



CORRIMAL HIGH SCHOOL



SAFETY

RESPECT

RESPONSIBILITY

Newsletter

Thursday, 14 February 2019



TEACHING FOR ENGAGEMENT, OPPORTUNITY AND SUCCESS

PRINCIPAL'S PERSONAL MESSAGE

The 2019 school year has commenced well and I was delighted to see the return of our students after the disruption of Term 4, 2018. Many students have shared with me their holiday experiences and seem genuinely happy to be back at school catching up with their friends and looking forward to the year ahead.

I was also extremely pleased to see the students in the new Year 7 cohort starting on their first day. I am looking forward to getting to know each of the students a lot better as the year progresses. I was very grateful to all of the parents and family members who turned up to support their Year 7 student on their first day. I hope that this is the start of a great year for all of you, and I look forward to seeing all of you as well as parents from our other year groups at school events through the year.

It was a great pleasure to be able to attend one day of the year 7 camp with the staff and students at Cataract Scout Park. I managed to chat with many of the students and they all indicated that they were having a good time, despite some of them being unaccustomed to sleeping in tents. The students even managed to get me on the abseiling wall which was a lot of fun.



Please remember that if you are a parent of a year 7 student, and you would like to clarify anything through the year, please ring the school to talk to your child's teacher, or please contact the Year Advisers – Mrs Banks & Mrs Heap.

I would like to welcome a number of staff to the school for 2019.

- Mrs Helen Mathews returns as HT Special Education. I would like to thank Mrs Jenny Kennedy for all of her hard work as relieving HT Special Education in 2018.
- Mr Lachlan King – HSIE Teacher
- Mrs Sarah Zalewski – Teacher Librarian
- Ms Kate Allan-Georgas – Special Education Teacher
- Mrs Holly Organ – Dance / English Teacher

There have also been a number of changes to our school Executive.

- Mrs Alicia Van Look will be the 2nd Deputy Principal this year and will look after students in Year 7, 9 & 11. Mr Graham will continue as Deputy Principal and will look after Year 8, 10 & 12.
- Mrs Mel Bourke – will be Head Teacher Wellbeing this year
- Mrs Belinda Arthur will be Head Teacher Teaching & Learning / HT PDHPE
- Mrs Hayley Chisholm will be Relieving Head Teacher English
- Mr Paul Munro & Mr Joel Foster be sharing the role of Relieving Head Teacher Industrial Arts and supporting Mr Mulder who will continue in the role, but will also be heavily involved in the rebuild process for the Industrial Arts building.

SCHOOL UNIFORM

It is great to see that the majority of students are in full school uniform. The school uniform information can be found on the school's website. Please read it carefully and refer to it when you are getting uniform during the year. In particular, pay close attention to the information and diagrams of appropriate footwear. Footwear must be solid leather or leather like lace-up school shoes or joggers in black. Please do not let your child convince you that canvas shoes are OK. Nor are the soft type shoe which is really just a canvas with a thin vinyl coating. Students will not be permitted to participate in practical lessons without appropriate footwear due to Work Health and Safety regulations.

The Deputy Principals are monitoring student uniform and providing school uniform to students who attend school out of uniform. While uniform may seem trivial, it does provide all students with a sense of belonging and connectedness to the school and provides a clear indication to staff about what the student's expectations are for the day. In addition, it assists staff to identify our students. I would like to see all students taking pride in their uniform and in the way they present themselves when they are at school, and I seek your support with this. As a school, we are trying to work with our students in order to help prepare them for all facets of their life outside of school, and uniform / dress code is one of these areas.

Please note, that if you are having trouble sourcing uniform for your child, a discreet phone call to your child's Deputy Principal can easily solve this problem and arrangements can be made with the school to support you with this.

