Doctrina Vitae
Bacchus Marsh Grammar

2027

MIDDLE SCHOOL HANDBOOK

Year 5 to Year 8



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WELCOME TO BACCHUS MARSH GRAMMAR

MIDDLE SCHOOL - YEAR 5 TO YEAR 8

On behalf of all the Middle School staff, I would like to welcome each new family to our Middle School community. We will work together to guide your child through this important stage of their development.

We understand that your child is an important individual who deserves the very best education that we can provide. The staff at Bacchus Marsh Grammar work hard to treat all students as individuals and endeavour to meet their specific needs.

Together we will share in the successes and challenges of your child's educational journey and trust that you will join us in encouraging them to always work to the best of their ability. It is most important to remember that in any class, a diverse range of skill, knowledge and talent will be displayed and that students will progress at different rates. However, students are expected to set high standards for themselves and always aim to achieve their personal best.

Education for life is a structured, purposeful process. Bacchus Marsh Grammar encourages all students to be active participants in their own learning. Our curriculum aims to present challenges and students are encouraged to take risks as learners, step out of their comfort zones and to work toward enhancing their skills and knowledge. Learning needs to be calm and structured and this is reflected in our thorough curriculum which includes clear procedures for assessing progress.

We endeavour to provide our Middle School students with a learning experience which enables them to become responsible and productive members of the wider community. They will learn to lead through service within the Middle School, as well as the Junior School and Senior Schools.

You will find this handbook a valuable resource; however, we do not expect you to remember everything at once. Please ask questions as we are all here to help make your transition to the Middle School a seamless experience. I would like to encourage each family to take advantage of the good communication that exists between families and our staff. Do not hesitate to contact your child's Tutor Teacher if you have any matters that need discussion or clarification. Good communication is a valuable key to success. We look forward to meeting all new families and getting to know you and your child.

Name	Title
Mr Scott Bayne	Assistant Principal Head of Middle School - Maddingley
Mr Michael Abramovic	Assistant Principal Head of Middle School - Woodlea

OUR PHILOSOPHY

The school has a culture of achievement which encourages staff and students to strive towards their personal best.

A SCHOOL THAT VALUES THE INDIVIDUAL

At Bacchus Marsh Grammar, we believe that the key to a successful education is concentration on the individual. We all have different strengths which need to be developed, and weaknesses that can be addressed and improved upon. We strive to develop a clear understanding of each child's needs and the particular ways in which we can foster their growth and development. The school provides a wide range of activities to extend children beyond the normal curriculum and provide additional assistance to individuals working towards mastering new skills, knowledge and values.

A CALM AND STRUCTURED SCHOOL

At Bacchus Marsh Grammar, we know what type of environment delivers the best possible education. Learning best occurs when there is a clear structure and clarity of expectations of students. This is applied at a 'whole school' level and in our well-defined and consistent approach to individual teaching and classroom management. We know that learning is optimised by a calm, friendly and purposeful environment. This enables students to concentrate on their learning, work towards achieving their personal best and develop their individual talents. Our teachers reinforce this environment with their genuine care and concern for each student's academic and personal development, and their clear and structured teaching methods. Such an environment fosters the development of positive social skills. Behaviour which interferes with the learning or happiness of others is not tolerated.

COMMUNICATION IS VITAL

For us, educating a student requires a bond between school, parents and students. To enable us to provide the best possible education, all three parties must be clear and committed to common goals and have a clear understanding of how students are progressing both academically and socially. The key to developing and enhancing the bond between parties is clear and consistent communication. We believe that parents need to be aware of how their children are going in a way that is understandable and helpful for development. We also believe that any issues are best resolved by early discussion between all parties. In turn, we ask that parents keep the school fully informed of issues that may be affecting the wellbeing of students and support the goals and ethos of the school.

ENJOYMENT AND ENTHUSIASM

We strongly believe that school should be a place which students can enjoy. We look to provide students with opportunities to develop new skills and experience new ideas and activities which will excite and challenge them. We also want our students to develop an enthusiasm for learning and a curiosity about the world. We achieve this by having a teaching staff which is able to draw upon a wide range of skills and experiences and who are enthusiastic about the chance to help young people develop their potential.

PASTORAL CARE

One of the strengths of Bacchus Marsh Grammar is the depth and quality of our pastoral care initiatives.

At Bacchus Marsh Grammar, pastoral care is concerned with the cultivation and promotion of the academic, social, emotional, and physical wellbeing and development of all students. It is embedded within the teaching, learning and structural organisation of our school.

All members of our School Community work toward and contribute to the pastoral care of our students. Our school values underpin how we approach pastoral care, as we strive to maintain an environment where students feel connected, valued and a strong sense of self.

AN EXPLICIT TEACHING MODEL

The school believes that learning best occurs when students have a clear understanding of what they are required to do and when material or skills they need are taught, this is achieved through clear and transparent methods.

We believe strongly in the role of an expert teacher who has deep subject knowledge.

OUR VALUES

The school is guided by eight core values: Respect, Discipline, Confidence, Ambition, Leadership, Kindness, Knowledge and Wisdom.

- The school seeks to teach students to respect others and the world they inhabit;
- We aim to guide our students to develop discipline to pursue long term and meaningful goals, and eschew short term and superficial pursuits;
- Students should have the confidence to express ideas and values, and project their worth to others;
- Students are guided to develop ambition and passion to achieve their best;
- Students are taught to understand that leadership occurs in a variety of forms, and encouraged to find ways they can influence and organise for the good of others and themselves;
- Students are taught to value knowledge for both its own sake but for the power that it has to influence our lives;
- Students are guided to develop the wisdom that comes from knowledge and contemplation and to respect all who pursue true wisdom;
- Above all else, Bacchus Marsh Grammar students are inspired to embrace life with a sense of kindness and compassion at the fore.



