

## Important Dates

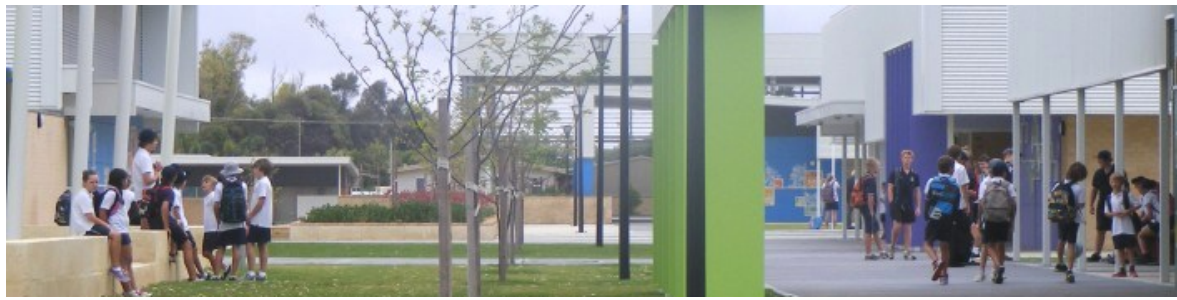
**23rd February**  
Yr 7 & 10  
Immunisations

**25th February**  
Yr 1—12  
Surf Carnival

**2nd March**  
Labour Day  
Public Holiday

**3rd March**  
Assembly—Leander/  
Nhargo

**9th March**  
NAPLAN Begins



# DONGARA DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOL

*An Independent Public School*

NEWSLETTER 19th February 2026

## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

We have had a great start to the school year. Welcome to our new and returning students and their families. Welcome to our new staff **Ms Rachel Thorburn**—Secondary Teacher, **Mrs Amanda Evans**—IT Technician, **Ms Ruby Blakeway**—School Psychologist and **Mrs Leanne McCuish**—Home Ec Assistant Term 1.



**Welcome to school!**

I am pleased to announce that the **Dongara DHS Breakfast Club** will commence on **23 February**. Information has been sent home via Parent Connect, our socials and is on the next page of this newsletter.

This year we are having a focus on **improved student attendance**. Parent support is essential for us to achieve this goal. Parents, please explain all absences in a timely manner.

### It's **NOT** OK to miss school if your child:

- is celebrating a birthday
- is going on a family holiday
- is visiting family and friends
- has slept in or had a big weekend
- is looking after other children
- has sport or other recreational activities that have not been approved by the school
- has appointments such as haircuts and minor check ups
- If possible, routine medical and other health appointments should be made either before or after school, or during the school holidays.

The Department of Education WA considers regular attendance to be 90% or higher. I am delighted to let you know that our whole school attendance is currently at **86.1%**....so close to 90%. Come on Dongara DHS, we can do this! **I look forward to a whole celebration when we reach 90% Attendance.**

Congratulations to our newly elected House Captains:

#### YEAR 3

**IRWIN** Mila Colley, Sally Bechard  
**LEANDER** Charlotte Ausburn, Koby Lawson

**MILO** Frankie Haug, Ava Redbond  
**NHARGO** Jet Mallard

#### YEAR 6

**IRWIN** Indiana Bailey, Brodie Hathaway

**LEANDER** Norah Goedecke, Merooshi Parimal

**MILO** Miller Haug, Coen Munro

**NHARGO** Lucy Couper, Rory Griggs

#### SECONDARY

**IRWIN** Sophie Lewis, Jayda Lewis  
**LEANDER** Darcy Giltrow, Campbell Wass

**MILO** Darcy Criddle, Dusty French

**NHARGO** Tahlia Morton, Fraser Haddow

Our **year 1-12 Surf Carnival** is next **Wednesday 25 February** at **South Beach**. Information was sent home via Parent Connect and Seesaw. The surf carnival is considered a normal school day and students are expected to attend. If your child is unable to attend please explain their absence in a timely manner. Unexplained or not approved absences will impact on **Good Standing**.

