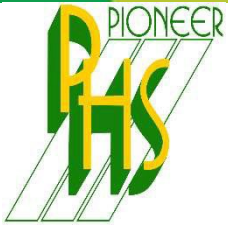




2025 Information Book

**CALM
COMMUNICATE
CARE**





WELCOME TO PIONEER STATE HIGH SCHOOL

Pioneer is a school that lives up to its name - we truly are a pioneering learning community, committed to our students and continuous improvement.

Since its foundation in 1986, Pioneer has forged a reputation for excellence in a range of fields, across academia, the arts and sport. Our school is part of the Queensland Minerals and Energy Academy, providing exciting opportunities for students to learn about and engage with the local mining industry and offers many opportunities through Vocational Education. We are a Centre of Excellence in both Science and The Arts, providing a comprehensive range of both curricular and co-curricular opportunities in these two fields. Our arts programs allow students to excel in drama, visual art and film and television, as well as instrumental music. Our students have also enjoyed success in a diverse range of sports, including futsal, soccer, rugby league, touch and volleyball.

A true strength of Pioneer is the welcoming, caring and inclusive nature of our community. Our Executive Leadership Team strive to maintain this strength. Our team consists of:



Lisa Veney
Principal



Thomas Wix
Deputy



Kristy Frost
Deputy



Candace Collins
Business Manager

We have a strong desire to work together to prepare students for the exciting, challenging and rapidly changing future in which they will live and work. In enacting our vision, we strike a balance between, preserving proud traditions and instilling important values and, providing an innovative and responsive curriculum based on the latest educational research and best practice.

This is also reflected in our Island Care system, in which each student is supported by the same Care Teacher along their entire journey through the six years of high school. From year 7 onwards students are also assisted by a range of programs and support personnel and are encouraged to play an active role in our community through mechanisms such as our Student Council, the FlexiSpace, The Resilience Project partnership with the NQ Cowboys and Island Spirit Cup.

I invite you to join our community on our journey of learning and innovation.

Best wishes,

Lisa Veney
Principal

KEY STAFF

Principal:

Lisa Veney

Deputy Principal:

Kristy Frost

Deputy Principal:

Thomas Wix

HEADS OF DEPARTMENT

English & Senior Schooling

Ronlyn Fisher

Arts, Business and Digital Technology

Carolyn Young

Teaching & Learning

Jacqueline Newman

Inclusive Education

Laura Theodore

Mathematics

Zali Garioch

Science

Tenesha Termine

Health & Physical Education

Matthew Grieger

Vocational Education and Design Technology

Sally Munns

Humanities

Emily Wilson

SUBJECT AREA COORDINATORS

Industry Placements

Sharleen Miller

Sports Coordinator

Mel McLeod

Humanities Coordinator

Emily Wilson

Library Coordinator

Robyn Cook

Student Council

Candace McFarlane

STUDENT SERVICES

Guidance Officer

Nikki Butler

Community Education Counsellor

Jess Davidson

School Based Youth Health Nurse

Megan Webster

Youth Support Coordinator

Megan Geoghegan

Psychologist

Lynn Wirtz

WELLBEING AND ISLAND COORDINATORS

Wellbeing Coordinator

Matthew Hungerford

Brampton Coordinator

Jenna Stedman

Carlisle Coordinator

Hannah Vella

Keswick Coordinator

Will Aplin

St Bees Coordinator

Kate Bussey

SUPPORT STAFF

Business Manager

Candece Collins

IT Technician

Raymond Cowan

Front Office

Nic Jones, Suraya Dickinson, Amie Nimmo

Principal Assistant

Courtney Lavender

OUR PURPOSE

Providing a quality education in a positive, caring environment

OUR VALUES

- Pride
- Honesty
- Success

BEHAVIOUR EXPECTATIONS



BE CALM

Be Safe
Breathe
Keep a cool head!

