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PULTENEY

GRAHAM LANGE CENTRE



Key Information for Families

2026

Year 8

Welcome

Year 8 is a significant step in your child's Middle School journey at Pulteney. With the transition into secondary school now behind them, students are ready to grow in confidence as learners and as individuals. They understand the rhythms and expectations of school life and are increasingly prepared to strengthen their organisation, independence and readiness to embrace greater academic challenge.

At this age and stage, relationships matter deeply. Our Tutors, Heads of House and classroom teachers walk alongside students each day as mentors, providing guidance, encouragement and clear direction while also supporting them to take greater ownership of their learning and behaviour. As students mature, we help them navigate friendships, setbacks and successes, building resilience and pride in their progress.

Year 8 is also a time of important academic consolidation and growth. Students are expected to think more deeply, manage longer-term tasks and apply feedback with increasing independence. Through their learning experiences, they continue to develop the capabilities that sit at the heart of a Pulteney education, including critical and creative thinking, collaboration, reflection and personal responsibility. With strong support from their teachers, students are challenged to extend themselves, build productive learning habits and recognise that effort and persistence are key to improvement.

We value the partnership between home and school and know that young people thrive when they experience consistent support across both. The information that follows is designed to assist families in understanding the year ahead, offering key details and expectations so that, together, we can ensure every student feels known, capable and connected as they continue to consolidate their skills and grow throughout the Middle School.

Learning and Communication Platforms

In Year 8, Canvas continues to be the central hub for teaching, learning and feedback across the Middle School. Students are now familiar with the platform and are expected to use it with growing independence to check lesson materials, monitor upcoming assessments, review feedback and plan their workload.

Families can remain connected to their child's progress through Canvas, with access to task information, due dates and teacher comments that help support conversations about learning at home.

The Pulteney App and School website will also continue to provide important updates, reminders and community news. Together, these platforms ensure clear communication between school and home while helping students develop the organisation and responsibility needed for continued success.

AMPLify, ACTivate and Learning in Year 8

At Pulteney, learning is designed to grow the capabilities young people need to thrive both in and beyond the classroom. In Year 8, students move into a phase where they are increasingly asked to apply knowledge, respond to more complex ideas and engage with a broader range of perspectives.

AMPLify develops the habits of quality thinking that underpin success across all subjects. Students practise analysing information, generating ideas, collaborating effectively and communicating their reasoning with clarity. They are encouraged to question, refine and improve their work, recognising that learning is strengthened through feedback, persistence and thoughtful reflection.

Alongside this, ACTivate focuses on personal growth, relationships and contribution to community. Through Tutor and House programs, students deepen their understanding of empathy, responsibility and the impact their choices have on others.

Across both programs, teachers design experiences that stretch students while ensuring they are supported, guided and ready to meet the challenge.

Learning Beyond the Classroom – AMPout and the Year 8 Camp

A defining element of the Year 8 experience is AMPout, an immersive program that brings learning into authentic community and civic settings.

AMP stands for *Act with Meaning and Purpose*. Throughout the experience, students work with guest speakers and professionals, visit institutions such as Parliament House and the Magistrates Court, and take part in workshops that build their skills in collaboration, advocacy and public communication.

Working in teams, students explore issues, consider multiple viewpoints and develop a mock Bill which they present to an audience. The process requires them to listen carefully, think critically and justify their ideas with evidence.

AMPout reflects the growing maturity of Year 8 learners. It challenges them to step forward, contribute thoughtfully and see how their learning can influence the world around them.

During Term 3, AMPout and the Year 8 Camp in Robe operate simultaneously, with Houses rotating between the two experiences so that all students participate in both programs.

How the rotation works

Term 3 – Week 5

Monday 17 August to Friday 21 August

- Cawthorne-Nicholls and Kennion-Miller attend Camp in Robe
- Bleby-Howard and Moore-Sunter participate in AMPout

Term 3 – Week 6

Monday 24 August to Friday 28 August

- Bleby-Howard and Moore-Sunter attend Camp in Robe
- Cawthorne-Nicholls and Kennion-Miller participate in AMPout

Further information, including schedules, preparation activities and camp logistics, will be shared with families closer to the dates.

