



Principal's Update

February 2021

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

Welcome to the 2021 School Year

Staff at Hawkesbury High School have welcomed all students and we look forward to continuing our ongoing focus on growth and improvement. I would also like to take this opportunity to welcome parents of Year 7 students and I look forward to working with you to support them as they embark on a new stage of their learning journey.

While we have successfully managed the health and safety of students, parents and staff in 2020, please note the important information below in relation to COVID-19 at the beginning of 2021:

- Staff and students are not required to wear a face mask while at school. Anyone who wishes to wear their own masks will not be prevented from doing so.
- Wearing a face mask is not mandatory for parents and carers visiting the school, provided you are visiting only for explicit reasons, such as appointments and to purchase uniform, and maintain physical distancing and hygiene practices while at school.
- Students over the age of 12 and staff must comply with the Public Health (COVID-19 Mandatory Face Coverings) Order 2021 when travelling to and from school and during school excursions by public transport, or by chartered or private transport services. This applies to staff and students who reside or travel to and from Greater Sydney, including the Blue Mountains, Central Coast and Wollongong. Refer to the NSW Government website for more information on wearing face masks.
- All visitors to the school must continue to sign in using existing processes at the front office. However, there is an additional requirement to also check in using the displayed QR code located at the front office and entry points around the school.





Hawkesbury High School

Caring Learning Connecting



Ready to Learn

This year, one of the school's key focuses will be the Ready to Learn initiative. Ready to Learn aims to teach students about key organisational, time management, and study skills. Each of the three areas is broken down into five distinct steps, assisting students who struggle with organisation, time management and study skills to master one step at a time. Students who have already mastered one step, can have clear guidance of what is the next step.

In the initial stages of the initiative, students will be familiarised with the 15 steps, followed by targeted workshops later in the year. It is my firm belief that students need to be taught – not only the WHAT of learning, but also the HOW of learning. The 15 steps of learning readiness will also support our students to succeed in life long after they have left school as many of the Ready to Learn skills can be transferred into employment and general life contexts.

My intention is to organise a Ready to Learn parent forum later in Term 1 to inform best ways to work and engage with parents to successfully implement the initiative.

SRE Showcase

In 2020, special religious education (SRE) classes were temporarily suspended due to COVID-19 and attendance was low for the remainder of the year. This year, SRE teachers will be given an opportunity to present an information session to students about special religious education in 2021. This information session will include discussions, activities, including games, drama and music. It will also be an opportunity for SRE teachers to hear what students are interested in learning about their faith.

The information session will be held during Period 1 on Wednesday, 24 February.

If you would like your child to attend the information session, please complete the permission slip at the bottom of the note issued to your child and return it to the front office no later than Friday, 19 February.

	You are ready to learn !	
	Stick to your study schedule	
	Link class notes to key skills	
	Start tasks and assignments early	
	Chunk your work	
	Ask for help and feedback	
	Use a 'To Do List'	
	Do urgent tasks first	
	Make time for important tasks	
	Set learning goals	
	Balance important and everyday tasks	
	Keep your books and equipment tidy	
	Use your timetable to plan ahead	
	Pack your bag ready for each day	
	Create a study schedule	
	Sort your class notes and handouts	
	Are you ready to learn ?	

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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