



Frequently Asked Questions for Year 7 2024

General Enrolment Questions

- Is it possible to enrol now for 2024? No. The school cannot take Year 7 Enrolments for 2024. Enrolments can only take place in the year prior to the students starting.
- When do I get an enrolment form? Primary Schools should be handing out the paperwork. They are due Fri 12th May
- When do you select if you wish to join the music program? When you are accepted into the school you will have the opportunity to express your interest in joining the music program.
- We are out of the zone but MGSC is our preferred Secondary College. We certainly accept students from outside of the school zone. More than 50% of students accepted in Year 7 are outside of the school zone. It is always best to put down a second and third choice, in case you don't get your first preference, but we do everything in our power to accommodate first preferences.
- What are the average annual fees? These are not confirmed for 2024 until later on in the year when finance committee take it to school council for approval. For reference, the Year 7 2023 Annual Curriculum Contributions were \$850 & Camp \$405 (less if eligible for CSEF)
- When do students need to select the second language option? Once students have been accepted into the college they have opportunity to put in a language preference. It is only a preference and though we try give everyone their preference, we can't guarantee that all students will be placed into their first option. Once a student starts in a language, they continue that language for 2 years.

Curriculum Questions

- Do you offer extra support for students that have learning challenges, such as dyslexia? MGSC is an inclusive school and everyone is welcome, if families believe we are the best option for their daughter. The school has many students with varying diagnosis, including dyslexia. Each student has embedded classroom supports based on their specific needs. This is then distributed to their class teachers for them to use within their subject. We have Inclusion support staff who attend English & Maths class each fortnight to provide extra support for students who need this, as well as tutors for those with significant gaps. On top of this, all staff participate in professional learning on how to best support students depending on the needs as they arise to ensure best inclusive practice. For students with additional needs we also have Inclusion support staff, regular Student Support Group Meetings and Individual Learning Plans in place that are regularly updated.
- What is your approach for girls that may be behind. Are there extra support sessions? Teachers cater for all students in the classroom. They encourage the students to want to find out more about the topic and scaffold tasks so the students feel confident enough to explore topics at their level. If students have any learning challenges teachers are made aware of specific strategies that best support that student. We also have DETs MYLNS & Tutoring funding to support students who may be struggling academically. All students are invited to attend Maths support afterschool on a Thursday and we also run English support.

Instrumental Music Program Questions

- My daughter is interested in the band but not enhancement There will be at least one band form made up of students who are not in the enhancement program. Chances of being accepted into this class are just as good as any other year.
- Does my daughter need prior instrumental experience to join? No experience is required. The majority of the students in our program had no prior experience before they joined.
- Is singing an option in the music program or do you have to do an instrument? We have a vocal program which includes voice lessons and two choirs. Voice lessons in year 7 are available if you are not in the enhancement program. From year 8 upwards, students can learn more than one instrument. Often instrumental students take up singing as a second instrument in Year 8. Many students in learn an instrument and still sing in the choir.
- Is it possible to do vocals plus an instrument? (ie is there a limit?) Students can only learn one instrument in year 7 to limit the amount of time they spend out of class. From year 8 upwards students can learn a second instrument. As above, it is common for year 7 students to learn an instrument and still sing in the choir.

Sports Program Questions

What opportunities does MGSC offer for girls that are very keen to develop their sporting skills?

MGSC is part of the School Sports Victoria Interschool Sports Program. Students will participate in their chosen sports at a divisional level and if successful can progress to southern metro and then state.

What do you need to do for the aerobics auditions? How do you apply to be in the team? How many students do you accept into the aerobics teams? What does it involve?

All students in Year 7 can be involved in the program with some competing in the initial competitions and others going in the New Stars to work on their technique until a term four competition. In early 2024 aerobics information will be shared and an introduction session held. Some students may be placed in a team if they demonstrate prior experience in the sport. Other students will then begin learning a routine and then are placed. A handbook will be shared outlining all elements of the program. The program involves two morning trainings per week and 2-3 competitions throughout the year. There is a yearly payment for the extra curricular program

Other questions

My daughter wants to do Enhancement Program but doesn't not want to do the music program.

Enhancement Program students are required to be involved with the Band Program for Years 7 and 8. However, experience with music is not required, and students may stop learning music after Year 8 if they choose.

What IT equipment are Year 7 students expected to have?

MGSC has a bring your own device program (BYOD) in Years 7-12. All BYOD devices are purchased by parents and not via the school.

What does MGSC do to support student wellbeing?

Every student has a student manager who is directly responsible for her wellbeing. Together with other key wellbeing staff, this teacher acts as a focal point across a larger network of support staff for students. He or she regularly monitors the learning and the wellbeing of students through direct contact, regular feedback from class teachers and communications with parents and guardians. The Wellbeing team provide an early and active response to signs of personal difficulty and assist students to develop problem-solving skills. They address concerns in a confidential and respectful way, so that students can take maximum advantage of learning opportunities at MGSC.

What programs are run, what supports are in place for students, and what is the process if parents have any concerns around bullying etc?

MGSC has a bullying policy which all students are made aware of. All Junior School students view a theatre company performance linked to bullying. The classes then explore the key themes from the play over a series of lessons. All health classes cover Respectful Relationships, including cyber communications. If parents have concerns that their daughter is being bullied, they should contact their daughters Student Manager. Incidents of bullying will be taken seriously. A number of strategies will be used to resolve the situation, including the use of graded sanctions if necessary.

What other events do you hold annually or biannually or during term?

All-school and special events are held in school time and in the evening. Annually events include sport carnivals, art show, information/open night, music performances, end of year Presentation Night, Science Week, Languages Week and more. The all-school musical production is a bi-annual event. We also annually offer the Ocean School in Queensland for students to attend. Since the pandemic pause we are looking at reinstating overseas study tours to France and Japan and reengage with the NASA Space Camp in USA for 2024.

Does Mentone Girls Secondary College develop partnerships with boys schools for example or rather how do you prepare girls for when they leave school so that they have the skills to deal with the 'real world'?

No, Mentone Girls' Secondary College does not have a partnership with a boys' school. With a rich history of educating young women to take their place in a globalised world, our dedicated teachers are always seeking to innovate the curriculum and remain at the forefront of educational theory and practice. We value respect, compassion, independence and tolerance. We support students to contribute to local and global communities through our curriculum and co-curricular programs. We promote resilience and value perseverance and hard work. This allows students to build the key skills to support them in their future.

What is Headstart?

Headstart is a program that we put in place after the semester 2 exams and reports are complete. Students begin the new academic year for the last 3 weeks of school They are in their new classes for the following academic year and have their new teachers and timetable. We believe this maximises the learning in the classroom and allows students to prepare for the lessons in the upcoming academic year.