COMMUNICATE

Listen
Learn
Take turns
Ask for help

CARE

Be kind
Be on time

We value

PRIDE	<i>be proud of yourself and your school</i>
HONESTY	<i>be truthful and true</i>
SUCCESS	<i>be your best</i>



Our behaviour expectations are

CALM – *Be safe, breathe and keep a cool head*

- Keep hands off others and other's property
- Enter the classroom in an orderly manner
- Place bags in the bag zone inside classrooms
- Be respectful of staff and peers
- Act in a safe manner in all environments
- Resolve conflicts responsibly and calmly
- Take responsibility for your own actions



COMMUNICATE – *listen, learn, take turns, ask for help*

- Be prepared to listen and learn
- Follow all staff instructions
- Use respectful language, at a reasonable volume
- Report any unsafe behaviour or concerns
- Follow the mobile phone policy

CARE – *be kind, be on time, help others to learn*

- Take every opportunity to learn
- Be on time to every class
- Have your equipment for every class
- Look after your friends – report bullying
- Represent your school positively
- Wear the correct uniform every day
- Look after your school's facilities and environment



SCHOOL ISLANDS

Students are placed into one of four Islands when enrolling. These Island groups compete against each other in a range of sporting and cultural activities each year. Each Island has one teacher appointed as Island Co-ordinator. Students and staff elect two Island Captains from year 12 and two from year 9. Islands are:

Wellbeing Coordinator Matthew Hungerford

Brampton	Carlisle
Dolphins Blue	Crocs Purple
<i>Island Co-ordinator</i> Jenna Stedman	<i>Island Co-ordinator</i> Hannah Vella



Keswick	St Bees
Sharks Red	Swordfish Orange
<i>Island Co-ordinator</i> Will Aplin	<i>Island Co-ordinator</i> Kate Bussey



CURRICULUM OFFERINGS

At Pioneer SHS we embrace a broad curriculum that is able to cater for all learning needs. Are you academic or more suited to a vocational pathway? Do you like art or prefer playing sport? Can you cook, draw or solve problems? Or perhaps you want to learn to do all of these things.

YEAR 7 -10

English
Science
The Arts – Drama, Visual Art, Media
Health and Physical Education

LOTE - Japanese

Maths
Humanities
Digital Technologies
Design Technologies including Industrial Design, Food and Textiles
Economics and Business

YEAR 11 and 12

GENERAL (ATAR)

English
General Maths
Maths Methods
Biology
Chemistry
Physics
Ancient History
Physical Education
Film and Television
Visual Arts
Business

APPLIED

Essential English
Essential Maths
Tourism
Building and Construction Skills
Industrial Technology Skills
Sport and Recreation
Aquatic Practices
Media Arts in Practice
Visual Arts in Practice
Early Childhood Studies
Furnishing Skills

VET

Cert III in Hospitality
Cert III in Business
Cert III in Fitness &
Cert III in Sport & Recreation

MEC Opportunities

Cert II in Engineering
Cert II in Automotive
Cert II in Electrotechnology

CQU TAFE Opportunities

Cert II in Autonomous Technologies
Cert II in Engineering

WELLBEING

Our wellbeing program is in partnership with the NQ Cowboys and The Resilience Project (TRP). Our weekly TRP lessons are based around three principles of GRATITUDE, EMPATHY and MINDFULNESS, as well as using our Island Care Groups for year level lessons, and multi-year level lessons.

FLEX LESSON - THURSDAYS

Every Thursday afternoon at 12.50pm, our years 7-12 students are able to access a FLEXI lesson. Students can choose to:

- “flex” off school to study at home
- use the opportunity to go to part time employment or work experience
- stay at school for study/catch up lessons
- work on their certificate course at school or at home

SCHOOL CONTACT DETAILS

Administration Office:	07 4955 9222
Fax:	07 4955 9200
Student Absence Line:	07 4955 9260
Address:	221 Bedford Rd, Andergrove PO Box 8279, Mount, Mackay, 4740
Email general:	admin@pioneershs.eq.edu.au
Email Principal:	principal@pioneershs.eq.edu.au
WEBSITE:	www.pioneershs.eq.edu.au
FACEBOOK:	Pioneer State High School
Office hours:	8.00am to 3.30pm Monday to Friday

The school administration office is located by the main entrance on Bedford Road. The main entry into the school for parents/carers and visitors is via the glass door of the Administration office. Visitors entering into the school will be signed in at the main desk and will need to return to here to sign out when leaving.

COMMUNICATION TO PARENTS/CARERS

The significant amount of school communication to parents/carers is sent via email and SMS. It is therefore very important to keep the school informed of any changes to your contact details, including postal and email addresses.

Pioneer State High School has a website, www.pioneershs@eq.edu.au. Each fortnight the School publishes a newsletter which is placed on the website. A copy of the newsletter is emailed to families who have subscribed.

Our school has a Facebook where notices, achievements and reminders are posted.

Parents/Carers are encouraged to join **QParents App**, an invitation email is sent out for Parents/Carers to join. QParents is an App where you will receive report cards, pay school invoices and report attendance.

