



Principal's Update

19 October 2020

Our mission - building a caring and safe learning environment where great teaching supports and inspires all students to grow, develop and succeed.

Community Consultation Survey Results

In the previous edition of this update, I wrote about the school's P&C becoming dormant to enable the formation of a less formal parent and community representative body. To assist the school in deciding what this body might look like, we have reached out to the community in the form of a survey. The survey had 51 responses, including 27 from parents, 22 from school staff, and one each from a family and community member. Most parents who responded to the survey have a child in Year 7 (16 responses), and least in Year 12 (2 responses). Most responders believe that communication is the most important aspect of community consultation (80%), followed by valuing the role of the family (71%), and building strong connections between the school and the community (65%). The survey also asked responders to identify a preferred structure for a consultative body, with 43% preferring surveys or online votes (22 responses), followed by informal meetings or forums (33% or 17 responses). Formal meetings or a formal body such as a P&C were supported by 8% or responders (4 responses). Seventy-five percent of responders indicated that they would be either likely or very likely to attend informal meetings, while 66% indicated they would attend morning or afternoon teas. In addition, 47% believe a community consultative body should have a constitution or operational guidelines, while 20% believe it should have formal positions. Other suggestions (9%) included an informal structure, respect guidelines, and an organising committee that would not make decisions, but coordinate meetings.

Finally, the preferred frequency of meetings was "as required" (36%), followed by once per term (28%) and twice per term (22%).

While it would have been nice to get a higher number of responses, we had an approximate 10% response rate. The response date suggests that our school community prefers informal meetings, during school hours, and that any community consultative body would be guided by explicit rules to ensure that effective communication and consultation takes place at meetings and forums.

	VERY IMPORTANT	IMPORTANT	SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT	NOT IMPORTANT	TOTAL
Communication	80.43% 37	17.39% 8	2.17% 1	0.00% 0	46
Connecting learning at home and school	68.63% 35	27.45% 14	3.92% 2	0.00% 0	51
Consultative decision making	50.98% 26	39.22% 20	7.84% 4	1.96% 1	51
Valuing the role of the family	70.59% 36	23.53% 12	5.88% 3	0.00% 0	51
Parent and family participation in school activities	39.22% 20	39.22% 20	19.61% 10	1.96% 1	51
Building strong connections between the school and the community	64.71% 33	29.41% 15	5.88% 3	0.00% 0	51

	VERY LIKELY	LIKELY	UNLIKELY	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Formal meetings (structured)	20.45% 9	31.82% 14	47.73% 21	44	2.75
Informal meetings (chat or yarn)	38.64% 17	36.36% 16	25.00% 11	44	2.11
Morning or afternoon teas	25.58% 11	41.86% 18	32.56% 14	43	2.40
An evening BBQ	23.81% 10	38.10% 16	38.10% 16	42	2.52

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
A President	3.92% 2
Formal positions	19.61% 10
A Constitution or operational guidelines	47.06% 24
None of the above	11.76% 6
Other (please specify)	Responses 17.65% 9
TOTAL	51

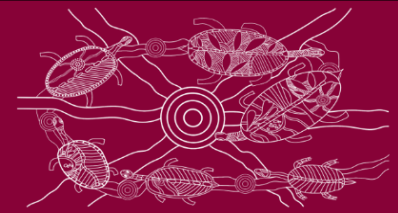
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Once per term	28.00% 14
Twice per term	22.00% 11
Once per Semester	8.00% 4
As required (e.g. when major policy decisions need to be made)	36.00% 18
Other (please specify)	Responses 6.00% 3
TOTAL	50

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
During the day	11.76% 6
In the afternoon	29.41% 15
At night	31.37% 16
Not sure at this time	23.53% 12
Other (please specify)	Responses 3.92% 2
TOTAL	51



Hawkesbury High School

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School Leaders 2020/2021

The new student leadership team for 2020/2021 was inducted last Friday during the Year 12 farewell morning tea. The new leadership team is taking over from the current Year 12 team, and we are pleased to have these wonderful young women and men represent the student body. After a rigorous selection process that included the presentation of a CV, an interview, speeches and student and staff votes, the following students have been elected to the leadership team:

Captain: Georgia Micallef
Captain: Jack Dominello
Vice-Captain: Kristy Howard
Vice-Captain: Victoria Price
Prefect: Abbey Schneider
Prefect: Zane Whitney

I look forward to working with the new student leadership team.

HSC Exams and COVID-19

We know our students and staff have worked hard for the HSC. The safety of our students and staff remains of utmost importance. This year extra arrangements are in place to ensure that any disruption due to COVID-19 will have minimal impact on HSC exams. Our school has put in place a number of contingencies to help ensure exams run as smoothly as possible. The exams have been scheduled and our school has arrangements in place for exams to proceed as planned. It is important that students review their timetable and plan well so they turn up for their exams on time, healthy and rested.

Any student with a pre-existing condition, that presents similarly to flu-like symptoms, should speak to their doctor/GP. The GP can provide a medical certificate ahead of the exams to ensure they are not sent home. If on the day of the exam your child feels unwell with flu-like symptoms, they should stay home and get tested. HSC students are prioritised for COVID-19 test results.

It's important to note that all students will be asked if they are well before entering exam rooms.

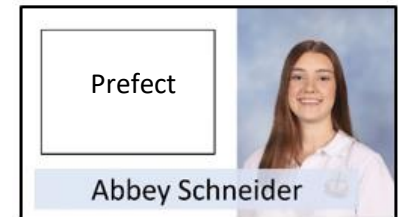
We want all our students to sit their exams but sometimes things happen. If your child is unwell and misses their exam, contact the school. Students who are unwell will be eligible for the [illness and misadventure](#) provision with NESA.

If there are any changes to exam arrangements we will communicate with HSC students via text message. This will be the **only source of communication** for these types of notifications. If in doubt, please call the school.



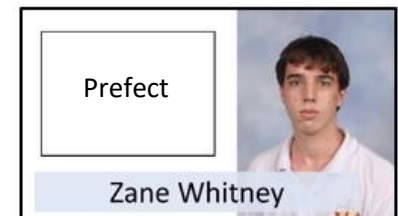
Vice -
Captain

Victoria Price



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Abbey Schneider



Prefect

Zane Whitney



Captain

Jack Dominello



Captain

Georgia Micallef



Vice -
Captain

Kristy Howard

COVID-19 Update

Current advice on COVID-19 is available on the school's website and on the Department's website on <https://education.nsw.gov.au/public-schools/school-safety/novel-coronavirus>. NSW Health have processes in place to identify any close contacts with confirmed cases. NSW Health and the Department of Education are in constant and close communication, as is the school. In the meantime, I ask everyone to monitor their own health, seek medical advice if they feel unwell and maintain good hygiene practices – as we would in any case. If you or your child develop flu-like symptoms you should seek medical advice, get tested for COVID-19, and keep your child at home until they have recovered. If any case of COVID-19 is confirmed in your family, please advise the school promptly.

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