KEY STAFF CONTACTS

HEADS OF MIDDLE SCHOOL

Name	Title	Email
Mr Scott Bayne	Assistant Principal Head of Middle School – **Maddingley**	baynes@bmg.vic.edu.au
Ms Rebecca Perks	Deputy Head of Middle School – **Maddingley**	perksr@bmg.vic.edu.au
Mr Michael Abramovic	Assistant Principal Head of Middle School – **Woodlea**	abramovicm@bmg.vic.edu.au
Ms Melissa Dunat	Deputy Head of Middle School – **Woodlea**	dunatm@bmg.vic.edu.au

All relevant Middle School Heads of Year will be communicated to families at the beginning of Term 1, 2027.

PRINCIPALS

Name	Title	Email
Mrs Debra Ogston	Principal	school@bmg.vic.edu.au
Mr Andrew Pate	Deputy Principal – Head of Maddingley Campus	patea@bmg.vic.edu.au
Mrs Lisa Foster	Deputy Principal – Deputy Head of Maddingley	fosterl@bmg.vic.edu.au
Mrs Danielle Copeman	Deputy Principal – Head of Woodlea Campus	copemand@bmg.vic.edu.au
Mrs Sarah Hunter	Deputy Principal – Deputy Head of Woodlea	hunters@bmg.vic.edu.au
Mrs Erin Thornton	Deputy Principal – Teaching and Learning	thorntone@bmg.vic.edu.au
Mr Andrew Perks	Deputy Principal – Culture and Character Education	perksa@bmg.vic.edu.au
Mr Steve Morrison	Deputy Principal – Director of Community Formation and Engagement	morrisons@bmg.vic.edu.au

KEY CONTACT INFORMATION

School Email	school@bmg.vic.edu.au
School Website	www.bmg.vic.edu.au
Postal Address	P.O. Box 214, Bacchus Marsh, 3340

	Maddingley Campus	Woodlea Campus
Phone Number	(03) 5366 4800	(03) 5366 4900
Fax	(03) 5366 4850	(03) 5366 4950
Absentee Number	(03) 5366 4888	(03) 5366 4988
Absentee Email	maddingley_absentees@bmg.vic.edu.au	woodlea_absentees@bmg.vic.edu.au
Address	**Bacchus Marsh Grammar - Maddingley** South Maddingley Road Bacchus Marsh, 3340	**Bacchus Marsh Grammar - Woodlea** 111 Frontier Ave Aintree, 3336

TERM DATES 2027

Term 1 2027	
Staff Day – ALL Staff Commence	Wednesday 27 January
Staff Day	Thursday 28 January
Year 12 Development Day (at school)	Friday 29 January
Year 7 Classes Commence	Friday 29 January
Prep 2027 Readiness Meetings	Friday 29 January
Prep 2027 Readiness Meetings	Monday 1 February
Years 1 to 11 Commence	Monday 1 February
Prep Commence	Tuesday 2 February
Labour Day	Monday 8 March (no school)
End of Term 1	Thursday 25 March

Term 2 2027	
School Commences	Monday 12 April (to be advised)
King's Birthday	Monday 14 June (no school)
End of Term 2	Friday 18 June

Term 3 2027	
Staff Commence	Monday 12 July
Students Commence	Tuesday 13 July
Mid-Term Break	Friday 20 August (no school)
End of Term 3	Friday 17 September

Term 4 2027	
School Commences	Monday 4 October (to be advised)
Mid-Term Break	Monday 1 November (no school)
Melbourne Cup	Tuesday 2 November (no school)
Year 7 2028 Orientation Day	Friday 19 November
Report Writing Day (No school Years 7 to 11)	Friday 19 November
End of Term – ALL Students	Friday 3 December
Staff Training	Monday 6 December to Friday 10 December (12 noon)
Office Closes for 2027 (12 noon)	Friday 17 December

Subject to change. Please refer to the school website for the most up-to-date Term Dates.

GENERAL INFORMATION

School Policies

School policies are available to view on Schoolbox in both the Junior and Middle / Senior School Gateways under the School Policies tile. Any updates to these policies are communicated to parents via a notification in the weekly BMG eNews.

A Child Safe School

Bacchus Marsh Grammar is committed to the protection of all children from all forms of child abuse and demonstrates this commitment through the implementation of a comprehensive Child Safe Program designed to keep children safe and endorsed by the School's governing body. We are clear about our behavioural expectations of every person in our community.

At Bacchus Marsh Grammar, we have a zero tolerance of child abuse and are committed to acting in a child's best interest and in keeping them safe from harm. We regard our child safe responsibilities with the utmost importance.

We provide the necessary resources to ensure compliance with all relevant child protection laws and regulations and maintain a child safe culture that:

- is aligned to the new Child Safe Standards that apply from 1 July 2022,
- has zero tolerance of child abuse,
- actively works to listen to and empower children and young people
- has systems to protect children and young people from abuse, and will take all allegations and concerns very seriously and respond to them consistently in line with the School's policies and procedures
- is committed to promoting physical, emotional and cultural safety for all children and young people,
- is committed to providing a safe environment for all children and young people.

PARENT AND VISITOR TOILETS

To ensure compliance with child safety requirements, we have designated and clearly marked parent and visitors' restroom facilities.

For the protection and welfare of our students, we kindly request that when you are on-site, you refrain from using the students' restroom facilities. We appreciate your understanding and cooperation in helping us maintain a safe and secure environment for our students. Your adherence to this requirement is essential in upholding our commitment to child safety.

More information and a copy of the Child Safe Program Quick Reference Guide can be found on the **School's website**.

Uniform Requirements

The school colours are black, gold, white and blue. Wearing of the school uniform is compulsory for all students. Full school uniform must be worn correctly to and from school and on all formal occasions, including school assemblies.

All students who are not in correct uniform need to have a signed note in their school diary from a parent/guardian explaining the reason. A note shall not be regarded as sufficient explanation for continued variation to the uniform. Such students will be issued with a Breach of Uniform notice by their Head of Year.

Students wear their sports uniform to and from school on their designated Physical Education day. Parents will be made aware of their child's Physical Education day at the beginning of the school year. Please note that it is preferred that the sports runners predominately reflect school colours of black, gold, white and blue.

