

Tuesday 9 September 2025

## Announcement regarding Head of Junior School | Corio Campus

Dear Families and Friends of Bostock House,

In anticipation of opening our new Junior School at the Corio Campus, I write to announce the appointment of Ms Sondra Wolfenden as the inaugural Head of Junior School (HoJS) at Geelong Grammar School (GGS).

Sondra has over 30 years of experience as an educator and school leader across the State and Independent sectors and joins us following eight highly successful years in the position of HoJS at The Geelong College.

During our rigorous recruitment processes, Sondra impressed each panel with the depth and breadth of her experiences, and her vision to actualise our new Junior School at Corio. She is genuinely energised by the opportunity to create learning environments where every child feels a deep sense of belonging, purpose, and possibility.

As is our *light blue* way, I know you will join me in warmly welcoming Sondra to the GGS in 2026. In accepting this new position at GGS, Sondra notes:

I am delighted to be joining Geelong Grammar School as the new Head of Junior School at Corio Campus. I am drawn to the School's rich history, strong values, and commitment to fostering meaningful connections across its community. The opportunity to contribute to a school that values relationships, collaboration, and holistic learning is deeply motivating.

This is an especially exciting time for me to join the Geelong Grammar School community as we transition to the new Junior School site. I deeply respect the history and values of Bostock House and am committed to nurturing its strong sense of identity and community as we embark on this next chapter together. The new Junior School offers a unique opportunity to create spaces that inspire children to be courageous and curious learners — connecting them to culture, land, and environment, with Adventure Education at the heart of how they explore and engage with the world around them. The Primary Years Programme (PYP) complements this vision beautifully, offering an inquiry-based framework that inspires curiosity, empowers children to ask big questions, and develops the skills they need to thrive — academically, socially, and emotionally.

I am excited to work alongside staff, students, and families to shape a Junior School learning community where children are empowered to explore, question, and imagine what's possible. Drawing on my experience supporting innovative pedagogies and championing approaches such as Reggio Emilia, nature-based learning, and Positive Education, I look forward to building on the school's strengths and contributing to a vibrant, inclusive, and future-focused community.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to Rachael Dewhurst for her leadership as Head of Bostock House. For 8 years she has cared for our Bostock students and supported the School to meet its aspirations of a new Junior School model, as well as achieve PYP accreditation. Rachael is grateful for her time leading the Bostock House community and is using this period of transition to seek new opportunities closer to home.

We will celebrate Rachael's leadership at Bostock House once the site officially closes in 2026. She looks forward to supporting a smooth transition from Bostock to Corio, and to seeing the Junior School thrive.

As ever, I look forward to reconnecting with you all soon – our 2025 Athletics Day at Corio this Sunday promises to be a calendar highlight!

Yours sincerely,