Our **next year 1-12** assembly will be held on **Tuesday 3 March** and will be hosted by **Nhargo & Leander Home Rooms**.

**GO IRWIN**  
**GO LEANDER**  
**GO MILO**  
**GO NHARGO**

Kind Regards  
*Janine Calver*

*"Achieve with Honour"*

At DDHS we... Choose Respect, Be Responsible, Achieve our Best

13 Cave Way, Dongara, WA, 6525 | T: (08) 9927 7200  
E: Dongara.dhs@education.wa.edu.au | W: www.dongaradhs.wa.edu.au

## Primary Maths & Grammar Books

Order forms for the **2026 Maths and Grammar Books** have gone home last week. Maths Book for Pre-Primary to Year 2 and Maths and Grammar Books for Year 3 to Year 6 students. Please return the order form with **payment to the office**. Payments can be made by **cash, cheque or EFTPOS**.

## Secondary Assistance Scheme

The WA Department of Education provides an **allowance** to assist eligible families with secondary school (**Years 7-12**) costs comprising of Contributions and Charges allowances:

• **\$115 Clothing allowance** paid directly to the parent/guardian or the school

• **\$235 Educational Program Allowance** paid directly to the school

To be eligible for the allowance the parent/guardian must hold one of the following:

- **Centrelink Family Health Care Card**
- **Centrelink Pensioner Concession Card**
- **Veterans' Affairs Pensioner Concession Card**

Parent/Guardian **must** be the holder of a card that is valid during first term. Claims **cannot** be made using a student's Centrelink Card. Application forms are available at the front office.

Applications close **2nd April 2026**

## Truant Students

Students with **lunch passes** are **not** permitted to frequent **shops** or **bakeries** at **lunch time** as the pass only permits them to travel between their **home** and the **school**. Lunch passes are specifically for students to have lunch at their **own home**. Students wishing to **buy** their lunch can do so from the **school canteen**. Consequences will be applied to students misusing lunch passes.

## Student Activities

The **Year 5s E2** have been learning about light in **Physical Sciences**. We made **shadow puppets** and experimented with the properties needed to produce the **best shadows**.

We discovered that if the puppet was made from an opaque object like black card, and we moved it away from a strong, fixed light source closer to a flat surface, it made the shadow smaller, but sharper. It was a super fun Science lesson as you can see from the photos!



## 2026 NAPLAN

**NAPLAN** commences **9th March** to **20th March**. Most of the tests are **online** and students require **earphones** for the testing. If you have a child in **year 3, 5, 7, 9** can you ensure they have earphones at **school** for the **testing**. If you do not want your **child to participate**, please contact the **school** to meet with a **Deputy Principal** to discuss an **exemption**.

## Absentees

**Thank you** to the **parents** who ring and **notify** the **office** in the morning when their **child/ren** are **unwell** or **absent** from school for a particular **reason**. This avoids having to **supply** an **explanation note** upon their **return** to **school** and alleviates the **office** sending you letters concerning **unexplained absences**.

The **office** phone number is **9927 7200** and there is an **answering machine** to leave a **message** if the office is **unattended**, alternatively you can **Email** your child/ren's **absence** [dongara.dhs@education.wa.edu.au](mailto:dongara.dhs@education.wa.edu.au) please include your child/ren's name in your message.

## Connect

**Connect** is a **free** and very safe integrated online environment

developed by the **Department of Education WA** for **staff, students and parents** in **public schools**. It allows **students online** access to learning content, to submit completed work and to **email** their **teacher**. It allows a similar view for **parents**, with some subject assessment results and attendance. It is also a secure method for providing **parents** with important notices from **Dongara DHS**.

The free **Connect Now** app can be downloaded from the **Google Play** or **Apple App Store** and will let you receive **Connect** notices as push notifications, however please be aware, you will have limited access to the full **Connect** content using only the app. The **school suggests** that you **log** into **Connect** via the following **website**

<http://connect.det.wa.edu.au> on any **device** or **desktop computer** to access the full content.