All school uniform items must be official Bacchus Marsh Grammar uniform.

Full school uniform requirements are listed in the school diary. Please also read in conjunction with the School Uniform and Dress Code Policy accessed via the School Policies tile in Schoolbox or the **School's website**.

UNIFORM OUTLETS

The School's Uniforms are available from Rushfords Schoolwear in Werribee and at the School Uniform Shop at Maddingley campus. Key operating hours are on the **school's website**. Online shopping for school uniform is also offered via **Noone**.

School Uniform Shop: Maddingley Campus (Gate 1 Main Carpark) - Telephone 5367 4072.

Rushfords Schoolwear: Shop 1/13 Barnes Place Werribee - Telephone 9741 3211.

Noone Melton: 39 Bakery Square Melton - Telephone 8764 2414.

Student Absences and Lateness

Parents/guardians are asked to telephone the Student Absentee line, if their child is sick, will be late or absent from school prior to the start of school. An absence can also be logged via Schoolbox/Quick Links. Where an absence of a student has not been explained by 9.20am, the school will send an SMS to the parent/guardian requesting them to contact the Student Absentee Line. If parents/guardians do not respond to the first SMS, a reminder SMS is then sent at approximately 10.00am.

If no response is received, the School will contact the parents/guardians by phone. Please supply your child's class teacher with a written note explaining any absence once your child returns to school. Students who arrive late to school must personally report to Reception to obtain a late pass before going to class. Students who are collected early during the school day must be signed out at Reception before leaving for the day. Parents should not collect their child directly from the classroom. Please refer to the Student Attendance Policy and Procedure on the School Policies tile in Schoolbox or on the School's website for further information.

Please note that if parents/guardians choose to take their child/ren on holidays during Term time for less than 10 school days, they must inform the child's Head of Year and Head of Middle School. School work will not be provided where a student is absent on holidays. In addition, a leave of absence application must be made for student absences greater than 10 school days. The application must be made in writing to the Principal or their delegate well in advance of the intended leave of absence. Approval for a leave of absence may be given at the Principal's or their delegates discretion. School work will not be provided where a student is on leave of absence. Please refer to the Student Attendance Policy and Procedure on the School Policies tile in Schoolbox or on the School's website for further information.

Reports and Parent/Teacher Interviews

You can expect to receive a school report at the end of Terms 2 and 4.

Year 5 to 8 students have ongoing reporting, based on their subjects, throughout the academic year. These reports can be accessed through the school parent portal.

Formal Parent/Teacher interviews will also be conducted throughout the year in Term 1 and Term 3. However, you are encouraged to contact the School, through the Tutor or Subject teacher, at any stage throughout the year if you have concerns or questions regarding your child's progress.

School Diary

The school diary is used by all students and is each student's main organisational tool and mode of communication between home and school. The Tutor Teacher checks diaries on a regular basis. Students need to be encouraged to notify teachers if parents have used the diary to communicate with the teacher. Parents are asked to sign student diaries, as a minimum requirement, on a weekly basis.

Please read your child's diary for the following:

- Information about Bacchus Marsh Grammar, including school policies, rules and responsibilities
- Uniform regulations
- Your child's class timetable
- Daily homework tasks
- Incidental notes from staff

If the diary is lost, the student must immediately purchase a new school diary from the Main Administration office.

Homework

YEAR 5 AND 6

Students are expected to complete a set amount of homework each night. Even from the early school years, it is important to develop good habits in regards to homework.

Year 5 and Year 6 students are expected to spend 45 minutes on set homework or study each night, Monday through Thursday. Additionally, they are required to read for at least 20 minutes per day, including weekends where possible. Class teachers will notify parents of the specific subject areas to be covered each night. Occasionally, work will be set to be completed on the weekend. Students are required to record homework each lesson.

- If homework is incomplete without parent notification, the student's school diary will be stamped.
- Following the homework stamp, students will have three school days to submit the task.
- A red stamp will be received in the homework book or diary to indicate that work has not been submitted. Three stamps in the diary result in a detention being issued.

To establish work routines and to enable the student to more effectively meet requirements, a parent meeting will be required if a student consistently has issues with homework.

YEAR 7 AND 8

Developing good homework and study techniques at the beginning of secondary school is of paramount importance.

Subject teachers will set homework regularly and it is expected to be completed. Homework is an important part of the curriculum and is set to help students achieve their best.

At Year 7 and 8, students and parents may expect an average of up to 60 to 90 minutes of homework 5 times per week. This time also includes study and wider reading.

To achieve successful study outcomes:

- Students must record details of their homework and due dates in their diary. This allows them to plan ahead and allocate time to different subjects where necessary. There should be no surprises as to when homework is due!
- Allocate a specific homework time every day when students can sit quietly and give their work their full attention. Students will receive some homework which needs to be completed straight away, and some which needs to be done over longer periods of time. When a daily homework routine is established and tasks planned, nothing will be left to the last minute.
- Where possible, a quiet study space which is well lit and ventilated should be dedicated to school work at home. Trying to complete work in front of the television or with the stereo turned up is generally not very effective!
- Part of the task of completing homework is ensuring that students have it with them when required in class. It will be considered incomplete if students have left it in their locker or at home.
- If homework is incomplete without parent notification, the student's school diary will be stamped.
- A red stamp will be received in the diary to indicate that work has not been submitted. Three stamps in the diary result in a detention being issued.

If a student experiences difficulties in completing the set homework, please contact the appropriate subject teacher before the due date so that where necessary, other arrangements can be made where necessary.

Chromebooks

Chromebooks are allocated to each student from Years 5 to 12, who are then responsible for their care and for ensuring that they are brought to school and charged each day.

Chromebooks are used in a range of ways to support learning and teaching at the School. Thus, any student without a Chromebook at school can hire one at a charge (refer to the current Business Notice for cost), however, it will be treated as a discipline issue.



