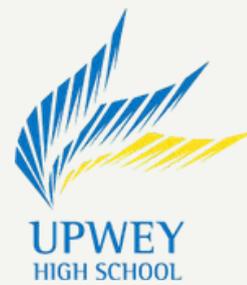


UPWEY HIGH SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Week 8 | Term 1 | 2026



This week's edition of the UHS Weekly Newsletter is a bumper edition highlighting important information, wonderful events and important reminders. We are so proud of the ways in which our students are conducting themselves both in and out of our classrooms, and embracing our high expectations of them as learners. It has been great to get visual reminders up in our classrooms of our Positive Behaviour Matrix and UHS Classroom Routines. This helps students remember the ways in which we expect them to demonstrate positive behaviours at all times.

A reminder that this week we have two important days scheduled; Tuesday, as per my Compass posts, is the AEU day of Industrial Action and Thursday is our Parent/Student/Teacher Conference Day. There will be no classes running on either of these days. On Tuesday we will run a modified program for students who do attend. Please be sure to book your PST Conferences for next Thursday via Compass – read the post from Ms. Au for further details about this and accessing the Term 1 Progress Reports for all students.

School Council Update

I am pleased to announce our School Council for 2026, congratulating all elected nominees. I would also like to thank all of the people who nominated for School Council this year – it has been great to see such interest in being part of our wonderful school.

Staff Representatives:

- Summer Blackman
- Di Martini
- Amanda Flink
- Deb Martine

Parent Representatives:

- Lucy Demant
- Sarah Evans
- Marcus Ogden
- Kelly Verwey (re-elected)
- Sharon Harris (newly elected)
- Simon McIntosh (newly elected)

Student Representatives:

- Miranda Jacobson
- Lincoln Hope (newly elected)

NEXT WEEK

Monday March 23

Tuesday March 24

AEU Industrial Action - supervision only being provided on this day

Wednesday March 25

Year 9 City Inquiry Day 1
EMR Senior Volleyball
Year 11 Geography Excursion

Thursday March 26

PST Conferences (no classes)

Friday March 27

Year 7 Assembly P1
VCE Assembly P3

YEAR 10 CERTIFICATE

This year, we have been really excited to launch our new Year 10 Certificate program. This program helps students demonstrate their readiness for both VCE and the VCE Vocational Major Pathway.

In order to achieve success in Year 10, students will need to demonstrate the following:

- *Must obtain a satisfactory result in English in both semesters
- *Must obtain a satisfactory result in a minimum of 8 out of 12 subjects (includes two English)
- *Demonstrate a commitment to always improve
- *90% attendance across the year
- *Complete one week of work experience during the year. Students intending to complete the VCE Vocational Major Program require two weeks of work experience (in their chosen industry).
- *Students who do not meet the requirements of the certificate will not be eligible to enter the VCE Vocational Major Pathway.
- *Students intending to complete the VCE Vocational Major Pathway will be required to attend a suitability interview with Head Start.

In order for students to achieve a 'satisfactory' result for assessment tasks, this means that a student has demonstrated an acceptable level of understanding, skill, and effort to meet the minimum learning requirements for the task as outlined in the assessment criteria.



YEAR 10 CERTIFICATE

PROMOTING AND MOTIVATING SUCCESS INTO VCE/VM

★ WHAT IS IT? ★

- ENSURES ALL YEAR 10 STUDENTS ARE PREPARED FOR SENIOR PATHWAYS (VCE OR VCE VOCATIONAL MAJOR).
- FOCUSSES ON ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT, ATTENDANCE, REAL-WORLD SKILLS, AND STUDENT WELLBEING.
- SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION ENABLES PATHWAYS TO VCE OR VCE VOCATIONAL MAJOR.

CERTIFICATE REQUIREMENTS

Minimum Subject Requirement

- Must pass English in both semesters - essential component of both VCE and VM Pathways.
- Must pass minimum of 8 subjects across the year.
- Demonstrate a commitment to always improve.

Attendance

90% attendance across the year

Work Experience:

- 1 week for students planning on VCE
- 2 weeks for students planning on VCE Vocational Major (in their chosen industry)

Completion is Compulsory

Students who do not achieve the certificate cannot enter the VCE Vocational Major program

Suitability Interview

Students must undertake a VCE VM Interview with Head Start outlining their intended pathway.

