

Dear all

Hope this email finds you well.

School is hectic at the moment with the HSC progressing, our students completing their final assessments before second semester reports are written and of course Year 8 getting ready for their camp.

Year 11, 2022 have now migrated to Year 12 and have dropped subjects and picked up extension subjects. They are also no-longer having split lessons but following the timetable pre-build that the whole school used to follow. This actually works well as Years 7 and 8 have recess together with no other years and similarly lunch.

Speaking of the build, it is very pleasing to hear from Multiplex that despite the poor weather the build is progressing to schedule. If you have been near the school recently you would be amazed at how quickly it is going up. I am informed that we have reached level 4 now which is the maximum height. After finishing pouring level 4 concrete, the next step will be the brick facade on the Military Road side of the building. I think that is something we will all be interested in seeing.

The HSC has now completed its second week and with English and maths over we are now moving into all the other choices that the students have made. Often there are long gaps between exams and it is a challenge to stay motivated. Maybe a little positive break after an exam and then get back into studying for the next.

Tonight (Friday) is an exciting one as the TAS faculty will be hosting an exhibition called 'Design". The creative works of students from Years 7 - 12 will be on display including the Year 12 major works. Did I tell you that three of our accelerated students were nominated for 'Shape" the HSC showcase. Then, after the Design exhibition we can drive (or walk) down to Balmoral and hear the wonderful jazz band perform in the rotunda under the baton (or saxophone) of the incredible Joern Harris.

Last night our 2022 School Captain Will Osborne and parent Ann King were the guests of leading educator, Professor Pasi Sahlberg, as part of a panel at the Utzon Room at the Opera House. The discussion was about "Imagining if student health was as valued in the curriculum as literacy and numeracy". Ann and Will were outstanding representatives of our school and received many plaudits at the end of the evening.

Year 10 will be taking part in the science equivalent of NAPLAN - Valid - next week. We wish them well. We have decided to do something a little different for our new Year 12 in their first term as HSC students. In week 8 we will be giving them a StuVac. All the assessments that are usually grouped into the last few weeks of the term will have to be held in week 8 but the students will be allowed to attend the assessment if it occurs in the classroom or stay at home if they have no assessment due at a particular time. This is not an original idea as many of our local schools have been doing this for some time. The thought is that students have one intense week as they do for trial HSC exams and the HSC and so get used to planning and organising their study, revision and essay writing further from the due date. Of course we will evaluate this initiative.

Wishing you a lovely weekend

Susan