

Dear Parents,

This was a busy week at Asquith Boys High School with the commencement of the Year 12 HSC Trials, Year 10 Parent Subject Selection Interviews, a number of Rail Safety Talks, a visit by the Surfing Scientist to 7E, ICAS Science Examinations, and participation in the 'Check in Assessments'. Unfortunately with the new Department of Education guidelines Grade Sport was impacted with inter school sports being cancelled. However, the ABHS Sport Faculty is planning to hold both an Athletics and Cross Country Carnival for the students in the coming weeks.

Year 12 Students

Week 1 of the HSC Trials completed and the supervisor has been most impressed by the polite and mature manner with which the students have undertaken the task and examinations. This is a great opportunity for Year 12 to practice and implement all that they have been learning in preparation for the HSC Examinations. Students have been observing the same HSC guidelines that they will have for the HSC in Term 4.

Even during their Trial Examinations the safety of the students, staff and the school community remains a priority.

The COVID-19 safe HSC Trial Examination message is:

- stay at home and get tested if you have COVID-19 symptoms,
- regularly wash your hands,
- cover coughs and sneezes, and
- avoid touching your face.



Asquith Boys High School - Library open until 4pm

With restrictions currently in place for students wishing to access and utilise the facilities at Hornsby Library the Asquith Boys Library staff have agreed to remain open every afternoon for students to study until 4pm, for the remainder of Term 3. Many thanks to our library staff for allowing this access to our students. These additional opening hours will commence from Monday 24 August.

Year 12 – End of Year (Amended)

Unfortunately, due to the most recently released guidelines for schools from the Department of Education some of our initial plans for end of Year 12 celebrations with the Graduation Dinner, Graduation Assembly and the Formal being impacted.

The Graduation Assembly will still be held on Wednesday 23 September, however, only Year 12 students will be present in the hall. We intend to live stream the assembly to the parents and to the students in classrooms, in an effort to make the assembly as positive and as memorable as possible for Year 12 and their families.

The Graduation Dinner planned for Monday 21 September has been postponed until Term 4. Information regarding this and other events and how we envisage implementing and conducting them will be communicated in the near future.

Formal tickets are in the process of being organised and will be available for purchase from the office soon. A full refund will be available if this function is not able to be held. However, we are very hopeful that by Term 4 the restrictions to hold this function have been lifted.

For all of these functions, the students, parents and the school will be required to adhere to the most current guidelines and restrictions. With the most recent ones released last Monday, we are currently making adjustments to all of our previous plans and arrangements.

A reminder that all Year 12 students will be required to attend school in week 1 Term 4 from Monday 12 October to Wednesday 14 October in accordance with the Department of Education guidelines. The HSC Examinations will commence on the following Tuesday 20 October.

This is an excellent opportunity that has not existed in the past for the staff to reengage with their classes after the school holidays. Providing Year 12 staff 3 quality days to critique, reflect and review any student/class based concerns regarding the HSC Examinations before Year 12 students have another 5 days to study, prepare and practise for their examinations from home.

Year 11 2021 Subject Selection Interviews

Parents of Year 10 students either connected by Zoom or phone for their interview with their respective teacher to finalise their son's subjects for their Stage 6 courses in 2021. This year the process was conducted differently to previous years, due to the Department of Education guidelines for parents entering school grounds. However, despite these restrictions the process was completed rather smoothly and allowed the Year 10 students to finalise their learning opportunities in 2021.

Any Year 10 parent feed back on this years process would be appreciated.

Rail Safety Talks

As a result of a number of reported incidents occurring on the trains across the Metropolitan area this year, City Rail have sent presenters into schools to address the students and highlight appropriate and inappropriate behaviours. Many of our students do the right thing on the trains of a morning and afternoon, however we have received some reports from the station master and the general public that indicate that some are not. As a school and community we pride ourselves on our students' behaviour at all times, be that in the school or out in the community.

We remind our students and parents that not behaving appropriately on the trains is not accepted, and may lead to students being disciplined.

Check in Assessment – Reading and Numeracy

We are participating in a new literacy and numeracy assessment package to complement our assessments of Year 9 students in 2020. The new 'check-in' assessments include an online reading and numeracy assessment for students in Year 9 and will be conducted over the next 3 weeks of Term 3.

The check-in assessments are designed to supplement existing school practices to identify how students are performing in literacy and numeracy, and to help teachers tailor their teaching more specifically to student needs. Feedback from the check-in assessments, including links to teaching strategies, will be available to the school, and assist with mapping individual students learning progressions.

School Athletics and Cross Country Carnivals

Monday 17 August we received notification regarding the new guidelines from the Department of Education that included an update to operating procedures regarding sport. Unfortunately, these substantial changes lead to Zone Sport ceasing all Grade Sport competitions until further notice. This is not an ideal situation, however, I think we all understand that circumstances are continually changing within our current environment and it is hard to predict what we will be allowed to do from week to week.

Despite the increased level of restrictions, they are presently allowing school carnivals to be conducted. In coming weeks the ABHS Sport Faculty will endeavour to conduct both Athletics and Cross Country Carnival for our students. Initial dates for these events are below, with details to be communicated once venues have been confirmed.

