

Belconnen High School

‘Caring for Students and Striving for Excellence’



Principal's Message

Welcome to Belconnen High School. We are a year 7-10 high school dedicated to preparing our students to be future-ready. Belconnen High School is a professional learning community, with expert and dedicated teachers who create a culture of learning and get to know every child they teach.

At Belconnen High School we place students at the centre of their learning, designing and delivering curriculum that includes opportunities and flexibility for our students across all subject areas. Our pastoral care program ensures all our students are individually known and have a sense of belonging. Our school has a rich 50-year history, within a beautifully modernised building, purposefully designed and used to maximise teaching and learning in the 21st century.

Belconnen High School is very much a part of the local community, and we value being part of each child’s education. I speak for myself, our staff, our students and our community when I say we are proud of our school, and I look forward to sharing it with you.

Paul Branson
Principal

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Belconnen High School

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VISION, MISSION, VALUES

Belconnen High School

‘Caring for Students and Striving for Excellence’

Vision

We are an innovative learning community that empowers all to achieve excellence.

Mission

With high expectations and a culture of success, we collaboratively develop and deliver rigorous and relevant learning. We nurture a safe and supportive environment to develop courageous life-long learners.

Values

Strength, Knowledge and Integrity



SCHOOL TO HOME COMMUNICATION



Belconnen High School

'Caring for Students and Striving for Excellence'

❑ School Phone Number	6142 1690
❑ School email	info_blch@ed.act.edu.au
❑ School Website	www.blch.act.edu.au
❑ School Newsletter	Emailed twice a term
❑ Student Reports	Each semester
❑ Parent Teacher Interviews	Terms 2 and 4
❑ Parent Information Evenings	As advertised
❑ P&C Meetings	Each term
❑ School Board Meetings	Each term
❑ SMS messaging of student absence	Daily
❑ Student Announcements	Daily

ENROLMENT

Enrolment is through an online form available through the ACT Education Directorate website www.education.act.gov.au

The Education Directorate enrolment policy can also be accessed through the above website.

CHROMEBOOKS



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The opportunity for every Year 7 to Year 12 student to access a Chromebook is provided free of charge by the ACT Education Directorate for use at school or at home. Belconnen High School endorses the use of Chromebooks to access school and wider resources and equip students with the skills for lifelong study.

This will:

- Prepare students for college and beyond.
- Support a personalised, student-centred approach, shifting instruction towards more student-centred learning. Emphasising inquiry and authentic learning.
- Increase student engagement through ICT.
- Focus on the role of technology in 21st Century Learning: critical and creative thinking, collaboration, communication and self-awareness.
- Belconnen High School is committed to facilitating students and staff in creating a 21st Century Learning environment. Students bring Chromebooks to school and access our wireless network as a tool to enhance the learning experience.

With classroom teacher approval, students will use these devices, accessing the internet and online learning platforms (Google Apps for Education and Education Perfect) to develop skills and collaborate. Students will have constant access to a broad range of course content, both in and out of the classroom, interacting with a suite of ICT-based learning tools beyond the constraints of the traditional classroom.

Every child and young person deserves an equal chance for a great education and access to technology for learning will not be an educational barrier in the ACT. Through the Technology Enabled Learning (TEL) program, the Directorate offers a modern, loaned device to all year 7-12 students to facilitate their learning, irrespective of family circumstances.

All Year 7 and new students will be issued with their new Chromebook in Week 1 providing they have completed and submitted all their forms.

Recommended Device

Students may bring their own device (BYOD) with school approval. However, we recommend the use of a Chromebook because they are inexpensive, fast, lightweight and the most secure device, and so best suited to our school environment. The Chromebook meets all the 21st-century learning needs of students to actively engage in their learning at Belconnen High School.



CURRICULUM

Year 7

At Belconnen High School we offer the following core subjects in Year 7.

