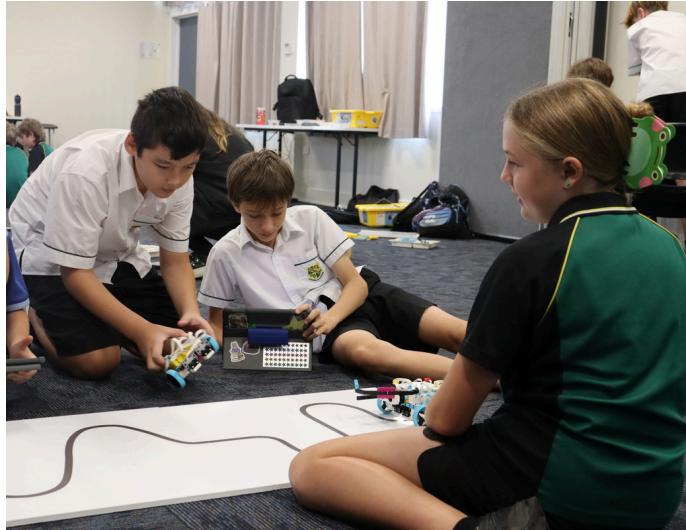




Parent Information Handbook 2026



Respect

Responsibility

Learning

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Welcome to Kepnock State High School

Kepnock State High School is proud to serve our community offering a dynamic and flexible learning environment that fosters innovation and excellence. With a student population of approximately 1,100, we are committed to providing a well-rounded education that supports academic success, personal growth, and future aspirations.

Situated within Bundaberg's coastal strip, Kepnock High offers a comprehensive curriculum that caters to all students — whether they are pursuing tertiary education, vocational training, or essential employability skills. Our vision of "a creative, confident, and resilient community of learners prepared for the future" drives everything we do. We recognise that every student is unique, and we tailor learning opportunities to equip them with the adaptability needed to thrive in a changing world.

As a Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL) school, we create a supportive and structured learning environment that reinforces positive behaviour and encourages students to make responsible choices. Our core values - Respect, Responsibility, and Learning - are embedded in our daily practices and expectations. Beginning in 2026, students will take part in a 10-minute mid-morning Check and Connect class with the same teacher and group of peers, building strong, supportive relationships between students, staff and families. Through our PE@K (Positive Experiences at Kepnock) program, we foster the personal and social skills necessary for students to become engaged, respectful, and resilient citizens.

Our school motto, "Success is Earned," reflects our belief that with effort, dedication, and support, every student can achieve their personal best. Strong partnerships between parents, teachers, and students are key to ensuring that every young person at Kepnock State High School is empowered to reach their full potential.

