



LEARNING FOR LIFE

Respect Responsibility Honesty Achievement

4th February 2016

Dear Year 8 Parents/Families,

The Year 8 Team would like to warmly welcome you to the 2016 school year and to the Wirreanda Secondary School community. We are very excited to be working with you this year. We look forward to providing various opportunities for your son/daughter to transition positively into High School and be successful in their learning journey.

Beyond the information in this letter you will also find Year 8 Camp(s) Letter and Consent (Term 1 Week 4 February 22nd-26th).

Outlined below are some detailed expectations and information about Year 8 in 2016:

Attendance

Attendance at school on a daily basis is crucial for all students to experience success in learning. The school expects that all students will attend school every day. If a student is unable to attend due to illness or other valid reason, the school expects notification via the Student Diary, phone or by SMS.

As a school we are required to monitor student attendance and follow up on any unsatisfactory or unexplained absences. It is important to keep in mind that repeated absences and lateness are not in the best interests of any student (whether under compulsion or over compulsion), and we must remain alert for patterns of absences or lateness. Early identification and intervention of non-attenders or irregular attendance is proven to improve student learning outcomes.

Day Structure

It is expected that **all** school students will attend Home Group promptly each morning (8:40 am) and remain there for its duration. Students are expected at school ready for morning Home Group and stay for the entire school day before being dismissed at 3:15pm (dismissal time on Tuesday is 2:40pm).

Uniform

It is expected that all Wirreanda Secondary School students will wear **full** school uniform each day which has been endorsed by our Governing Council. Parents/Caregivers have agreed to ensure that students have access to the uniform and they will support the Wirreanda Secondary School Uniform Policy. If students do not already have a school uniform, they can purchase them at the cashier's office. Student's who do not come to school in full uniform will be asked to change into one provided by the school or return home to change into the approved Wirreanda Secondary School uniform.

Bring Your Own Device- BYOD

Students will be able to bring a device suitable for their studies to school each and every day. It's important that you have read all of the information that has been forwarded to you at the end of last year and ensure you and your child are clear about the expectations of using any other electronic devices whilst at Wirreanda Secondary School and as part of the wider community. Be sure to take an active interest in your child's use of technology, who they are communicating with, what they are communicating for and what they are looking at regularly.

Attached are several links that we encourage all families to spend some time looking at to make sure you are fully aware of what our children are doing online, the implications of using their technology inappropriately, who to contact if something is suspicious and where to go for further advice.

<http://www.businesswire.com/news/home/20131106005076/en/Digital-Divide-Teens-Keeping-Parents-Dark>

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_o8auwnJtqE

<http://www.thinkuknow.org.au/site/index.asp>

Pastoral Care

It is essential that each student will participate in the Pastoral Care Lesson on Tuesday mornings. During this time students will be working with Home Group teachers and peers on the following:

- *Supporting a successful transition to high school*
- *Effective study habits*
- *Health and Wellbeing*
- *Planning & organisation*
- *Class structures and school life*
- *Digital Citizenship*
- *Camp preparation*
- *Class meetings*

We look forward to working with all Year 8 students this year to ensure success for all. Should you have any concerns or issues throughout the year that you wish to discuss, please feel free to contact a member of the Yr 8 Team:

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The above can also be contacted on ph 8329 7200.

We look forward to seeing you at our WSS Family BBQ on Wednesday February 10th 5:30pm - 7:00pm.

Yours sincerely,

Ms Gabrielle Rinaldi
Year 8 Year Level leader

Ms Caroline Redding
Senior Leader