need a note from your parents or guardians explaining why you are late - maybe you had a doctor’s appointment, or your car broke down! You will need to report to the Front Office where the staff will ask to see your note and show you how to sign in on the Attendance Management Computer. You also need to show your note to your homegroup teacher.
What are the school rules?
There are many new routines that you need to learn at high school - lesson times, moving from class to class, finding your way around, and so on. There are also a number of new rules that you will need to learn as you get to high school. We won't give you a big list and make you memorise it, but on your first day, your teachers will explain the rules that they have in class, and your homeroom teacher will explain some of our school rules to you.
We don't have a lot of rules, and the rules we do have are those, which ensure that all people in our school feel safe, and have the opportunity to be successful. If you are doing anything that could harm or hurt someone, or if you act in a way that disrupts people's learning, then chances are you are breaking a rule.
Your teachers will explain these rules, and the consequences for breaking these rules, when you arrive at high school next year.

Can I leave the school grounds during the day?
Generally no. You certainly cannot just come and go as you please! There may be times when you need to leave to attend a doctor or dentist appointment, or something similar. If this is the case, then you must get a note from your parent or guardian and it must be in your diary. You show this note to your homeroom teacher in the morning, who will then sign your note.
When it is time to leave, show this note to the teacher of the class you have at that time, and then go to the Front Office. Here, the staff member at the Front Office will check your note, and you will need to sign out on the Attendance Management Computer.
Once you are on the school property you are not allowed to leave, i.e. when you get off the bus – stay put, do not leave the school, Skate Park and other places are out of bounds.

Sports, Camps and Excursions

What sports do you have at high school? What sporting house will I be in?
We have lots of sports that you can be involved in during the year! There are almost too many to list. Some of these sports include:

- Sports Days and Swimming Carnivals
- 9-a-side football
- Cross Country Running
- Indoor Soccer
- Lunchtime Sport
- Knock-out Footy, Netball, Basketball, Hockey
- ECA Sports

Each student will be assigned to a particular sporting house, just like you were in primary school.
Our sporting houses are:

- CADELL - GREEN
- KING - BLUE
- RANDELL - RED
- RITCHIE - BLACK and WHITE

If you have an older brother or sister at high school, then you will join the same team as them. If you are the first child in your family to go to high school, then your house will be decided on other things, such as if your parents were in a particular house. You will find out the house that you are in early next year.
You will be able to support your house in swimming carnivals, sports days and cross country events. Even if you are utterly hopeless at sport, you can still earn points for your team just by going in events. Make sure you support your team - we like to make our sports days memorable events!
I'm hopeless at sports. Do I have to do sport in high school?
Every student in the state is required to take Health and Physical Education to the end of Year 10. Most students really enjoy PE, but for others it can be quite tough. However, since PE is compulsory, all students have to study it at school. If you are hopeless at sport, don't worry! You can still pass a subject like PE if you try! The PE teachers really appreciate students who try, whether they are good at sport or not. You will get to try a wide variety of sports, some you may never have played before, give it a go you never know you might be surprised how much fun you'll have.
As for sports days and swimming carnivals, all students are encouraged to participate. You may not be involved in a competitive event, but all students can participate in Splash Heats and Standards Day, which are designed for people of all ability levels. It is always good to support your house and your team, whether it is racing down the home straight, or cheering from the sidelines.

Do we have any camps or excursions?
A camp for Year 8 is planned for you early in Term 1. Also different subjects have various excursions that students can go on.
As well, there are a number of sporting activities that you can be involved in.

What are some fun things that we will get to do in high school?
Well, apart from some of the sporting and camping activities that have been outlined in some earlier questions, there are a lot of other things that you can be involved in.
From time to time, inter-class sports are organised for you to participate in. Every year an Indoor Soccer competition is run. Inter-class Floor Hockey has also been organised for Year 8s in past years.

Subjects and Teachers

Who will my teachers be in high school?
You won't know the answer to this until you arrive next year! You will know who your homegroup teacher is. You will meet him or her on Transition Day and Camp.
One of the hardest things for you to get used to is having five or six different teachers a day, rather than the one or two teachers you had at primary school. This can be difficult at times - different teachers in different classes have different rules, and these can be confusing! Listen carefully to your teachers early in the year, and they will explain their expectations to you. If you can try to do the right thing in all of your classes, you should have no problems!