- English
- Humanities and Social Sciences (HaSS)
- Mathematics
- Science
- Physical Education
- Connecting to Country
- Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) in CARE

In Year 7 students will experience some of the electives available in Years 8 - 10 by rotating through some of the Arts and Technology subjects, allowing them to sample a wide variety of learning areas and identify strengths and areas of interest to help inform them of their elective choices in Years 8, 9 & 10. These include:

- Drama and Music
- Art and Photography
- Applied and Food Technologies
- Media & Digital Technologies





CURRICULUM

Year 8

All students will study a full-year program of English, Maths, Science, HaSS, Physical Education and Health and Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) in CARE. Students will then choose from a selection of electives to study for a semester. These include:

- Drama
- Music
- Art
- Photography
- Applied Technologies
- Food Technologies
- Media
- Digital Technologies

Years 9 &10

All students study a full two-year program of English, Maths, Science, HaSS, and Physical Education & Health.

In Years 9 and 10 Arts & Technologies offer a variety of elective classes, where students can specialise in one or more subjects. We have a comprehensive range of electives available for students in years 9 and 10. These are subject to change each year but generally include:

Role Playing Games
Forensic Science
Marine Biology
Outdoor Education
Sports Development
Sculpture
Studio Art
Extended Visual Practices
CAD Digital Art and Animation
Photography
Media
Woodwork

Metalwork
Music
Drama - Children's Theatre
Caring for Country
Languages
Computer Technology
CAD Digital Art and Animation
Publishing
Farm to Fork
10 Building and Construction
10 VET Hospitality



Humanities and Social Sciences (HaSS)

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Humanities and Social Sciences (HaSS)

Humanities and Social Sciences (HaSS) focuses on the study of human behaviour and interactions in social, cultural, environmental, economic and political contexts. The HaSS learning area comprises four subjects: History, Geography, Economics and Business, and Civics and Citizenship.

Through studying HaSS, students will develop the ability to question, think critically, solve problems, communicate effectively, make decisions and adapt to change. The Humanities and Social Sciences subjects provide a broad understanding of the world in which we live, and how people can participate as active and informed citizens. We also offer HaSS electives for years 9 and 10, for students to extend their learning.



LITERACY PROGRAM YEARS 7 AND 8

At Belconnen High School we have developed flexible and targeted teaching programs to respond to the needs of our students. We have Literacy Support teachers who work with small groups of students, to support the development of their literacy skills. This support is a timetabled class, where teaching, learning and reporting is highly individualised.

Students in the Year 7 Literacy class work through the MacqLit program, which is an individualised program with explicit and systematic reading interventions. This program is supported by text studies and thematic units of work.



SCIENCE



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The Science course at Belconnen High School is designed to provide a highly engaging learning experience where students will develop the skills to safely conduct experiments and learn through investigation. Teachers of Science provide a rich and diverse learning programme for our students where developing the skills of inquiry is a focus. Students across all year levels will continue to develop their skills in conducting investigations and writing scientifically. They will develop their skills in Numeracy and Literacy to write a scientific investigation report that analyses and explains their findings.

The units cover the branches of Science, namely Chemistry, Physics, Biology, and Earth Science. The content of each year of study follows the Australian Curriculum. In each year group there is an enrichment class and general classes.

All classes of the same year level study the same curriculum. There are also opportunities for excursions within our local community to extend the learning beyond our classroom. Some excursions that students have attended have included The Pinnacle, Canberra Deep Space Communication Complex, CSIRO Discovery Centre, and the Future Skills Academy at Lake Ginninderra College.

Education Perfect is used in the teaching and learning of Science in classes and students are required to complete assessable tasks. This Online tutorial program assists students and parents with the learning of Science.

Enrichment in Science is offered through a wide range of activities that are open to all students. These include participation in WINGS (Girls in STEM event).

When students reach years 9 and 10, they are able to choose electives. At Belconnen High, we currently run Forensic Science and Marine Biology. Each of these electives

combine the skills of scientific inquiry and apply these to real-world concepts that are not explored within the Science Curriculum.