Music

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC LESSONS

Music has the capacity to engage, inspire and enrich all students, exciting the imagination and encouraging students to reach their creative and expressive potential. Music learning can have a significant impact on the cognitive, affective, motor, social and personal competencies of students.

Students are encouraged to learn a musical instrument. These lessons are available during the school day and tuition fees are in addition to the school fees. Before and after-school lessons are available however, are subject to availability and in negotiation with the instrumental teacher. The Music Handbook/Enrolment process is available on the school's website. Please refer to the Business Notice for all fees and charges associated with the Instrumental Music Program.

Health Centre

The Health Centre is staffed by Registered Nurses, Monday to Friday.

If your child attends the Health Centre, you will receive an SMS informing you of their attendance and the reason for their attendance. If your child needs to be collected due to illness or injury the Health Centre staff will contact you by phone.

Any updates to your child's medical information must be via the myBMG Parent Portal. If your child has significant medical issues, please contact the Health Centre to discuss further.



Bus Travel

A Student Bus Travel Code of Conduct is in place and is available to view on the School Policies tile in Schoolbox.

The purpose of this Code of Conduct (Code) is to ensure safe and comfortable travel for all students at Bacchus Marsh Grammar (the School).

This Code applies to all students (Junior, Middle and Senior) who travel to and/or from School on a designated Bacchus Marsh Grammar private bus, town service or country service school bus (School Bus).

RULES AND EXPECTATIONS OF BEHAVIOUR

Students must abide by the following rules and conduct requirements at all times when travelling on a School Bus. All students must:

1. Behave in a safe, responsible, and respectful manner – ensuring that behaviours and noise levels are not uncomfortable to other passengers.
2. Remain properly seated while the bus is in motion, at all times.
3. Not take photos or videos of other students, drivers, or aspects of the bus during operation.
4. Not eat food (including chewing gum) or consume drinks (other than water) on the bus.
5. Not sit on armrests, kneel, or place feet on the seats.
6. Not draw on, damage, or deface any article in or on the bus.
7. Not use offensive or inappropriate language.
8. Not throw any article in or from the bus.
9. Not spit or fight.
10. Not distract the driver while the bus is in motion unless there is a serious reason to do so such as requesting a stop or an emergency.
11. Not make inappropriate and/or rude gestures to others including pedestrians and/or the general public.
12. Not yell at or out to others or pedestrians and/or the general public.
13. Not behave whilst waiting for a bus in a way that brings discredit to the School.
14. Ensure if they are travelling on a Bacchus Marsh Grammar private bus, that they travel on the bus service to which they have been allocated.
15. Behave in a way that respects the rights of residents who are in the vicinity of school bus stops.
16. Wear seat belts where fitted at all times.
17. Carry their Student ID card at all times.
18. Disembark at their designated stop as advised on Roll Call for students travelling on a Bacchus Marsh Grammar private bus.
19. Abide by Bacchus Marsh Grammar's Rules and Regulations, particularly those related to behaviour and appearance.
20. Not enter the driver area of the bus or touch any driver instruments. THIS AREA IS STRICTLY OUT OF BOUNDS.

In addition, it is recommended that students:

1. Remain at home and do not board the bus if they are unwell.

Note: These requirements are in place for the safety and comfort of all students while travelling to and from the School.

CONSEQUENCES FOR BREACH OF THIS CODE OF CONDUCT

Non-compliance with any of the above rules and expectations of behaviour will result in the following actions:

- **First offence** – verbal warning to student
- **Second offence** – written warning to parent/guardian
- **Third offence** – up to one week suspension of student from school bus travel
- **Fourth offence** – the student may not be allowed to travel on the school bus for an extended period

If the incident or incidents are deemed by the Principal to be of a more serious nature, withdrawal of travel rights may occur immediately.

Normal School sanctions, i.e. detentions, suspension, etc., will also apply to any/all bus incidents in line with the School's Student Discipline Policy.

INCIDENT NOTIFICATION

The initial response to any misbehaviour is for the incident/s to be reported to the School Bus Services Administrator who will refer the matter to the appropriate staff member for investigation. Upon prompt investigation of the incident, students will receive appropriate disciplinary action in accordance with the School's Student Discipline Policy with parents/guardians notified.

Safety concerns or incidents should be reported immediately to the School.

SAFETY TIPS

Children should:

- Stand a safe distance back from the curb when waiting for a bus.
- Ensure they wait calmly and patiently for their bus and do not push or crowd forward as the bus comes to a stop.
- Move towards the bus only when it has stopped, and the doors have opened.
- Stay in the same seat with bags placed under their seat.
- Follow the instructions of the driver.
- Sit quietly on the bus and not distract the bus driver or engage in behaviour that will disturb and attract the attention of other passengers.
- Not harass other passengers.
- Keep all body parts inside the bus.
- Only move from their seat when the bus has come to a complete stop.
- Ensure they do not cross the road in front of or directly behind the bus after disembarking their bus.
- Students should wait until the bus has cleared the stop and they have clear vision in both directions to ensure it is safe before crossing.

Parents/guardians should:

- Drop off or wait for their child/ren on the same side of the road as the bus stop.
- Park away from the designated bus stop area to ensure there is sufficient distance available for the bus to safely pull into and exit its stop.
- Not approach students, other parents, or the bus driver if they have any issues or concerns.
- Direct all concerns or issues they have to the School.
- Arrange and communicate any change requests e.g. changes to the bus stop their child accesses to the School only, not the Bus driver.
- Advise the School Bus Services Administrator if their child/ren will be changing a stop on their allocated route as a permanent stop change.
- Not board the bus under any circumstances.
- Be mindful of the amenity of residences close to bus stops as many bus stops are in residential areas. Please do not park in or across driveways or on nature strips.

All enquiries, concerns or issues are to be reported to the School Bus Services Administrator - Mrs Leanne Robertson by calling 5366 4800 or via email at **bus@bmg.vic.edu.au** if their child has complained about the behaviour of other students or if they have a query about their child's behaviour.