Supporting Success

Explicit Teaching → builds foundations in literacy & numeracy

Enabling Learning → high attendance & engagement support focus and progress

Mastery & Application → work experience puts skills into real-world practice

Supported Application → IEPs, interviews, and pathway guidance ensure smooth transitions

- Student Agency** → giving students a voice in their learning
- Family Engagement** → strong parent-school partnerships
- Safe & Inclusive Environments** → every child feels they belong
- Community Partnerships** → meaningful work experience and industry links
- School Connectedness** → support networks that reduce stress and anxiety

WELLBEING

SUCCESS

ACCOMPLISHMENT

SUPPORT

POTENTIAL CHALLENGES & SOLUTIONS

Potential Challenges:

- Attendance barriers (illness, family responsibilities)
- Literacy struggles
- Difficulty finding work placements
- Stress from high expectations
- Limited resources in schools

How Teachers Can Support Students:

- Flexible attendance and catch-up options
- Literacy intervention and small-group support
- Industry partnerships for placements
- Wellbeing checks, mentoring, and family involvement
- Individual Learning Plans to track progress
- Guidance on alternative pathways if needed

Contact

For further information please contact:

Amanda Petrie (Year 10 Team Leader)

Jeremy Coates (Assistant Year 10 Team Leader)

Andrea McGuinness (Head of Later Years)

at Upwey High School on 9754 2838

ASPIRATION - RESPECT - KINDNESS

VM students at Tecoma Primary School

On Thursday, March 19th, the VCE VM Personal Development class assisted Tecoma Primary School with their athletics carnival at Kings Park. Throughout the term, the PDS students have been honing their interpersonal, leadership, and teamwork skills—all of which were put into practice while engaging with the younger students and staff. The feedback from Tecoma's teachers was overwhelmingly positive, with one even noting that several of our students have promising future careers in teaching.



Students visit the courts in Melbourne

Students visit the courts in Melbourne

Year 10 and 11 Legal Studies students recently had the valuable opportunity to deepen their understanding of the justice system through an excursion to the Supreme Court Library and the Magistrates' Court. During the visit, students explored the extensive legal resources housed within the library. At the Magistrates' Court, students observed real court proceedings, allowing them to see legal concepts studied in class brought to life. This firsthand experience provided a meaningful context for their learning and enhanced their appreciation of how the justice system operates in practice. We finished the day at Melbourne Central food court for a well-deserved lunch.



Year 8 Inter-School Sport

Wednesday saw our Year 8 students proudly represent Upwey at the Interschool Sports Day, competing in Tennis, Cricket, and Volleyball. It was a fantastic day, with all students showing great enthusiasm, teamwork, and sportsmanship. A highlight was the Year 8 girls Tennis team, who finished as runners-up to Wantirna—an excellent achievement. The Year 8 boys Volleyball team also had an outstanding performance,

defeating Rowville East in the final to claim victory and secure their place at EMR later in the year.

Overall, it was a highly successful day, with all students enjoying the experience and representing the school with pride.



Year 12 Formal - March 13, 2026

Written by Student Leaders – Lily & Cooper

Thank you to the students who attended the 2026 Senior Formal. I am sure we can all agree we had a great night at the Vogue Ballroom, we have heard many great things from everyone and we are so glad that we all had fun. Everyone looked amazing and the photos are great, I think we can agree that it was well worth the time and effort required to look our best.



The DJ had the dance floor packed and everyone was having so much fun and you could feel the energy of the room! Congratulations to the Queen and King, Maddy and Lenny also to all the other winners for the night. We heard everyone really enjoyed the food with the excellent catering at the venue the photo booth gave everyone lots of take home memories. Thank you all for coming and making Senior Formal a great night!



Harmony Day



During their Aspire period this week students were shown videos from Young Australians of diverse backgrounds speaking about the importance of celebrating their culture, what culture means to them and how they connect with their cultures here in Australia. They also heard from the Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia about the 65,000 year story of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as the beginning and foundation of our remarkable diversity, and how our long history of migration has led to a rich and diverse modern Australia.

Did you know?