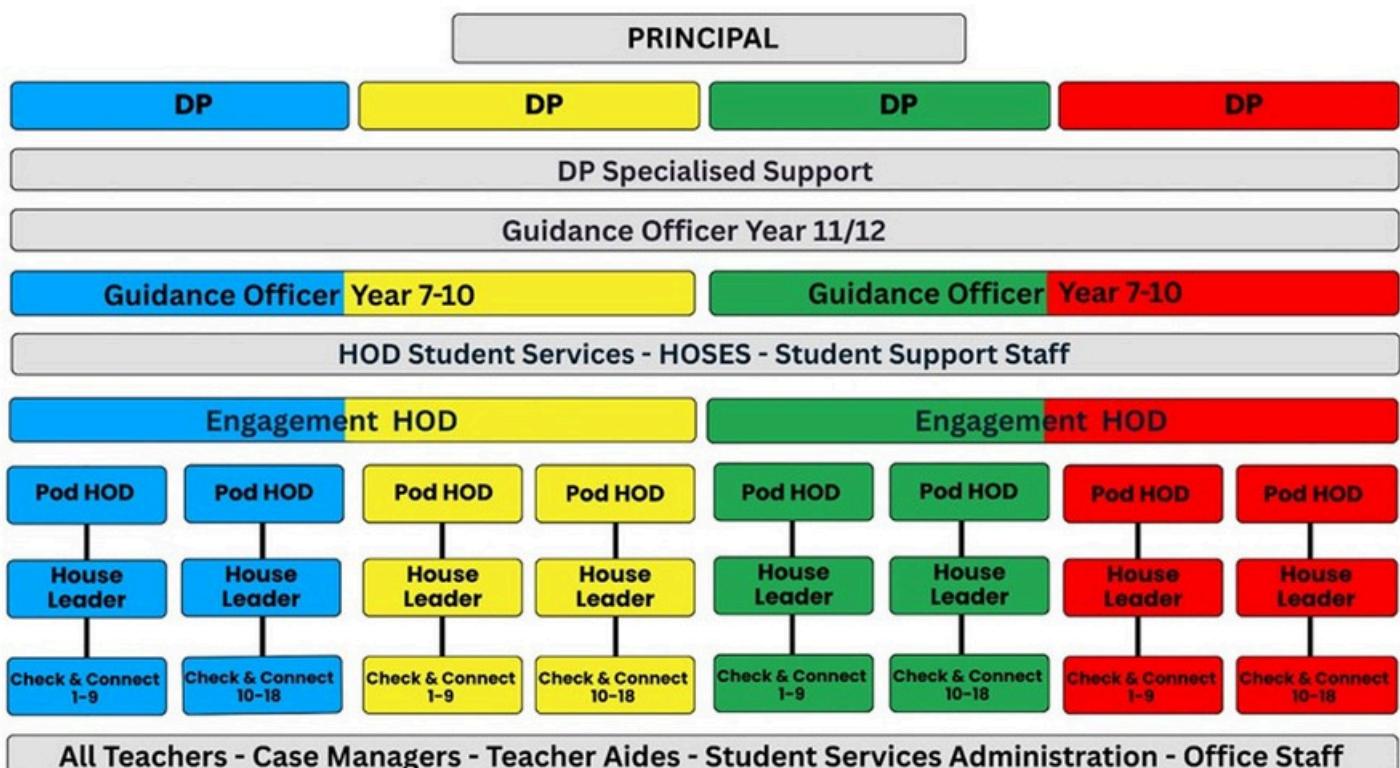
On behalf of the entire school community, I extend a warm welcome to you and your family. We look forward to working together to make your child's high school experience rewarding and successful.

Chris Norris
Principal

School Vision

A creative, confident and resilient community of learners prepared for the future. At Kepnock State High School our focus is belonging and engagement for all students, staff and community members through our vertical house structure.

2026 Vertical Structure - Belonging and Engagement



Lassig Sharks: The Sharks honour Rosemary Lassig, an accomplished Australian breaststroke swimmer who won silver in the 4 x 100m medley relay at the 1960 Rome Olympics.

Hazard Hawks: Named in recognition of Noel Hazard, the Hawks celebrate an Australian rugby league international and Queensland representative honoured in the Bundaberg Rugby League Team of the Century.

Tallon Tigers: Our Tigers pay tribute to Donald "Don" Tallon, a legendary Australian wicket-keeper who began his career in Bundaberg and toured with Don Bradman's Invincibles in 1948.

Miles Mustangs: Representing speed and excellence, the Mustangs are named after Bundaberg-born sprinter Thomas John "TJ" Miles, winner of the 1927 Stawell Gift and 1928 World Champion.

Key Staff

Executive Team

Principal	Chris Norris
Deputy Principal	Chris Bull
Deputy Principal	Andrew Millis
Deputy Principal	Peter Gear
Deputy Principal	Lynne Madle
Deputy Principal	Lee-Anne O'Leary
Business Manager	Stephen Bargenquast

Heads of Department

Agricultural and Home Economics	Greg Foster
English and Languages	Leanne Mackey
Health and Physical Education	Tom Murray
Humanities	Darlene Hill
Mathematics	Amanda O'Donnell (Acting)
Science	Paul Brandon
Specialised Support	Jodi Holt
Student Services	Tricia Murray
Technology and ITD	Jamie Irvine
The Arts	Jess Newitt

Engagement Heads of Department

Dannia Hibbert
Kelli Parr
Deborah Giddens

Guidance Officers

Dan Baillie
Gretchen Baldwin
Lauren Bird

House Leaders

Damien Murphy	Berny Crust
Mark Rogers	Indi Hibbert
Liam Kronk	Joslin McDonald
Tom van Rooden	Nick Sailor

Support Services

Chaplain	Ariel Vakaduadua
Community Education Counsellor	Craig Currie
School Based Health Nurse	Retha de Beer
School Based Police Officer	Mitch Curran
Wellbeing Professional	Callum Lahey-Dillon
Youth Support Coordinator	Skye Zielke

Please note: this information was correct at the time of printing and may change.