Important contacts for Middle School

Head of Middle School | Ms Lauren Connolly

lauren.connolly@pulteney.sa.edu.au

Head of House Bleby-Howard | Ms Bronte Pickett

bronte.pickett@pulteney.sa.edu.au

Head of House Cawthorne-Nicholls | Mr Vincent Williams

Vincent.williams@pulteney.sa.edu.au

Head of House Kennion-Miller | Ms Kate Donnelly

kate.donnelly@pulteney.sa.edu.au

Head of House Moore-Sunter | Mr James Mingorance

james.mingorance@pulteney.sa.edu.au

PA to the Middle School and Senior School | Ms Julie Dangerfield

julie.dangerfield@pulteney.sa.edu.au

Head of Teaching and Learning (Yr 7-12) | Mr John McCall
john.mccall@pulteney.sa.edu.au

Head of Inclusive Education | Ms Carrie Phillis
carrie.phillis@pulteney.sa.edu.au

Head of Wellbeing Services | Mr Chris Clements
chris.clements@pulteney.sa.edu.au

Gifted and Talented Coordinator | Ms Sue Mavropoulos
sue.mavropoulos@pulteney.sa.edu.au

Health Centre | 08 8216 5540

Main Office (Allan Wheaton House) | 08 8216 5555

Important dates in Term One

- Friday 20 February – Year 8 Drama/English Excursion ‘The Childhood of the World’
- Thursday 26 February – Rungie Cup (Students wear their PE uniform and House top for the day)
- Thursday 5 March – Year 7 to Year 12 Athletics Day (Students wear their PE uniform and House top for the day)
- Tuesday 10 March – Learning Conferences
- Wednesday 18 March – Learning Conferences
- Thursday 2 April – Last Day of Term 1

Term dates 2026

	Commences	Finishes	Term Duration
Term 1	Wednesday 28 January	Thursday 2 April	10 weeks
Term 2	Tuesday 21 April	Friday 26 June	10 weeks
Term 3	Tuesday 21 July	Friday 25 September	10 weeks
Term 4	Monday 12 Oct	Friday 4 December	8 weeks

2026 public holidays

New Year’s Day Holiday	Thursday 1 January
Australia Day	Monday 26 January
Adelaide Cup	Monday 9 March
Good Friday	Friday 3 April
Easter Sunday	Sunday 5 April
Easter Monday	Monday 6 April
Anzac Day	Saturday 25 April
King’s Birthday	Monday 8 June
Labour Day	Monday 5 October

Pastoral Care

Pastoral care at Pulteney continues to be grounded in our House system, where every student is known, supported and connected. By Year 8, strong relationships are well established. Tutors and Heads of House understand each young person's strengths, challenges, friendships and learning patterns, allowing them to provide guidance that is both personal and purposeful.

The Head of House remains a consistent presence across the Middle School years, offering oversight and continuity as students grow in confidence and maturity. With this deep knowledge of their cohort, Heads of House are well placed to support students as expectations increase and new opportunities emerge.

House Tutors play a central role in daily life. They work closely with students to strengthen organisation, encourage positive habits and support increasing responsibility for learning and behaviour. Regular conversations, goal setting and check-ins help students stay on track, understand their progress and take increasing responsibility, while knowing support and guidance are always close by.