- More than half (51.5 per cent) of Australian residents were born overseas or have at least one parent who was.
- Since 1945, more than 7.6 million people have migrated to Australia.
- Nearly every single country from around the world was represented in Australia's population in 2020.
- More than 150 Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander languages are spoken in Australia
- Apart from English, the most common languages spoken in Australia are Mandarin, Arabic, Vietnamese, Cantonese and Punjabi.
- We identify with over 300 ancestries.

It was great to see so many students and staff wearing a touch of Orange to show their support for Cultural Inclusiveness and the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

Foods Studies Fun



This week in Food Studies, our Year 8 and 10 students have been completing their design CATs which focuses on the Technology Design Process and meeting a design brief. The Year 8s designed their own healthy sandwich with various fillings such as chicken schnitzels, salads, sandwich steaks and pepperoni. The Year 10s designed a meal that uses common pantry items- we had butter chicken, tacos, and chicken burrito bowls just to name a few. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed their creations!!!

Year 7 Camp



On Wednesday our Year 7 students departed to Grantville for their Year7 Transition Camp. This camp is an excellent opportunity for students to develop new skills, make new friends and get to know their teachers.

This year our trip out to Grantville was a new location for UHS and it did not disappoint. Students have participated in a wide-range of outdoor activities, putting their skills to the test and learning many new ways to bond.

We are extremely proud of the ways in which our students conducted themselves and demonstrated our school values; Aspiration, Respect and Kindness

A huge thank you also to our wonderful staff who attended the camp: Mr. Potter, Mr. Douma, Ms. Woodward, Mrs E. Lynch, Mr. Avannessian, Mr. Smits, Mr. York, Mrs. Somerville, Mr. Lucas, Mrs. Peart-Gratton, Mrs. McCusker, Ms. Wijesinghe, Mrs. Dooley and Ms. Martine for her visit on Thursday. No doubt you will all sleep well over the weekend!

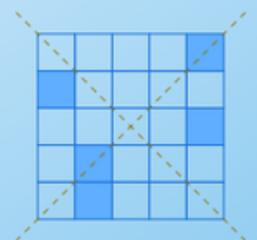


WEEKLY MATHS CHALLENGE

Mirror, Mirror Puzzle

The Puzzle:

If you continue shading the squares so that the two dotted lines become lines of symmetry (mirror lines) of the completed diagram, how many squares will be left unshaded?



UHS Classroom Routines



Before Lesson

Line up outside the classroom on time, entering calmly when directed to by staff

Be prepared for learning - have all equipment (including a charged laptop)

During Lesson

Wait for formal greeting and roll call / entry activity

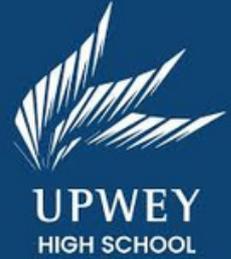
Actively participate to the best of your ability in all learning activities

End of Lesson

Take note of homework or activities to be completed before the next class

Pack up when directed and clean the room before leaving in a calm manner when dismissed

UHS EXPECTATIONS IN 2026



Relationships

Kindness and Respect is to be displayed by all members of our community at all times. Build positive relationships with those around you and look after each other



Attention



Laptops are used in the classroom for teaching and learning purposes only. They must remain closed at all times unless students are instructed by a teacher to use them. Students are expected to give teachers 100% of their attention when being taught in class

Uniform

Students are permitted to wear uniform items (bottom half only) that do not have a logo but they are NOT permitted to wear tracksuit pants or leggings. All top half uniform must have the approved UHS Logo as supplied by KLAD. Year 7-9 students can wear PE Uniform on days they have PE only.



Food & Beverages



Energy Drinks are completely banned on school grounds
Water bottles are the only drink permitted in class
NO food permitted in class at all (students can eat at recess/lunch or during the five minute break between P1 and P2 or P3 and P4 only)

Key to Opportunities



To access opportunities to attend sports, excursions and camps our staff will work with families and students to support strong and consistent school attendance. Where attendance is a concern, the school may work with families to ensure students are demonstrating a commitment to regular attendance before participating in additional school opportunities. Students will also be required to demonstrate positive behaviour at school (no more than three serious behaviour concerns on Compass in a Term) and be completely up to date with schoolwork.

Aspiration

Respect

Kindness