Wednesday 2 September – Cross Country Carnival – School Course (during Sport)

Wednesday 9 September – Athletics Carnival – Foxglove Oval (All day)

Grade Sport - Cancellation

Mr Jones sent out an email on Tuesday to all parents, and we are currently processing refunds for the students who have paid for their winter grade sport competition.

For the remainder of Term 3 Recreational Sport will continue as normal and Grade Sport teams will participate in training and friendly internal competitions. We understand that these plans are not as satisfactory as participating in regular Zone Grade Sport competition and we appreciate your understanding and cooperation throughout this ever-changing environment. We will keep you updated and let you know of any subsequent further changes.

Students on NoGo

Students who have not been consistently wearing their school uniform in recent weeks will be notified if they are to attend 'NoGo' in lieu of sport on a Wednesday afternoon. We have been quite lenient on students over the past term, however the uniform standard has not been to the highest standard that we accept at Asquith Boys High School, including students wearing hoodies underneath their school uniform. We are happy for students to layer up under their uniform and recommend that those layers cannot be seen by the teachers.

In coming weeks students who are consistent late arrivals will also find themselves completing 'NoGo' detentions instead of going to Wednesday sport.

Your assistance with ensuring that your son is wearing the correct uniform (head to toe) and not arriving late to school will ensure that they are not required to attend 'NoGo'.

Students at Coles and the Chemist

A reminder again to both parents and students that the students are not to be at Coles and/or the Chemist of a morning from 8-8.40am or afternoon until after 4pm. This is to avoid them getting reported for inappropriate behaviours and from time to time theft. Both venues have been advised to report any inappropriate or illegal behaviour to the police.

The senior executive will be doing random checks at both venues, and students not complying with the hours outlined will be dealt with accordingly. Students have been advised and warned on numerous assemblies and occasions by the school. Your assistance and support with communicating this to your son is most appreciated.

Social Distancing by Students

I request that all parents have a discussion with their sons about reinforcing the importance of social distancing. While we are very explicit with stressing this fact with all our students on a weekly basis, the very real and confusing fact for all our students is that these guidelines do not apply to them while they are on the school grounds. However, once they exit the school they are expected to comply with these guidelines on the footpaths, at the train station, on the trains, and buses to and from school.

Please remind your sons that they must comply with these guidelines. Your support is greatly appreciated at this time, as there have been a number of concerned community members who have raised this issue with the school over the past two weeks.

60th Anniversary Celebrations – Postponed for 12 months

Due to the unprecedented times, Department of Education guidelines and restrictions, as well as the unpredictable nature of COVID-19 in and around the community, we have decided that it would be wise to postpone all planned 60th Anniversary celebrations for 12 months.

This includes the Golf Day, 60th Anniversary Formal Dinner and the P&C Community Day, which were all planned for September.

All information about the new dates and events will be communicated through a variety of mediums in 2021, when we all hope the guidelines and restrictions have been lifted to a level which allows them to be conducted successfully.

School Counsellor - Resources

Mrs Wakelin the School Counsellor highly recommends the following excellent resources for parents and their sons. These are well worth reading or accessing for strategies and tips on how to support your son to manage stress and remain motivated for school despite this difficult stage of their schooling.

Supporting students to manage their mental health is more important than ever.

[ReachOut website](#)

[Common Concerns regarding Stress](#)

[Motivating your teenager when school is the last thing on their mind](#)

Students who are unwell

Again, a reminder and a school request that students with any illness symptoms, no matter how mild, should not be sent to school. We appreciate families supporting the school with the request. If any student presents to school unwell, they will be sent to the front office for parents to collect. They will not be able to remain at school and in sick bay.

Parents are also 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 too unwell to attend school.

We will continue to advise and inform you as restrictions change, and appreciate your support with the ever changing and very complex nature of the circumstances that exist, not only within the school environment but in society at the present time.

Thank you again for your support of the school as we continue to educate and support your sons.

Mr Bryce Grant

Principal

21 August, 2020

ABHS P&C ASSOCIATION

The P&C will meet on Tuesday 25 August from 7.30pm via Zoom.

If you would like to attend you need to email the P&C President - Dawn Kilkelly, on president.abhspnc@gmail.com to register your interest in attending and receiving the Zoom link for Tuesdays meeting.

All welcome!



Teaching someone to drive can be a **happy** experience.

Join a FREE online workshop/presentation full of practical advice and information for parents, carers and supervisors of learner drivers completing the Graduated Licensing Scheme.

The next workshop in your area will be held online:

TIME & DATE:

6:00pm to 7:30pm
Thursday
3 September 2020

VENUE:

Via Zoom -
from the comfort and
safety of your home.

BOOK NOW:

Online via:
www.trybooking.com/BGKSH
or (02) 9847 6856
Bookings Essential

PART TIME AFTER SCHOOL DELIVERY JOB

SuperSave Chemist are looking for a Year 9 + student with a bike who is a strong bike rider to deliver medicines locally.

Their job requires them to :

1. ride to customers' homes and deliver medicines to them.
2. pharmacy maintenance: tidying the pharmacy surrounds, emptying bins and pulling them out for council pickups, breaking down boxes and tidying the pharmacy.
3. Work hours are 4:00pm to 5:00pm

Contact: Quan

SuperSave Chemist

343 Peats Ferry Rd, Asquith 2077

Ph: (02) 94773537

Dispensary@SupersaveChemist.com