



Dear Year 9 Students,

Think back to when you started high school... A lot of people felt overwhelmed by a big school with so many students, classrooms, and teachers. Older (and bigger) students may have seemed intimidating, getting lost was a reality for most, and there were so many different teachers to work with. For our Year 7s in 2025, having an experienced Brighton student to provide support, guidance, and advice will be invaluable.

This is the aim of **Peer Leadership**: a rewarding and challenging experience that will help develop your leadership skills and a sense of connectedness with the school.

In 2025, Peer Leadership will align with Exploring Identities and Futures (EIF) – a compulsory Stage 1 SACE subject, in Semester 1. If you are successful in your application, you will be put into a EIF class with all Peer Leaders, and you will gain 10 SACE credits after successful completion. You will complete EIF assessments, and gain skills in leadership, collaboration, problem solving, communication, and self-confidence. The EIF subject runs for one semester, but Peer Leaders are expected to continue to support Year 7 home groups across the **full school year**.

36 Year 10 Peer Leaders will be selected to mentor the 12 Year 7 Home Groups.

You will discover that the rewards from being a Peer Leader far exceed the effort.

As a Peer Leader, you will have the opportunity to:

- Develop leadership skills involving mentoring and leading, improving your confidence and self-esteem. These skills could be useful in applying for other leadership positions, such as Prefect, House Captain, or opportunities in the community outside of school.
- Pass on and share your experiences – feel the satisfaction of giving to and impacting others.
- Develop or improve skills such as time management, planning, organising and running activities, problem solving, speaking to groups, and working with others – skills that will allow you to thrive in Senior School and beyond.
- Be involved in year level events, including activity days and camps.

Effective Peer Leaders demonstrate certain qualities and skills.

As a Peer Leader, you should endeavour to:

- Show commitment by attending Year 7 Home Groups, weekly, for the entire school year
- Be a good listener, patient, reliable, kind, and considerate
- Be encouraging, supportive, and willing to participate
- Develop strong leadership skills – including speaking to a group
- Be a positive role model – this includes, but is not limited to, demonstrating a positive attitude towards your education, following school policies/expectations, and always wearing full school uniform
- Be willing to invest some of your own time
- Be able to keep up to date with your other subject workloads, even when you miss lessons (e.g. for Challenge Cup, Orientation Program, Transition Day, Home Group sessions)
- Be willing to negotiate and communicate with both students and adults



How do I apply to be a Peer Leader?

Please note: Unfortunately, Special Interest Music students cannot apply for Peer Leadership due to timetable/course clashes

Stage 1 – Application & Endorsement

By Friday 23 August (Week 5, Term 3):

- Return the completed **Application & Endorsement form** (attached to this letter) to Student Reception.
- Your current Home Group teacher or a trusted staff member needs to sign the Application for Training form to endorse your suitability for the role and write a short comment
- You and a parent/guardian also need to sign the document, supporting your application and indicating an understanding of the requirements of Peer Leadership
- Submit an **online written application** (no more than 400 words) responding to some guiding questions about the Peer Leadership experience, on this **Microsoft Form**
Link to form: <https://forms.office.com/r/W1U6idPc21>

Stage 2 – Shortlist & Selection Workshops

In Week 7, Term 3:

- If you are successful in the shortlisting process, you will be invited to selection workshops.
- This will include activities and questions that show us your skills as a Peer Leader. Your efforts, attitude, and demonstration of leadership skills at training will impact Peer Leader selection,
- Following the workshops, the 36 successful Peer Leaders will be notified by email.

Stage 3 – Training

In Term 4:

- If you are successful in the selection workshops, you will be placed in Peer Leader groups and invited to further training workshops to prepare for Orientation and Transition Days in Term 4 2024 and Term 1 2025.

If you have any questions about the process, please get in touch.

Kind regards,

Laura de Garis

Leader of Student Connectedness & Agency

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Application and Endorsement – PEER LEADERSHIP 2025

Home Group Teacher / Trusted Staff Member Endorsement

Student Name: _____ **2024 Home Group:** _____

Home Group Teacher / Staff Member Name: _____

Home Group Teacher or Trusted Staff Member to complete: Please read the information attached and indicate whether you believe this student is a suitable candidate for Peer Leadership in 2024. Contact the Leader of Student Connectedness & Agency (Laura de Garis) if you have any questions or concerns.

Student is suitable for Peer Leadership: Yes / No

Comment:

Signature: _____

Parent / Guardian and Student Consent

Parent / Guardian and student to complete: I have read the relevant information regarding Peer Leadership, and I consent to my student attending Peer Leadership training, starting in **Week 7, Term 3**.

Parent/Guardian Name: _____ **Date:** _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Student Signature: _____ **Date:** _____