Curriculum and Programs

A comprehensive range of subjects are offered across Years 7 to 12. For further information about senior subjects, please refer to our website <https://kepnockshs.eq.edu.au/curriculum/senior-secondary/year-11-and-12-subject-selections> or contact the school.

- Languages offered include English programs tailored to each student's academic goals, as well as Japanese and German
- Mathematics including Mathematical Methods and Specialist Mathematics in Senior
- Science including Physics, Biology and Chemistry and Aquatic Practices in Senior
- Information and Communication Technology including Business, Business Studies, Digital Solutions in Senior
- History and Geography including Ancient and Modern History, Legal Studies and Psychology in Senior
- Health and Physical Education including Sport and Recreation and Certificate III in Fitness in Senior
- Industrial Technology including Building and Constructions Skills, Furnishing and Industrial Graphics in Senior
- Agricultural Science and Agricultural Practices
- Home Economics including Fashion and Hospitality Practices in Senior
- The Arts; Dance, Drama, Music, Media Arts and Visual Art including Arts in Practice, Music in Practice and Visual Arts in Practice, Visual Arts, Dance, Drama, Film & TV and New Media in Senior

ACE Program

The Academic Challenge and Excellence (ACE) program offers high-achieving students' opportunities to extend and challenge themselves in English, Mathematics, and Science. Designed to foster both academic growth and engagement, the program provides a stimulating and supportive learning environment. Through the use of cutting-edge information and communication technologies, ACE empowers students to reach their full potential in alignment with their abilities.

Sports Development Program

The Sports Development Program at Kepnock State High School is designed to foster both academic and athletic excellence in Junior Secondary students. This dynamic and flexible program challenges and engages students who demonstrate strong potential in both areas. Participants gain exposure to a variety of sports, fitness testing programs, physical conditioning, sports psychology, biomechanics, and ethical practices. By developing key skills and knowledge, students in the Sports Development Program will be well-prepared for the Senior Physical Education course and better positioned for success in their chosen sport.

Instrumental Music Program

The Kepnock State High School Instrumental Music Program offers students an enriching opportunity to develop musical skills, creativity and confidence through learning instrument and performing in high-quality ensembles. Students take part in rehearsals, concerts, school ceremonies, competitions and community events, building teamwork, discipline and a strong sense of achievement. The program caters for a wide range of ability levels and supports students as they progress through increasingly complex techniques and diverse musical styles. With dedicated specialist teachers and access to school instruments, students are empowered to explore their musical potential in a supportive and inspiring environment.

Check and Connect

Beginning in 2026, students will take part in a 10-minute mid-morning Check and Connect class with the same teacher and group of peers, building strong, supportive relationships between students, staff and families. Wherever possible, students remain with the same group and adult mentor throughout their high school journey to build consistency and trust. Supporting the vertical house structure, Check and Connect classes foster collaboration and communication between students of all ages, strengthening Kepnock's community spirit.

Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL)

Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL) is a whole-school framework that promotes positive behaviour across a school and helps schools develop safe and supportive learning environments. Schools which implement the PBL framework make sure all students are explicitly taught the expected behaviours and establish clear and consistent boundaries. Staff take a proactive, preventative approach to ensure all students receive the appropriate level of support to help them to be successful at school. Student outcomes are monitored so identified students can receive additional support when needed, and a minority of students can access intensive support to enable them to engage successfully at school. The PBL Framework also enables the school to promote a respectful and inclusive culture where bullying is not accepted.

PE@K – Positive Experiences at Kepnock

PE@K is Kepnock's whole-school program that assists students in achieving positive learning outcomes. It provides strategies to build more resilient students whilst developing their character strengths, mindfulness and higher order thinking skills. Weekly PE@K lessons are utilised to focus on social and emotional resilience, relationships, personal strengths and emotions, wellbeing and habit of mind.