House Tutors also maintain strong partnerships with families and are the first point of contact for most matters. By working together, we create a supportive network that enables each young person to feel capable, reassured and ready to meet the challenges of the year ahead

	Head of House (Yr 7-9)	Year 8 Tutor
	Bronte Pickett bronte.pickett@pulteney.sa.edu.au	Darren Beanland darren.beanland@pulteney.sa.edu.au
	Vincent Williams vincent.williams@pulteney.sa.edu.au	Armen Vartanov armen.vartanov@pulteney.sa.edu.au
	Kate Donnelly kate.donnelly@pulteney.sa.edu.au	Zoe Mozer zoe.mozer@pulteney.sa.edu.au
	James Mingornace james.mingornace@pulteney.sa.edu.au	Sanja Letinic sanja.letinic@pulteney.sa.edu.au

The Rungie Cup remains a proud Pulteney tradition and an important part of Middle School life. In Year 8, students continue to represent their House across sport, the arts, academic and community events, strengthening connection and House pride while modelling positive participation for younger peers.

On competition days, students wear their House sports top and are encouraged to contribute with enthusiasm, encouragement and respect. In Term 1, the first two Rungie Cup events will run during the ACTivate timetable (two lessons) on Thursday 12 February and Thursday 26 February.

A reminder will always be included in the PRW so students arrive in the correct House top.

Outdoor Learning - Robe

The Year 8 Outdoor Learning Camp is a significant and much anticipated part of the Middle School journey. It offers students the opportunity to grow in independence, resilience and teamwork while learning in an environment beyond the classroom. Based in Robe, South Australia, the program features a range of aquatics and adventure experiences including surfing, stand up paddle boarding, mountain biking, coastal walks, environmental sustainability sessions and adventure caving. Throughout the week, students are encouraged to challenge themselves, support one another and build confidence as capable contributors to their group.

All activities are led by experienced outdoor education specialists and supported by Pulteney staff who know the students well. The program is designed so that every young person, regardless of prior experience, can participate successfully and feel a genuine sense of achievement. Outdoor Learning experiences are a compulsory and highly valued part of a Pulteney education, and in the lead up to camp students will participate in preparation sessions to ensure they feel organised, informed and ready.

During Term 3, the Robe camp and the AMPout program operate at the same time, with Houses rotating across the two weeks so that all students experience both opportunities. In Week 5, Monday 17 August to Friday 21 August, students from Cawthorne-Nicholls and Kennion-Miller will attend camp in Robe while Bleby-Howard and Moore-Sunter participate in AMPout. In Week 6, Monday 24 August to Friday 28 August, the groups will swap, with Bleby-Howard and Moore-Sunter travelling to Robe and Cawthorne-Nicholls and Kennion-Miller completing AMPout.

Students will depart from and return to school, with exact timings, packing information and consent requirements provided to families closer to the dates. Please note that camps are nut free, and any medications required during the program must be communicated to the School prior to departure.

Year 8 subject Teachers

Below is a list of the Year 8 teachers and the subjects they teach in the Middle School. If you have any questions regarding a particular subject, please contact the relevant teacher directly via email.

Teacher	Subjects	Email
Darren Beanland	Tutor, ACTivate, AMPLify, Physical Education	darren.beanland@pulteney.sa.edu.au
Matthew Brown	Science	matthew.brown@pulteney.sa.edu.au
Laura Costanzo	English	laura.costanzo@pulteney.sa.edu.au
Rosanna Dobre	Dance	rosanna.dobre@pulteney.sa.edu.au
Kate Donnelly	Head of House – Kennion-Miller, Humanities	kate.donnelly@pulteney.sa.edu.au
Nathan Dodd	Technology	nathan.dodd@pulteney.sa.edu.au
Matt Down	Physical Education	matt.down@pulteney.sa.edu.au
Yu Hall	Japanese	yu.hall@pulteney.sa.edu.au
Tom Heffer	Humanities	tom.heffer@pulteney.sa.edu.au
Jamie Hibbert	Drama	jamie.hibbert@pulteney.sa.edu.au
Kirsty Hickman-Davis	German	kirsty.hickman@pulteney.sa.edu.au

