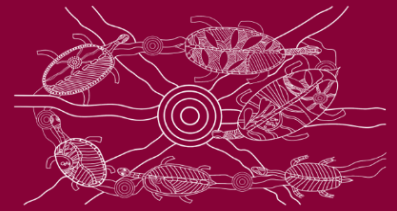




Hawkesbury High School

Caring Learning Connecting



Principal's Update

1 April 2019

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



HSC Minimum Literacy and Numeracy Standard
Special Religious Education (SRE)
Appropriate Use of Mobile Phones Survey
Applying for Leave and Exemptions

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Appropriate Use of Mobile Phones Survey

On 19 March, the school held a Use of Mobile Phones forum in the school library. Parents, students and staff had an opportunity to present their views on the appropriate use of mobile phones at school.

The school has provided parents and community members who were unable to attend the forum with an opportunity to have their say and provide the school with feedback through an online survey. The survey can be accessed through the Skoolbag app, or through the Sentral Parent Portal once the portal has been set up in the coming days.

This survey will give parents and community members who were unable to attend the forum an opportunity to provide their views on the topic. The responses will inform the school's Appropriate Use of Mobile Phones Policy which will be presented for community consultation at the next P&C meeting on 21 May.



Special Religious Education (SRE)

Special Religious Education (SRE, or Scripture) is delivered at Hawkesbury High School by authorised representatives of approved religious groups. Currently, these approved providers are the Diocese of Parramatta (Catholic) and the Hawkesbury Ministers Association (Baptist/Protestant). Links to the approved programs can be found on the school's website.

Applying for Leave and Exemptions

Parents should not assume that applications for leave and exemptions due to family holidays will be automatically granted upon application. While the school understands that on rare occasions family holidays cannot be arranged during school holidays, it is important to apply for leave well in advance of the planned holiday date. This will give the school an opportunity to discuss the planned absence with parents and ensure that students do not miss out on any critical work such as assignments or HSC assessment tasks. The school expects that any applications for leave or exemptions due to family holidays will be submitted at least a month prior to the planned travel dates.

HSC Minimum Standard

All young people need reading, writing and maths skills to be successful in everyday life after school. That's why students are required to show a minimum standard of literacy and numeracy to receive the Higher School Certificate (HSC) from 2020. (The HSC minimum standard does not apply to students who are due to complete the HSC in 2019). To check they have the basics right, students need to sit short online tests of reading, writing and maths for everyday life. Students will get multiple opportunities a year to pass each of the tests from Year 10 until a few years after the HSC. The school will help students decide when they are ready to take each test. If students pass the online tests of basic reading, writing and numeracy skills they will show they have met the HSC minimum standard. Students in Year 11, 2019, have already met the minimum standard if they have achieved Band 8 NAPLAN results in Reading, Writing and Numeracy in 2017. These students are not required to sit the test.

HOW IS THE STANDARD SET? The standard is set at level 3 of the Australian Core Skills Framework (ACSF), which means students will have the basic reading, writing and maths skills needed for everyday tasks and future learning after school. It includes skills for tasks such as: following safety instructions in equipment manuals, understanding a mobile phone plan, writing a job application, creating a personal weekly budget. The HSC minimum standard is part of a plan to ensure students have essential literacy and numeracy skills.

MINIMUM LITERACY AND NUMERACY STANDARD: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW



From 2020, students need to demonstrate a minimum literacy and numeracy standard to be eligible for the HSC



There will be multiple opportunities to pass online reading, writing and numeracy tests before and after the HSC



Early identification and support for students most at risk of not achieving the minimum standard is available under the NSW Literacy and Numeracy Strategy



Students with Band 8 or above Year 9 NAPLAN results in reading, writing and numeracy will prequalify for the minimum standard



Some students, including those studying Life Skills courses, will not need to meet the minimum standard to be awarded the HSC