ATTENDANCE

Attendance has been a key focus area since the beginning of the school year. It is important for your child's academic and social development that they attend school every day. There is an expectation that all students will arrive at school prior to 8:35 each morning so that they are here before Roll Call. Your support in ensuring that your child arrives at school on time is greatly appreciated. This year, many of the Year Advisers will be rostered on during Period 1 to check and record any student who arrives late to school. They will collate this information and provide it to the respective Year Adviser for follow up with the student and parent if required (repeat lateness). It is my intention to decrease the number of students arriving late to school each day. This will assist them to get a more settled start to the day and ensure that they do not start the day off by getting into trouble.

The Corrimal High School Senior Executive and Executive staff will regularly be in the quad, playground and corridors between classes, and at the end of Recess and Lunch in order to ensure that students are making their way to class promptly. Again, this is important to ensure that they, their classmates and teachers can get a settled start to the lesson and focus on the learning that needs to take place.

SCHOOL UPDATE

As you would be well aware, work has been continuing over the school holidays and into the first few weeks of this year to ensure that our school is up and running effectively as soon as possible. There have been a number of projects completed including:

- 5 new demountable buildings to temporarily house the Industrial Arts Faculty and classrooms
- Undercover walkway and ramps to the new demountable buildings
- New electrical work to the new buildings as well as buildings affected by the fire.
- New Autism support class
- Integration lift in the hall for wheelchair students

Work will be commencing shortly on an upgrade to the gardens at the front of the school in order to improve the visual appeal of the school. A classroom audit will also be taking place this year to identify rooms which are in need of improvements. This is intended to improve the look and feel of the classrooms in order to make them more engaging for students.

At the end of 2018, Corrimal High School was also selected for an upgrade to our Hospitality kitchen and Food Technology Kitchen. This \$700,000 upgrade will bring both areas up to an improved standard and will ensure that our Hospitality Kitchen is Industry standard. While this is disruptive, it will only be short term and will result in significant improvements.

It is also anticipated that the roof of the Hall and the windows in the Hall will be replaced throughout this year.

WELLBEING

A MESSAGE FROM CHS

Something we pride ourselves on at Corrimal High School, is that we know your children. We care for them and we provide amazing opportunities for them both in and out of the classroom.

We have expert staff that are committed to providing quality and engaging lessons to enhance student outcomes. We provide support programs within the school for students requiring additional assistance with their learning or with other social and emotional aspects. We liaise with external services to provide programs to meet a variety of student needs, such as: Creating Chances;



Youth Aware of Mental Health (YAM) and Top Blokes. We work closely with the Police Youth Liaison Officer (PYLO) to ensure we are addressing the current issues our young people face in their day to day lives. We ensure students receive every opportunity to apply for scholarships that will assist them financially and enable families to gain the support they require.

As we commence the 2019 school year, we are establishing our routine and the programs with which we will engage for the benefit of our students.

One vital ingredient to success at and connection with school is attendance. Education for your child is important and regular attendance at school is essential for your child to achieve their educational best and increase their career and life options. We will work in partnership with you to encourage and support regular attendance of your child. When your child attends school every day, learning becomes easier and your child will build and maintain friendships with other children and will improve their skills and knowledge.

Year Advisers will continue to closely monitor the attendance of their year group and will make contact with parents to offer assistance if attendance becomes an issue. Please ensure your child is at school every day, unless ill, and if your child is absent it is a legal requirement that an explanation is provided to the school within 7 days.

We would also appreciate your assistance with arriving at school and class on time. This is important is it:

- Ensures that students do not miss out on important learning activities scheduled early in the day
- Helps students learn the importance of punctuality and routine
- Give students time to greet their friends before class
- Reduces classroom disruption

If you are experiencing any difficulty with your child in terms of attendance, please call the school and arrange a time to speak with your child's Year Adviser. We are all here to help make this a positive school year.

CHAPLAIN'S CHAT



It's quite amazing how our minds work. How we think can actually change how we feel. Sometimes our problems can feel even bigger than they are when our thinking becomes unhelpful. Here are some ways that we may do this:

- Exaggerate the truth, eg: "I have NO friends"
- Jump to conclusions, eg: "That teacher hates me!"
- Make things out to be worse than they really are, eg: "There's no point trying as I'll never be able to understand anything at school."
- Ask questions we can't answer, eg: "Why can't I look like/be like him or her?"

