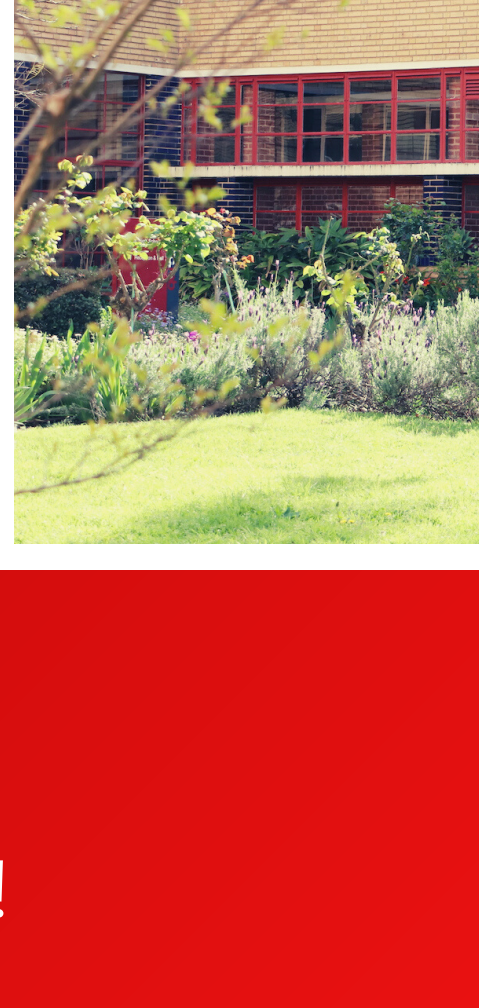


connect.



Welcome to **Connect**, a new school-wide program in 2022!

WHAT IS CONNECT?

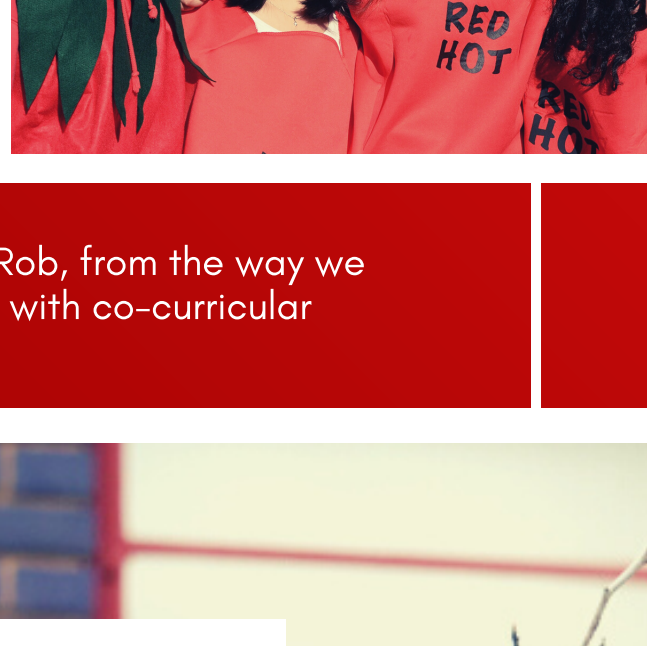
The **Connect** program is an opportunity for your child to create new friendships, build ties to their community, and support their mental health.

Connect has been developed by the Mac.Rob Wellbeing team using the latest research into how young people learn and process information, as well as direct feedback from our students. The program is designed to provide your child with real-world life skills and knowledge to help them tackle challenges in, around, and beyond the classroom.

The **Connect** program is focused on four key components, each contributing to an area of your child's personal development:

- Establishing their foundations for **good mental health**.
- Developing their **emotional** intelligence and interpersonal skills.
- Building up their strategies for **resilience**.
- Expanding their capacity for **independence**.

The **Connect** program is closely aligned with our four school values of **community, growth, responsibility, and compassion**. These values form the foundation of everything we do at Mac.Rob, from the way we learn, teach, and interact, to the way we engage with co-curricular programs and the wider community.



HOW WILL CONNECT RUN?

From 2022, **Connect** will replace form group as your child's primary point of contact with their teachers and peers within their Year level.

For Year 9 students, **Connect Class** will consist of 25 Year 9 students, and be led by a Mac.Rob staff member. For students in all other Year levels, their existing "form" will become their **Connect Class**; your child will retain the same cohort of peers and, in most cases, the same teacher they've had in previous years. (Due to timetabling issues, they may have more than one **Connect Class** teacher.)

The **Connect** program will run twice per week: **One 20 minute session on Mondays, and one 10 minute session on Thursdays. Just like "form" in previous years, these sessions will appear on your child's timetable and have a room allocation.**

The **Connect** program spans the duration of your child's time at Mac.Rob, with each subsequent year building on their skills and abilities.

By the end of Year 12, your child will have developed a thorough understanding of how they learn, grow, and relate to the world around them, as well as the skills and strategies they need to tackle a wide range of challenges in their life beyond high school.



WHAT WILL YOUR CHILD DO AS PART OF CONNECT?

The **Connect** program involves a series of structured workshops, personal development activities, and engagement opportunities with your child's teachers, classmates, and the wider community. These activities will work towards developing a greater understanding of your child's passions, their interests, and their relationship to the world around them.