Success is Earned

iPads

Kepnock State High School is an 'iPad school' utilising an iPad home-use program, to support student access to resources and educational engagement. To ensure the acceptable use of ICT access, software and the school network, all students enrolled at Kepnock State High School will be restricted to using a school issued iPad. Students are provided with an iPad through the Student Resource Scheme, at the start of Year 7 and again at the end of Year 9 ready for senior schooling. If a parent/carer chooses not to participate in the Student Resource Scheme, the student will have the option to 'daily hire' a device for learning.

iPads inspire hands-on learning, promote creativity, and support personalised education across various subjects. With access to a vast and growing range of educational resources, students can engage in interactive learning experiences tailored to their needs. This technology enables teachers to enhance their programs, equipping students with essential skills for the modern world.

Beyond the classroom, iPads encourage student engagement, boost confidence, and provide valuable feedback. They also foster 21st-century learning skills, such as collaboration, teamwork, innovation, and digital publishing. At Kepnock, 1:1 learning is about enhancing education—not just technology. For IT support, students can visit J Block or email ipadenquiries@kepnockshs.eq.edu.au, while the iPad counter is located in the library.

What is included in the iPad Program?

- Students who participate in the iPad program at Kepnock will receive:
- Apple iPad (all students in the same year level have the same model iPad)
- STM DUX Plus Duo iPad case (or equivalent)
- Screen Protection (for iPads issued from 2020)
- 3 year AppleCare+ warranty and support (from time of purchase)
- School based technical support

Personal Electronic Devices

In line with the "Away for the Day" policy in all Queensland state schools, mobile phones and smartwatches must remain secured and unused during school hours. Upon enrolment, each student will receive a magnetic-lock phone pouch. Mobile devices must be locked in these pouches before entering their first class and can only be unlocked at designated stations around the school at the end of the school day.

- **If your child will not be bringing a device to school**, please inform the school administration.
- **If a student forgets their pouch**, they must report to Student Services to borrow one for the day.
- **If a pouch is lost**, a replacement can be purchased from the cashier for \$15.

Facilities

Kepnock State High School offers a wide variety of modern, purpose-built facilities to ensure students have access to the best possible educational opportunities. This includes facilities dedicated to curriculum specific learning, such as science laboratories, library and resource centre, gymnasium, sports hall, performing arts hall, purpose-built drama/dance rooms, outdoor performance spaces, visual art precinct, catering kitchens and restaurant, industrial technology and design building.

Multi-Purpose Hall / Pool

Kepnock has a proud reputation of strong sporting traditions. The school offers a modern multi-purpose facility with multiple sporting spaces and classroom learning spaces. Students utilise the multi-purpose hall to participate in Health and Physical Education classes, as well as senior subject specialisations. Students can access the space at rostered break times, team training team and representative sports. The school has a large oval and a 25metre swimming pool on site.



Your Child's Opportunities at Kepnock

Kepnock State High School has a vibrant student life to bring everyone together through activities and events. Our supportive community fosters the academic, social-emotional, artistic, sporting and personal success of our students. Extra-curricular opportunities:

