

Comment from the Principal - 14th October 2016

Dear Parents and Carers,

A warm welcome back to Term 4, mercifully accompanied by some spring-like weather which, although welcome, is always a little frustrating for exam candidates.

Year 12 Mock Examinations

This term our Year 12s have been sitting their mock examinations in the Parish Centre as a prelude to them sitting their ATAR exams there next month. The venue, and style adopted, does seem to have enhanced the atmosphere and should help the students feel more comfortable in their final exams. We are grateful to the Parish for giving us access to this excellent facility.

Next week all Year 12 students are expected to be in School for the whole week to give their teachers the opportunity to review the exam scripts and provide some final advice. Thereafter they are not required to be in School although teachers will be available to assist with revision.

Please remember that the ATAR examinations are in the Parish Centre and that students should be in summer uniform when attending for these.

Year 12 Leavers' Events

I append a note from SDERA which I hope will help you work with your children to allow a happy celebration of the end of exams and School:

Leavers: What parents should know

- 93% of Leavers at a WA destination reported drinking alcohol
- 15.8 standard drinks = Leavers' average number of drinks on a typical celebration day
- 9 out of 10 reported at least one negative consequence of drinking such as blackout, unprotected sex and injury.

School Drug Education and Road Aware (SDERA) is urging parents in the Esperance community to take an active role in preparing their children for Leavers' celebrations at official Leavers events (24-27 November 2016) as well as locally organised gatherings.

Alcohol-related harms can – and do- occur during Leavers. 'There are many things you can do to help your child avoid some of these harms by being involved in the planning process,' said Jill Fitzpatrick from SDERA.

'Explain your expectations about alcohol, and set ground rules for your child to follow. Discuss what can happen when people drink alcohol, and ensure that your children know that they can contact you at any time alternatively have contingency plans in place.'

Interestingly, leavers report that parental approval of drinking and supply of alcohol influences the amount they drink. 'Leavers who thought their parents would approve of them drinking were more likely to report heavier alcohol use, and those who were supplied with alcohol by their parents were more likely to drink at harmful levels.'

To reduce the likelihood of harm, it is recommended that parents do not provide their child with alcohol. According to the National Health and Medical Research Council Alcohol Guidelines, the safest option for under 18s is not to drink at all.

For more information on alcohol and Leavers visit alcoholthinkagain.com.au or leaverswa.com.au

Year 11 Programme

To avoid any doubt I spoke to all Year 11 students to remind them that they are required to be in School until the last day of term, as teaching and learning programmes will continue until then.

Music

Our musicians have already started rehearsing for the End-of-Year Concert which will take place at 1800 on Thursday 27th October in Doug Murray Place. There will be a range of expressive arts on display that evening - bands, ensembles, strings, vocals, art and dance - in a celebration of an area of great strength at this School. I do hope that you will be able to come along for what will be an enjoyable evening, with catering provided by the Parents and Friends.

Mentoring Programme

As you will know the Year 10s enjoyed their two-day camp at *The Duke* which trained them in the skills necessary to mentor new students and to train future mentors. The programme will continue this term, and a camp with Year 9s later in the term will continue the work started by the Year 10 students. More information will be provided in due course.

Information Technology

As you may recall you were sent copies of our IT Policy and User agreements - these do need to be signed and returned this coming week, so could I please ask you to dig these out and return them to Reception. Please get in-touch if you need a fresh copy; thank you for your help.

The Esperance Show

As I write I reflect on an enjoyable morning spent on our stand at the Show, with our face painters drawing(*sic*) a lot of interest and praise. This is a good opportunity for us to publicise our School and I am always pleased at the warmth of reception we receive from those attending.

Forthcoming Events

Looking ahead you should be aware of the following events all of which appear in the calendar. Of course please do not hesitate to call should you need any clarification.

Week 2 Jackman on duty

All Year 12s in School

17th - 22nd October - Year 11 Outdoor Ed camp

Tuesday 18th October - 1235 IT Focus Group

- 1715 PFA meeting

Wednesday 19th October - School Council meeting

Thursday 20th October - Literacy and Numeracy Focus Group

Friday October - Year 12 BBQ Breakfast and event from 0745

Week 3 Wood on duty

Thursday 27th October - Boarding evening

- 1800 School Concert

- EACS chess congress

Friday 28th October - 0900-1030 Open Morning

- National Bandana Day

Week 4 Goldsworthy on duty

Monday 31st October- WACE exams start in the Parish Centre using external invigilators

Friday 4th November - Goldsworthy lead Chapel

Week 5 Jackman on duty

Exams for Years 7-10

No Assembly or Chapel

Week 6 Wood on duty

Monday 14th November - Mid-Term Holiday

Year 11 Exams

Friday 18th Wood to lead Chapel

Week 7 Goldsworthy on duty
Friday 25th November - Transition Day

Week 8 Jackman on duty
Tuesday 29th November - GSSAA Athletics Carnival in Albany
Thursday 1st December - Surf Competition
Friday 2nd - Jackman to lead Chapel

Week 9
Tuesday 6th December - 1800 Year 12 dinner
Wednesday 7th December - Awards Night and Practice in morning
Thursday 8th December - last day of School for students - volleyball competition
Friday 9th December - Staff PD Day

I look forward to welcoming many of you to the School in the weeks ahead.

With every good wish.

Yours sincerely,

Kerr

P. Kerr Fulton-Peebles
Principal