Can I pick the teachers that I have?
No, you can't. But don't worry, all the teachers at our school will do their best to help you settle in, and to help you to succeed. If you listen to your teachers, are polite and cooperative, and follow the class rules, then you should have no problems!

Do I get to pick my subjects?
Year 8 students will study English, Maths, Science, Technology – Woodwork, Metalwork, IT and Electronics, and The Arts – Music, Drama, and Art for a whole year. You will study Geography and History for one semester and then Language for a semester. Some subjects will be new while others will have a different focus than those in primary school, so it is important in Year 8 for all students to study in all areas. In Year 9 you get more of a choice, though some subjects are still compulsory. As you get higher, into Year 10, Year 11 and Year 12 you get more choice.

What do I do if I don't get along with a teacher or student in my class?
As mentioned earlier, you shouldn't have any hassles with any teachers if you act in a polite and cooperative manner. If you think that a teacher is being unfair, or is picking on you, then perhaps you could speak to them. Chances are, they aren't being unfair at all - they may be worried about your behaviour, or the standard of work you are producing, and want you to do
better. If you do feel that you have a real problem with a teacher, speak with your homegroup teacher or the School Counsellor, who can help you sort out any hassles that you may be having. If you have any problems with a student in your class, you should arrange to speak with the subject teacher to discuss your problem. Other options may be to talk to the student who is upsetting you. If you explain to them that you don’t like their attitude or behaviour, then they may realise their mistake, and stop hassling you. We have a Harassment Policy in our school that we take very, very seriously. You will be told about this policy on your first day at high school.

**Will I be in a class with my friends?**
You may not be in a class with your ‘best’ friend, but classes are organised so that there are some familiar faces to you in your new class. Your primary school teachers will help us work out which homegroup you will be assigned to, and we make sure that there is more than one person from each primary school in each class (if that is possible!). Coming to the high school may be a little intimidating if you come from a small primary school, but in time you will get to know a lot of other students from other schools, and make a lot of new friends.

**What do I do if the work is too hard?**
If you find the work that you are doing is too hard, then please speak with your teacher, who will try to help you with your difficulties. If that doesn’t work, and you are really struggling with the work, then speak to your homegroup teacher, who will be able to help you.
Don’t be too worried about the work being too difficult. Most students who come to high school are able to cope with the work, especially if you really try hard. If you do find the work difficult, then the teachers will help you with this. We want all students to succeed at our school!

**I hope that doesn't happen to me!!!**

**What if I get bullied or harassed?**
Our school has a policy against bullying and harassment. At Waikerie High School, harassment is not acceptable, and we treat all harassment very seriously. On your first day at high school, your class teacher will run through the Harassment Policy, and this will give you all the information about what to do if you are bullied. If you do get harassed or bullied at high school, there are a lot of people who will help you, including your class teacher, the School Counsellor, the Chaplain, and the Harassment Counsellors. You will find out all about them on your first day at high school.

**Will I be attacked by water balloons (or worse!) when I get to high school on transition day?**
You may have heard a few rumours about this. Perhaps some of your friends that you know who are already in high school have told you to look out for water balloons on Transition Day. Fortunately, most of these threats are only jokes, but those students who are silly enough to actually try to hit primary school students with water balloons will be in big trouble if they are caught. And there is a fair chance that they will get caught! During lesson time, you will be with teachers, and between lessons, you will be with some older students who have been trained to help you during your first days at high school. These students, and the teachers, will be on the ‘look out’ for any trouble. At recess and lunch, the yard duty teachers will keep an eye on you, as will some older students. If any student does make any trouble for you, please let someone know, and we will talk to them. Any students who are caught with water balloons, or who are caught harassing or threatening primary school students will be in very serious trouble.
**Will the older students pick on me?**
Most of the older students remember what it is like to begin at high school, and most of them are very friendly and cooperative. If any older students pick on you for any reason, then let your teacher, or one of your Student Helpers know, and these students will be spoken to about their bad behaviour. You can also see an SRC member if you have any hassles, and would like to speak to a student rather than a teacher. You will know who these people are - they will be wearing special badges. The SRC students will give you all the help and support they can to help you settle in!

**Where can I get help if I need it?**
The first person you should go to if you have any hassles is your home-group teacher. They will give you all the help they can with any problem you have, whether you are being harassed, getting lost, or having trouble in a certain subject.