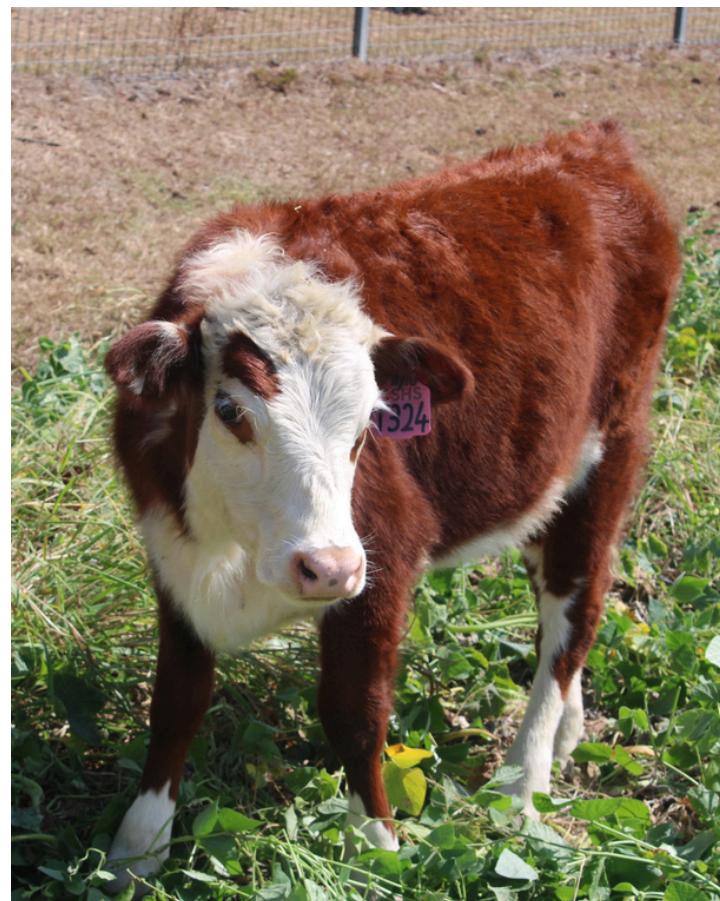
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Access to Mathematics and English Tutoring• Debating Team and academic extension• English and Mathematics competitions• Science and Engineering competitions• Performing and Visual Arts competitions• Public speaking events and competitions• Reef Guardian School• National Science Week• Guest Speakers and enrichment programs• Robotics Club and Interschool events	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mental Health Week• National Day of Action Against Bullying/Anti-Bullying Week initiatives• School camps• Interschool sport• Athletics, Swimming and Cross-Country Carnivals• Kokoda Trek Challenge• Fundraising events for charities (World's Greatest Shave)• House competitions• Rewards days and trips• Fitness groups in the gym• Lunchtime games and activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• First Nations Events and opportunities• NAIDOC Week celebrations• Cultural opportunities and international experiences• Language and cultural trips to Japan and Germany• ANZAC Day Ceremony• Drama Club• Dance Club• Visual Art Club• Photography Club
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Agricultural Facilities

The Agricultural Department at Kepnock State High School offers students access to a variety of opportunities across the Year 7 – 12 curriculum. The ‘farm’ boasts cattle yards, multiple fenced paddocks, a vast array of field crops and a new greenhouse with hydroponics installed in 2024. Students are engaged in programs working with cattle and chickens, as well as the full scope of crop production. The school has agribusiness connections with the local community, other schools and organisations to ensure authentic and purposeful learning.



Industrial Technology and Design Building

Kepnock State High School's brand-new Industrial Technology and Design (ITD) Building officially opened its doors in late 2024, marking a major milestone after many years of planning and development. The project had been part of the school's strategic infrastructure plan for some time before gaining approval in late 2021. Throughout 2022, the design team worked meticulously to create a state-of-the-art facility that would enhance student learning and provide cutting-edge resources right in the heart of Bundaberg. Construction commenced in 2023, with the building reaching completion in late 2024. The result is a modern, innovative fully air-contained space designed to give students access to high-quality equipment and learning environments that support hands-on education in industrial technology and design.



Communication

Effective communication between school and home is essential in supporting student success. Teachers will regularly communicate with families via phone or email regarding curriculum, wellbeing and student progress and staff will endeavour to respond to parent and carer enquiries within two school days.

It is vital that families read all correspondence sent by the school, including emails and our weekly newsletter, *Kepnock in the Know*, which is shared by the Principal and provides important updates, key dates, celebrations and school information. Families are also encouraged to follow Kepnock State High School on Facebook to stay informed about upcoming events, achievements and community celebrations.

Families are strongly encouraged to register for [QParents](#), our online portal that provides access to important student information such as attendance, reports and notices. Details on how to register are included in the Year 7 Orientation Pack and are also available from the Administration Office.

At Kepnock State High School, regular parades are held to communicate important messages, host guest presenters and celebrate student achievements. These may be year level, house-based or whole school parades, depending on their purpose. Students are informed of upcoming parades through DayMap, the school's online student management system used to share messages, notices, timetables and key updates, as well as via email. All students are expected to check their DayMap messages daily to remain informed of school events, expectations and any schedule changes.

If you have any questions, please contact the school via the main office number and you will be directed to the appropriate staff member.

