Frequently Asked Questions

Orientation Day:

NOTE: we are guided by changing information from the Chief Health Officer (CHO) in relation to COVID restrictions. We will communicate any changes about Orientation Day via email and to your primary school as more information becomes available. We are hoping that we get the opportunity to meet you in person on our Orientation Days.

What day/s are Orientation Day?
Our Orientation Day is Tuesday 7 December and Wednesday 8 December 2021.

What do I wear?
On Orientation Day you are asked to wear your primary school sports uniform with runners so that you can participate in different activities.

Where do I meet?
Please meet at the front of the River Gum Performing Arts Centre (Fordholm Road entrance) before 8.55am.

What time do I get picked up?
You will be dismissed at 3.15pm each day. However, it can get very busy at the end of the school day. So, we encourage you to arrange a place for your parent/carer to meet you at the end of the day.

What do I need to bring?
Bring a small notebook, pen, water bottle and snacks for both days and lunch for the second day only.

Are my parents able to attend Orientation Day?
Usually, we would welcome families to attend the beginning of Orientation Day and join us for a cup of coffee/tea, however, with COVID restrictions this is not possible. Feel free to take your student to the door of the River Gum Performing Arts Centre and we will look after them from there.
Uniform:

Can I wear the old spray jacket instead of buying the new jacket?

The new school jacket was introduced this year in 2021. It is compulsory for all Year 7 and 8 students in 2022 to wear the new school jacket only. Year 7 and 8 students cannot wear the old hand-me-down jacket of their siblings or purchase these second-hand.

Do I have to wear black leather shoes?

Yes. Before you purchase your school shoes you need to carefully check the uniform picture to determine if they are acceptable. These are recommended shoes as they protect your feet when participating in Science and Technology classes.
There are so many uniform options. Do I need to buy everything?

Students can select the items that they feel most comfortable wearing. For example, it is a personal preference if you wish to purchase and wear the white shirt or the grey t-shirt. You do not need to purchase both of these items. Many students do not purchase the school jumper, instead choosing to wear the school jacket.

Am I allowed to mix my academic and PE/sports uniforms?

You cannot mix and match the academic and sports uniforms. Runners can only be worn when you are wearing your PE/ sports uniform and cannot be worn with your academic uniform.

When can I wear my PE/sports uniform?

You are only allowed to wear your PE/sports uniform on the day that you have scheduled Physical Education classes or when advised (e.g. House Cross Country)

Can I wear any black shorts or tracksuit pants for PE classes?

No. A new uniform was introduced and must be worn by ALL students (beginning in 2021). Both of these uniform items have a HPSC logo on them. You can wear whichever item you feel most comfortable in.

Sports

Note: If you do have any issues with obtaining the correct HPSC uniform you must make contact with your House.

What happens if I can’t find my uniform in the morning, or it is wet?

You need to get a note from home to explain why you don’t have your uniform for the day (you can write it BUT your parent MUST sign it). Take your note to your House Assistant before Period 1 begins and you will be given a uniform pass for the day. Show this to any teacher who asks to see this.

What happens if I don’t get a uniform pass?

You will be asked to remove any non-school items (e.g. hoodies) and they will be confiscated for the week. For items that cannot be removed (e.g. shoes) you will be given a uniform pass with a community service duty.
What is community service duty?

Community service duty provides an opportunity to reflect on poor decision making (e.g. not wearing correct uniform, not respecting the rules of the school). It is held either at lunch time or after school and involves actively caring for the school community (e.g. packing up chairs, cleaning).

Technology:

What is the best laptop to purchase for my student?

The College has released three different suggested devices that can be purchased through a company called “Learning with Technologies”. There is a low, medium and high price point. Due to demand and issues with shipping we ask that you order as soon as possible to ensure that you have a device for your student at the beginning of the year.

**Lenovo 11e Netbook 5th Gen - 11.6”**

- **Entry Level Device:** Not recommended for multitasking. Microsoft Teams may need to be used through the website rather than the app.
- **Screen Size**: 11.6 Inches Non-Touch (1366x768)
- **CPU**: Intel Celeron N4120
- **Memory**: 4GB
- **Hard Drive**: 128 GB
- **Keyboard**: Integrated Keyboard
- **Battery**: Up to 12 Hours Battery
- **Camera**: Front Facing
- **Weight**: 1.52KG
- **Stylus**: None
- **Operating System**: Microsoft Windows 10 Pro Academic
- **Warranty**: 1 Year Return to Base Warranty
- **Total Upfront Cost**: $539
Do I have to purchase with “Learning with Technologies”?

