



Hawkesbury High School

Caring Learning Connecting



Principal's Update

3 June 2019

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



Mobile Devices and Discipline Policies
Staff Conference 2019
Parent Careers Showcase
Year 6 High School Taster Day

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Parent Careers Showcase

Hawkesbury High School will be hosting a parent careers showcase on Tuesday 23 July from 6 to 7:30 pm in the school hall.

The showcase covers a range of helpful topics of interest to parents so they can support their children to make informed career choices. These topics include:

- Industry trends
- Jobs of the future
- In-school options such as VET, school-based apprenticeships and external VET (EVET)
- TAFE
- Private Training Providers
- Funding Options Available (smart and skilled)
- Useful resources
- Opportunities to speak to parents whose children have chosen a VET pathway

Entry to the showcase is free. However, a booking is required through <https://hawkesburyhigh.eventbrite.com.au>

Discipline Policy

The school's discipline policy has been updated following the review of Hawkesbury High School's STAR values in 2018. The updated policy closely aligns with the school's values and expectations and focuses on high expectations of student behaviour, citizenship and participation in learning activities both in and out of class. The updated policy can be found on the school's website.

Staff Conference 2019

All Hawkesbury High School staff attended the second annual staff conference which was held in the Blue Mountains on Saturday, 1 June. Teaching, office and support staff spent the day engaged in a range of professional learning activities that included mapping the "Hawkesbury Learning Journey" – identifying the progression of key skills and capabilities that will help all students improve their learning outcomes. In the next edition of my update I will write more about the "Hawkesbury Learning Journey" and how it will help students and teachers identify where they are in their learning journey, what they need to know to achieve their learning goals, and how they will get there. The "Hawkesbury Learning Journey" is an integral part of the school's focus on effective teaching and learning and proven high impact practices that make a real difference to student outcomes.

Mobile Devices Policy

The consultative draft of the school's mobile devices policy has been available on the school's website for three weeks, with a community feedback forum held in the school library on Tuesday, 21 May.

The community feedback forum was followed by an analysis of survey results which overwhelmingly supported strict guidelines for the use of mobile phones at school, and only for educational purposes in class. Some of the main policy points include:

- Students must place their mobile devices in their bags or pockets on silent during class time
- Phones can only be used in class with teacher permission and only for educational purposes
- Students must observe the school's STAR values when using mobile devices during school breaks
- Parents should not contact their children directly on their mobile phones during school hours
- Students must go through the school office if they are to make contact with their parents during school hours.

The finalised policy points will be published on the school's website this week.

Year 6 High School Taster Day

Students from partner primary schools attended the Taste of High School Day on Wednesday, 22 May. Over 120 students attended Hawkesbury High School with their teachers to get a taste of what high school might look like when they make the important transition from Year 6 into Year 7 in 2020.

Students participated in a range of activities, including hands-on activities in specialised classrooms such as science labs, kitchens, woodwork and metalwork workshops. The day also included sports activities and lessons in the Emily Reinhardt Learning Centre where visiting students got a taste of what 7C and 8C classes are doing in their Harry Potter themed future-focussed learning activities in English, maths, science and HSIE. All students I spoke to during the day had a blast and they were all looking forward to transitioning to high school next year.