The Canteen

The Canteen is open daily, at recess and lunchtime. It is highly recommended that students have only a limited amount of money to spend at the canteen.

Lunch orders are placed through the FlexiSchools App.

Emergency lunches are available, with the money to be brought to school the following day or paid through the FlexiSchools App.

Gluten Free - Please note that gluten free options are available to order online and over the counter.

The House System

Each student is a member of one of eight Houses.

House Name	Colour	Mascot	Flora Emblem
Lerderderg	Navy Blue	Sugar Glider	Blackwood
Kororoit	Yellow	Rosella	Sheoak
Toolern	Red	Pelican	River Redgum
Djerriwarrh	Purple	Platypus	Silver Wattle
Parwan	Bottle Green	Echidna	Manna Gum
Pyrites	Maroon	Kangaroo	Snow Daisy
Dale	Orange	Wedgetail Eagle	Peppermint Gum
Pykes	Light Blue	Growling Grass Frog	River Bottlebrush

Family members all belong to the same House. Houses are involved in various school activities and competitions under the leadership of senior students within the House. Students wear their House polo top for special House events.



Physical Education / Sport Awards

AGE GROUP CHAMPIONS

All athletes in Year 5 and 6 will compete in their age groups. The age group in which students compete is determined by the age they reach during that year (i.e. if a student turns 12 during the school year, they compete in the 12/13 year old age group). All athletes in Year 7 and 8 will compete in their year level for interschool competitions (unless otherwise advised).

Camps

All students from Year 5 to 8 will attend a minimum of one camp each year. The Camps program is sequential, with age appropriate challenges and experiences providing transitional pathways into the Senior School Camps and Outdoor Education program.

Enrichment

Enrichment is a unique program embedded within the school timetable, ensuring that every student has the opportunity to participate in a broad range of co-curricular experiences as part of their regular school week. Students can pursue areas of personal interest and passion through options including sport, music, academic enrichment, leadership, STEM, creative arts, and leisure activities such as crafting and games. By making these opportunities accessible to all students, the Enrichment program encourages participation, builds confidence, develops new skills, and allows every child to flourish beyond the traditional classroom.

Middle School Colours

Middle School Colours are awarded to students in Years 5 to 8 in recognition of their participation in and contribution to the School Community, and their on-going effort and achievement across a variety of areas within the school.

To be eligible to receive school colours, students must demonstrate a high level of cooperation, responsibility and care towards other members of the School Community.

Students eligible to be awarded school colours must have accumulated in excess of 50 points in areas determined by the Middle School Colours program. No student will be awarded Middle School Colours if they do not meet the general conduct standard expected by Bacchus Marsh Grammar.

Students awarded Middle School Colours will be presented with a badge at a Middle School assembly. Students may achieve Double Middle School Colours once they have accumulated 100 points and will be presented with braid to be sewn to the top of the blazer pocket.

Tutor Group teachers are responsible for confirming the allocation of points towards Middle School Colours and liaise with the appropriate Head of Year when a student is ready to apply for Middle School Colours presentation.

Students may be awarded points towards their school colours in a range of areas that can be found on Schoolbox.

Middle School Leadership Opportunities

Bacchus Marsh Grammar has a firm commitment to service leadership. Service leadership is based on service to others, the school and wider community. All students in the Middle School are encouraged to participate in service leadership opportunities and be positive role models for others across both the Middle School and Junior School.

To facilitate the promotion of service leadership across Bacchus Marsh Grammar, there are a number of recognised positions of leadership opportunities for which students moving into Year 6 and Year 8 may apply. Applications and interviews occur during Term 4. A list of service leadership positions can be found in the table below:

Year 6	Year 8
	Middle School Captains
	Middle School Vice Captains
SRC Leaders	SRC Leaders
Literacy Leaders	Literacy Leaders
Languages and Culture Leaders	Languages and Culture Leaders
STEM Leaders	STEM Leaders
Student Wellbeing Leaders	Student Wellbeing Leaders
Community Service Leaders	Community Service Leaders
Performing Arts Leaders	Performing Arts Leaders
Visual Arts Leaders	Visual Arts Leaders
Enrichment Program Leaders	Enrichment Program Leaders
Environment Leaders	Environment Leaders
Dale Leaders	Dale Leaders
Djerriwarrh Leaders	Djerriwarrh Leaders
Kororoit Leaders	Kororoit Leaders
Lerderderg Leaders	Lerderderg Leaders
Parwan Leaders	Parwan Leaders
Pykes Leaders	Pykes Leaders
Pyrites Leaders	Pyrites Leaders
Toolern Leaders	Toolern Leaders

Please note that student roles may be subject to change.



Staughton Vale Campus

Bacchus Marsh Grammar has established a unique rural facility at Staughton Vale, in Anakie.

Located on 200 acres, the stunning campus backs onto the Brisbane Ranges National Park. The site enjoys extensive views of the City of Melbourne, the You Yangs Regional Park and Port Phillip Bay. As well as providing an area in which significant native wildlife congregate, the site has extensive orchards and a significant area of good, well-watered soil suitable for a range of activities.

The campus commenced in 2017 and as it develops it will play a central role in the life and experiences of Bacchus Marsh Grammar. It has already given our students unmatched opportunities to experience all the advantages of a rural campus in close proximity to where they live.

Many of our students are from urbanised areas so Staughton Vale helps provide an even more rounded education. It enables them to be close to nature, get their hands dirty and experience the pleasure of physical work and activity.

While Staughton Vale's curriculum has a Middle School emphasis, the campus helps fulfil the following key objectives across all year levels:

- Observational skills are developed over time and are the key to a deeper understanding and authentic learning. The Staughton Vale programs enrich basic observational skills and the associated structuring of knowledge.
- The practical activities and applications at Staughton Vale extend learning beyond the classroom environment.
- Staughton Vale provides a unique and engaging setting for the development of lifelong skills such as collaboration, initiative, calculating risk and developing resilience.