Parents/Carers who have supplied mobile phone numbers may also receive short messages via **SMS** about important school events.

SMS will also be used to communicate with parents/carers if their student has been marked absent from the roll marking that takes place at the beginning of each day. This message will usually be sent around mid-morning and parents/carers can **REPLY**, to communicate about reasons for the absence.

VISITORS AND MESSAGES

Parents/Carers are welcome to visit our school at any time. The Administration and Office Staff are available for consultation and will create as many occasions as possible for parent-teacher contact. We hope that parents/carers will also initiate contacts with the school. It is advisable to make prior arrangements to see any members of Staff (including the Administration) to ensure that a mutually convenient time is available.

Visitors (including parents and carers) are not permitted to enter the school grounds and classes without first gaining permission. All visitors must register at the Administration Office, where they will be provided with a Visitor Pass.

STUDENT ABSENCES

Students' absence (eg. Illness, dentist, appointments etc) need to be validated by a parent/carer by 9.30 am on the day of the absence, in one of the following ways:

- SMS text:** Reply to the school issued absence notification
- Telephone message:** 49 559 222 or 49 559 260
- Written Note upon return:** Signed by parent/carer and provided to the school Attendance Officer
- QParents:** Attendance can be placed on Qparents

In your messages, please include your student's name and year level, date and reason for the absence with expected duration if longer than a single day.

The complete details relating to school's attendance requirements are available in the Pioneer State High School Attendance Policy document located on the school's website: www.pioneershs@eq.edu.au or in their student diary.

SCHOOL TIMETABLE

LESSON TIMES	Care Group	8.30 am - 8.40 am
	Session 1	8.40 am - 9.50 am
	Session 2a	9.50 am - 10.25 am
	Session 2b	10.25 am - 11.00 am
	Break 1	11.00 am - 11.40 am
	Session 3a	11.40 am - 12.15 pm
	Session 3b	12.15 pm - 12.50 pm
	Break 2	12.50 pm - 1.20 pm
	Session 4	1.20 pm - 2.30 pm
	Thursday Session 4	Flexible Learning Session (out of school)

ASSEMBLIES

Assemblies are an opportunity for the sharing of information on with the whole year level, to celebrate successes and include opportunities for guest speakers to visit. They are an integral aspect of the care and wellbeing structures at Pioneer.

Island assemblies occur on a Wednesday – Even weeks during session 2 (a) or 2 (b).
Full School Assembly takes place in the Hall on a Wednesday - Odd weeks during Session 2 (b).

STUDENT LATE ARRIVALS & LEAVE PASSES

Students who arrive late to school are required to attend the Administration office to report their arrival and to provide a reason, verified by their parents/carers to explain their lateness. Students will be provided with a Late Pass to be handed to their teacher.

Students who need to leave the school during the school day (e.g. Doctor's appointments, non-school sporting events) need to provide parental/carer permission (e.g. written note, phone contact or QParent app) stating the reason for departure and time frames for departure and return (if applicable) to the Attendance Officer (49 559222) prior to the beginning of the school day. Students will be issued with a Leave Request slip which is shown to the class teacher to leave during lesson times. All students **MUST** then present at the student counter of the Administration Office to be issued with a Leave Pass. Students who leave the school with only the Leave Request will incur Unexplained Absences.

If students return to school they need to record their presence at the Administration Office Counter before returning to class.

Pioneer State High School has a school canteen and so students will not be issued Leave Passes to leave the school for breaks.

STUDENTS - SICK BAY

If your Student becomes unwell, they are to request a leave pass for Sick Bay from their Teacher, then go to the Administration building and inform one of the Administrative staff to ring their Parent/Guardian and then they are to await for someone to collect them. ***They should not be utilizing their mobile phone to contact their Parent directly.***

UPDATING STUDENT RECORDS

It is important that the school can contact parents and carers and have accurate details about situations pertaining to them. Parents/carers should advise the school of any change of student or parent/carer personal details including:

- **Email address**
- **mailing address**
- **telephone – personal and work**
- **custody issues**
- **emergency contacts**
- **student medical conditions**

Parents/Carers should phone or provide a written description to the Administration Office (Ph: 4955 9222) to advise of any and all changes.

Parents/Carers for students who need to take any form of prescription or over the counter medication, during the school day, need to speak to the Administration Office staff for the management of this process.