**Parents** not using **Connect** should have **received** an **email** inviting you to **join and register** your account, please note this **Connect** email will come from an automated email [ldmadmin@education.wa.edu.au](mailto:ldmadmin@education.wa.edu.au).

If you have any **queries** or **do not** have a **Connect Log in**, please do not hesitate to **contact** your child's **teacher** or the **front office**.

**Connect Help Information** can be found in the **Library** section once you have logged into **Connect**.

We hope that you enjoy the **Connect** experience and see it as an exciting new way for **you** to **stay in touch** with your **child's** school journey.

## P&C News

Welcome back to school from your P&C. Pre loved uniforms are available for purchase at the Front Office.

CALLING FOR SUPERSTARS

We need enthusiastic volunteers ready to jump into a parent & teacher squad, dedicated to turbocharging our school community. If you're itching to make a splash, meet awesome folks, or share your expertise, then the DDHS P&C wants you! Our door's always open, and we're all ears for your brilliant ideas. Come join the fun.

P&C PRESIDENT TARA WATERS DDHSPC@OUTLOOK.COM 0418 480 579



# Dongara DHS Breakfast Club

... delivers free nutritious breakfast foods to help students start their day fuelling their minds and bodies to learn. Breakfast Club will be a sit down model and students will wash and dry their eating utensils.

Starting Monday 23 February 2026 until the end of the school year.

Where: E Block Activity Area

When: Monday to Friday 8.20-8.45

Who: Years 1-12

Supervised by staff

## Menu

Wheat Bix with milk

Tinned fruit

Hot tinned baked beans or spaghetti

Children may arrive at a time that suits them and eat, socialise, clean up and leave when they are ready.

Parent queries can be directed to Mrs Mark or Mrs Calver on 99277200.

TERM 1 – 2026

WK	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
1	2 Student's Commence Full Moon	3 Chaplain	4	5 Chaplain	6 Chaplain	7	8
2	9 School Psychologist Healthy Lunchbox Week Study Class	10 Chaplain Safer Internet Day	11 Int day of women in Science	12 Chaplain School Psychologist	13 World Radio Day	14 Valentines Day	15
3	16 School Psychologist Ramadan begins Study Class	17 Chinese New Year Assembly S/Council	18 Lent begins Chaplain	19 Chaplain School Psychologist Swim Trials @ Three Springs National Close the Gap Day	20 Chaplain Newsletter	21	22
4	23 School Psychologist 7&10 Immunisations Study Class	24	25 Surf Carnival Chaplain School Board Mtg	26 Chaplain School Psychologist	27 Schools Clean Up Day	28	1 Mar
5	2 Labour Day	3 Assembly – Nhargo/ Leander World Hearing Day Full Moon	4 Chaplain	5 Chaplain School Psychologist	6 Chaplain	7	8
6	9 School Psychologist NAPLAN begins Study Class	10	11 Chaplain	12 Chaplain School Psychologist	13 Newsletter	14	15
7	16 School Psychologist Harmony Week Taiko Drums & Flutes of Japan Inc Library - Last week for borrowing Study Class	17	18 Chaplain	19 Chaplain School Psychologist Solar Car Comp	20 Chaplain Ride2School Day I/school Swimming Carnival Carnamah	21 Harmony Day	22
8	23 School Psychologist Study Class	24 Assembly – Student Council	25 Chaplain	26 Chaplain School Psychologist Epilepsy Awareness Day	27	28	29
9	30 School Psychologist Study Class	31	1 Apr Chaplain School Psychologist School Board Mtg TBC Passover	2 Chaplain School Psychologist Newsletter Full Moon Last day of Term 1	3 Good Friday	4	5

Staff Commence Term 2 – 20 April 2026  
Students Commence Term 2 – 21 April 2026