The campus gives students the opportunity to reflect on the power and magic of a storm brewing in Port Phillip Bay and the impressive expanse of the City of Melbourne. Whilst offering a challenging program, it also enables students to reflect and explore their learning at a different level.

We are confident that all students will embrace the challenges offered by Staughton Vale and grow to love the facility and what it offers.

Interschool Competitions

YEAR 5 AND 6

Bacchus Marsh Grammar is involved in an interschool competition with a group of local primary schools within the local area. Students are selected to represent the school at various sporting competitions and events such as debating and chess.

YEAR 7 AND 8

Bacchus Marsh Grammar is involved in an interschool competition with a group of independent schools within the wider area. Students are selected to represent the school at various sporting competitions and events such as debating and chess. A round robin competition in a number of summer and winter sports (including netball, tennis, softball and cricket) may also be offered. Students are expected to attend weekly training for these sports and other academic pursuits.

Nuts and Nut Products

At Bacchus Marsh Grammar, we have a growing number of students who have been identified with anaphylaxis, a severe allergic reaction particularly to nuts and nut products. In the interests of the safety of all students in our school, it is important to note that we are a nut aware school. Please refrain from bringing food containing nuts and nut products as we have a Risk Management Plan in place to provide a safe environment for the students and staff with allergic and Anaphylaxis conditions.

Birthdays and Class Parties

Due to the increasing concern about the number of children who experience allergic and anaphylactic reactions to certain foods, additives etc. we ask that parents do not send in any food or gifts for their child to share with the class for their birthdays, Easter, Christmas or other special occasions.

We recognise that birthdays are an extremely special day for your child, so the class teacher will celebrate your child's special day.

Outside School Hours Care Program – Year 5 and 6 Only

YMCA Ballarat offers before school and after school care for Primary aged students on school grounds. Details and associated costs for this program are available on the school's website.



WELCOME TO YEAR 5 AND 6

Staff at Bacchus Marsh Grammar would like to welcome each new family to our Middle School Community. Together we will work in partnership to guide your child through an important stage of their development.

In Years 5 and 6 we foster a caring, safe and happy environment where the child's continuing desire to learn and grow is fostered and developed. Care and respect are mutual concerns for all members of the School Community and these values are continuously developed.

In today's society, there can be a tendency to overprotect and insulate our children for as long as they will allow us to do so. It is, however, of no benefit to you or your child for you to inhibit their personal growth and not allow them to develop into independent learners who are able to make mistakes and learn from the consequences.

Whilst parents are encouraged to participate in their child's education through involvement in a variety of activities and events, we also expect that parents allow their child to develop as an individual. With parental support and direction, children can learn to cope in a variety of environments and develop resilience, enabling them to cope in the world in which we live.

Socially, the school provides new and wide ranging experiences for each child. By working together, sharing materials and fair play, each child is encouraged to develop essential social skills. In Years 5 and 6, we aim to develop independence and establish healthy routines and acceptable codes of discipline which will carry each child through their secondary years.

Curriculum Overview

Students in Year 5 and 6 learn skills and strategies in a variety of engaging curriculum areas which include:

- Literacy
- Numeracy
- Music
- Art
- Languages
- Health, Physical Education and Sport
- Design and Technology
- History and Geography
- Science

Highlights

To support the academic program, students in Years 5 and 6 have the possibility of being involved in:

- Camps
- Excursions
- Leadership Opportunities
- Music Opportunities
- House Sporting Carnivals
- Interschool Sporting Competition
- Academic Extension Programs and Competitions
- Co-curricular activities
- Performing Arts / School Plays
- Year 6 Celebration Day

WELCOME TO YEAR 7 AND 8

In Year 7 and 8, all staff members look forward to a productive and successful year with students taking part in many of the School's co-curricular activities as well as making the most of their academic abilities in the classroom.

This year, Bacchus Marsh Grammar offers a wide range and a large number of events that we encourage all students in Year 7 and 8 to enjoy. Intra-school events include House Swimming, Athletics, Cross Country and Music. Interschool activities include Football, Hockey, Cricket, Swimming, Cross Country, Debating and Chess. There are also many co-curricular activities that, apart from being great fun, help to build team spirit and organisational and disciplinary skills. Students are offered positions in music ensembles including Middle School Choir, Vocal Ensemble, Middle School and Senior Bands and String Ensemble. The School stages musical and drama productions, and, apart from on-stage positions, students are offered the chance to work backstage in areas such as lighting, backstage, stage-work and set-design.

Students in Year 7 and 8 attend an Orientation Day (Year 7) and a Camp each year, and these are always a highlight of the school year. The exhilarating and rewarding experiences to be had are always fondly remembered.

As a result of Bacchus Marsh Grammar's relationships with many overseas schools, opportunities have also arisen for students to be involved in School trips to France, New Caledonia and Japan. Students and families are also encouraged to billet students from overseas schools that are visiting Bacchus Marsh Grammar. This is a wonderful chance to foster relationships with people from other cultures, with some overseas students reciprocating by hosting their former hosts in their own country.

In Year 7 and 8, students are expected to complete up to 60 to 90 minutes of homework a night, for 5 nights a week. We encourage students to develop good study habits and self-discipline skills and we set a realistic and achievable study and revision timetable. We would encourage parents/guardians to take a keen interest in their child's work and help them to develop and maintain good study habits. This includes taking some time to read the pages at the front of the school diary to familiarise yourself with school regulations regarding school/sports uniform, jewellery and makeup, and absences. Parents/Guardians are also expected to check and sign their child's diary each week.

Part of our pastoral program at Bacchus Marsh Grammar includes students having daily contact with their Tutor Group teachers. These teachers are the first point of contact if you have any concerns about your child's welfare and education.

Staff would like to take this opportunity to offer their support to every student in Year 7 and 8, as well as their parents/guardians. We are available should you need any assistance throughout the year. Please do not hesitate to contact staff at the school if you are concerned about any aspect of your child's education and welfare or require information or clarification about any aspect of the School's policy or curriculum.