**KEPNOCK
IN THE KNOW**



School Term Dates 2026

Term	Date	Length
Term 1	Tuesday 27 January to Thursday 2 April	10 weeks
Term 2	Monday 20 April to Friday 26 June	10 weeks
Term 3	Monday 13 July to Friday 18 September	10 weeks
Term 4	Tuesday 6 October to Friday 11 December	10 weeks

Day Structure

Period	Length of Period	Monday to Thursday	Friday
Early Morning Class (Year 11 and 12 only)	30 minutes	8.30 am – 9.00 am	No Year 11/12 students (Flexi Day)
Period 1	70 minutes	9.00 am – 10.10 am	9.00 am – 10.10 am
Recess	10 minutes	10.10am – 10.20am	10.10am – 10.20am
Check & Connect	10 minutes	10.20 am – 10.30 am	10.20 am – 10.30 am
Period 2	70 minutes	10.30 am – 11.40 am	10.30 am – 11.40 am
First Lunch	30 minutes	11.40 am – 12.10 pm	11.40 am – 12.10 pm
Period 3	70 minutes	12.10 pm – 1.20 pm	12.10 pm – 1.20 pm
Second Lunch	30 minutes	1.20 pm – 1.50 pm	1.20 pm – 1.50 pm
Period 4	70 minutes	1.50 pm – 3.00 pm	1.50 pm – 3.00 pm

Student Resource Scheme

The Student Resource Scheme (SRS) provides students with essential resources to support their learning. This includes:

- Hardcopy and online textbooks
- Materials for subjects such as Visual Art, Industrial Technologies, and Home Economics
- Other student-related expenses (excluding excursions)
- Internet access, including electronic learning materials and software
- Printing credits

Details of the Student Resource Scheme, including costs based on year level, are included in enrolment packs and available on the school's website.

<https://kepnockshs.eq.edu.au/curriculum/junior-secondary>

Stationery

Parents and guardians are responsible for purchasing the required stationery and subject-specific items to ensure their child is prepared for school each year. Stationery lists for all year levels are included in enrolment packs and can also be accessed on the school's website.

Costs will vary depending on the student's year level.

<https://kepnockshs.eq.edu.au/curriculum/junior-secondary>

Payments

Statements and invoices will be emailed to families. Payments can be made using the following methods:

- In person – At the cashier in the main administration building.
- Online – Via BPoint direct debit (details provided on emailed statements/invoices).
- Centrepay – Forms are included in enrolment packs, available from the main administration building, or downloadable from the school website

For any enquiries, please contact the school cashier by phoning 07 4131 1808 or email accounts@kepnockshs.eq.edu.au

Uniforms

Kepnock State High School has a dress code that outlines uniform expectations. It is our expectation that students will wear the appropriate school uniform every day. The Parents' and Citizens' Association has endorsed the current uniform. It is our expectation that students comply with all aspects of our dress code, including footwear, jewellery, make-up, hairstyle etc. For a full description of uniforms and expectations, please refer to the school website:

<https://kepnockshs.eq.edu.au/our-school/rules-and-policies>

Canteen and Uniform Shop

The P&C Association manages the daily operations of the school canteen, which is open every morning before classes and during both scheduled breaks. The canteen offers a diverse and ever-changing daily menu that showcases a variety of healthy contemporary foods, all prepared fresh on-site. To make our Canteen operations smooth and efficient, we rely on the dedication of volunteers. If you can spare a few hours to assist, please reach out to us at 4131 1823. Please note we do not currently offer online ordering. To enjoy our delectable offerings, students can make purchases using a physical EFTPOS card or cash.

The uniform shop operates from the school canteen and is open daily from 7:30 am to 2:30 pm.

P & C Committee

At Kepnock State High School, our Parents & Citizens Association (P&C) plays a vital role in supporting and advocating for our school community. A small but dedicated group of parents and community members meet monthly to explore ways to contribute to the school's ongoing improvement.

The Kepnock P&C manages the school canteen, which serves as its primary source of funding. Contributions from the P&C have supported significant school improvements, including upgrades to facilities, equipment, and student resources.

Meetings are held on the fourth Thursday of every month at 5.00 pm in the Conference Room, A Block. New members are always welcome!

What to do when:

My student will be absent

If students are absent from school at any time, parents/guardian should advise Student Services by 9.30 am and provide a satisfactory explanation for the absence. For all contacts parents/guardians must provide:

- Students full name
- Year level
- A short message about the dates and duration of student absence.

