



Hawkesbury High School

Caring Learning Connecting



Principal's Update

1 May 2019

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



Synergy Dance Festival
Appropriate Use of Mobile Phones Survey Results
ANZAC Day Commemorations
Speech Pathology Service

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Appropriate Use of Mobile Phones Survey Results

There has been a good response to the Appropriate Use of Mobile Phones Survey, with 90% of respondents indicating that students should be allowed to bring mobile phones to school. However, 80% believe that mobile phones should only be used for learning activities in class, and 92% believe that there should be clear boundaries for the use of mobile phones at school and that the school's discipline policy should apply if students do not respect those boundaries. Similarly, 82% of respondents believe that it's only appropriate for students to contact parents on mobile phones if they have missed a bus or have explicit teacher permission.

The school is currently completing a draft of its Mobile Devices Policy which will be presented for community consultation at the next P&C meeting on 21 May. Interested parents and community members are strongly encouraged to attend this meeting if they want to contribute to the formulation of the school's Mobile Devices Policy.

NAPLAN

Year 7 and Year 9 students will sit the NAPLAN tests in Week 3 of this term, from 14 to 16 May. NAPLAN tests skills that are essential for every child to progress through school and life, such as reading, writing, spelling, grammar and numeracy. Please be mindful that NAPLAN is not about passing or failing, but about providing the school with a "point in time", or a snapshot of valuable information that can be used to support student learning. Hawkesbury High School will complete the paper tests this year, with a transition to online testing from 2020.

ANZAC Day Commemorations

On 25 April Hawkesbury High School students participated in the ANZAC Day dawn commemoration service, where Kiana Shaw and Kelly Whitney laid a wreath at the cenotaph in McQuade Park. Hawkesbury High School students also led the commemoration service at Wilberforce Park at 9 am. Congratulations to our school leaders who represented the school and a big thank you to all students and parents who marched with us. A big thank you also to Mr Vu who worked closely with the RSL to organise the proceedings in Wilberforce Park.

Speech Pathology Service

I am pleased to report that Hawkesbury High School will offer a free speech pathology service from the 9th of May. Mrs. Maree Rowan, an experienced speech pathologist, will provide this service to selected students every Thursday.

Speech pathology is a service that caters for a range of language difficulties including understanding what has been read, following directions, getting started on assignments, demonstrating knowledge in clear, succinct ways, writing and pro-social skills.

The aim of speech pathology sessions is to teach students essential skills they need to complete written and oral tasks and develop receptive and expressive language skills.

The speech pathology service will complement other intensive learning and wellbeing strategies that are already offered at the school.

Farewell to Mrs. Linklater

I am both pleased and saddened to inform the school community that Mrs. Linklater has earned a well-deserved promotion as Principal to Chipley College, Shalvey Campus from the beginning of Term 2. Mrs. Linklater has spent more than 4 years at Hawkesbury High School as Deputy Principal, including two years as Relieving Principal. Mrs. Linklater's positivity and compassion will be missed by students, staff and parents alike. We wish her all the best in her new role as Principal where she will continue making a difference for our young people.

SYNERGY Dance Festival

Hawkesbury High School's dance item "Sirens" has been selected to perform at the Synergy Public Schools Dance Festival. The festival will be held at Evan Theatre in Penrith from 4th to 6th of June, and again from 11th to 13th June.

It is wonderful to see a revival of creative and performing arts at Hawkesbury High School, with our dancers, musicians and artists all performing and exhibiting publicly. A big thank you to Ms Bayly and Ms Kirkpatrick for their work with our talented dancers.