In each session, your child will explore subjects relating to their five "selves":

- Their **unique** self, exploring ideas of identity, body image, and physical health.
- Their **study** self, exploring motivation, time management, and planning.
- Their **social** self, exploring healthy family relationships, friendships, and communication.
- Their **future** self, exploring financial literacy, post-secondary pathways, and careers.
- Their **global** self, exploring social responsibility, global issues, and community connections.

There will also be time to connect with friends and peers in your child's **Connect Class** and **Year level**, and they will have the opportunity to provide feedback and suggest topics for future learning and exploration.

HOW DO FAMILIES CONNECT?

Families are an essential element of the **Connect** program. The best way to be open and curious about the program.

Talk regularly to your child about **Connect**; "How did you connect today?" is an excellent conversation starter.

"Connect is designed specifically for Mac.Robians. Connect will be interesting, nurturing, supportive, and fun! We are really excited to introduce this new program to our school community, and we hope that our students benefit greatly from it."

Bridget McPherson, Head of Wellbeing & Engagement

Ask your child about what they have focussed on, what activities they've participated in, and what they've been learning.

Encourage your child to have a growth mindset; ask them how they feel about the different activity topics, and whether they've led to any changes, reflections, or insights. The more you talk about **Connect**, the stronger your child's engagement will be!

To learn more about the **Connect** program, speak with your child's **School Leader** or **Year Level Coordinator**.

MEET THE CONNECT CLASS TEACHERS FOR 2022.

YEAR 9 CONNECT STAFF

9A - Talia Hobbs | 9B - Michelle Pride | 9C - Deborah Stringer | 9D - Peter Tran & Fraine Mahoney | 9E - Thameena Mahomed | 9F - Ashlea Douglas | 9G - Brigitte Rogan | 9H - Stephanie Rowston & Georgina Bate | 9I - Sue Sumarno & Bill Coombals | 9J - Hiroko Mori | 9K - Rochelle Day | 9L - Ian Greenhalf & Manan Walla

YEAR 10 CONNECT STAFF

10A - Maddie Witter | 10B - Adam Bulman | 10C - Jessica Olpp | 10D - Barbara Hohmann & Stefan Baumgartner | 10E - Edgar Wegner & Elisa Ryan | 10F - Miguel Regalo | 10G - Robert Corr & Matthew Schaffner | 10H - Irena Murphy | 10I - Rose Maloney | 10J - Stephanie Ruth | 10K - David Page & William Murphy | 10L - Tim Davis & Michele Dean

YEAR 11 CONNECT STAFF

11A - Anne Tinney & Kira Cleary-Ingram | 11B - Barbara Chandler | 11C - Kathryn Jones & Julia Stoppa | 11D - Meggin Toohy & Anna Zacharopoulos | 11E - Luci Murphy | 11F - Ruth Smith | 11G - Laura Gilbert, Mark Bradley & Peter Zwack | 11H - Tiffani Tunnicliffe & Sharon Williams | 11I - Elena Polyakova & Nikhil Hendricks | 11J - Shungo Sawaki & Brian McNamee | 11K - Richard Vi & Diana Sandulache | 11L - Kevin Walsh

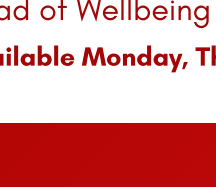
YEAR 12 CONNECT STAFF

12A - Susanne Puszka & Marie Cane | 12B - Dean Allan | 12C - Allison Turek & Djani Gasparini | 12D - Sandra Begazo & Claire Rollison | 12E - Hannah Williams | 12F - Kane Barwick | 12G - James Richards & Mirela Matthews | 12H - James Desmond | 12I - Marwa Al Baitaty & Claire Nicholson | 12J - Nuccio Gurciullo

MIDDLE SCHOOL LEADERS



Josie Phillips
Head of Middle School



Lucy Kutrolli
Year 9 Coordinator

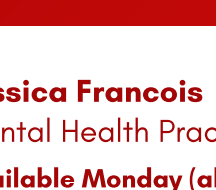


Emma Lionello
Year 10 Coordinator

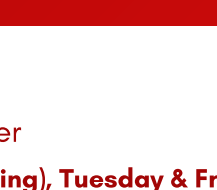
SENIOR SCHOOL LEADERS



Daniel Crowe
Head of Senior School



Kimberlee Olsen
Year 11 Coordinator



Adlin Ramdzan
Year 12 Coordinator

MEET THE MAC.ROB WELLBEING TEAM.



Dr. Bridget McPherson
Head of Wellbeing & Engagement
Available Monday, Thursday & Friday



Katrina Adams
Wellbeing Coordinator
Available Monday - Tuesday & Thursday - Friday

Jessica Francois
Mental Health Practitioner
Available Monday (alternating), Tuesday & Friday

Clair Griffiths
Wellbeing Counsellor
Available Wednesday - Friday

David Nguyen
Mental Health Practitioner
Available Mondays & Fridays

The Wellbeing Team offices are located on the ground floor of the Kingsway Building, opposite Reception. Their contact information can be found on Compass and the Student Portal.

community
growth
responsibility
compassion

For more wellbeing resources, fact sheets, and information on a wide range of topics, visit:

macrob.vic.schooltv.me