MATHEMATICS

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The Mathematics teachers at Belconnen High School work hard to support students in developing their understanding, fluency, reasoning, and problem-solving skills in Mathematics. Our teachers consistently look for opportunities to provide real-world learning opportunities to further their skills in numeracy.

The content of each year of study is varied and follows the Australian Curriculum. Mathematics provides students with essential mathematical skills and knowledge in Number and Algebra, Measurement and Space, and Statistics and Probability. It develops the numeracy capabilities that all students need in their personal, work and civic life, and provides the fundamentals on which mathematical specialties and professional applications of mathematics are built. Students are also provided with the opportunity to understand how mathematics is used in different careers and the possibilities they can explore for further study.

Education Perfect is used in the teaching and learning of Mathematics in classes and students are required to complete assessable tasks. This Online tutorial program assists students and parents with the learning of Mathematics. It is used to support teaching and learning in class, can be set as homework and at times for assessment of learning.

In each year group there is an enrichment class and general classes. The Pinnacle Enrichment Program (PEP) course is available to students in all year levels who can work at a faster pace and is aimed at students with above-average ability. All classes of the same year level study the same curriculum. Enrichment in Mathematics is offered through a range of activities that are open to all students.

- The Australian Mathematics Competition
- WINGS (Girls in STEM event)

When students reach year 10 they are able to select Maths Extension as an elective class. The 10A course is designed to prepare students for the study of Mathematical Methods or Specialist Mathematics at College.

For further information on the curriculum, please look at the Australian Curriculum website: [Mathematics | V9 Australian Curriculum](#)



PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND HEALTH

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Our Physical Education curriculum is innovative and progressive. Through movement, students will develop the knowledge and skills that promote a well-balanced and holistic lifestyle. The aim of the Physical Education curriculum is to engage and extend students’ physical fitness, skill acquisition, self-esteem, cognitive processing and social skill development as a means of promoting lifelong participation in physical activity. Physical Education is a compulsory subject for all students unless exempt for medical reasons with a medical certificate.

The Curriculum focus varies for each year group.

Year 7 - Students participate in a variety of units that focus on the development of fundamental motor skills. These skills include throwing, catching, kicking, striking and accuracy and are developed through modified games and cooperative learning tasks.

Year 8 - Students participate in traditional sports and develop skills, tactics and sportsmanship. This is a progression on the fundamental skills built in Year 7 as students apply this learning in a game situation.

Year 9 - Students participate in Sport Education. Students learn about all facets of a sporting competition. The students develop and implement all aspects of the competition including the Sports Board, Scorers, Media Officers, Coaches, Captains and Equipment Officers. The sports played are new and modern sports, challenging students to further develop their movement skills.

Year 10 - Community and Leisure. Students learn about and access various activities that are available for the general community in combination with other traditional, sport-based Physical Education units.

All year groups

Each year group also participates in a school-wide Movement unit each term. The skills taught in these units are further developed as the students progress through the years.

Athletics - Students develop skills in traditional athletic events. They practise, apply and transfer movement concepts and strategies with and without athletic equipment. By Year 10, students apply criteria to make judgements about and refine their own and others' athletic skills and movement performances.



PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND HEALTH

Belconnen High School

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Cross Country/Fitness - Students investigate and apply movement concepts and select strategies to achieve movement and fitness outcomes. They participate in physical activities that develop health-related and skill-related fitness components and create and monitor personal fitness plans. By Year 10, students can propose and evaluate interventions to improve fitness and physical activity levels in communities.

Dance - Students apply the elements of movement to compose and perform movement sequences while participating in social dance. By Year 10, students can analyse the impact of effort, space, time, objects and people when composing and performing movement sequences.

Cultural Games - Students participate in and investigate the cultural and historical significance of a range of physical activities. By Year 10, students can explain the role physical activity has played historically in defining cultures and cultural identities.

Clothing

Students are expected to wear the following:

- Black and red Belconnen High School PE t-shirt
- Black tracksuit pants or shorts
- Footwear appropriate for physical activity (these must have laces)
- A hat, drink bottle and sunscreen are also recommended.





