

BUSY SCHOOLS NEWS

Term 2, Week 5

Friday 21 May 2021

In this issue:

- [Timetable](#)
- [Assessment News](#)
- [Electives](#)
- [Cooking](#)
- [Staff Contacts](#)

We made it to the halfway point of Term 2! Well done everyone – students, families, support people and staff!!! The busy part of the term is upon us.

Year 12 students have completed their English exam, and I wish them well on their Math exams next week. I am sure the work they have put into their learning will shine through in the exam results. Year 11 students have been presenting their Social Community Studies speeches in front of a teacher aide and a camera. They are all coping much better with the process than they did in Term One. It is fantastic to see the students developing in all areas throughout our time with them.

Naomi Vucas
PRINCIPAL

Timetable

Training Days v Curriculum Days

Feedback from our registered training organizations often revolves around attendance, engagement and behaviours. Students need to remember that they are preparing for life after school and non-attendance, lateness, foul language and disruptive behaviours will not be tolerated in workplaces. We have had quite a few students removed from courses based on their lack of attendance, and some students are close to being withdrawn as a consequence of their behaviours and language. We ask that all families, carers and other advocates for our students start having conversations about work readiness and that school and training courses are opportunities to practice work appropriate behaviours.

Engineering

We are looking to start an engineering course in Term Two. If your young person is keen to join this course, please let Naomi or Clare know.

Business

If your young person is interested in enrolling into a Certificate II Business, please advise Naomi or Clare.

Attendance

Our fantastic and super friendly Clare spends most of her day calling people to chase up our attendance roll. If your young person is not coming to school, we urge you to email, text or call us to let us know. This will free up so much of Clare's day for her to get through the rest of her workload 😊. She enjoys talking to you all, so please give her a call and let her know what's happening. Her number is 0419 717 805 or 4058 4792.

Year 12 Assessment News

This Term is an important one for year 12s as they will sit their Common Internal Assessment (CIA) for Essential Mathematics (Week 6). As the assessment is set by QCAA and undertaken state-wide, the period of assessment is fixed and there is no flexibility around the timelines. It is imperative that all students are present on the assessment days. If students have valid medical documentation after missing the assessment, we must request for QCAA to send a comparable assessment and affected students sit this at a later arranged date. Such students still must meet the timelines for the rest of assessment for this year with their cohort.

Find attached the Term 2 assessment calendars for Year 11 and Year 12. Parents need to contact the school as soon as possible if there is any reason why students cannot attend assessment sessions.

Some important things to note for exams:

- If you arrive late and have no legitimate reason and/or no documentation to support that, we are not able to allow more time. Therefore, if you arrive with 10 minutes left of the exam, you can only get 10 minutes to complete the test.
- If you do not sit the test and have no legitimate reason and/or documentation to support that, we are unable to organise a comparable exam to give you a mark. This leads to an NR, which significantly impacts QCE credits for that subject.

Year 11 Assessment News

Catch-up classes for Year 11 late enrolments

All Year 11 students who have enrolled at our school and do not have any results or evidence of work from previous schools for this Year, will need to attend catch up classes during the Period 4 elective sessions. This will give an opportunity for such students to catch up on assessments already done by their classmates and to enable them to be awarded a result for Unit 1 in the prospective subjects. Failure to attend the classes might result in the need for the students to repeat Grade 11 Unit 1 next year (as an extra class, whilst they continue with Year 12 classes). Emails will be sent out to parents of affected students, to inform them about the catch-up classes.

Essential English: Students to catch up during all the elective sessions in Weeks 6 and 7 (next week).

Well-being

BUSY Schools has begun the process to develop a school improvement agenda, and all staff agreed that we need to incorporate a consistent framework around building and maintaining student wellbeing within our school setting. Sheridan Fisher, from ISQ, is guiding us through this process. Our major goal is to have our students leave here as positive, successful young people who can work through challenges and regulate their own emotions. Watch this space as the development of this evolves.



Once a week, we have started a Pancake morning with our students. Our lovely staff get out the BBQ and cook up a batch of pancakes for the morning. It was fantastic to see staff and students enjoying some socialising over breakfast this week. We look forward to doing this every week.



Students with Anxiety Seminar

Marney, Madelein and Naomi attended a professional development session around students with anxiety which was run by the school facilitators from Child and Youth Mental Health. The below is a quote from the seminar about how we, as adults, deal with our student's anxiety and why we need to be aware of our own behaviour towards them.

Students can show anxiety through non-attendance, acting out, withdrawal, or running away to name a few. Our students tend to call home and ask to go home. The next time this happens, please consider the statements below, as well as whether we are preparing them for their transition into the work force when we allow them to avoid things they don't want to do.

- *When adults rescue children from anxiety provoking situations, or protect them from anxiety provoking situations, they give the child several unhelpful messages e.g. the adult does not believe the child can cope with the situation, that the situation is dangerous, that when they are anxious they will receive lots of comfort, protection, and warmth.*
- *Conversely, when adults respond to anxious children with frustration and anger, children's anxiety will likely be exacerbated, as angry and frustrated adults are intimidating for children (as well as for other adults).*

Elective Session – 2:00 -3:00

There has been 100% improvement this week in our elective session. Thanks you to students and their support people in assisting us with this. Please continue enforcing the expectation that students stay until 3pm on their school days. The groups will rotate next week, so with the change, we ask you again to avoid allowing them to leave at 2pm. They need to get comfortable with the uncomfortable to excel in life and careers.

The activities that they will rotate through include:

- **Wellbeing with Stephanie** – Starting the session with 10 minutes of guided meditation allowing them to switch of their minds and take some time to be calm, followed by focussed lessons on ‘adulting’, dealing with friendship groups, communicating with parents and other focusses.
- **Art with Faith** – Group relationship building whilst working with Faith to develop an art piece.
- **Computer Skills with Madelein** – Students need knowledge of basic computer skills in order to more easily access and complete their learning and assessment. Madelein looks at the basics of touch typing and Word, Excel and PowerPoint.
- **Cooking with Toni** – This group cook something different each week, and it is their responsibility to ensure the kitchen is clean at the end of the day.
- **Sport with Cor** – This group builds relationships through sport and similar activities. In the current climate, there has been some basketball and some pool and table tennis being played. Even Cor gets involved in the games.
- **Career Skills with Ben** – This is a structured QCAA subject which focuses on the development of knowledge, processes, skills, attributes and attitudes that will assist students to make informed decisions about their options to enable effective participation in their future study, working life and career. This course continues all year as it attains 1 QCE Credit once completed. This one does not rotate!

As you can see, there are a range of activities that are relevant and useful to our students. They are also welcome to chat to me if they need some time to complete assessment, and I will set something up as they need it.