

## Principal's Update – 15 March 2024

Dear all

Well the focus this week has been on NAPLAN. For the first time we have had all students in the school hall on their own devices. While there have been a small number of students who did not have a device, in the main the students have been excellent in bringing both their device and headset. Of course the school does have a number of laptops that can be given to students in case of an issue.

All the literacy exams have now been completed and only numeracy is yet to be completed on Monday. The supervising staff have managed to catch up those students who due to absence missed a test, so we are hoping that by Tuesday all students will have completed all tests. I am very grateful in particular to Bernadette Smith and Clint Johnson who organised and supervised all tests as well as our wonderful IT support staff who have ensured all students' technology issues were addressed quickly.

The Head Teacher science was so impressed with the process in the hall that we are looking to running Year 8 VALID (the science equivalent of NAPLAN) in the hall as well as HSC all my own work and even possibly HSC Minimum Standards.

The first Parent Teacher Student (PTS) night took place on Tuesday of this week. It was lovely to return to the face-to-face approach to these evenings. For the past four years we have had the PTS nights via phone but with our new hall, all PTS nights will be face-to-face for 2024. Parents can enter via the Belmont Road gate or the Military Road gate and the hall is open from both these directions. The next Parent Teacher night is for Year 7 on 26 March. For other years the PTS evenings are in terms 2 and 3.

This Friday will be the first StuVac day for Year 12. Due to Easter and Good Friday being a holiday in their StuVac week (week 8), we decided to move the commencement to the Friday in week 7. All Year 12 students will have English this coming Friday. As we move to the end of term, assessments will be ramping up in all years. As discussed in the Parent Forums, please check your child's assessment booklet (also on the school webpage) as well as their Google Classroom posts to see what assessments are coming up.

At the same time there are lots of extra-curricular offerings. The Knock Out sporting competition is in full swing and there are so many clubs and opportunities in music, debating and other areas. Also the Study Club in the library run by Mr Little has recommenced and will allow students to work in the library till 4.30pm.

This week we have had two parent meetings on Tuesday, the Sports Committee met and then on Thursday evening the Wellbeing and Inclusion committee met. A great idea that came from that meeting was to invite a guest speaker from the school's Learning and Support team or Wellbeing team to address the parents at every meeting moving forward. So next term Tania Prowle our new Learning and Support Coordinator will address the meeting. Such a good initiative and I hope that any interested parents will take advantage of these opportunities to find out more about how the school works in these areas.

Next week is Special Program week and Year 6 students will be able to audition for dance, art, music, drama or our academic extension program. So it will be a busy week.

Hope you have a lovely weekend

Susan