For the full article click [here](#).

The Koori Leadership Council would first like to welcome all students and staff back to school. It has been fantastic to start the year back at such a fantastic school.

As a student leadership council we have already been very busy organising some of the many activities, events and resources for the 2019 period. From our work in 2018, we now have three flag poles for the Aboriginal, Australian and Torres Strait Islander flags to fly in the Quad. Along with this, the Acknowledgement to Country and CHS welcome signs have also been installed.

We cannot wait to continue our role to serve our school and our community in 2019!

KOORI CONNECTION



VACCINATIONS

2019 AT CHS

Each year NSW Health works in partnership with schools to offer the vaccines recommended by the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) for adolescents as part of the school vaccination program.

In 2019 the following vaccines will be offered to Year 7 students*

For the full information pack, visit our school [website](#).



YEAR 7 PEER SUPPORT TRANSITION CAMP



On the 4th and 5th of February, year 7 and 10 Year 11 students went on a peer support transition camp to Cataract Scout Park. The camp was all about getting to know our fellow students and making new friends.

We caught a bus to the camp at 8.30am and when we got there I was thrilled! I was SO excited...until I found out that I had to sleep in a tiny blue tent!

Each tent had two people sleeping inside and the majority of the space was taken up by our luggage. It was very hot, but it was such a great experience, even though a few of the tents had ants living with us for the night.

We had plenty of sugar and pretty good food to keep us going for two days! The activities that we got to do included caving, giant swing, abseiling and water sliding, which was so much fun! My favourite activity was caving where we got to climb through tiny holes that we didn't think we'd fit through, and got super dirty! The only downfall was that the caves were half man-made and were sandstone, meaning some of us came out with grazes on our elbows and knees. Overall, the camp was so much fun!!!

Thank you to all the organising teachers – Mr. Foster, Mrs. Banks, Mrs. Heap and Ms.AG. Also a huge, huge thankyou to all the Year 11's who took time out of their chosen classes to come help out and guide us Year 7's through the journey.



YEAR ADVISER'S MESSAGE

The new school term is well underway, and so are our new Year 7's! We are very pleased with how they have conducted themselves in this initial transition stage. Overall, they have been well mannered, cooperative, positive and keen!

The students should now be familiar with the school routine, their classrooms, teachers, and CHS code of conduct. It is important that they continue to work towards being prepared for every lesson, every day. School bags should be packed nightly for the next day, ensuring correct equipment is ready. Diaries also need to be on hand each lesson, and utilised effectively. We will be commencing random equipment checks next week to monitor their current ability to organise themselves for high school.

There will be continued class monitoring to ensure that each student has been placed in the most suitable learning environment. Currently the classes are settled and are engaging in a number of valuable learning activities.

Thank you parents and caregivers for helping your child with the wearing of their school uniform. The students are coming to school looking professional and ready to learn! We will endeavour to be in touch with all families to discuss your child's transition into Corrimal High School over the next few weeks. Please do not hesitate to contact us at any time to discuss your child's progress.

Transition Camp

It was just delightful to share the camp experience with the Year 7 students who attended. Their behaviour, manners, willingness to participate and positive attitude throughout the duration was commendable! We had a LOT of fun and look forward to planning similar events in the future. A big thankyou to Mr. Joel Foster for his organisation.

Ms Banks and Ms Heap

NATIONAL YOUTH SCIENCE FORUM



The 12 days I spent at the 2019 National Youth Science Forum were some of the most adventurous, memorable and eye-opening days. I was able to meet new people including Australia's chief scientist Dr Allen Finkel and representatives from universities all over the country as well as some of STEMS leading companies including Lockheed Martin, CSIRO, Australian Defence, Bayer and GSK.

