BACKCHAT IN BRIEF



Dear Parents.

It is nice to be able to look forward and start planning for 2021 with some key events approaching.

'Virtual' Subject Selection Evening (Years 8-10) Tuesday 16 June

In an exciting development our subject selection evening for Years 8, 9 and 10 will be online this year. The links below have been sent to all students and parents to gain access to information for subject selections for 2021.

Year 11 (2021) - https://sites.google.com/education.nsw.gov.au/abhs-stage6/home
Year 9 and 10 (2021) - https://sites.google.com/education.nsw.gov.au/abhs-stage5/home

This information includes a Principal's Address, Subject Selection Information presentation by Deputy Principal – Curriculum, Subject Selection Information Booklets, Subject Information videos, Zoom links for you to connect with staff on the evening for further Q&A, the process for choosing your subjects for 2021. For Year 10 students and parents, it also includes booking instructions for the Subject Selection Interviews on 21 August (Term 3).

I thank Mr Hoareau and all the staff who have worked extremely hard in recent weeks to ensure access to this information and produce the excellent subject videos for you to view prior to the evening.

Computers

I would like to thank all of the students who received a loan laptop for returning it to Mr Kitto. Many students are now bringing their own laptops to school and we encourage all students to utilise them for all of their classes where they feel it is beneficial to their learning. This not only alleviates pressure on sharing of the school sets of laptops throughout the day, but can also contributes significantly to student's engagement and understanding within the classroom setting.

Technology Survey

We are seeking your feedback on your experiences and thoughts about the ongoing use of technology in the school. You should have received this link via an email from the school last week, however if you are yet to complete the survey we would appreciate you taking 5 minutes to respond.

The survey will remain open until Friday 19 June. https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/6SXVK9X

Extra support from home at this time

Be it at home or school, students may externalise their heightened anxiety through inappropriate behaviours. Nearly always, challenging behaviours indicate that a student is struggling to understand, cope or communicate how they are feeling. They will require your reassurance, someone to listen to them, quality time with an adult and reaffirming of the boundaries/rules to allow them to feel safe. The school Counsellors and Year Advisers are also available as an initial point of contact if you would like to discuss your son's specific circumstances at this time.

Expected behaviour when travelling to and from school

Continuing on from the information above, we have had some recent feedback from train commuters that a few of our students are behaving uncharacteristically for Asquith Boys High School. As the overwhelming majority of our students are respectful and behave appropriately, it would be disappointing if the behaviour of a few students tarnished the reputation of those who consistently do the right thing and behave in a respectful manner.

Students who do not conduct themselves appropriately will be reprimanded and face serious consequences for any unacceptable behaviour.

As always, we expect that the students of Asquith Boys High School will always uphold the excellent reputation of the school and the uniform whether that is within the school grounds or out in the community, and I encourage all parents to have a conversation with their sons regarding how to conduct themselves appropriately whilst travelling to and from the school.

Contact Information

If you have changed address or contact details at any stage over the first half of this year we would greatly appreciate your new details being forwarded to the school so that our files can be updated and all school communications are received.

Also, all attendance communications will now be completed via the Parent Portal, as we will no longer be using SMS.

Students arriving late to school or leaving early must do so via the Print Room or Reception.

Week 8

Despite the recent announcement of the lifting of some further restrictions, Week 8 will continue with the current plan -

- Normal timetabled lessons to continue
- Mondays 3.05 pm finishing time and six period structure
- Tuesday Friday earlier finishing times at 2.15pm
- Wednesday Period 4 and 5 sessions will continue with the alternate program. Year 7-10 students will have a period of wellbeing and a study/homework/catch up period implemented to allow them to be active and complete outstanding work or homework.
- Year 11 and 12 will be able to sign out at the completion of period 3 or can continue with their major works or attend the Library for assistance with school work until 3.30pm.

Parents are 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. If any student
 presents to school unwell, they will be forwarded to the front office for parents to collect. They
 will not be able to remain at school and in sick bay.
- Follow normal absentee procedures, should your son be too unwell to attend school.

With only 15 days of school now left this term it is a great opportunity for our boys to really apply themselves over the next three weeks to ensure that their learning is optimised and that they produce work of the highest standard.

Mr Bryce Grant Principal

12 June, 2020



