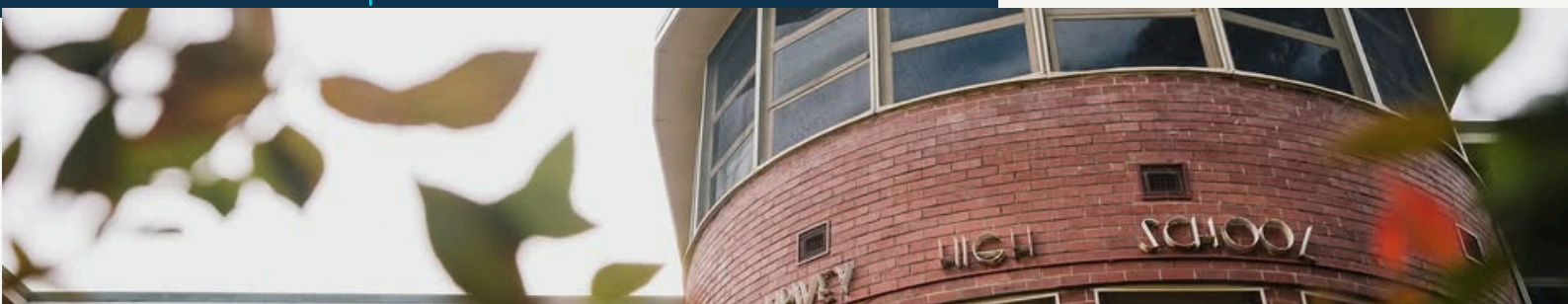


UPWEY HIGH SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Week 1 | Term 2 | 2026



I Welcome back to another exciting term for 2026 - we hope that all of our students had an enjoyable Term 1 break and are set and ready to shine throughout Term 2. I am currently writing this newsletter from the sunny Central Australia Tour with our amazing Year 10 students. It has been an incredible journey, and I will share a more detailed post in next week's newsletter. I would like to take the opportunity to thank our staff: Matt Searle, Jesse Douma, Helen Kilby, Rachel Pickersgill, Peter Barden and Judy Andreola as well as our volunteers; Stafford, Declan and Riley for their incredible hard work over the 11 days of the trip.

Our focus for Term 2 will be building upon our positive learning culture. Throughout Term 1 we laid the foundations for success with our students - sharing with them our Positive Behaviour Matrix and Upwey High School Classroom Expectations. Students and staff are now very well placed to understand what our whole-school expectations for behaviour are, which will now enable success for learning. To assist us with this, it is important that parents are regularly logging onto their child's Compass Dashboard to keep up to date with what is happening at school for their child - including both teaching & learning and managing expected behaviours.

As you will be aware, the AEU will be continuing industrial action throughout Term 2. In coming days, as more information is available to me, I will provide families with a clearer understanding of how this may impact your child - including how we report student progress, further strike action and anything else that may arise. We appreciate your support and understanding as staff continue the fight for better working conditions.



TERM 2 - WEEK 1

Monday April 27

First Day Term 2
Year 10 Central Australia Tour

Tuesday April 28

Careers Expo

Wednesday April 29

Morrisby Profiling (Year 9)
Cross Country & Colour Run

Thursday April 30

Year 10 OED Excursion
Year 11 Enviro Science Excursion

Friday May 1

Year 12 Business Man Excursion
Term 2 Assembly (P3)

ANZAC Ceremony for Schools

On Wednesday 21st April, I had the pleasure of taking the four School Captains out to the 1000 Steps Kokoda Memorial, to participate in the annual ANZAC Ceremony for Schools. This event specifically commemorates those who fought on behalf of the 2/14th, 2/16th & 39th Battalion in World War II. This very popular ANZAC service is aimed at educating students on the history and the sacrifices that our service men and women made to enable us to enjoy the lifestyle that we have today (with emphasis on the Kokoda Campaign of WW2). Throughout this moving tribute, our students heard from a range of speakers, witnessed the catafalque party (cadets) a bagpiper, student speeches, a choir and Luke James as the bugler for the Last Post. In addition to this, our Captains had the opportunity to lay a beautiful wreath on behalf of the School and they certainly understood the importance of the experience and did us proud.



Tanya Au
Assistant Principal

Year 9 off to a Flying Start

Year 9 began the term with an assembly led by the Year 9 Middle Years Leaders. During the assembly, Mrs. Georgia Sandhu, the Year 9 Team Leader, and Mr. Matthew Lucas, the Acting Assistant Principal, presented certificates to the student leaders. The assembly was attended by some of the students' parents and was followed by a morning tea. We congratulate all the student leaders and look forward to their continued efforts in supporting the Middle Years students at Upwey High School



Victorian Mathematics Games Challenge

We are proud to announce that 12 of our students from Year 7-10 will be representing Upwey High School in the Victorian Mathematics Games Challenge, an engaging online competition run by the Mathematical Association of Victoria.

The challenge encourages students to apply their mathematical thinking, problem-solving skills, and teamwork in a fun and competitive environment.

Participation in this event reflects our school value of ASPIRATION, as our students are challenging themselves to extend their learning beyond the classroom and strive for excellence.

We wish the following students all the best as they take on this exciting opportunity!

Year 7/8 Team 1	Year 7/8 Team 2	Year 9/10 Team 1	Year 9/10 Team 2
Amber Lohman Aliya Carbery Aster Hill	Hudson Haworth Liam Bawden Alfie Sheehan	Poppy Beggs Adam Logan Veda Briggs-Miller Seb Hayton	Azriel Tan Callum Herron Mishank Sarwal

On Tuesday, the Year 9 students participated in a well-being day organised by the UHS Wellbeing Team. They took part in the REACH Mirror and Locker Room Workshops, demonstrating strong engagement and participation, leaving the facilitators very impressed with both groups.

