TEACHING AND LEARNING UPDATE – MAY 2014

YEAR 7-10 EXAMS

All Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 students will sit for exams commencing May 26 (Week 5). Could I ask for your support in ensuring that your son attends all exams? While I understand there will be times when a student cannot attend due to illness, it is difficult for the boys when they have to sit exams at another time. On a practical level, there may not be time for them to complete exams due to report deadlines.

YEAR 10 EXAMS /SENIOR SUBJECT SELECTION

Year 10 students should note that these exams will be used to help inform decisions regarding subject selection for Year 11 2015 as decisions re subjects need to be made well in advance of the final exams in November. This is important for all students but particularly those seeking access to more difficult courses such as Advanced and Extension English, Mathematics and Mathematics Extension 1, Physics, Chemistry, Economics and Software Design and Development.

As outlined in the assessment handbook, Year 10 students will need a medical certificate if they are absent from an exam. The certificate must cover the entire period of the absence and students must be ready to sit for the missed exam on the day of their return to school.

STUDY SKILLS PROGRAMME

Our Year 7 and 10 students took part in the Study Skills sessions with Prue Salter on May 6. For our Year 10 students, Prue looked at further development of their skills as they prepare for the Semester One exams and look towards senior study.

Our Year 7 students took part in the first stage of the programme which runs through to Year 12. There will also be a parent session for Year 7 students and their parents on May 20 at 7.30 pm in the Donovan Centre. More detailed information was emailed to all Year 7 parents in the last week of Term 1.

STUDY SKILLS TIP FOR MAY – THINKING AHEAD

Are you riding a rollercoaster at school? Rollercoaster study is where you stay up late doing last minute assignments, then you take it easy for a while and do very little, then panic again when something is due and have to spend huge amounts of time at the end completing the work. If you plan ahead and are prepared, you will find school much less stressful and more rewarding.
Here are the top tips for thinking ahead:

1. **STUDY NOTES**: If you know that you have a test at the end of each topic or examinations approaching, then on the nights you do not have much homework start working on your study notes and summaries. File them in folders at home so they are ready to go when you need them.

2. **ASSIGNMENTS**: Always start the assignment the day it is given to you, even if it is just a little bit. Make sure you understand the requirements and if you don’t ask your teacher straight away the next day. Brainstorm the steps the first night and do a rough plan of when you will do each step.

3. **ASK FOR HELP EARLY**: There is nothing more frustrating than a student who says ‘I haven’t understood anything we did in the last 3 weeks’. Ask for help as soon as you have a problem. Keep a list of questions for your teacher on a post-it in your textbook or sticky notes on your computer or a list in your phone. Don’t let problems or issues build up, ask for help early and often.

4. **THINK ABOUT WHO YOU SIT NEXT TO**: Choose wisely who you will sit with in class. This can make a world of difference to your results. If you sit with someone where it is a productive relationship, you encourage and help each other and stay on task in the classroom you will understand your work better and have less to do at home.

5. **CONSIDER YOUR WEEK**: Plan ahead for busy times. If you know you have nights where you can’t do much work or a busy weekend, plan ahead and get things done early. Always look ahead for possible times where you could be caught short of time and make plans to avoid problems.

Learn more this year about how to improve your results and be more efficient and effective with your schoolwork by working through the units on [www.studyskillshandbook.com.au](http://www.studyskillshandbook.com.au).

Our school’s subscription details to [www.studyskillshandbook.com.au](http://www.studyskillshandbook.com.au) are -
Username: forstgregsonly
Password: 60results

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