



LEARNING FOR LIFE

Respect Responsibility Honesty Achievement

20 January 2021

Dear Senior School Parents and Caregivers,

Welcome to the 2021 school year.

For some of you, this is your first year joining us in the Senior School as your young people begin Year 10, whilst for others this will be your final 'welcome back' as you prepare to support your young people through their final year of schooling. Within the Senior School, students in each year level face different challenges and experiences, however, regardless of whether your young people are completing Year 10, 11 or 12, it is important that they establish habits and behaviours for learning during these first few weeks of the year which will enable them to experience success.

At Wirreanda Secondary School, we begin to view our Senior School students as adult learners, and as such they are increasingly accountable for their learning experience, for communicating with their teachers, balancing their commitments and meeting their obligations. As a result, Senior School students have a greater ability to design and influence their learning program through subject selection and VET qualifications, however, many students also find this to be a time when they face hard decisions as they refine their personal values about what is truly important to them and their future pathway. We have put in place a range of supports in place to help you, and your young person, find your feet in the Senior School.

The Senior School Team

The Senior School Team for 2021 consists of:

Mr Brad Stubing, Senior School Leader (Red) - Brad.Stubing151@schools.sa.edu.au

Mr Keegan Taylor, Senior School Leader (Yellow) - Keegan.Taylor182@schools.sa.edu.au

Ms Lauren Smith, Senior School Leader (Green) - Lauren.Smith594@schools.sa.edu.au

Ms Lauren Buswell, Senior School Learner Wellbeing Leader - Lauren.Buswell734@schools.sa.edu.au

Ms Natalie Maddern, Senior Leader: Senior School - Natalie.Maddern90@schools.sa.edu.au

Throughout 2021, we will be supporting our Senior School students to develop the skills and dispositions associated with effective and efficient study, personal wellbeing and the realisation of aspirations for the future through our Pastoral Care Program, extracurricular activities, formal and informal leadership opportunities and Senior School events. Whatever their intended pathway may be, we are here to support Senior School students to achieve their goals.

Setting up for Success (attendance, uniform, communication)

Senior School students are role models within our school; as such, all students are expected to demonstrate our school values of Respect, Responsibility, Honesty and Achievement by being present, prepared and informed for learning.

There is a strong correlation between attendance and academic success, connectedness and future pathways. It is important that students are attending all classes including Home Group. If your young person is in Year 11 or 12, they must attend their timetabled study lessons and should refer to the separate notice regarding the use of The Atrium. If your young person is in Year 12, please also refer to the separate section below regarding timetabled Home Studies. **If your young person is unable to attend due to illness or another valid reason, please notify the school as soon as possible via phone (8329 7241) or SMS (0427 016 253).**

There are also strong correlations between the wearing of a school uniform, and experiencing a sense of belonging and self-esteem. We, and our students, are proud to be a part of the Wirreanda School community; wearing the full school uniform reflects our school identity, as well as our values of Respect and Responsibility. Students who do not come to school in full uniform will be asked to change into one provided by the school for the day. Uniform guidelines and a price-list are available on our website; please discuss any issues or concerns regarding uniform with your young person's Home Group Teacher in the first instance.

Important notices, as well as timetables and reports, will be published via Daymap, and information about key events and opportunities will be communicated to Senior School students directly via their **school email** (accessible via the Student Portal). Additional information may also be emailed to you directly, be published on the school's social media and/or be provided to your young person in hard copy to bring home.

Home study (Year 12 students only)

Students in Year 12 have the privilege of being granted **two blocks of home study** to allow students some flexibility in regards to where and how they study best. Each Year 12 who has completed their Research Project has been timetabled with two home study lessons which occur in either block 1 or block 3. Please note, students must attend Home Group each day including when they have a home study in block 1.

Parents/Caregivers are legally responsible for their student's safety, wellbeing and learning during these home study periods. Home studies may be removed from a student's timetable if they are considered 'at risk' with regards to their SACE progress, or at the request of a parent or caregiver.

Connectedness

We also recognise that the final years of schooling can be an exciting, but challenging time not only for students, but also for those supporting them. Parents and caregivers play a vital role providing support and stability to our students as they navigate the requirements of the SACE, maintain motivation in the face of due-dates and apply their resilience when things are not quite going according to plan. I would like to take this opportunity to invite you to attend the **Wirreanda Secondary School Family Barbeque**, which will be held on **Wednesday 3 February, from 5:30-7:00pm** followed by our Annual General Meeting (AGM). This is a fantastic opportunity to meet the Senior School Team, as well as the Home Group Teachers, other members of the Wirreanda Secondary School Leadership Team and to make connections with other families within the Wirreanda community.

Yours sincerely,



Natalie Maddern

Senior Leader: Senior School