



## Principal's Update

June 2021

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

### Ready to Learn – Parent Survey

Fifteen parents responded to the Ready to Learn survey which was distributed to the school community in May, following the Ready to Learn Forum. While it would have been nice if more parents had responded, the contributions by parents who did respond were insightful and their suggestions and ideas will help drive improvements at the school. This update will summarise the survey results and provide you with a snapshot of these ideas and suggestions. Most survey responders were parents of Year 7 students (40%), closely followed by parents of Year 8 and Year 9 students (33%).

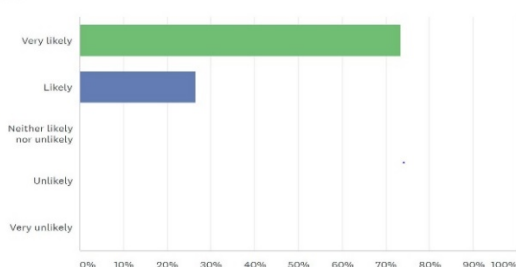
	VERY HIGH	HIGH	AVERAGE	LOW	VERY LOW
Organisation	20.00% 3	40.00% 6	26.67% 4	13.33% 2	0.00% 0
Time management	13.33% 2	13.33% 2	46.67% 7	26.67% 4	0.00% 0
Study skills	6.67% 1	13.33% 2	26.67% 4	33.33% 5	20.00% 3

### Current Readiness to Learn

When asked to rate their children's current readiness to learn in the three areas of organisation, time management and study skills (above), only 20% rated organisation as high, and 13% and 7% gave the same rating to time management and study skills, respectively. This compares to a low rating for the three areas of 13%, 27% and 33% - showing that as the ready to learn skills become more challenging, parents' confidence in their children's ability to manage them decreases. This data aligns with the school's findings that many of our students have difficulty managing key skills that allow them to become successful learners – organisation, time management and study skills. It also strongly supports the school's strategic direction where these skills will be explicitly taught to our students.

How likely are you to support an explicit Ready to Learn tool at home (e.g. a book and equipment checklist) if the school made such a tool available to you?

Answered: 15 Skipped: 0



### Supporting Your Child

All parents who responded to the survey indicated that they would be very likely (73%) or likely (27%) to support a Ready to Learn tool such as a book and equipment checklist if the school made it available (left). This data aligns with comments provided in the same survey where parents indicated that they would like to receive more information on what tasks were issued to students, and when these tasks are due. While assignment notifications are issued to students, it appears that these formal notifications are not always shared with parents. The school is currently exploring the viability of using the Parent and Student Portal to make these notifications available to parents once they log into the Portal. The school is also exploring the introduction of digital diaries from next year, to improve communication between school and home.



## The Importance of Ready to Learn Skills

When parents were asked to rate the importance of ready to learn skills, it came as no surprise that most skills scored very highly in the very important or important category. The skill that stood out was time management, with 100% of responders rating this skill as very important. This rating comes as no surprise for parents who juggle different priorities every day and who understand the importance of time management. Apart from preparing our students for life after school where time is arguably the most important commodity, good time management skills at school allow students to focus sufficient time on their work and assignments and to always submit their best work. As a result, teacher feedback will then be more relevant because it will be in response to best work, rather than rushed work.

	VERY IMPORTANT	IMPORTANT	SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT	NOT IMPORTANT	IRRELEVANT
Keeping school books neat and tidy	46.67% 7	46.67% 7	6.67% 1	0.00% 0	0.00% 0
Bringing the right equipment to school	86.67% 13	13.33% 2	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0
Setting time aside for regular study	46.67% 7	46.67% 7	6.67% 1	0.00% 0	0.00% 0
Keeping notes and handouts organised	66.67% 10	33.33% 5	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0
Planning ahead	80.00% 12	20.00% 3	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0
Managing time to meet deadlines	100.00% 15	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0
Setting learning goals	46.67% 7	53.33% 8	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0
Revision of classwork at home to make study notes	40.00% 6	46.67% 7	13.33% 2	0.00% 0	0.00% 0
Using teacher feedback to improve	60.00% 9	40.00% 6	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0
Setting up a learning space at home	53.33% 8	46.67% 7	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0



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## What Parents Said

Although a relatively small number of parents completed the survey, the quality of the ideas and suggestions in the open-ended part of the survey was outstanding. Similar to the Forum held the night before the survey was sent to parents, there many excellent suggestions and comments that have already contributed to the implementation of the Ready to Learn initiative at the school. Some of these comments are given below:

*"I would like to see a schedule of upcoming assessments so I could help my child with a study plan.*

*I would like to have a term overview of what's being taught in each subject*

*Have a period every month or fortnight - it could be called life skills but incorporate management skills with learning e.g. studying, managing time, etc.*

*A skills booklet with scaffold for revising and study skills etc so that we are consistent in focusing on the right aspects of learning*

*Streamlined communication system for parents to help keep track of students' workload*

*If there was more info on the parent portal as reference, I could check if my child had any outstanding or upcoming work*

*If my kids are falling behind in a subject I would like to know how I can help them catch up.*

*Communication from school/teachers to notify parents when students need to complete tasks at home.*

*What can we do as parents to best support teachers and our children to learn effectively?*

*Some kind of mentor program to help children learn from peers.*

*Schools and parents need to work collaboratively to help our children succeed in life and we have the technology to be connected so anything we can do to support them would be positive. "*

## Future Directions

As a result of the consultation with students, parents and staff, the school will look at implementing the following strategies:

- Adding assignments and notifications on the Parent Portal
- Ready to Learn checklist for students and parents
- Mentoring sessions for students
- Ready to Learn student workshops
- Use of digital diaries to improve communication between school and home



TEACHERS DISCUSSING PARENT SURVEY SUGGESTIONS

## 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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