SCHOOL CONTRIBUTION

State schools do not charge families for instruction, facilities and administration, however subject fees are applied to support the delivery of the curriculum and provision of resources at Pioneer State High School for some subjects and extracurricular activities. Approval is sought each year from the Parents and Citizens Association for the following year's contribution.

Lists of subject fees, textbooks and stationery requirements are issued to ongoing students during the latter part of Term 4 and can also be found on the school website, when they become available. The full *Terms and Conditions* and options for participating in the Student Resource Scheme, for each year level, are described in the documents listed below along with information about what the General Levy includes – and will be available on the School website: www.pioneershs@eq.edu.au:

It is our intention to encourage all families to join the Scheme and enjoy its benefits.

Stationery may be purchased from local bookstores. Students whose parents/carers are participating in the Resource Scheme will be able to use school issued textbooks. Stationery lists for each year level are provided as part of the enrolment process

Invoices will be distributed and multiple methods of payment are available, including:

- BPoint / BPoint Instalment payments
- Cash
- Centrepay Contribution
- EFTPOS (Credit/Debit)

Receipts are issued for each payment and the money is banked in the School Account and is subject to audit. Anyone experiencing financial difficulties, should phone the School to arrange an appointment with the Business Services Manager. Students enrolling later in the year will be charged a relative proportion of the total amount – in most cases. Refunds for departing students will also be made on a proportional basis with allowance being made for lost or damaged books.

LESSON / ACTIVITY / EXCURSION PAYMENTS

Excursions and field studies form an important part of the school curriculum and most students could be expected to be involved in these during the year. There may be compulsory excursions as part of the assessment for some subjects. Students are made aware of these compulsory excursions before selecting these subjects via the relevant Subject Guide.

A small charge (to cover transport costs) is usually involved and parents/carers will be asked to complete a permission form for each trip undertaken. Should there be financial difficulties within the family, then the relevant Head of Department should be contacted so that arrangements can be made for the student to still take part in the excursion.

Students are able to make payments before school or during either of their breaks.

BRING YOUR OWN DEVICE (BYOD)

Technology is a tool in the day-to-day learning of contemporary students. Different teachers in different classes will use technology in different ways. Students don't learn in a paperless or wholly online environment. They use technology in classes to support the best possible approaches to rigorous teaching and learning.

What is BYOD?

BYOD stands for Bring Your Own Device (suitable device for school use). It is a scheme designed to allow select year levels at Pioneer State High School to have access to digital learning on their own device rather than the school desk tops.

What are the minimum requirements for a computer?

Machine Type:	Laptop - Windows (No Mac, Chromebook or iPad)
Screen Size:	Between 10" & 16"
Processor:	Intel Core i3 or higher - Intel Core i5 or higher for technical subjects or equivalent
RAM:	8GB recommended (Technical Subjects 16GB or Higher)
Hard Drive:	256GB minimum, preferable SSD
Operating System:	Windows: Windows 10 or Windows 11 (Not Windows S Mode)
Wireless:	5 GHz, 802.11n or higher
Ports:	1 x USB port minimum, audio in/out, in-built microphone, camera
Battery Life:	6+ hours (6+ cell or higher)

Necessary Software

- Microsoft Office 365 supplied free of charge (including licensing for up to five devices), accessible from the school website.
- Suitable Anti-Virus software - parents/carers are recommended to purchase a suitable anti-virus software, to better protect the student device, however the inbuilt Microsoft Defender is allowable for use.

Can I buy any laptop for my child?

Yes, provided it meets the minimum requirements as detailed above. However, we recommend that you **do not** purchase a MacBook, as these devices have had issues connecting to our school network printers and drives.

Caring for the Device?

Parents are encouraged to purchase a protective case and students are encouraged to use this case for all transportation of the device during the school day. Please factor in the size of a laptop case when purchasing a school bag.

PSHS takes no responsibility for theft, loss, breakages, vandalism or unauthorized access to BYOD laptops. While every effort will be made to investigate instances of theft or malicious damage of BYOD laptops, parents may still be responsible for acquiring the costs to repair or replace the relevant device. **Onsite Warranty (Next Business Day (NBD) and Accidental Damage Protection Insurance is STRONGLY recommended.**

Does my child still have to have a textbook list?

The school has developed quality electronic resources and students are provided with access to digital and interactive textbooks. However, students will still have textbooks in some subjects where digital texts are unavailable. Some publishers have yet to offer their books in an electronic version and it is important to give access to the best resources to support student learning.

Do students still have to buy traditional stationery to use in class?

