19 January 2015

Dear Parents/Caregivers

WELCOME to the 2015 academic year. You have received a number of communications from the school before the holidays and as the new school year is about to begin, I write with a few reminders.

**LATE start on Wednesday mornings**

The world of adolescents has changed dramatically in the last decade. At school we are preparing our adolescents for a world in which innovation, creativity, problem solving and high end use of ICT tools are additional basic skills. We are also preparing them to have an ability to work with diverse people, ambivalent situations and rapid change in organisations and circumstances. These skills, capacity and attitudes are essential for the future success of individuals and our state.

One proven strategy to lift student achievement and to develop the above skill sets in students is to invest in sustained, regular professional development of teachers. This year, every Wednesday morning, students will arrive later at school while teachers will be at school working in groups on an aspect of pedagogy. We hope that after a period of time, students will report on these changes, both informally as they chat to you, as well as in formal feedback to their teachers. We anticipate that these changes will take time to cement and as we progress with them, we will report to you.

As previously reported to you, Torrens Transit has made changes to school bus timetables for students to arrive on time. On Wednesdays, though, students will have to learn independence and check their bus timetables to ensure that they arrive at school on time.

Middle Campus students are to be in class by 8.25am and will be dismissed at 3.10pm. Senior Campus lesson 1 will commence at 8.40am and dismissal will be at 3.10pm.

On Wednesday, there will be a **late start to the school day for all students.** On the Middle Campus, there will be yard supervision from 9.45am and students will report to class at 10.10am. However, Middle Campus students who wish to come to school to do their own study on Wednesday mornings will be supervised by a member of the Executive team. Students must report to the Resource Centre by 8.25am.

On the Senior Campus, if students wish to come to school to study as it occurs currently, they must sign in at Student Services (Front Office) from 8.00am.

**Daymap**

We hope to expand the use of the parent portal on Daymap so that you can track your student’s progress. Early in the term we will invite parents to information sessions so that the Daymap system can be demonstrated, although your students can do this for you already. We are asking teachers to put all summative assessment tasks and assessment criteria/rubrics on Daymap and if there are issues with this, please contact us. All homework tasks and communication between students, teachers and...
you will occur on Daymap, thereby replacing the hard copy diary. If a student prefers a hard copy diary, we advise purchasing one from a local retailer.

**Uniform**
The uniform is a matter of safety and high standards. As parents you, and the public, judge us by the way our students wear the uniform. We rely on you to ensure that students have the correct items. In particular, we ask that black hard leather school shoes are worn, NOT soft leather shoes that have become a fashion item. Students know the difference. Short skirts are inappropriate for school—please reinforce an appropriate length with your students. Students are allowed to have a single piercing in each ear only with no other visible piercings or tattoos. Please be aware that the students are required to change into their sport uniform. They do not wear the sport uniform to and from school even if they have PE first or last lesson in the day. Students must change into and out of their sport uniform for each PE lesson.

**Skirt length**
The navy blue skirt and summer dress should be knee length, as is stated in the uniform policy. The Uniform shop supplies skirts with a suitable length. Some skirts have been altered or taken up to be much shorter, which is not consistent with school policy. As a clear guide, skirts should be no more than four finger widths from the crease at the back of the knee. Please ensure that skirts comply with this.

**School Shoes**
With the wide range of shoe styles available people can become uncertain about which shoes are appropriate for school. The picture below is an excellent example of a school shoe.

![School Shoe](image)

School shoes should be plain black, have a firm, solid sole and cover the foot. Slip on black shoes with exposed tops, soft ballet style shoes and those with thin soles, shoes made with canvas or fabric are not acceptable shoes due to Work, Health Safety (WHS) regulations. Soft shoes do not offer enough protection for the foot. When buying new shoes parents and students should keep in mind the need for safety and protection. Solid school shoes also support growing feet.

**Parent Engagement in School Life**
Despite adolescent comments about not wanting parents to come to the secondary school, students actually like seeing their parents at school events. When there is a regular, informed partnership between parents and teachers, higher level student success occurs. Early in term 1 there are a number of events that are designed to provide additional connection with school life and school events. Please look at the website regularly because the calendar is posted and updated for your use. Parent meetings, sporting and cultural events are itemised and we encourage your participation.

We are excited about the 2015 academic year and look forward to meeting you early in term 1.

Yours sincerely

Panayoula Parha
Principal