You can get help from other people, too:

*The Social Worker* - You will meet Mrs Barker during your transition visits. She is someone you can talk to about any hassles that you have. It is easy to arrange an appointment to meet with Mrs Barker, just by filling out a form on his office door. His office can be found at the end of the corridor in the main building.

*The Year 8 Organiser* - You will meet Ms Koch during your transition visits, too.

These are the people in charge of all the Year 8s. If you need any help with anything at all, then feel free to talk to them, as they are more than happy to help you.

*The Christian Pastoral Support Worker* – Tim Hensel is the current Chaplain at WHS.

*The Principal* – Mr McLaren is the current Principal at WHS.

*The Senior Leaders* – Currently, Mr Griffiths is the Senior School Senior Leader, Mr Bartholomew is the Middle School Senior Leader. They are in charge of behaviour in the school, and if you are having any hassles with other students, then you may like to speak with them.

*Other teachers* - If you have a teacher that you really like and feel comfortable with, then feel free to seek help from them. They will give you support!

*Students* - The SRC and Student Helpers will give you help and advice. Groups of Year 8 students will have Student Helpers, and it is their job to help you settle in at high school. SRC representatives will also help you. These students will be wearing special badges, so you know who they are.

**What does the school already know about me?**
The High School has received information about you from your primary school and your parents. We know about your allergies and any illnesses that you have. Your primary school has given us information about the things you like, and the things that you are good at, or things that you may need help with. All of this information is confidential - we cannot tell anyone about it. We use this information to help us decide which classes you go into, as well as other things. However, at the high school, we realise that you are starting at a new school, with new routines and ways of doing things. If you have been in trouble in primary school, then we will certainly not treat you badly in high school. Everyone deserves a second chance at doing the right thing!
The beginning of next year

Do we get to visit high school before we begin next year?
You sure do! The transition program begins in Term 3. Initially, a teacher will visit you from the high school, and will talk to you about high school life.

What happens at the beginning of next year?
On the first day, we begin with a whole school assembly. When the siren goes, all the students will move down to the Hall, where you will be welcomed to the school by the Principal. If you are unsure where the Hall is, or which door to enter, just follow the crowd - they'll show you the way. You should recognise the Year 8 teachers, since you will meet them later this term. They will direct you to where you have to sit. After the assembly, you will go to your homeroom with your homegroup teacher, where you will receive your timetable, and some other important information. After this period, you will continue on with the day, by heading off to your different subjects.

What do I do if I get lost?
You will get a map on the first day to help find your way around. If you get lost, then ask a teacher for help. If you can't find a teacher, then head to the front office desk, and they will be able to help you. Also, you can ask an SRC member for help - they can be identified as they wear special SRC badges.

Where do I get my books?
A list of the books, pens and pencils that you need for your subjects will be given to you later this year, as well as information as to where you can purchase these items. Make sure these are all clearly marked with your name. Please cover your books, so that they will stay in a good condition.
The textbooks you need, such as English novels, Maths books, etc. will be loaned to you from the library. The class teacher will arrange to borrow these for you.
You will be given a school Diary, pen, pencil eraser and lined pad on the first day of school.
Your diary is a very important communication tool and you need to look after it as every student must have one, you will not be permitted out of class without a diary note i.e. to go to the toilet, use pod computers, etc.

How will I know what class to go to?
You will receive a timetable on your first day, and this will indicate which rooms you need to go to, and what times each lesson will be on. You will also be given a map to help you find your way from class to class.

Do I have to do homework?
Yes, all Year 8 students are expected by their teachers to do homework that is set. This may be up to one hour per night. If you feel like you have too much homework make sure you talk to your teachers.

Round Table Folders
At the end of next year you will be required to present a summary of your year to your homegroup teacher, parents and invited guests. In order to do this to the best of your ability you must work hard to get organized and keep your assignments, that way you will have a variety of work to choose from for your folder.

Good luck for your high school life! Remember, if you try to do your best, and to act in a responsible and respectful manner, then you shouldn't have too many hassles at all. Year 8 will be a great year for you to get to know other students, as well as to learn a lot of new and interesting subjects.

We look forward to seeing you next year!
For Further Information

If you still have any questions about Waikerie High School, or the transition process, please do not hesitate to contact us.

For General School information, please contact:

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For information specific to transition, or Year 8 issues, please contact:

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