LANGUAGES CONNECTING TO COUNTRY

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Connecting to Country is a Language course for Belconnen High School. Year 7 students will learn about a variety of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages and Cultures from the Country. We start with the area where the students live and work, Ngunnawal Country. We then investigate and learn about our surrounding regional Countries of Ngarigo, Gundungurra, Yuin and Wiradjuri.



Through learning the original languages of Australia all students have the opportunity to develop a deeper appreciation of the nature and diversity of languages and cultures and acquire knowledge and skills necessary to learn and understand an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander language, culture and Country.

Each Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander language is unique to the Country/Place on which it arose. It gives voice to the landscapes, thoughts and ways of seeing and interpreting the world. When the language of the land is spoken, it brings together all of the elements of the landscape and its people. It encompasses the relationships of these people with one another and with the landscape, past, present and future. The learning of an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander language incorporates the realities of its people and facilitates students’ deep engagement with knowledge, ways of being and ways of knowing. It develops in students an understanding of historical, current and ongoing connections to Country/Place and culture.

English as an Additional Language or Dialect (EALD)



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Belconnen High School has an English as an Additional Language or Dialect (EALD) program to support students from a language background other than English. It is run each year based on the needs of students in the school. Students who need more language support are in a smaller class group. Students with stronger language skills are also able to access support through the EALD teacher.

The EALD program aims to provide students with the opportunity to improve their reading, writing, speaking and listening, and to acquire skills to enable them to understand and complete tasks in all subject areas.





INCLUSIVE EDUCATION

Belconnen High School

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In line with the ACT Government’s Inclusive Education Strategy: [A Disability Inclusion Strategy for ACT Public Schools 2024-2034](#), we aim to ensure every child feels welcome and valued, accessing quality educational experiences designed to meet individual learning styles and needs.

Our Inclusion Education Faculty addresses the academic, social, behavioural and emotional needs of students, supporting them to participate meaningfully in all aspects of school life with as much independence as possible.

Belconnen High School supports differentiated learning, facilitating small group lessons with a number of students accessing the Disability Education Program (DEP) or Inclusion Support Program (ISP).

Eligibility into these programs is determined by the school psychologist and allocation of placements is determined by a central Education Directorate panel.

The Inclusive Education faculty is staffed by a specialist trained Executive Teacher, Disability Education Coordinator (DECO), Case Managers, experienced classroom teachers and Learning Support Assistants (LSAs). Faculty staff offer strategies, resources and practices to enable all students to achieve their full potential. This is achieved by helping to remove barriers whether physical, social, emotional or intellectual, allowing all students to access school and the curriculum. Students access learning through a variety of classroom environments and methods, including Small Group Programs and Personalised Programs (P programs), planned and delivered by curriculum subject and Inclusion Education teachers. Academic content is delivered in line with year level curriculum, with differentiation occurring across the components of skills and assessment. Learning Support Assistants increase student learning engagement by supporting individualised learning strategies and offer co-regulation.

Case managers work with students and families to consider appropriate adjustments to learning (Student Adjustment Matrix) and develop individualised learning plans (ILPs), implementing reasonable adjustments across school environments, curriculum content and assessments. Continued communication between parents/carers, class and faculty staff is valued when developing a holistic student-centred approach to learning.

The received level of funded support is primarily based on the adjustments identified to enable access to participation in curriculum learning and school events. Adjustments and student needs are identified through Student Centred Appraisal of Needs (SCAN) Meetings and the Nationally Consistent Collection of Data (NCCD), resulting in one of the following levels of adjustment being recognised:

- Quality Differentiated Teaching
- Supplementary
- Substantial
- Extensive

The adjustments being made must be based on a disability as defined under the [ACT Student Disability Criteria Disability](#)

Other relevant links for further information:

<https://www.education.act.gov.au/support-for-our-students/students-with-disability>

[Inclusive Education: A Disability Inclusion Strategy for ACT Public Schools 2024-2034 - Education](#)



Inclusive Education Quiet Space

STUDENT WELLBEING SCHOOL CULTURE & COMMUNITY



Belconnen High School

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Belconnen High School operates a whole-school approach to Student Well-being. The needs of each student are catered for through a holistic approach for each student's individual need.

