



Hawkesbury High School

Caring Learning Connecting



Wednesday Adjusted Bell Times

As you may already be aware, the school will finish earlier on Wednesdays this year – at 1:50 pm. This is one hour earlier than last year. While the new bell times may appear at first significantly shorter, they are in line with many other high schools which finish earlier on Sport days. The school continues being NESA compliant in curriculum delivery and face to face teaching hours for all courses and all years 7-12.

The adjustment was made at Hawkesbury High to ensure a smooth operation of the timetable and a better alignment of existing resources with curriculum demands. This change also gave us an opportunity to provide a dedicated scripture time which does not clash with regular lessons. In addition, the adjusted bell time has allowed for dedicated meeting times when teachers can plan together, discuss teaching strategies and develop support programs for students. The change has also resulted in a significant reduction in split classes (same class taught by more than one teacher) and the introduction of a Homework Club with tutor support on Wednesdays. Wednesday bell times will also support the Prepared to Learn initiative by providing students with time and a place to study after school hours. Rosie and Daniel, our university student tutors, should also continue being available (depending on their university timetables) on Wednesdays.

All students who catch buses will be supervised in the playground and the library from 1:50 pm until buses depart. I recommend that students make the most of this time and use it to complete homework, work on assignments and access tutoring support.

A letter was sent home last week to give a small number of students permission to leave school grounds at 1:50. This only applies to students who make their own way home (walk or ride a bike), or are normally picked up by a parent or carer. Students who catch buses will not be allowed to leave school grounds. Permission notes must be returned to the front office before students are allowed to leave school grounds at 1:50 pm on Wednesdays.

Hawkesbury High School's Therapy Dog

We have welcomed Icon, our school's therapy dog, as a new staff member in 2020. Icon was enthusiastically welcomed by students and staff alike, and he has already been hard at work helping students make the transition to a new school year. Icon's work is even more relevant this year due to the stresses experienced by many in our community due to the impact of bush fires. I have personally observed the significant calming effect a therapy dog has on our students, including Icon's uncanny ability to put people at ease.

I have posted on the school's website and on Facebook some general rules on how to interact with Icon. While he is an exceptionally well trained and good-natured dog, it is important to follow these rules to ensure everyone is safe. I also urge parents to contact me if their child has a known allergy to, or a fear of dogs. We can often make very small adjustments to ensure that everyone is happy and safe in the school environment.



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