



2023 BACKCHAT IN BRIEF #6

(T1W8)

A busy couple of weeks have been and gone, and another couple of busy weeks are ahead with NAPLAN examinations for Years 7 and 9, and almost every year group having assessment tasks to complete.

Open Night – Monday 6th March

Our Annual Open Night was an overwhelming success with over 100 future students in attendance to view and see all that Asquith Boys High School has to offer the boys of the local community by attending here in the future.

All faculty areas created displays and completed demonstrations for the attending students and parents, much to the delight of all that were able to attend. Our student leaders were outstanding tour group leaders and the students in Years 8 -10 who remained at school to participate in the faculty-based demonstrations and displays were exemplary advocates for our excellent school.

Since conducting this event, we have received numerous emails of appreciation for the demonstration and displays that were on offer to the attending parents and students. As a result, I will be conducting other school tours for prospective parents and their sons due to the increased interest from the broader community.

Year 7 and 9 – NAPLAN

The National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) has come around again and is a point in time assessment of literacy and numeracy skills that are essential for every child to progress through school and life. Each year students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 participate in tests for writing, reading, conventions of language (spelling, grammar, and punctuation) and numeracy.

As you were advised a couple of weeks ago, from 2023, NAPLAN has moved to Term 1 and will take place from **Wednesday 15 March** to

Monday 21 March 2023. The reason for this change is so that results can be returned to schools earlier in the year, which will support teachers to understand the learning needs of their students and plan accordingly.

NAPLAN tests are just one part of our school learning assessment program and questions are primarily based on knowledge, understanding and skills gained from the prior year of schooling.

In preparation for NAPLAN 2023, we have undertaken activities to help students become familiar with the format and functionality of the online tests. These activities are not an assessment of student ability and will not be marked.

Your child's class has been given the opportunity to complete the NAPLAN examinations **on their own device** if their device meets the spec requirements (please see attached page).

They will need to have a NAPLAN lockdown browser (LDB) installed on their device before the exams. The browser can be downloaded for devices from the following link:

<https://www.assessform.edu.au/naplan-online/locked-down-browser>

It would be wise for your child to bring their charger to school on the day/s of the exams.

Students and parents can access the [public demonstration site](#) to familiarise themselves with NAPLAN and the types of questions and tools available. Excessive preparation for NAPLAN is not required nor recommended.

NAPLAN 2023 Information for parents and carers is attached. If you have any further questions about NAPLAN, please contact the school.

Resources include:

- [Public demonstration site](#)
- [NESA NAPLAN website](#)
- [NAP parent/carer support page](#)
- [Watch a video that explains tailored testing](#)

Device minimum requirements:

	Screen Display must measure 24.6 cm (9.5 inches) diagonally and support resolution of at least 1024 x 768 at 32,000 colours.
	Audio Headphones, earphones, or earbuds must be available for the spelling and numeracy tests. Bluetooth headphones are supported. Music streaming software (such as iTunes and Spotify) must be closed before the locked down browser is launched on the student device.
	Keyboard <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Physical keyboard (wired or wireless) is required for laptops and desktop computers.• Physical keyboard (wired or wireless) is required for Windows touch devices.• Physical keyboard (wired or wireless) is optional for other devices with a touch screen keyboard, such as tablets. Note: An external keyboard is not necessary for successful interaction with online items when students are responding to tests on tablets (although external keyboards for tablets can still be used if a school prefers this approach).
	Pointing device Mouse, trackpad, touchpad or touch screen or other pointing device with which the student is familiar. Apple pencil is not supported

The following list includes the general requirements for NAPLAN Online.

Device type	Locked down browser	Supported operating system	Hardware	Not supported
 Windows	Locked down browser for Windows	Windows 10, version 20H2 or later	Windows or tablet capable of running supported operating system, 1GB hard drive space free Note: Physical keyboard (wired or wireless) and mouse (or touchpad) are required for Windows touch devices.	Windows RT, Windows 10S, Windows CE, Windows Terminal Services, Virtual Desktop Infrastructure (VDI), Windows 11S, Windows 11SE
 Mac	Locked down browser for Mac	macOS 10.15.4 or later	Mac capable of running supported operating system, 1GB hard drive space free	N/A
 iPad	Locked down browser for iOS	iPadOS 14 or later	iPad Air 2 iPad Pro (1st generation) iPad (5th generation) Note: Emoji and auto capitalisation to be manually disabled. Note: Apple pencil is not supported.	iPad Mini (all models) iPad Air (1st generation)
 Chromebook	Locked down browser for Chromebook	Chromebook version 90 or later	Manufactured during 2019 or later Note: Configured to run testing app in kiosk mode and requires enrolment in the Chromebook Management Console Note: Physical keyboard (wired or wireless) and mouse (or touchpad) are required for Chromebook touch devices.	Chromebooks operating outside Chromebook Management Console, ChromeOS Flex, CloudReady

Alison Gowthorp
NAPLAN Coordinator

Parents – How to locate permission notes:

In recent weeks we have received several calls with respect to the location of permission notes for the various activities and excursions that your sons may participate in. Therefore, please find displayed below an image outlining the location for an information note for an activity or excursion which will appear when you click on the ‘blue button’ in the email that you receive in relation to an activity or excursion.

This is an '*information note* (not a '*permission note*' like you may have been provided with in the past) and not a note that you must sign or return to school. This note just provides all the information about the activity. Parents should instead give permission for their child/ward to attend by submitting the form on the same page.

If you need to make a payment, this can be done by clicking the green 'Open Link' above the Information Note in the sidebar on the same page.

We hope that this information will assist you in locating and completing the required information and payment in the future.

The screenshot shows a school website for Asquith Boys High School. At the top is the school's crest with the name 'ASQUITH' at the top, 'B.H.S' in the center, and 'GROW IN WISDOM' at the bottom. Below the crest is a form titled 'Online Form - Elective Visual Arts Excursion'. The form has fields for Activity Name, Date/Time, Description, Cost, and Venue. To the right of the form is a sidebar titled 'External Links' which contains a link for 'Information Note' with a red box around it and a red arrow pointing to it from below. There are also links for 'Make Online Payment' and 'Download'.

Congratulations: -

- To our Davidson Shield KO Cricket Team for a second round victory over Turramurra High School, with our bowlers Taj Foster 2/9 and Nathan Crump 2/5 sealing this victory.

DET COVID Updated Guidelines

Finally, a reminder that many of the COVID restriction and guidelines for school are still being applied to schools.

Parents are still asked to:

- 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.

Thank you again for support in this area and we are all looking forward to a new school year filled with wonderful challenges, with many rewarding experiences for all students at Asquith Boys High School.

**Bryce Grant
Principal**

15 March 2023