Westminster School

FROM THE PREPARATORY STRETCH COORDINATOR

28 January 2025

Dear Westminster Community,

Introducing Our New STRETCH Coordinator

My name is Jacinta Wild, and I am thrilled to introduce myself as the new STRETCH Coordinator. I am passionate about working alongside families to support children's growth academically, socially, and emotionally. At Westminster, we are committed to ensuring every child has the opportunity to thrive and reach their full potential.

The STRETCH program is grounded in evidence-based practices and uses data to inform both our interventions and enrichment initiatives. As we continually strive for excellence, we aim to evolve and improve the program to provide our students with the best support and start in life.

Intervention at STRETCH

At Westminster, the STRETCH program offers a variety of intervention and support programs to complement the high-quality teaching in the classroom. These interventions are specifically designed to support students requiring additional assistance in academic, social, or emotional development.

Our tiered intervention model ensures every child receives the appropriate level of support:

- Tier 1: High-quality teaching practices in the classroom for all students.
- Tier 2: Small group support for children who need additional assistance.
- Tier 3: Individualised interventions for students requiring more intensive support.

Students are identified for these interventions based on a range of assessment data, ensuring that the support provided is both targeted and responsive to their individual needs. All our interventions are evidence-based, and the STRETCH team regularly reviews and adapts these supports to align with the latest research, student needs, and to align to the Senior School. This ensures best practices in education and a strong foundation for lifelong learning. Programs are scheduled to avoid interruptions to essential learning areas like literacy and numeracy.

Programs Supporting Your Student's Development:

Please note that these programs are specifically designed for students who have been identified through our data and assessments as requiring additional support.

Literacy

- Reception:
  - *All students are carefully and strategically monitored.*
- Years 1–2:
  - *DIBELS Progress Monitoring*: individual reading, 2-3 times a week, starting Week 3.
  - *Playberry*: Small groups, 4 times a week, starting Week 7.
- Years 3–6:
  - *MacqLit*: Small group sessions, 4 times a week, starting Week 3.

Numeracy

- Reception:
  - *All students are carefully and strategically monitored.*
- Reception–Year 4:
  - *Bond Blocks*: Small group sessions, 4 times a week, starting Week 3.
- Years 5–6:
  - *QuickSmart*: Small group sessions, 3 times a week, starting Week 3.

Social and Emotional Support

- Reception–Year 6:
  - *What's the Buzz*: Weekly sessions for small groups, starting Week 3/4.
  - *We Thinkers!*: Reactive program provided in small groups or individually as needed.

As Receptions transition into 2025, we will continue to monitor their progress and provide support as we get to know your child better.

Enrichment at STRETCH

STRETCH also offers enrichment opportunities to extend and challenge students. Using data from PAT and AGAT testing conducted annually, we identify learners who will benefit from inquiry-based and problem-solving programs.

Our enrichment activities are designed to foster creativity, collaboration, and critical thinking, while building the skills outlined in Westminster's Capability Compass. These initiatives inspire students to explore their potential and prepare them to face future challenges with confidence.

Supporting Neurodiverse Learners

At STRETCH, we are committed to supporting all students, including those with learning difficulties or disabilities. For neurodiverse learners, our team creates tailored Individual Management Plans to support differentiation and ensure that every child has the opportunity to thrive. By working closely with teachers, families, and specialists, we aim to provide a supportive environment where all students feel empowered to succeed.

Please don't hesitate to reach out to your child's classroom teacher or me if you have any questions or concerns. I look forward to collaborating with you throughout the year and supporting your child's journey at Westminster.

Yours sincerely,

Jacinta Wild
STRETCH Coordinator