

GILROY SANTA MARIA COLLEGE

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25 February 2025

2025 NAPLAN ONLINE *Information Letter*

***Dates for NAPLAN Online Tests: Thursday 13 March to Friday 21 March
(Practice Tests: Thursday 27 February and Friday 28 February)***

We are always looking for ways to improve outcomes for our students and believe that the time spent on developing skills that are embedded in NAPLAN will help to inform future planning in the classroom. The data obtained from these tests, is **one** form of data that helps teachers to better understand their students' strengths and challenges. We recognise that the recent flooding has affected our students in various ways. However, these assessments provide valuable insights into each student's strengths and areas for growth, helping our teachers better support their learning. After discussions with the QCAA, who have also recommended proceeding with the NAPLAN assessments, we believe it is in our students' best interest to provide them with the opportunity to participate. Thank you for your understanding and support.

This year, students in Years 7 and 9 at Gilroy Santa Maria College will be undertaking NAPLAN online tests. NAPLAN Online aims to provide a better and more precise assessment that is more engaging for students by assessing a wider range of student abilities and measuring student achievement. To ensure students are familiar and comfortable with the requirements of NAPLAN, we will conduct practice tests, where students will gain experience navigating the online NAPLAN platform and exposure to the type of questions and knowledge required in these tests. Items in the practice tests are not marked and results are not reported - they are only to allow familiarisation.

Students are asked to ensure that their Chromebooks are 100% charged the night before each test date. Students are also asked to bring their Chromebook chargers, and are required to have their own personal earphones or earpieces, and if they use a mouse, then their personal mouse (with spare batteries). The school will not provide these due to hygiene issues.

All students in Years 7 and 9 are expected to participate in the annual NAPLAN assessment unless they have applied to be withdrawn through the College. Students with a disability may qualify for adjustments that reflect the support normally provided for classroom assessments. Please contact the College to speak to myself or Laura Davis if you would like to discuss this further.

It is very important that students **are present at school on the days of the NAPLAN tests**. If students are unwell, they will be required to complete the test when they return.

Information for each of the tests:

Test	Duration	Test Description
Writing Thur 13/3	Year 9: 42 mins Lessons 1 & 2 Year 7: 42 mins Lessons 4 & 5	Students are provided with a 'writing stimulus' (sometimes called a 'prompt' – an idea or topic) and asked to write a response in a particular genre (narrative or persuasive writing).
Reading Fri 14/3	Year 9: 65 mins Lessons 1 & 2 Year 7: 65 mins Lessons 4 & 5	Students read a range of informative, imaginative and persuasive texts and then answer related questions.
Conventions of Language Thur 20/3	Year 9: 45 mins Lessons 1 & 2 Year 7: 45 mins Lessons 4 & 5	This test assesses spelling, grammar and punctuation.
Numeracy Fri 21/3	Year 9: 65 mins Lessons 1 & 2 Year 7: 65 mins Lessons 4 & 5	This test assesses number and algebra, measurement and geometry, and statistics and probability.

Outside of the scheduled NAPLAN testing times, regular classes will continue as normal. We encourage all students to attend school during these lessons to ensure they stay engaged with their learning.

More information about NAPLAN Online can be found at <https://nap.edu.au/online-assessment>. Alternatively you are welcome to experience for yourself what NAPLAN Online will look like by visiting the public demonstration site at <https://www.nap.edu.au/online.assessment/public-demonstration-site>. Students will also be accessing this site to undergo their practice testing.

If you have any further questions or concerns, please contact the college office.

Kind regards



Melissa Carr
Acting Principal