

# MORAWA DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOL

*Endeavour and Achieve*

Your rural gateway to opportunity ...



In 2015, Year 7 students who attend WA public schools will move in to secondary schools. Our transitional program to help students make the move is an on-going process. It will begin with an Orientation Day on Wednesday, September 3.

An Orientation Camp will be held on October 3 and 4 at the Charles Darwin Reserve (White Wells Station), in Week 4, Term 4.

The decision to move Year 7s into secondary school is designed to provide students with access to specialist teachers and facilities, advantages already shared by their peers in private and Catholic schools, and in other schools across the country.

## A day in the life ...

As a Year 7 student in a secondary school, your child will be introduced to new and more demanding mathematical concepts including formal algebra and geometry, and will study biology and physical sciences including mixing chemicals using specialised equipment.

They will also have access to a diverse range of learning experiences such as computer science, food science, woodwork and metalwork. Our school staff are working hard to provide exciting new opportunities for your child.

At Morawa District High we will aim to make the transition from Primary School as smooth and enjoyable as possible. We believe the planned structure of our program for Year 7 students will enable them to develop sustained relationships with a minimal number of teachers. The design and delivery of the curriculum will challenge and engage our students to achieve their very best.

If you have any questions about the move, I encourage you to visit the Department's parent website at [det.wa.edu.au/schoolsandyou](http://det.wa.edu.au/schoolsandyou) or make a time to meet with me or another member of our school leadership team.

**Tonia Carslake, Principal**

*Towards 2015 ...*

## Year 7 Transitional Program

Orientation Day, September 3      Orientation Camp, November 6 and 7  
Academic Transition Day, November 26

### The challenge ...

At the beginning of High School children face numerous challenges. As well as dealing with maturing emotions, a changing body and more complex intellectual concepts, young adolescents are entering a new stage in their educational life. Making the transition from the protection and comfort of primary school to the relative freedom and independence of high school can be challenging, to say the least.

### The approach ...

At Morawa District High School we see Grade 7 as a pivotal year in a young adolescent's development. It is a year of transition, when they are in need of challenges and opportunities, yet often at their most vulnerable, and therefore in need of structure and guidance. Our plan for the move responds to the developmental needs of adolescents by providing caring relationships, high expectations and support, and offering enrichment and exploratory options with socially-relevant learning opportunities.

### The environment ...

Our Year 7 students will be provided with a Form Room specifically designed to meet the developmental needs of young adolescents. The room will be the focus of many of the Year 7s' English, Maths, Science and Society and Environment activities. It is set in the Administration Area and though it is geographically separated from the more senior secondary classes, it will provide a welcoming and nurturing environment that gently opens students up to the wider experiences of the secondary school.

### The teachers ...

Just as in primary school, our Year 7 students will have a Form Teacher who will be responsible for their overall welfare, and who will be especially aware of the new challenges that Secondary School brings. The form teacher will work with another teacher to present lessons in the four core subjects but will also work to ensure that each child in their class is known, listened to and understood. They will go out of their way to help Grade 7 students handle new pressures in all facets of their life, from understanding their changing roles within their communities, to the conflicting messages they receive through popular culture. Students will also have specialist teachers to oversee their learning in the arts, design and technology, physical education, health, music and a language other than English.

### The balance ...

Our transition program is being carefully planned to provide a balance of focused academic work, and the vigorous pursuit of areas of interest both inside and outside of the classroom. Every student in Year 7 will have the opportunity to audition for our award-winning Brass Band and to sit testing for the Education Department Gifted and Talented Education program. We also plan to offer specialist sport options, visual arts, performing arts and ICT Literacy, and will encourage students to become involved in school activities such as public speaking, debating. A special afternoon will also be held early in the year to help create a sense of a shared experience and give students the opportunity to group team building activities.

### The expectations...

Year 7 students all over the nation have demonstrated that they are more than capable of succeeding in a secondary setting. By fostering a supportive, caring network of parents and carers, teachers and students we believe Morawa District High School will ably support our Year 7 students as they move towards academic and personal excellence.

**Morawa District High School**  
**Transition Day 1, Wednesday, September 3, 2014**  
**Years 7 and 8 Students 2015**

**Welcome and Orientation Meeting**  
**with Miss Wheatley and Miss Osborn**

**Performing Arts Centre**

**Year 6, 2014**

**Year 7, 2014**

**Period 1**  
**Orientation Activities**  
**Miss Wheatley**

**Period 2**  
**Design and Technology**  
**Mr. Jones**

**Period 3**  
**Art**  
**Mrs. Inbaseelan**

**Period 4**  
**Music/Home Economics**  
**Mr. Parkinson**  
**Mrs. Carslake**

**Period 5**  
**S&E/Maths**  
**Mr. Manuel/  
Miss O'Halloran**

**Period 6**  
**Science**  
**Mr. Skillen**

**Period 7**  
**English**  
**Mrs. McCarthy**

Just as in primary school, our Year 7 and 8 students will have a Classroom Form Teacher who will be responsible for their overall welfare, and who will be especially aware of the new challenges that Secondary School brings.

The form teacher will work with another teacher to present lessons in the four core subjects but will also work to ensure that each child in their class is known, listened to and understood.

Staff will help students handle new pressures in all facets of their life, from understanding their changing roles within their communities, to the conflicting messages they receive through popular culture. Students will also have specialist teachers to oversee their learning in the arts, design and technology, physical education, health, music and a language other than English.

We hope you enjoy your day with us!

**Period 1**  
**Orientation Activities**  
**Miss Osborn**

**Period 2**  
**Art**  
**Mrs. Inbaseelan**

**Period 3**  
**Design and Technology**  
**Mr. Jones**

**Period 4**  
**Home Economics/Music**  
**Mrs. Carslake**  
**Mr. Parkinson**

**Period 5**  
**Maths/S&E**  
**Miss O'Halloran/  
Mr. Manuel**

**Period 6**  
**English**  
**Mrs. McCarthy**

**Period 7**  
**Science**  
**Mr. Skillen**

**2.30 pm School Early Close**