Teacher	Subjects	Email
Sam Hicks	Indigenous Music	sam.hicks@pulteney.sa.edu.au
Hugh Hopton	Physical Education	hugh.hopton@pulteney.sa.edu.au
Jarrold Johnson	Technology	jarrod.johnson@pulteney.sa.edu.au
Annie Kwok	Music	annie.kwok@pulteney.sa.edu.au
Danni Lu	Chinese (second language)	danni.lu@pulteney.sa.edu.au
Sanja Letinic	Tutor, ACTivate, AMPLify, Science	sanja.letic@pulteney.sa.edu.au
Susann Loeffelbein	German	susann.loeffelbein@pulteney.sa.edu.au
James Mingorance	Head of House – Moore-Sunter, Mathematics	james.mingorance@pulteney.sa.edu.au
Eliza Moretti	English	eliza.moretti@pulteney.sa.edu.au
Simon Moorcroft	World Drama	simon.moorcroft@pulteney.sa.edu.au
Michael Moularas	Physical Education	michael.moularas@pulteney.sa.edu.au
Zoe Mozer	Tutor, ACTivate, AMPLify, English	zoe.mozer@pulteney.sa.edu.au
Louise Perkins	English as an Additional Language	louise.perkins@pulteney.sa.edu.au
Bronte Pickett	Head of House – Bleby-Howard	bronte.pickett@pulteney.sa.edu.au
Sally Sanders	Visual Art	sally.sanders@pulteney.sa.edu.au
Lilian Shan	Mathematics	lilian.shan@pulteney.sa.edu.au
Lauren Sutter	Visual Art	lauren.sutter@pulteney.sa.edu.au
Jonathon Rice	Theatrical Set Design & Construction	jonathon.rice@pulteney.sa.edu.au
Dimitra Thomas	Science	dimitra.thomas@pulteney.sa.edu.au
Armen Vartanov	Tutor, ACTivate, AMPLify, English	armen.vartanov@pulteney.sa.edu.au
Erica Wadham	Mathematics	erica.wadham@pulteney.sa.edu.au
Vincent Williams	Head of House – Cawthorne-Nicholls, Mathematics	vincent.williams@pulteney.sa.edu.au
Mharianne Wilson	Humanities	mharianne.wilson@pulteney.sa.edu.au
Jing Zhao	Science	jing.zhao@pulteney.sa.edu.au
Lan Ye	Chinese (Background)	lan.ye@pulteney.sa.edu.au

Homework in Year 8

Homework in Year 8 at Pulteney is designed to strengthen understanding, deepen thinking and support students as they continue to grow in independence. Tasks are purposeful and connected to classroom learning, helping students practise essential skills, manage their time effectively and develop consistent study routines. As students move further into the Middle School, homework plays an important role in building responsibility and preparing them for the increasing expectations of the years ahead.

We are also committed to maintaining balance. Time allocations are capped so students can remain engaged in co-curricular activities, friendships and family life. If a subject is not scheduled on the homework timetable, students should not expect additional work from that area. In addition, all Year 8 students are encouraged to read each evening, as regular reading expands vocabulary, comprehension and confidence across every subject.

8.1

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
SCIENCE (30-Minutes)	SCIENCE (30-Minutes)	MATHEMATICS (30-Minutes)	ENGLISH (30-Minutes)	
LANGUAGES* (30-Minutes)	MATHEMATICS (30-Minutes)	LANGUAGES (30-Minutes)	HUMANITIES (30-Minutes)	
	HUMANITIES (30-Minutes)	ENGLISH (30-Minutes)		
READING (15-20-Minutes)	READING (15-20-Minutes)	READING (15-20-Minutes)	READING (15-20-Minutes)	READING (15-20-Minutes)

8.2

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
SCIENCE (30-Minutes)	HUMANITIES (30-Minutes)	HUMANITIES (30-Minutes)	SCIENCE (30-Minutes)	
LANGUAGES* (30-Minutes)	MATHEMATICS (30-Minutes)	MATHEMATICS (30-Minutes)	ENGLISH (30-Minutes)	
	ENGLISH (30-Minutes)	LANGUAGES* (30-Minutes)		
READING (15-20-Minutes)	READING (15-20-Minutes)	READING (15-20-Minutes)	READING (15-20-Minutes)	READING (15-20-Minutes)