No. You can use the specifications listed and take these to any shop (e.g. JB Hi-Fi, Harvey Norman) and get a device with similar specifications. You can find the full flier here at https://hpsc.vic.edu.au/parents/#laptop and you can order with Learning with Technologies using the following link https://hamptonparksc-yr7.orderportal.com.au/CompareDevices?ofid=1628&eid=807&IFID=0&DTID=793

Are there devices that you do not recommend?

We do not recommend using iPads, MacBook’s or second-hand devices as they do not have the same functionality as other devices.

Can I use my phone for learning instead of a laptop?

Mobile phones are not to be used at all during the school day according to DET policy. If they are brought to school, they must be placed in your locked locker before the first period and can only be accessed at the end of the day. You cannot use it to ring/text home or friends.
Can I wear headphones in class?

Listening to music while studying is not helpful and research has shown how this can be a distraction to learning. Headphones can be used at the direction of the teacher, for example, if you need to listen to a video independently.

I cannot log into my Compass (student).

You need to go to the IT department, or the CRC (library) and they will be able to reset your password for you.

How do I get my Compass login (parent/carer)?

You should have received a package of information at the end of October / beginning of November which included your Compass login. If you have not received this information or your login please contact the front office on 8795 9400.

I cannot log into my Compass (parent/carer).

Please come in or contact the front office on 8795 9400 and they will be able to reset your password for you. Remember that your password is different to your student’s, and it MUST NOT BE SHARED WITH THEM.

I am having laptop issues (e.g. can’t connect to the internet, device is running slow, device won’t charge)

You need to take your laptop to the IT department to see if they can fix the problem. If they cannot fix it, it might need to be repaired by the company that you purchased the device from (e.g. Learning with Technologies)

Attendance:

I am not feeling well enough to attend school today. What do I do?

Your parent/carer can do one of the following:

- Log into compass and record your absence for the day under the Attendance tab
- Before school, ring the school absence line on 8795 9400 and click number ‘1’ and leave a message that you will be absent
- During the day, contact your House office, and speak to the House Assistant.
- All lesson plans are on Compass. If you are feeling well enough, you can do some of this work at home. If you are absent from school, it is your responsibility to catch up on any work that you missed out on.

What happens when I return to school?

You need to hand in your medical certificate or a note from home to explain why you have been absent and the dates for this absence. You must hand this into the House Assistant to have this entered onto your Compass page to approve the absence.
My family have planned a holiday during the school term. What do I need to do?

Absences from school during the school term are strongly discouraged. Absences from school impact on your learning, as you miss out on valuable instructions and skills that are constantly being built upon. It can also have a big impact socially. Did you know that 20 days of absence each year is equal to missing over one and a half years of school over your 13 years of schooling?

All holidays or extended of periods of absence must be approved by the principal. Your parents/carers will need to write a letter to the principal as soon as this absence is known.

Camp:

I am not sure about going to camp as I have never been to camp before.

The transition camp is an amazing experience which provides you with many opportunities and experiences that you cannot get from being at school. You are encouraged to try activities that will be challenging and to learn important life skills including independence, collaboration, critical and creative thinking and resilience.

The camp staff are very experienced and will be able to support and care for you while you on camp. If you get homesick, we can arrange a phone call home.

Who is going to camp?

It is expected that all year 7 Explore students take up this amazing opportunity. The skills learnt at camp are as important as any skills that can be learnt in the classroom.

What happens if I don’t go to camp?

For the few students that do not attend camp, they will be expected to attend school. They will participate in an alternate program at school. Unfortunately, many of their regular teachers may not be present as they will be on camp too.

The camp is very expensive.

We agree $315.00 does sound like a lot of money however this includes 2 nutritious breakfasts, lunches and dinners, accommodation for two nights and fully supervised participation in a range of activities including canoeing, ropes courses and giant swing. We challenge you to find a holiday for that much value and fun.

If you are eligible for CSEF (Camp, Sports and Excursion Fund) as you have a Health Care Card, this money ($225.00) can be used to contribute to the cost of the camp. Some students will also have additional funds available which were not used in previous years and will be rolled up from the primary school. Speak to the office staff about this.

Do I get to pick who I share a cabin with?

Early in the year you will select who you would like to share with. We will do everything that we can to make this happen. Males and females will be in separate accommodation areas.
Where can I find out more about the camp?

You can log into YMCA Lady Northcote Camp at https://camps.ymca.org.au/lady-northcote-recreation-camp

What if something happens to me on camp and I get hurt?