The Mirror Workshop encouraged students to explore gender stereotypes and their impact, allowing them to express their authentic selves boldly. Meanwhile, the Locker Room Workshop challenged stereotypes about young men and highlighted the importance of having vulnerable conversations.

The discussions during both workshops were often deep and emotional, touching on themes that could be challenging for some students. However, these discussions were essential for fostering a healthy and resilient culture within our school community.

The Wellbeing staff were present during both workshops and provided additional support to students, alongside the facilitators and teaching staff. It was inspiring to see so many students supporting each other throughout the day.

We would encourage you to speak with your young person about the workshop and explore any feelings that it may have raised for them. Students are welcome to seek additional support through the Wellbeing Team here at Upwey, or parents are welcome to contact us with any additional concerns.

The Year 9 Team is extremely grateful to Amy and Yvette for organising the day. We feel the workshops will have a positive impact on our students. For more information on Reach, please visit their website: <https://www.reach.org.au/>



STUDENT TESTIMONIES

“On Tuesday, the Year 9 girls took part in a workshop run by the Reach Foundation, and it turned out to be a really valuable experience for everyone involved. Throughout the session, the girls participated in a variety of interactive activities that encouraged them to think more deeply about gender stereotypes and the kinds of expectations society often places on people. There was a lot of honest conversation, and many students felt comfortable sharing their thoughts and perspectives. Towards the end of the workshop, the focus shifted to talking about judgment, both how we judge others and how we sometimes feel judged ourselves. This led to some meaningful discussions, with many students realising that a lot of their peers have similar worries and insecurities. It helped create a stronger sense of connection within the group, as well as more empathy and understanding for one another. Overall, it was an engaging and thoughtful session that left a strong impact on the group.” – Rory B.

“Reach is a youth-focused foundation that empowers young people to build confidence, strengthen relationships, and better understand themselves and others. Throughout this interactive workshop, we explored engaging activities and deep chats with one another. Reach helped Upwey High School Year 9 students step outside their comfort zones and connect on a deeper level with their peers. The program encouraged students to open up, communicate honestly, and support one another, creating a more inclusive and positive school environment. As a result, many students developed greater self-awareness, resilience, and a stronger sense of belonging within their year level. Thanks to Reach for an amazing workshop.” -Tom H.

“The Locker Room workshop ran for the entire day, which gave us enough time to dive deeper into meaningful conversations rather than just skimming the surface. One thing that stood out was how the presenters treated us like normal people and young adults, which made the experience feel respectful and genuine. I was surprised by how many people participated and opened up, and throughout the day, everyone stayed quiet and showed respect to each other. There were moments when friends comforted one another when they became upset, which showed how supportive the environment was. Some people even apologised to me for things I had forgotten about or didn’t expect an apology for, which made the day feel even more powerful. Overall, it was the best incursion we have had, especially because a wide range of different people shared their thoughts and experiences. The presenters were very interactive, and it helped that they opened up to us at the beginning by sharing their own life stories. One activity that stood out involved stepping forward if we related to a statement, which allowed people to participate without having to speak. It was also effective how the presenters invited open people to share their experiences, helping people who normally wouldn’t talk feel more comfortable speaking.” – Jake H.





UPWEY HIGH SCHOOL

Positive Behaviour Matrix

	Learning spaces	School grounds	Community	Online	Always
<i>We foster</i> ASPIRATION	<p>We strive for excellence</p> <p>We set goals and will work hard to achieve success</p> <p>We ask for and act on feedback to improve our learning outcomes</p>	<p>We arrive to school every day ready to learn</p> <p>We always demonstrate positive behaviour and move calmly between spaces</p>	<p>We are positive role models in the community</p> <p>We embrace challenges</p> <p>We represent Upwey High School with pride</p>	<p>We use technology appropriately for learning</p> <p>We check school communications daily</p> <p>We use Compass to ensure all work is completed</p>	<p>Be in the right place at the right time</p> <p>Be prepared for learning</p> <p>Listen attentively</p> <p>Respect personal space, privacy and property</p>
<i>We encourage</i> RESPECT	<p>We consider the feelings, thoughts and rights of others</p> <p>We listen to others for understanding</p> <p>We follow instructions</p>	<p>We communicate respectfully</p> <p>We take responsibility for our actions</p> <p>We care for and maintain buildings and grounds</p>	<p>We represent the school in a positive manner at all times</p> <p>We interact positively with others in the community</p> <p>We treat everyone fairly</p>	<p>We follow the school ICT agreement</p> <p>We are cybersafe</p> <p>We protect the personal details and online reputations of ourselves and others</p>	<p>Follow instructions, first time, every time</p> <p>Use good manners</p> <p>Encourage and support others</p>
<i>We practise</i> KINDNESS	<p>We have positive interactions and include others</p> <p>We allow teachers to teach and students to learn</p> <p>We ensure that everyone feels safe in the learning environment</p>	<p>We encourage others to be themselves</p> <p>We share the space</p> <p>We are an upstander not a bystander</p>	<p>We look out for others and consider their needs</p> <p>We show care and consideration for all members of our community</p>	<p>We share or post only with permission</p> <p>We report cyber-bullying</p> <p>We communicate appropriately online</p>	<p>Wear school uniform correctly</p> <p>Challenge, persevere and extend yourself</p>

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