Having a device in class will not make PSHS a paperless school. Many aspects of learning will best occur through students experimenting with a pen and paper, or manipulating things in a traditional way for many years to come. When the best way to engage with ideas or concepts is through technology, teachers will use it.

What do I need to do as a parent/carer?

Plan to purchase a device suitable for school needs. The cost will depend on the device selected. Many outlets will offer payment plans.

What if I cannot afford to buy a laptop?

- Students can apply for an equity laptop device. The Student Resource Scheme must be up to date (or on a payment plan)
- Families may look for payment options eg AfterPay @ OfficeWorks, JB Hifi
- An opportunity exists with a company called "Computer Alliance" which offers 3 models of computers with warranty, accidental damage, mouse, hard case and headphones. They offer this through Zip Money which is 3 months interest free, and an option for longer payment plans with interest.

Please contact the office if you want any information about these payment options.

UNIFORMS

The capacity for state schools such as ours to develop a Dress Code is contained in the Education (General Provisions) Act of 2006. Consequences for non-compliance can be applied but it is our desire to work with parents and caregivers to support them to have students meet our school community expectations. Families experiencing financial hardship and are unable to purchase the school uniform are encouraged to contact the school. This code is fully endorsed and supported by the Pioneer State High School Parents and Citizens' Association.

The school Dress Code is strongly supported because it:

- Encourages a culture of school spirit and pride which is essential for an effective learning environment
- Wearing a uniform promotes social equality among students because they diminish socioeconomic differences by reducing peer pressure associated with expensive 'brand' clothing
- Addresses health and safety policies by ensuring students are wearing appropriate footwear and sun-safe clothing
- Improves student safety by enabling staff to identify within the school grounds who are not associated with the school

Pioneer State High School understands and accepts that some cultures and religions have specific requirements. Modifications to the uniform that comply with recognised cultural or religious values may be negotiated with the Principal.



Sports shorts are available from the Administration office during school hours. All other uniform supplies can be purchased at:

Uniform Solutions

134/140 Diesel Drive, Paget
www.uniformsolutionsmackay.com.au

Lowes

Shop 2085, Caneland Central, Mackay
www.lowes.com.au

 Suitable with formal or day uniform	 Suitable with formal or day uniform	 Must be laced, not slip on	 Must be predominantly black or white	 Must be plain without bright markings
 Suitable with day uniform only	 Suitable with day uniform only	 Must be predominantly black or white and plain	 Must have laces and be black or white	 Must cover the entire foot

ABOUT THE P&C ASSOCIATION

The Pioneer State High School P&C Association encourages close cooperation between the school, parents/carers and the wider community. P&C members work with the Principal and school staff on behalf of students' families to foster an interest amongst the parents/carers in educational matters as well as fundraising to provide financial resources for the school.

MEETINGS

The P & C meet with the school community on the 2nd Wednesday of each month Parents/Carers are most welcome to attend meetings and contribute to the growth and development of the school. From time to time the Association forms sub-committees to organise and implement various activities, eg. Uniform Committee. The P&C facilitate Canteen and Uniform shop (shorts and jumpers) businesses within the school.

CANTEEN

The Canteen provides a variety of healthy food choices in accordance with the SMART Choices guidelines. Orders can be pre placed at the administration office or via email at CanteenOrders@pioneershs.eq.edu.au.

Food Allergy Notice

Our canteen can prepare special dietary food for students on a daily basis. Please check at the canteen counter for any special foods available. You can also contact our Tuckshop Manager to advise of any dietary needs or for further details.

Canteen Hours

Canteen opens for first and second break every day

Parents/Carers are always encouraged to volunteer in the Canteen to help prepare food and serve. If you can assist in any way, please contact the Managing Convenor, at the Canteen (Ph: 49559222).

2025 TERM CALENDAR

28th January – 04th April 2025 (Term 1)
22nd April – 27th June 2025 (Term 2)
14th July – 19th September 2025 (Term 3)
7th October – December 12th 2025 (Term 4)