SCHOOL COMMUNICATION

SCHOOLBOX

Accessible from the School website, Schoolbox is the School's learning management system (LMS), community portal and engagement platform. Schoolbox provides an efficient, secure and environmentally friendly way for the School to communicate and share information with Bacchus Marsh Grammar parents. Parents/guardians may use this system to access the curriculum, assessment due dates, interim results, school forms and letters and also keep connected and apprised with what's happening within the School Community. The Family Engagement Page can also be utilised by parents to keep up to date with their child's learning and special events.

myBMG PARENT PORTAL

Accessible via Schoolbox Quick Links, the myBMG Parent Portal provides financial information, including fee statements and options to make payments towards your school fees, various user pays activities and any ad hoc charges. The portal also provides a booking system for parent/teacher interviews and a space for Families to securely update medical and contact information.

EdSMART

The School uses the service of EdSmart, which is a software providing a more effective and efficient platform for managing school communications between the school and parent/guardians. A significant benefit of the software is that it assists the School in achieving its objective of being a more sustainable organisation by significantly reducing the carbon footprint through the elimination of paper communications. Through EdSmart, communications e.g. letters for camps and excursions, are sent to parents/guardians electronically via email.

The School does need to share parent and student personal information including names, addresses, date of birth and some medical data with EdSmart. EdSmart is a cloud-based platform and is committed to protecting the security of your personal information. It uses a variety of security technologies and procedures to help protect your personal information from unauthorised access, use or disclosure and they are required by law to abide by the Australian Privacy Principles. For more information on EdSmart privacy, please view their Privacy Policy.

For the system to operate effectively it requires all parents/guardians to update email and mobile telephone details on the MyDetails Tab via Schoolbox as soon as possible.

SCHOOL WEBSITE

An important form of communication within the School Community, the School's website is updated regularly with important news and information relating to the School and associated communities. It is important that parents/guardians and students access the website regularly to ensure that they are conversant with the most current information. The website is located at **http://www.bmg.vic.edu.au**.

SCHOOL eNEWS

The newsletter provides upcoming administrative information and provides information on the daily operations of the School. Importantly, the newsletter will often contain reminders related to information contained within the Business Notice. It is vital, therefore, that parents/guardians read the newsletter and are fully aware of its contents.

To subscribe to the eNews visit the **School's website here**.

SCHOOL SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS

Bacchus Marsh Grammar operates official Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn pages which can be found by searching "Bacchus Marsh Grammar".

Social media is an alternative platform of communication within our School Community. It has been set up in order to share special interest articles and strengthen the School's brand. Social media is an integral part of society and how we form, create and share information within our community.

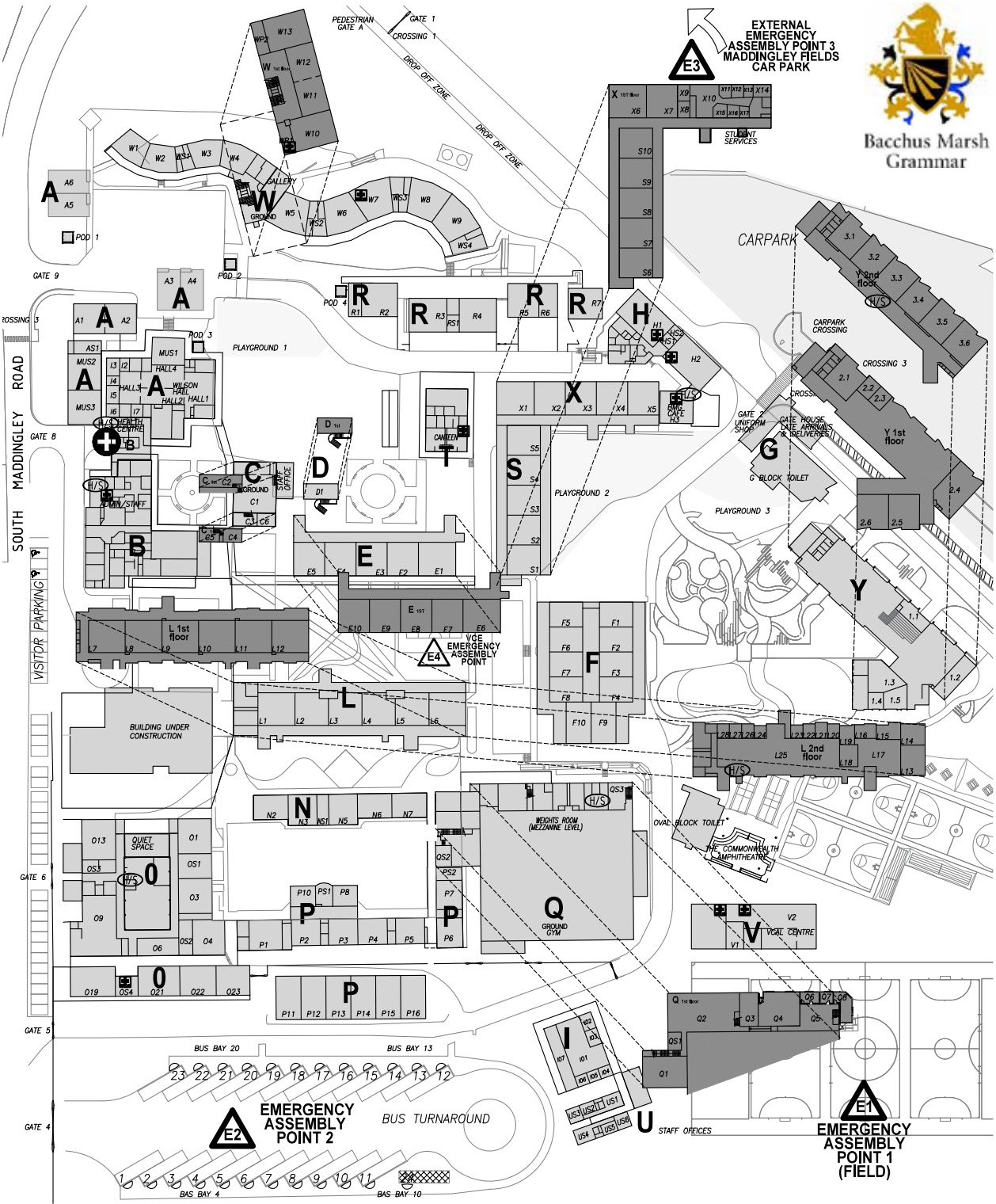
MULTIMEDIA CONSENT

Multimedia is defined as photography, video, audio or any other form of electronic recording. Note: This does not apply to the official School photos of students and their classes.