THE STUDENT WELLBEING TEAM

- ❑ Student Services Executive Teacher
- ❑ School Psychologist
- ❑ Year 7 Coordinator
- ❑ Year 8 Coordinator
- ❑ Year 9 Coordinator
- ❑ Year 10 Coordinator
- ❑ PCG Teachers also play a vital role in supporting the Wellbeing team.
- ❑ School Youth Health Nurse

All members of the team are available to listen to any concerns students or parents may have. The Student Wellbeing Suite is always open with the executive teacher or one of the Year Coordinators available on a roster system.

POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR FOR LEARNING

Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL) is an evidence-based, whole school approach for creating safe, supportive school environments. Positive Behaviour for Learning is created through:

- Leadership and school-wide support
- Common language, vision and experience
- Clarifying expected behaviours (expectations and rules)
- Teaching and practising expected behaviours
- Encouraging expected behaviours
- Discouraging problem behaviours
- Ongoing monitoring of data

STUDENT WELLBEING SCHOOL CULTURE & COMMUNITY



Belconnen High School

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PBL highlights the relationship between academic achievement, social behaviour, positive school culture and individual student success. It also enhances school culture through systems that support strong personal relationships.

We are respectful. We are responsible. We are learners.



Social & Emotional Learning (SEL)

The objective of the CARE program is to create a positive school culture where social and emotional learning is developed in all students. Throughout the term, Pastoral Care Group (PCG) teachers deliver an age-specific lesson focussed on respect and caring for oneself and others in a variety of situations.

CARE assists students to:

- ❑ Develop self-confidence and positive self-esteem,
- ❑ Develop a wide range of interpersonal skills,
- ❑ Develop valuable skills for everyday life including basic communication and stress management.
- ❑ Develop decision-making skills and the ability to resist negative peer pressure.

STUDENT WELLBEING SCHOOL CULTURE & COMMUNITY



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LEADERSHIP

The Leadership program at Belconnen High School is aimed at supporting the transition process from primary to high school for Year 7 students. Year 10 student leaders are assigned to year 7 Pastoral Care groups. In this setting, they provide daily support for new Year 7 students, while also supporting Pastoral Care teachers with the delivery of the CARE program.

ADDITIONAL SUPPORT SERVICES

The aim of the Student Wellbeing Team is to cater for the needs of all Belconnen High School students. To help us in this approach we access community services for support with programs and events. Some examples include:

- Breakfast Club –free breakfast for students is provided before school one day a week
- Belconnen Community Services
- Flexible minds
- Messengers
- Young Women’s Leadership Program
- Equine Therapy
- Rainbow Club



THE PINNACLE ENRICHMENT PROGRAM

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The Pinnacle Enrichment Program (PEP) provides opportunities for those who have a passion for Key Learning Areas to experience enriched learning experiences in those areas. The aim is to enable students to challenge themselves academically in areas of strong interest.

Students in PEP work with others of similar interest and commitment. The work ethos expected permits teachers to expedite progress, offering a greater range of learning experiences and allowing students to study topics both more broadly and in greater depth.

PEP classes run in Years 7, 8, 9 and 10. These classes are conducted in English, Mathematics, Science and HaSS (Years 7 and 8 only). Students in PEP classes will be expected to take up extension opportunities such as:

- Academic competitions e.g., Australian Geography Competition, ICAS Science and English and the Australian Chemistry Quiz, Rio Tinto Big Science Competition and Australian Mathematics Competition.
- Academic challenges eg: Da Vinci Decathlon, Maths Challenges and debating and Chief Minister's Reading Challenge.

Suitability for the Pinnacle Enrichment Program

Entry into the PEP program is by application.

