



Principal's Update

May 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 Community Forum

The Ready to Learn Community Forum will be held in the school library and on Zoom from 6-7 pm on Tuesday, 25 May. The forum will be an opportunity for parents, staff, students and community members to get together and discuss ways in which the school can work with parents to help students with key skills that enable them to be successful learners – organisation, time management, and study skills. While schools often focus on explicitly teaching content, very little time is dedicated to teaching skills that enable students to be ready to *process* that content. For example, if a student comes to school unprepared, without the right books and equipment, then the chances of engaging with classwork and learning are diminished. Also, if students don't manage their time well, and rush assignments, then their teachers will never see the students' best work and will not be able to provide relevant feedback.

READY TO
LEARN

COMMUNITY

FORUM 25 May 2021

School Library and ZOOM 6 - 7 pm



What is Ready to Learn?

Ready to Learn is essentially about organisation and time management. This can be summarised as follows:

LEARNING HABITS:

- Using the timetable to plan ahead
- Using a study guide
- Creating a study schedule
- Organising and managing school equipment (books, pens, etc)
- Creating a learning space

LEARNING SKILLS

- Problem solving
- Thinking ahead
- Managing time frames
- Managing urgent things first
- Applying the skills process
- Using technology for learning

While many students come to school ready to learn, clear and consistent expectations for everyone, backed up by explicit teaching and parental support, will support all students to become life-ready as these skills are easily transferrable to employment and everyday life situations.



Hawkesbury High School

Caring Learning Connecting



What are students telling us?

As part of the Ready to Learn initiative, students have been asked to provide us with their feedback on what is important to them and their priorities. Other studies have also consistently shown that the biggest source of anxiety for young people is not self-image or peer relationships, but school and their ability to manage the demands of learning. The survey results below seem to support that data. For example, 47% of surveyed students have organisation in their top three priorities, with writing and learning how to study. While students rated improving their relationships with peers and teachers as two lowest priorities (does that mean that they already believe those relationships are positive?), Ready to Learn Skills have scored consistently as a high priority. At Hawkesbury High School we believe that by working with parents we can consistently send the message that being ready to learn is as important as the actual learning. So, when you send your child to school tomorrow, ask them "Are you ready to learn?" They should know what that means.

	High priority	Medium priority	Low priority
Be more organised	47.0% (62)	43.9% (58)	9.1% (12)
Manage my time better	43.9% (58)	48.5% (64)	7.6% (10)
Improve my knowledge of course content	46.2% (61)	50.0% (66)	3.8% (5)
Learn how to study	45.5% (60)	44.7% (59)	9.8% (13)
Improve my writing	47.3% (62)	32.1% (42)	20.6% (27)
Improve my reading and comprehension	37.1% (49)	39.4% (52)	23.5% (31)
Improve my relationships with my peers	34.8% (46)	42.4% (56)	22.7% (30)
Improve my relationships with my teachers	25.8% (34)	53.8% (71)	20.5% (27)

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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