Consent for Multimedia is now obtained upon enrolment to the school and confirmed annually via the Annual Acknowledgement. You can view our Multimedia Policy on our website at any time. If you have any questions or wish to change the consent choice for your child, please contact the Marketing and Community Engagement Coordinator on **marketing@bmg.vic.edu.au**.



SCHOOL MAP – MADDINGLEY



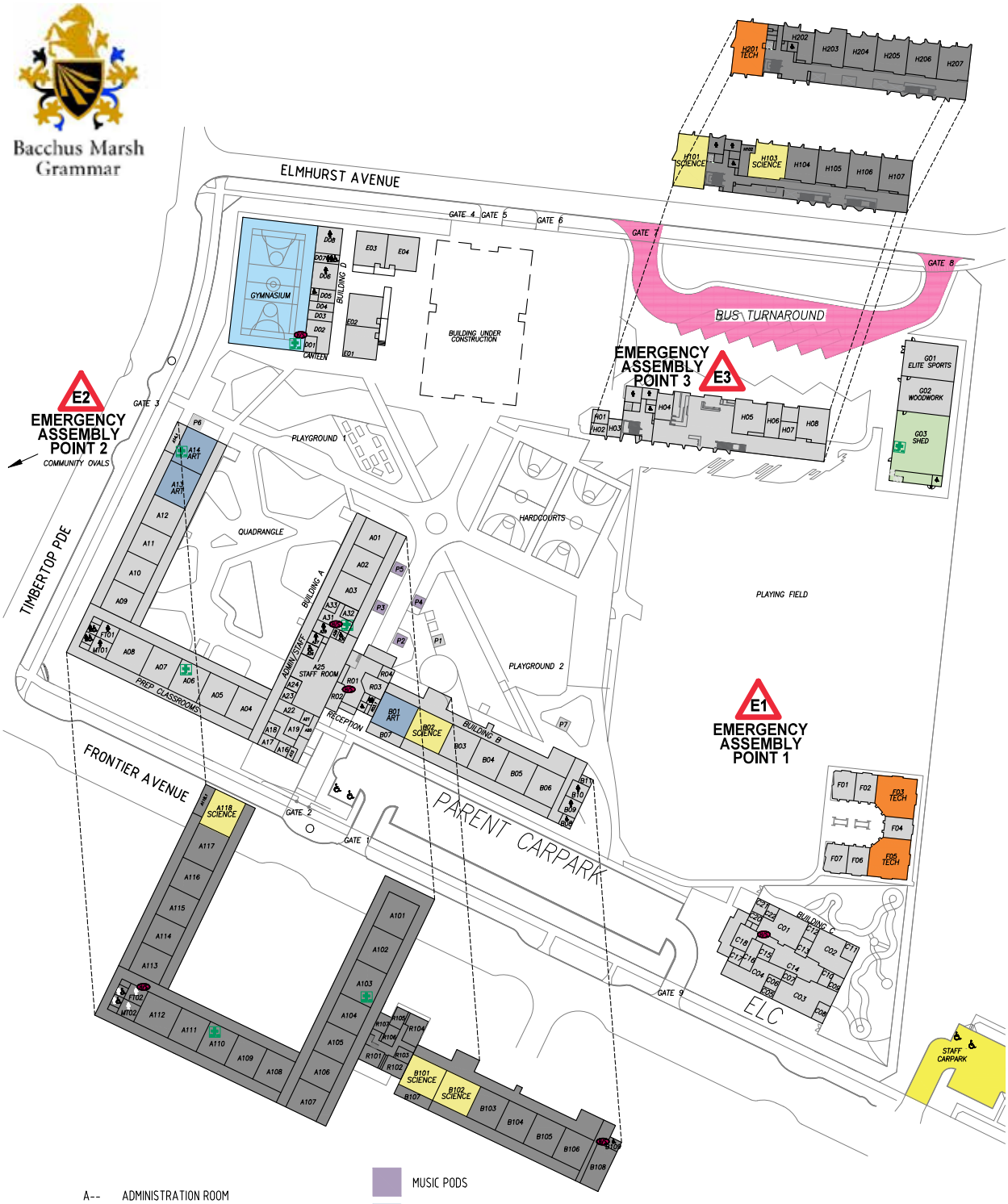
A Wilson Hall
B O'Day Administration Centre - Main Entrance
C Silvija Lucas Junior School Library
D Senior School Classrooms
E Junior School Classrooms
F Junior School Classrooms
G Gatehouse (uniform shop, late arrival pass, deliveries)
H Food Technology Centre
I Staff Offices

L Senior School Classrooms
M Senior School Classrooms
N Senior School Classrooms
O Senior School Science & Technology
P Baxter Holly Senior School Classroom Wing
Q John Leaver Gymnasium Centre
R General Purpose Classrooms
S Junior Classrooms / Student Services
T Canteen/Junior School Toilets
U Staff Resource Centre
V Wood Shed and Maintenance Shed
W Terraces Building including - Lou Callow Art School / Observatory / Greenhouse
X Classrooms
Y 'The Hive' / Library

FIRST AID / HEALTH CENTRE
EMERGENCY ASSEMBLY POINT
BUS ZONE
STUDENT DROP OFF & PICK UP POINT
HEART START
FIRST AID

29/06/2026 V1

SCHOOL MAP – WOODLEA



Notes

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Bacchus Marsh Grammar

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MIDDLE SCHOOL HANDBOOK
2027

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