



# GIVE YOUR CHILD A HEADSTART

**Headstart is a free online program that helps new Year 7 and 8 students prepare for academic life at Wesley. It helps our boarders build early friendships with other new students too.**

Students participate in weekly online sessions led by the Headstart Coordinator. These sessions focus on building connections with peers, academic growth, boarding preparation and the social and emotional demands that come from boarding.

In these sessions, students get the chance to hear from current Wesley boarders and Wesley Boarding staff. Headstart also aims to develop numeracy and literacy

skills, which are key in the Middle and Senior Schools, using online programs Mathspace and Reading Plus, which are also used in Middle School at Wesley College.

## **READING PLUS:**

Reading Plus is a research-based online program that targets specific reading skills for each student, supports vocabulary development and trains the eyes to read correctly. Students can select the

texts they wish to read, further motivating them to succeed and improve.

## **MATHSPACE:**

Mathspace is an interactive, online learning platform designed to strengthen students' numeracy skills through personalised, curriculum-aligned lessons. It adapts to each student's ability, providing step-by-step guidance, instant feedback, and interactive

tools to make maths engaging and accessible.

## **WHAT DO WE HAVE TO DO?**

For more information about this free course, please email [enrol@wesley.wa.edu.au](mailto:enrol@wesley.wa.edu.au). Students will need to commit to twice-weekly online sessions and at least two hours of weekly homework (one hour of Mathspace and one hour of Reading Plus).

# WE ASKED TWO BOARDERS TO SHARE THEIR EXPERIENCE OF HEADSTART:



PICTURED (L-R) James Hadrill and Brandon Gooding.

## James Hadrill:

### HOW DID HEADSTART HELP YOU SETTLE IN AT WESLEY?

Headstart meant I already knew people in the Boarding House. You're not put in boarding on day one expecting to know everyone. With this program, we were all friends by the time we started; we could talk to each other and rely on each other from the start.

### HAS THE WORKLOAD AT WESLEY SURPRISED YOU?

Headstart made the workload easier. I put time and effort into Headstart homework on Reading Plus and Mathspace, which we also use in Middle School, so I started Year 7 already confident using them.

### HOW DID HEADSTART PREPARE YOU FOR BOARDING?

It helped me become familiar with how boarding works. I looked at the Boarding House day, so I arrived knowing what to expect. Headstart also helped me familiarise myself with the layout of Wesley and where my classrooms were.

### DID HEADSTART HELP YOU PREPARE FOR ACADEMIC LIFE AT WESLEY?

Headstart got me into the routine of what we would be doing at Wesley, things like Reading Plus. It got me into the habit of managing prep and gave me the skills to be able to get all my homework done easily during prep time.

## Brandon Gooding:

### WHAT WAS YOUR FAVOURITE PART ABOUT HEADSTART?

Headstart helped me because it gave me a chance to meet the boarders in my year before I started at Wesley. It made it so much easier to settle in, not get homesick and have a fun time.

### WAS HEADSTART DIFFICULT TO FIT INTO YOUR SCHEDULE?

It wasn't too bad. Headstart gave me a tiny bit of homework to start off with and then gradually increased - but it was still possible to do. Although the homework from your current school comes first, I would still recommend trying to fit in the Wesley homework as it's fun and enjoyable. It'll also benefit you in the following years at Wesley.

### HOW DOES HEADSTART TEACH YOU ABOUT LIFE AS A BOARDER?

In each session we were given a different scenario to do with boarding. Afterwards, we would discuss the scenarios with our families and come up with solutions. The following session we would all put our solutions together as a group then discuss.

### WERE THERE PRACTICAL TIPS TOO?

Headstart prepared me for boarding life by giving me a schedule and a routine to follow. It really helps when you have to do it independently. I was prepared for homesickness, tiredness and making new friends, because we came up with strategies within the sessions.



For more about Headstart, email [enrol@wesley.wa.edu.au](mailto:enrol@wesley.wa.edu.au) or scan the QR code.

# HEADSTART



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By daring & by doing