The campsite is a registered camp-provider and must undergo a series of safety checks. Camp staff are also qualified in all areas, including first aid. We also take first aid trained staff and have a duty-of-care to be responsible for all students at all times. If something were to happen, we would advise parents immediately. Insurance has been included in camp costs if needed. Ambulance cover for the family is always highly recommended. https://www.ambulance.vic.gov.au/membership/fees-terms/

General questions:

How will I know which class I have been put in?

On Orientation Day you will find out who your Mentor teacher is and who has been placed in your Mentor Group. We have used suggestions from your primary school teachers and have made every effort to make sure that you have at least one friend. As you will understand, this is a difficult process putting students in groups from a number of different primary schools.

How do I know what classes I have?

When you log into Compass, your timetable will be visible. It will show you what class you have, the room you need to be in and your teacher’s initials.

How do I know when classes start and end if there are no bells?

Each class is 75 minutes in length, and you quickly learn the start and finish times. At the beginning of the year your teachers will assist in getting you ready for pack up. Music is played over the loudspeaker for 5 minutes prior to the start of classes to remind you to get ready.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Period 1</strong>&lt;br&gt;8:55am – 10:10am</td>
<td><strong>Period 1</strong>&lt;br&gt;8:55am – 10:10am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Transition</td>
<td>Transition</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Period 2</strong>&lt;br&gt;10:15am - 11:30am</td>
<td><strong>Period 2</strong>&lt;br&gt;10:15am - 11:30am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Recess</td>
<td>Recess</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Period 3</strong>&lt;br&gt;11:55am – 1.10pm</td>
<td><strong>Period 3</strong>&lt;br&gt;11:55am – 1.10pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lunch</td>
<td><strong>End of the day</strong>&lt;br&gt;1:10pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Period 4</strong>&lt;br&gt;2:00pm - 3:15pm</td>
<td><strong>End of the day</strong>&lt;br&gt;3:15pm</td>
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I have an excursion coming up. What do I do?

You and your parents/carers will see a notification come up on Compass. Your parents/carers can consent and make payment online. Alternatively, you can print out the form with your parents/carers signature and place this and the money in an envelope and hand it into the front office.

Which gates can I use to enter the school grounds?

Depending on COVID restrictions, generally you can enter the school using any of the gates.

Can I enter the school via the main office?

No. You must enter the school using the gates. The only exception is when you arrive late or need to leave early. Your parent / carer will need to drop off / pick up by signing you in / out at the main office. You cannot leave the school without an adult.

Where is the student window?

Most of your questions will be answered by your House Assistant in your House reception area. The student window is at the front office. You use the student window to drop off excursion notices and money or to collect items.

What happens if I am feeling sick when I am at school?

You need to let your teacher know that you are unwell, and they will send you to First Aid if it is during class time. If you feel sick at recess or lunchtime, then you can report to First Aid. If you are very unwell, Prue (School Nurse) will make contact with home and decide if they need to collect you. You are not allowed to text / phone your parents/carers to collect you from school.

Can I go to the toilet during classes?

You should use the break times to go to the toilet. However, sometimes issues come up. You will need to ask your teacher. They will record in your school diary where you are going.

How do I open my lock?

We will distribute your lock on the first day of school with instructions. Your primary school teachers have a couple of combination locks for you to practice with. This will give you plenty of time to practice opening and closing the lock.

How long do my lessons go for?

We have 4 lessons a day (except on a Wednesday which is our early finish day). Each lesson goes for 75 minutes.

Will I have different teachers?

Unlike primary school you will have different teachers. You will have a different teacher for each of your 6 classes. Our teachers work well together and are devoted to support your learning at school.
Can I change my class if I don’t like it?

We only change classes if it is not what you wanted to do (for example elective classes), however every effort is made to give you all the electives that you selected. We do not change students' classes because they want a different teacher or because their friends are in a different class. Secondary school provides an amazing opportunity to make new friends from a range of schools in the local area. It doesn’t take long to settle in and feel comfortable in your class.

Who can I talk to if I am having a bad day?

Everyone has a bad day every now and then. If you are not feeling ok we have a range of supports at the school including your House staff and Student Learning Leaders and also our Wellbeing Team. Let a staff member that you trust know (like your Mentor teacher) and they will organise support.

What happens if I get lost?

You can ask a teacher or a senior student for help. Everyone at HPSC is extremely helpful and will point you in the right direction. We will also be doing a tour and mapping activities on Orientation Day and during the first week of school 2022 to help you find your way around. Your teachers will also assist in collecting you and taking you to class.

What should I do if I move house or my parents change their mobile phone or email address?

You should let your Student Learning Leader know. There are Change of Detail forms that you can complete and hand in or alternatively contact the School Office on 8795 9400.