

Dear Parents,

As this term, and ultimately the year, moves closer to the end, your sons' teachers are in the middle of completing Semester 2 school reports. Please ensure that you take quality time as a family unit to reflect on the critical feedback provided in the report. I am always surprised when I interview many of our students to find out that they have not read their own report, let alone taken the time to reflect with their parents on their school reports.

A significant investment of teacher time and effort goes into the completion of these reports and it is vital that it is shared with your son, and time is allocated to reflect on their success, strengths, weaknesses and attitude in all their subject areas. This will play a significant role in their academic development and will also assist you as a parent in the near future in supporting them and guiding them with future subject or career choices.

### **Presentation Day – Monday 14 December**

We can confirm that our Annual Presentation Assembly will be conducted during the day this year, on Monday 14 December. Due to current restrictions we will not be able to have parents and special guests attend the event. Instead the entire Presentation Day Assembly will be live streamed to students in classrooms and parents, with the link being sent out to the entire school community in the very near future.

The formal proceedings for the Presentation Day Assembly will commence around 1pm, to ensure that the ceremony is completed before the end of the regular school day.

### **Orientation Day for Year 7 2021**

Orientation Day will be conducted next Tuesday 1 December. This is one of the limited opportunities that we have in 2020 to promote and highlight the various qualities of the school to the new students. They will arrive during period 1 and have differing break times throughout the day to limit their interaction with our student body. However, Year 10 Prefects and Peer Support transition leaders will be interacting with the new cohort throughout the day to ensure that their first experience at Asquith Boys High School is not only a positive one, but is also welcoming.

### **Year 10 Reward Day**

On Tuesday 24 November, 10 hard working Year 10 students were selected by myself and Mr Melrose to participate in a Year 10 Rewards Day outing. The selected students excelled in 2020, working extremely hard in all areas of school life. They may not have been the most academically outstanding in their yeargroup, but they worked tirelessly to achieve their very best. From a short-list of 30 students it was very difficult to choose just 10. Mr Hoareau, Mr Melrose and the students enjoyed the opportunity to spend the day at Eastern Creek Go Karts where they had a great time.

### **Paperless in 2021**

Our aim in 2021 is to significantly reduce the amount of paper that we distribute to parents, students and the broader community. To enable this to occur it is essential that you support us in this area by ensuring that you have access to the **Parent Portal** as this will become the schools main communication mechanism.

If you require your access key code to be emailed to you, please contact the school and request this information be sent to you.

The school **sms** communication tool will be phased out in the last few weeks of 2020, however, the Sentral email system will continue to be used.

We appreciate you supporting our initiative as a school to reduce and conserve paper.

## Parent Survey – School Planning for 2021-2024

We sent out the link below on numerous platforms recently to request parental feedback for evaluating the current School Plan for 2018-2020, and provide us with some ideas for implementation in the new 4 year plan for 2021-2024.

We would love your input into the new plan and will leave the link open until Monday 30 November to allow you to access and provide your feedback to the school.

There will be a small number of opportunities to be involved in, or provide valuable feedback into the new plan by participating in focus groups. Please check your emails and future Backchat in Brief for further details regarding registering for these opportunities. Survey link - <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/5Y7HX8B>

## 2021 – Return to School dates

School will resume in 2021 after two Staff Development Days on Wednesday 27 and Thursday 28 January. The additional Staff Development Day has been implemented by the Department. The result is that there will only be one Staff Development Day at the end of Term 4, where there usually have been two.

### The following dates for your 2021 calendars:

**Years 7, 11 and 12** – Return on Friday 29 January

**Year 8, 9, and 10** - Return on Monday 1 February

**Last day of School** – Thursday 16 December

I hope that these dates will assist you in your family planning in 2021.

### 2021 DATES

**Term 1** – Wednesday 27 January to Thursday 1 April (10 wks)

Years 7, 11 & 12 start Fri 29 January, Years 8, 9 & 10 start Monday 1 February

**Term 2** – Monday 19 April to Friday 25 June (10 wks)

**Term 3** – Monday 12 July to Friday 17 September (10 wks)

**Term 4** – Tuesday 5 October to Friday 17 December (11 wks)

#### Staff Development Days

Wed 27 & Thu 28 Jan, Mon 19 April, Mon 12 July, Fri 17 Dec

## Parents are still asked to:

- Not enter the school grounds for any reason unless an appointment has been made.
- Keep students home if they have **ANY** symptom of being unwell, however mild.
- Follow normal absentee procedures, should your son be to unwell to attend school.

Thank you again for support with all of these areas and concerns. This term continues to be one where the number of cases are significantly low, and as restrictions begin to be lifted a general sense of normal can continue to be achieved.

**Bryce Grant**

**Principal**

*26 November, 2020*

## Year 7 Swim School

The Year 7's have been attending the annual Swim School program at Hornsby Pool this week, improving their swimming skills and gaining new ones.

