

Frequently Asked Questions

Orientation Day:

What day/s are Orientation Day?

Our Orientation Days are Tuesday 13th December and Wednesday 14th December 2022.

What do I wear?

On the Orientation Days you are asked to wear our 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. A BBQ lunch will be provided on both days.

Are my parents able to attend the Orientation Days?

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?

No. At the start of 2023, the old HPSC spray jacket will no longer be able to be worn. Over the past two years, we have been slowly phasing in the new soft shell HPSC logo jacket and from 2023 all students in Year 7-11 are required to wear the new jacket.

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 items. Many students do not purchase the school jumper, instead choosing to wear the school jacket.

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

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.

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. Both of these uniform items have a HPSC logo on them. You can wear whichever you feel most comfortable in.

SPORTS



1110147
S/S Contrast Polo



1111554
Sport Shorts with Contrast
Mesh Side Panel



1110737
Zip Cuffs Trackpants

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. You can then show your uniform pass to any teacher who asks to see it.

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

You will be asked to remove any non-school uniform 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 house detention.

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 are low, medium and high price point options. 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.

Acer Travelmate B311

Screen Size: 11.6 inches non-touch screen

Memory: 8GB

Hard Drive: 256GB

Battery: Up to 10 hours battery

Camera: Front facing

Weight: 1.4kg

Total Upfront Cost: \$799



Lenovo ThinkPadL3 Gen 13

Screen Size: 13.3 inches non-touch screen

Memory: 8GB

Hard Drive: 256GB

Battery: Up to 8 hours battery

Camera: Front Facing

Weight: 1.26kg

Total Upfront Cost: \$979



Lenovo 13w Yoga

Screen Size:13.3 inches touch screen

Memory: 8GB

Hard Drive: 512GB

Battery: Up to 10 hours battery

Camera: Front and rear facing

Weight: 1.46kg

Total Upfront Cost: \$1,293



Do I have to purchase from '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 specifications here: <https://hpsc.vic.edu.au/parents/#laptop> and you can order from '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 are not recommended?

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 examples, if you need to listen to a video independently.

I cannot log into my Compass (student).

You need to go to the IT department, your House office, 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.

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.

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday		Wednesday	
Staff Briefing (Monday)	8:30am	Warning Music	8:54am
Warning Music	8:54am	Transition	6mins
Transition	6mins	Period 1	9:00am – 10:09am
Period 1	9:00am - 10:09am	Transition	6mins
Transition	6mins	Period 2	10:15am – 11:24am
Period 2	10:15am - 11:24am	Recess	11:24 (21mins)
Recess	11:24am (21mins)	Warning Music	8:54am
Warning Music	11:45am	Transition	6mins
Transition	6mins	Period 3	11:51am – 1:00pm
Period 3	11:51am – 1:00pm	End of Day	1:00pm
Lunch	1:00pm (45mins)		
Warning Music	1:45pm		
Transition	6mins		
Period 4	1:51pm – 3:00pm		
End of Day	3:00pm		

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.

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.

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 2023 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.