

PRINCIPLES UPDATE: 28 July 2023

Dear all,

Well we are gradually settling into the new build and finding our way to the new classrooms and spaces. It is wonderful to have the extra space both in terms of classrooms, offices and even the playground. We are still persisting with the staggered recess and lunch, and this is really creating space for our students in these breaks. The library is unsurprisingly very popular as are the music rooms and other spaces.

The trial HSC seems to be going smoothly, with our students experiencing the hall for English papers 1 and 2 earlier this week. Level 3 of G block is being used for the smaller exams. Then next Monday we will revert to the hall for the maths exam. The rest of the school is being very respectful in keeping away from the exam rooms during their breaks.

What was the old canteen and music rooms in C block is being pulled down. Already the roof and first floor have been demolished. While there has been some noise Multiplex are doing all that they can to minimise this. There still may be a time when we will need to have one or even a couple of working from home days. I will try to give families a week's notice. Students will use Google Classroom and have lessons on Zoom or Teams during these days and of course there will be supervision of online learning at school for students who need to attend.

On Thursday evening next week, we will hold the second subject information evening, this one is for Year 9 into 10. Again, the evening will be via Zoom, and I will send a link to Year 9 parents early next week.

Finally, I would like to start a conversation regarding mobile phone use. As you may know mobile phones in NSW schools will be banned from term 4 day 1 this year. The policy states:

- no mobile phone use for students in years 7 - 12
- covers all aspects of the school day including breaks
- covers exemptions for learning, wellbeing or medical purposes
- covers all school organised events - excursions carnivals etc
- covers the use of the canteen and other service students may pay for

Options for the school to follow in term 4 are either (my thought in the brackets):

- phones off and away (trusting all students to not touch their phone)
- phones collected and stored in classroom (time from learning in lessons)
- phones in lockers (not every student has one)
- phones stored in the office (might work for very small schools ... not ours)
- pouches (this option has been used by some schools)

I have commenced the conversation with students and as we move through the term we might trial some of the alternatives listed above. I also hope to survey families regarding your ideas moving forward.

Sorry for the slightly longer than normal update. Hope you have a lovely weekend!

Susan