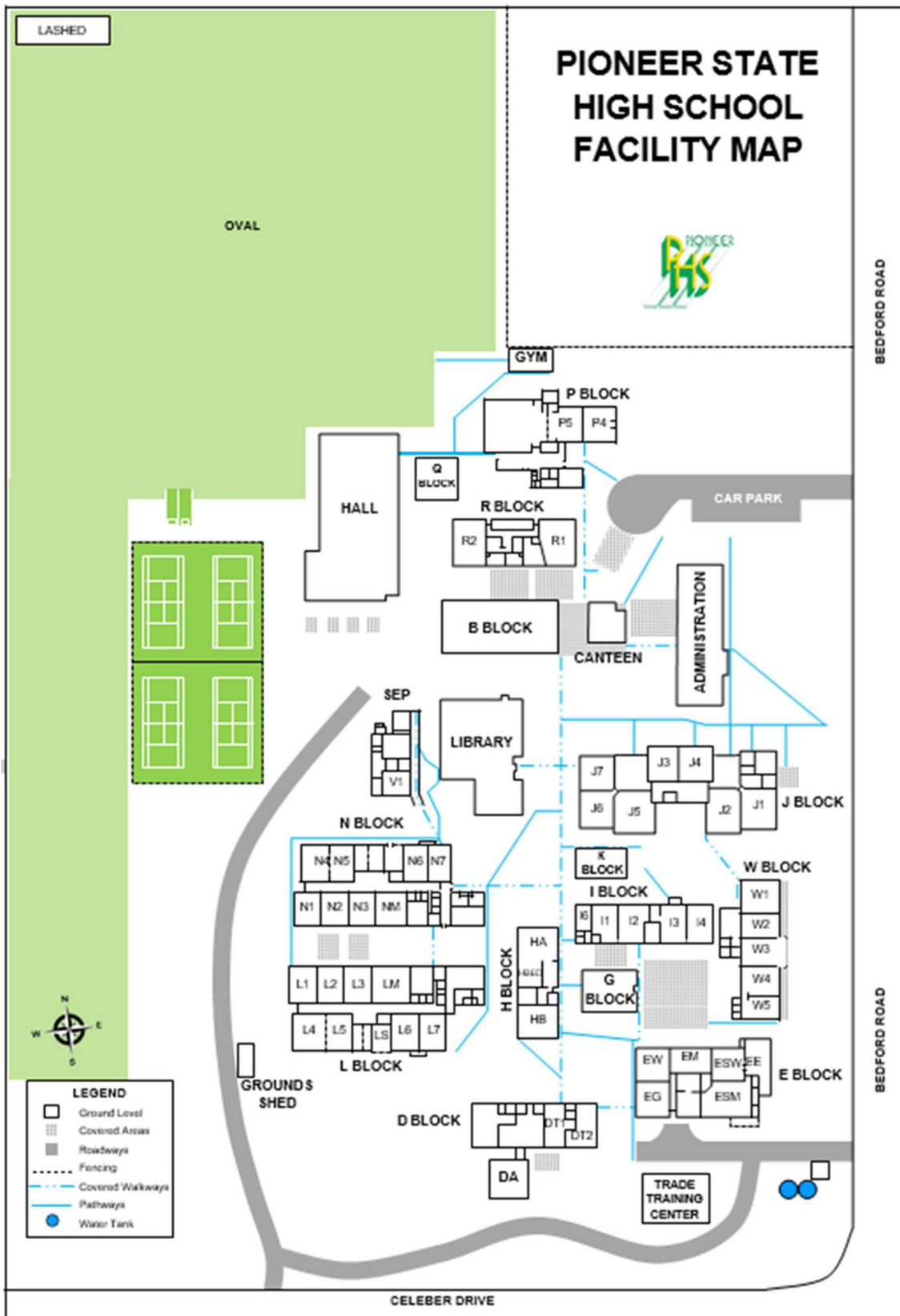
PUBLIC HOLIDAYS 2025

27th January 2025 (Australia Day)
18th, 19th, 20th & 21st April 2025 (Easter)
25th April 2025 (Anzac Day)
5th May 2025 (Labour Day)
6th October 2025 (King's Birthday)

IMPORTANT DATES

05 February 2025 (School Photos)
18th February 2025 (Year 7 Family Pizza Night)
25th February 2025 (Pancake Day)
28th February 2025 (Swimming Carnival)
14th March 2025 (Year 12 Mocktail)
21st March 2025 (Harmony Day)
1st April 2025 (Year 7 & Year 10 Immunisation – Dose 1)
03rd April 2025 (Cross Country)
25th April 2025 (Anzac Day Parade)
09 – 13 June 2025 (Choral Fanfare)
19th June 2025 (Mackay Show Public Holiday)
25th July 2025 (Year 7 & Year 10 Immunisation – Dose 2)
21st November 2025 (Year 12 Last Day, Graduation Ceremony and Formal)
28th November 2025 (Year 10 & Year 11 Last Day)

SCHOOL MAP



NOTES