Applications will be assessed on:

- demonstrated achievement in the Key Learning Area
- demonstrated commitment to further challenge and/or inquiry in their chosen KLA (e.g. participation in competitions, published or displayed work, involvement in co- or extra-curricular enrichment programs)
- general academic aptitude

Students must reapply each year. Only 25 places are available in each class and placement is competitive.

Students in non-PEP classes have access to the same enrichment activities on request.



HOMEWORK

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Homework is an essential part of academic life at Belconnen High School.

It may be –

- Work designed to be partly or wholly completed outside class time,
- Revision work necessary to prepare a student for a test, or to achieve mastery of an aspect of a unit,
- “Catch-up work” made necessary by sickness or involvement in excursions, band performances or sport.

Major homework, including assignments, is set out in Semester Outlines and can be found on the Google Classroom for each class.





BELCONNEN LEARNING COMMON

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Flexible Learning Space

Our school is a space dedicated to learning and we have purposely located our student resources at their dedicated faculties. This means, students studying a particular subject, for example, Modern Art, may step outside the classroom to loan a resource from the selection located at the Arts & Technology resource centre and an English resource from the English & Humanities resource centre.

Instead of fixed teaching spaces, carefully selected furniture allows for movement adaptability. There are areas for large group learning as well as spaces for students to pursue small group or individual study.

The Learning Common is also the place where students come to access personal computers for short term loans. The ICT helpdesk is located in the Belconnen Learning Common as well and students can access help with ICT issues during breaks.



HOUSE SYSTEM



Belconnen High School

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The Belconnen High School Houses are Freeman, O’Neill, Perkins and Thorpe, named after famous sportspeople. House Captains are elected from Year 10 each year and they lead the student body in accruing points for their house at School Carnivals.



BELCONNEN HIGH SCHOOL CAPTAINS

School captains are selected from the Year 10 students by the student body and staff through an interview and application process supported by the school executive.

The prestigious role of School Captains includes the representation of the school at community events. The students who fill these positions are exceptional leaders of the student body and well regarded by the staff.

School Captains are recognised as having knowledge, dedication, and a high degree of commitment to the corporate life of the school. They lead the SRC and report to the school community at the school assemblies.



SCHOOL UNIFORM

Belconnen High School

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At Belconnen High School it is the policy of the School and the Community that all students wear the prescribed school uniform.

The uniform promotes easy recognition and student safety. Wearing the school uniform demonstrates a sense of pride for the school and our local community.

Within our approved school uniform there is a formal option and a more casual option. Students may wear any of the approved uniform items however, on a daily basis the majority of students choose to wear the school polo shirt and hoodie with plain black shorts, tracksuit pants or the school skirt.

You can purchase the uniform from Lowes at Belconnen Mall or Workin’ Gear Schools in Fyshwick as well as 2nd hand items available at the P&C run 2nd Hand Uniform Shop onsite open on Friday mornings 8:30am - 9:00am during the school term.

Enquiries and requests can be emailed to: uniform.shop.bhs@gmail.com





SCHOOL UNIFORM

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The Approved Uniform:

Shirt	White short sleeve with red piping with school logo embroidered on pocket
Blouse	White short sleeve with red piping with school logo embroidered on pocket
Polo shirts	Black/red with ‘BHS’ embroidered on chest
Skirt	Black and red check
Shorts	Charcoal grey tailored with school logo embroidered on left leg
PE Shorts	Plain black sports shorts
Pants	Charcoal grey tailored pants with school logo embroidered on left leg Black fleece lined track pants

Jumper Options:

- Black BHS Hoodie with school logo embroidered on chest
- Black micro-fibre with fine red piping school logo embroidery on chest
- Black fleece lined hoodie with fine red piping school logo embroidery on chest

Jacket	Black waterproof layered jacket with school logo embroidered on the chest
Shoes	Black, fully enclosed jogger style.

School bag	A black sturdy chiropractic approved backpack is recommended
Hat	A plain black or black/red bucket hat or black/red cap