

# School Spirit: House System, Extra Curricular and Merits and Awards.

## HOUSES!

By Anya Sandeman and Lilla Peterson.

Yr 7 at GHS

Gosford High School House System: all new students will be placed in one of the following four houses:

**Kingsbury** (Red and White)

**Rowe** (Black and White)

**OSU** (Brown and Gold)

**Wheeler** (Green and Gold)

Kingsbury, Wheeler and Rowe are named after past local dignitaries. OSU represents the Old Students Union, who used to sponsor many school events. If you have a sibling at the school already, you are usually placed in the same house. Houses are represented at sporting carnivals and House Games, where you can compete in different activities and win points for your house. At the end of Term 3, house points are tallied up to see which house wins the inaugural HOUSE CUP and is crowned the CHAMPION HOUSE!



## EXTRA CURRICULAR!

Written by Haidee Underwood.

Yr 7 at GHS.

When many people think of a selective high school, they usually think of a very 'academic' school but at Gosford academic acceleration isn't the only benefit. In Year 7 many people tend to avoid extra activities because they want to settle in and adjust to a new workload. However, it is a great idea to join other groups to meet people and make friends, while doing the activities you love. Most of the teams and extra curricular activities meet in school hours at lunch or recess instead of mornings and afternoons, because of the large number of students that travel long distances to school.

Some extra curricular activities include but are not limited to:

**Band** - Band is an exciting thing at GHS offered to those who have never played an instrument before or just want to get back into playing an instrument right up to experienced musicians!

Most woodwind and brass instruments are welcome to band. There are 3 main bands: Concert Band 2, Concert Band 1, Premier Band as well as 2 other bands: Chamber Band which is woodwind instruments and Jazz Band which is brass instruments.

Everyone is welcome and to get into this extra curricular activity you will need to apply. Talk to Mr Kelly and Mrs Partridge for more information.

**Debating** - This year the debating teams were great fun, even online via Zoom! There was one Year 7 team, a Year 8 team, a Year 9 team, a Year 10 team and two Year 11 teams. In the end, the year 7 team beat the Year 8 team in a tournament! This group will be offered for most likely year 8 and over next year but it is a great thing to practice if you want to be part of the team in 2022. Debating is an amazing skill to have and definitely helps with public speaking and speech assessment tasks- so check it out!



**Sporting teams** - Unfortunately, all extracurricular sporting teams had to be cancelled this year due to COVID-19. There is a junior and senior team for a range of sports at GHS, it's very

competitive to get into a team, so you usually have to be really impressive at try-outs! In 2020, there were a few different sports that teams that had been selected even though they couldn't go ahead: girls and boys soccer, cricket, tennis ect. We hope these are back in 2021. Outside of specific sporting teams there is of course sporting carnivals which are always fun! There's the Athletics Carnival, Swimming Carnival and Cross Country. Lots of students also represent the school in Sydney North teams- so if sport is your thing, you will have lots of opportunities here at Gosford.

**Dance Group** - If you're into dancing like me then you will love dance group. This year has obviously been a different experience for dance group as well as other teams, but usually you will learn a few dances in different styles such as Hip Hop and Contemporary to participate in Central Coast Dance Festival, YIPA and hopefully to compete against other schools in a dance eisteddfods (and other competitions). Skill level doesn't matter for the dance group as you don't have to audition. Dance group doesn't take place in school hours. This year (2020) it was on wednesday 7:45 - 8:45 but don't forget it might not be the same time next year :). These teams each have different joining processes ect. The way you find out about them is on the school notice board (near the office) or on the online platform, Sentral, which also gives you a copy of your timetable, your merit count, past school reports, ect when you log in. In 2020, due to

COVID, many extracurricular activities had to be cancelled, so the teams listed are just a few of the ones that are offered in a normal, pandemic-free year.



## MERITS AND AWARDS!

Written by Parmiss Mohagheh.  
Yr 7 at GHS.

Through your time at Gosford you will learn about the merit and award system. Awards are not only handed out for hard work, effort and diligence in class. Your teacher may give you a merit if you portray a range of values; like a positive attitude to learning, leadership, being organised, being an effective learner- the list goes on! Eventually these merits will add up. When you get a certain amount of merits (20) you will receive a certificate and a voucher for the canteen. You can see how many merits you have through Sentral.

Every fortnight you will have an assembly where awards will be handed out for a specific subject such as English or P.E. Which will be an opportunity to recognise anyone who has been trying their best in class and putting the most effort in. Merits can be awarded to a singular person or a whole group of people. For example if your whole class paid attention and

listened to the teacher when needed you may all get a merit. But if you did something extra positive in class- you might get two merits! Merits help your house as each merit means a point towards your house adding up for the end of year results. They also help you personally and help you know you are doing a great job and it's being rewarded.

As shown in the image, every twenty merits you get over your time at GHS gives you a Merit Award, every forty, you get a Year Advisor award, every eighty, a Deputy Principal award and every one hundred and sixty you will get a Principal award. These points build up over time, so even if you don't get a Principal's award in Year 7- your points will accumulate into Year 8. Each one of these awards come with benefits like this year people who have over 20 merits are given their Merit award and a \$5 voucher to the canteen... Delicious!

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|  | <b>MERIT AWARD</b><br>• Merit Award = 20 Merits                       |
|  | <b>YEAR ADVISOR AWARD</b><br>• Year Advisor Award = 40 Merits         |
|  | <b>DEPUTY PRINCIPAL AWARD</b><br>• Deputy Principal Award = 80 Merits |
|  | <b>PRINCIPAL AWARD</b><br>• Principal Award = 160 Merits              |