Contact options:

- Student absence line 41311 809
- Student absence SMS 0403 184 359
- Student absence email studentabsence@kepnockshs.eq.edu.au
- In person
- Provide a written note

My student will be late to school

Students arriving late to school must present to Student Services to receive a 'Late Pass' to present to their classroom teacher. Parents will need to inform the school with reason for being late either in person, a note or through the contact options listed above.

My student will be leaving early

To leave early student must have parent/guardian permission with either a parent present, have a note or contact made via the above contact options and present to Student Services before school to collect a 'Leave Request' slip. The student then returns to Student Services with the slip after their teacher releases them from class at the designated time. If the time of departure is during a break time, the student is to go to Student Services at the required time.

My student is unwell at school or requires first aid

If a student becomes ill or sustains an injury during the school day, they must report immediately to Student Services, where basic first aid and care will be provided.

- If a student's condition requires further medical attention, parents will be contacted to collect them.
- In cases where an injury or condition is deemed serious, the school may call an ambulance at its discretion.
- Parents are encouraged not to send unwell students to school. If a student falls ill during the day, they will be signed into the sick bay, and office staff will notify parents to collect

What to do when:

My student requires medication

All medication must be handed in to Student Services upon arrival at school.

- A parent or guardian must complete and sign an Administration of Medication at School Record Sheet.
- Medication must be provided in its original packaging, with a pharmacy label displaying the student's name and medical instructions.
- Students must go to Student Services when it is time to take their medication

My student does not have correct uniform

If a student is not wearing the correct uniform, parents must send a note or contact Student Services explaining the reason. A uniform pass will then be issued for the student to show staff if needed. For long-term uniform concerns, students must speak with their House Leaders to address the issue.

I need to give my student a message

To ensure smooth communication with your students, please arrange activities prior to the students' arrival at school, send emails, or leave SMS messages on their phones to be checked at the end of the school days. Accordingly, messages will only be conveyed to students in class in an emergency circumstance as the school does not want to interrupt learning by conveying messages to students in class.

I have a delivery for my student

All deliveries including lunches from parents to students must be made through Student Services. Deliveries from third-party services such as DoorDash, Uber Eats or similar are not permitted.

Contact Us

Telephone

07 4131 1888

Office hours

8:00am to 4:00pm Mon - Fri

Address

43 Kepnock Road, Kepnock QLD 4670

Postal address

PO Box 4310, Bundaberg South, QLD 4670

Email

principal@kepnockshs.eq.edu.au

Website

www.kepnockshs.eq.edu.au

Student absences email

studentabsence@kepnockshs.eq.edu.au

Student absences phone

07 4131 1809

Student absences SMS

0403 184 359

iPad enquiries

ipadenquiries@kepnockshs.eq.edu.edu

School accounts

accounts@kepnockshs.eq.edu.au

KEPNOCK STATE HIGH SCHOOL



2026

School calendar

Queensland state schools

DECEMBER 2025	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL
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MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER
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OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER	JANUARY 2027	FEBRUARY 2027
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 School holidays

 Public holidays

 Staff professional development/student free days

 Part public holiday after 6 pm

 Bundaberg Show Holiday 28th May

There are 195 school days in 2026.

Semester 1, 2026 commences for teachers on 22 January and for students on 27 January.

Staff professional development days

Staff professional development days for teachers are 22 and 23 January, 16 and 17 April and 4 September 2026. Schools are able to decide when they undertake the required hours for professional development for the flexible days, as long as they are on the flexible days, in the school holidays or out of school hours.

Public holidays

Queensland public holidays are set by the Minister for Industrial Relations.

Public holidays for local show days are not shown due to diversity of dates across the state.

Final dates for student attendance

20 November is the final date for Year 12 attendance for receipt of a Senior Statement. 27 November is the final date for student attendance in Years 10 and 11.

Some schools in regional, rural and remote areas will close for the summer holidays on 4 December.

The information in this calendar was correct at the time of publication but may be subject to change.

For more information and the latest version of this calendar, visit

www.education.qld.gov.au



KEPNOCK

STATE HIGH SCHOOL