8.3

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
HUMANITIES (30-Minutes)	ENGLISH (30-Minutes)	MATHEMATICS (30-Minutes)	ENGLISH (30-Minutes)	
LANGUAGES* (30-Minutes)	MATHEMATICS (30-Minutes)	LANGUAGES* (30-Minutes)	HUMANITIES (30-Minutes)	
	SCIENCE (30-Minutes)	SCIENCE (30-Minutes)		
READING (15-20-Minutes)	READING (15-20-Minutes)	READING (15-20-Minutes)	READING (15-20-Minutes)	READING (15-20-Minutes)

8.4

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
ENGLISH (30-Minutes)	HUMANITIES (30-Minutes)	HUMANITIES (30-Minutes)	SCIENCE (30-Minutes)	
LANGUAGES* (30-Minutes)	MATHEMATICS (30-Minutes)	MATHEMATICS (30-Minutes)	ENGLISH (30-Minutes)	
	SCIENCE (30-Minutes)	LANGUAGES* (30-Minutes)		
READING (15-20-Minutes)	READING (15-20-Minutes)	READING (15-20-Minutes)	READING (15-20-Minutes)	READING (15-20-Minutes)

Assessment Overview

The assessment overview provides families and students with a snapshot of when key learning tasks are scheduled across the term. It is designed to help students plan ahead, manage their time effectively and approach assessment with confidence. While dates may occasionally adjust in response to the needs of a class, this guide supports transparency and helps avoid unexpected workload peaks.

This information is also available at any time through our Learning Management System, Canvas, where families can view task details, due dates and teacher feedback.



Year 8 Assessment Overview

Term 1 2026

	WEEK 1	WEEK 2	WEEK 3	WEEK 4	WEEK 5	WEEK 6	WEEK 7	WEEK 8	WEEK 9	WEEK 10
08 Chinese (Background)					Interaction				Text Analysis	
08 Chinese (2nd Language)					Interaction					Multi-modal Presentation
08 Digital Technology			Cyber-safety Essay				Networks and Data			
08 English as an Additional Language					Comprehension and Writing				Narrative and Oral Presentation	
08 English					Creating Text: Narrative + Writer's Statement *SAETA Young Writers					Responding to Text: Film Study - Multimodal
08 German					Language Proficiency: Phrases, Listening, Analysis			Oral Assessment: am Frühstückstisch		
08 Humanities						Sources Analysis (timed, open book)			Horrible Histories Skit (group performance)	
08 Japanese						Interaction- Family treasure interview			Script skills assessment	
08 Extension Mathematics						Fractions, Decimals & Percentages				Rate, Ratio & Percentage Assessment
08 Mathematics						Fractions, Decimals & Percentages				Rate, Ratio & Percentage Assessment
08 World Drama										Commedia dell'Arte performance
08 Indigenous [World] Music									Assessment Task 1 - Dreamtime Story & Art	
08 Physical Education									Health & Physical Activity action plan	
08 Performing Arts					Assessment Task 1 [ALL STREAMS] Please check individual Canvas IPA streams.					Assessment Task 2 [ALL STREAMS] Please check individual Canvas IPA streams.
08 Science						Biology SHE				Biology Test
08 Visual Art (LRS)						Painted Portrait				
08 Visual Art (SS)						Painted Portrait			Tessellated Design	

Our students are supported by a highly dedicated team of educators who are deeply committed to both academic progress and personal growth. Your child is guided by teachers who provide clear expectations, consistent encouragement and the support needed to build confidence, independence and capability.

We value the partnership between school and home and appreciate the trust you place in us. Please feel welcome to make contact at any time. I hope your child is enjoying a positive and productive start to the year so far, and I look forward to connecting with you soon.

Kind regards

Lauren Connolly
Head of Middle School