

Frequently Asked Questions:

Will students receive a map of the Neighbourhood Buildings?

There are floor maps in each Neighbourhood and maps are included in the School Planners that all GSSC students have been provided. We are confident our students already have a good understanding of their House, which is their “home” at GSSC. Once they get used to a daily routine, student access to their Neighbourhood or the Enterprise and Innovation Centre will become familiar to them. They always have teachers and their House reception staff available for assistance.

Can they use the bleacher stairs to get from one level to another or do they need to use the House stairs during the day?

We will be encouraging our younger students to remain in their Houses for much of their day, as this is where the majority of their learning will take place. So that means using the House stairs. The shared areas of their Neighbourhood, including the bleachers, will be used by all students when needed. We expect the bleachers to be used for many combined class activities, presentations and other uses so this area won't always be available as an “extra set of stairs”. GSSC will enforce a “keep left” rule on all stairs and hallways to allow easy and safe access for all.

Will lunch breaks be staggered?

We will have common breaks across the campus. This allows for effective timetabling of classes which is really important for our students and teachers. The multi-level design of the college, the size of the central courtyard and overall site, and our combined staff numbers allow for plenty of room and excellent supervision.

Where will the Year 12s park?

There is no available parking provision for Year 12 students. This had been the case with the majority of our pre-merger sites and will continue at GSSC. We encourage our students to travel by public transport, where possible. Students who wish to travel by private vehicle will need to adhere to the same parking restrictions in the college precinct that apply to the rest of the community.

Will Year 7s be provided with a laptop?

Yes, they will be distributed to students in the first three weeks of school. Laptops are a contemporary tool for learning. Students requiring assistance with their laptop can access help from the IT desks located in each Neighbourhood building.

Is there a recording studio for music?

Yes. Our music rooms on Level 1 of the Enterprise and Innovation Centre are amazing! We have three main rooms that have high-tech acoustic qualities to allow multi-use at the same time. We also have smaller studios for ensembles, one-on-one instruction and high-quality recording.

Will there be soccer rooms over on Ford reserve or just a pitch?

GSSC was fortunate to secure funding for the removal of asbestos pipe from Ford Reserve, along with the installation of modern irrigation and the re-turfing of this excellent soccer site. Ford Reserve has had buildings on site in the past, however we are very mindful this land was donated to Shepparton High School for education and recreation use only. We will certainly respect this and any proposal to erect any structure on Ford Reserve will include consultation with the Ford family. Soccer rooms may well be a future possibility with the agreement of these stakeholders.

When inside during recess and lunch do they have to stay in their House or can they go to a friend's House/Neighbourhood?

GSSC is a public school and, like all public schools, we encourage friends to socialise together. GSSC's Houses and Neighbourhoods are open to all however we expect most social interaction between friends in other Houses to take place in our central courtyard and our many common areas and outdoor meeting places. As students progress through year levels at GSSC, the design of GSSC allows for this interaction to naturally increase. We expect our Year 12s to be role models across the campus and that is why, for example, they have access to our roof-top garden areas.

Can students use the gym equipment in the fitness studio before and after school and during break times for personal use?

Our gym equipment is brand new and first class. Like all such equipment, it is best and safely used with the guidance of our Physical Education teachers. We will, as a school, work to make the absolute best use of our amazing facilities. Exactly how this might accommodate personal use during break times is a good question that we will take under consideration.

Related to this question is the wider use of facilities by the public, including our gymnasium. It has been suggested that our basketball facilities alone greatly enhance Greater Shepparton's ability to host state and/or national tournaments. We will explore how we can share use of our facilities with the wider community once our students and staff are settled into their new school.

Are younger students able to have access to a microwave to heat up their food?

We are sourcing suitable food heating option for our younger students.

Where is Hands-On Learning going to be based?

Hands-On Learning will initially take place across GSSC. Our metalwork, carpentry and welding, along with ceramics, textiles, art, multi-media learning spaces, science labs and a commercial-grade kitchen, are located in the Enterprise and Innovation Centre. However, we also have science, food technology, art, movement spaces and a Learning Resource Centre (library) in each Neighbourhood.

Will students with diabetes be able to have access to a lift fob so they can get to house reception without compromising their blood sugar levels by using the stairs?

Any student with a medical need will be provided with a fob to have lift access. Please make an appointment with Robyn McCully (Wellbeing Leader).

Will shade sails be installed to provide more shade?

This was a *VERY* common question during our site tours. While our tours took place in very hot, humid and sunny conditions, and our buildings provide varying levels of shade at different times of the day, we certainly understood our families want more shade provision.

To that end we have been successful in obtaining State Government funding for more shade sail installation. We are also re-purposing shade sails we own (from former school sites) to GSSC. It should be noted that students may remain indoors on the Ground Floor for recess times should they prefer.

Will students be able to use canteens from other Neighbourhoods or are they to use their own exclusively?

As the canteens will be supplied from a central GSSC kitchen, all Neighbourhood canteens will be stocked in the same way. We ask that students use the canteen in the Neighbourhood they belong. There will be no need to access a canteen outside of GSSC.

What is being done about student security and to manage supervision of all students across the large site?

Student safety and wellbeing are an absolute priority at GSSC, and our new campus is designed for excellent supervision. Within our Neighbourhoods, our teachers' offices have very good "sight lines" to allow informal supervision. At other times and during student breaks, we have rostered yard duty. The large site is fenced for added security, ensuring our students remain on site and denying access to those not associated with the school.

Our school also has around 350 staff, including teachers and support staff. All are aware that their job includes ensuring student safety. Apart from our House reception areas, our Neighbourhoods also have staff and offices dedicated for student wellbeing; a priority is ensuring all students know where they can access such assistance should they need it.

Who can use the House common area?

Our roof-top gardens are available to our Year 12 students, given their status as the senior students at GSSC. From time to time, some teachers may elect to use these spaces for learning.

Will covered walkways be provided for access between buildings.

GSSC's design limits the need for moving between buildings to access classes, particularly for our younger students. The school is new, and no doubt alterations/additions may be made in the future. However, like many schools, including Notre Dame College, Goulburn Valley Grammar School and many of our primary schools, covered walkways linking all buildings are unlikely to be built.

Will there be cash and card/eftpos accessible at the canteen?

Cash and eftpos cards can be used at the canteen. Mobile phone online payment options will not be accepted in line with the Department of Education Mobile Phone policy.

How many bikes do the bike sheds house?

Our two bike sheds house 100 bikes. GSSC will provide more bike racks if required.

Are there opportunities for parents to volunteer?

GSSC will be looking for opportunities for parents to volunteer at the College. Volunteer opportunities will be posted on Compass in the future.