During the 12 day I was fortunate enough to participate in many STEM lectures and visits. Some of my favourites include a video conference to CERN where we were all able to ask one question relating to their Large Hadron Collider, a STEM + FILM exploration at the National Film and Sound Archives (not to mention the Heath Ledger exhibit) and some incredible visits to the ANU medical school looking at the use of mice to study dementia and Alzheimer's and the use of VR to view genomes.

Being able to listen to some of the world's leading scientists present lectures on topics such as critical thinking and life planning definitely added to the experience as well. Over the twelve days spent at NYSF there is not much I can be critical about the program. I was able to explore the wide world of STEM and learn about many careers I didn't even know existed. Not only was I able to do this but I was able to step out of my comfort zone and try things like swing dancing and science discos with people I had only known for a few hours.

On the second last day the NYSF programs crew had set up a partner's day where we were able to meet all the partner of NYSF including uni's and companies as well "speed date a scientist." During speed date a scientist I was able to talk to people from all different careers and ages and ask all the questions that came to mind. I am so thankful to everyone who helped me attend NYSF 2019 because I definitely would not have been able to without you all and I would definitely recommend it to all year 11 students.

Chiahni Zulian

Compulsory School Attendance

Information for parents

Education for your child is important and regular attendance at school is essential for your child to achieve their educational best and increase their career and life options. NSW public schools work in partnership with parents to encourage and support regular attendance of children and young people. When your child attends school every day, learning becomes easier and your child will build and maintain friendships with other children.

What are my legal responsibilities?

Education in New South Wales is compulsory for all children between the ages of six years and below the minimum school leaving age. The *Education Act 1990* requires that parents ensure their children of compulsory school age are enrolled at, and regularly attend school, or, are registered with the Board of Studies, Teaching and Educational Standards for homeschooling.

Once enrolled, children are required to attend school each day it is open for students.

The importance of arriving on time

Arriving at school and class on time:

- Ensures that students do not miss out on important learning activities scheduled early in the day
- Helps students learn the importance of punctuality and routine
- Give students time to greet their friends before class
- Reduces classroom disruption

Lateness is recorded as a partial absence and must be explained by parents.

What if my child has to be away from school?

On occasion, your child may need to be absent from school. Justified reasons for student absences may include:

- being sick, or having an infectious disease
- having an unavoidable medical appointment
- being required to attend a recognised religious holiday
- exceptional or urgent family circumstance (e.g. attending a funeral)

Following an absence from school you must ensure that within 7 days you provide your child's school with a verbal or written explanation for the absence. However, if the school has not received an explanation from you within 2 days, the school may contact you to discuss the absence.

Principals may decline to accept an explanation that you have provided if they do not believe the absence is in the best interest of your child. In these circumstances your child's absence would be recorded as unjustified. When this happens the principal will discuss their decision with you and the reasons why.

Principals may request medical certificates or other documentation when frequent or long term absences are explained as being due to illness. Principals may also seek parental permission to speak with medical specialists to obtain information to collaboratively develop a health care plan to support your child. If the request is denied, the principal can record the absences as unjustified.

Travel

Families are encouraged to travel during school holidays. If travel during school term is necessary, discuss this with your child's school principal. An *Application for Extended Leave* may need to be completed. Absences relating to travel will be marked as leave on the roll and therefore contribute to your child's total absences for the year.

In some circumstances students may be eligible to enrol in distance education for travel periods over 50 school days. This should be discussed with your child's school principal.





My child won't go to school. What should I do?

You should contact the principal as soon as possible to discuss the issue and ask for help. Strategies to help improve attendance may include a referral to the school's learning and support team or linking your child with appropriate support networks. The principal may seek further support from the Home School Liaison Program to develop an Attendance Improvement Plan.

What might happen if my child continues to have unacceptable absences?

It is important to understand that the Department of Education and Communities may be required to take further action where children of compulsory school age have recurring numbers of unexplained or unjustified absences from school.

Some of the following actions may be undertaken:

- Compulsory Schooling Conferences

You may be asked, along with your child, to attend a Compulsory Schooling Conference. The conference will help to identify the supports your child may need to have in place so they attend school regularly. The school, parents and agencies will work together to develop an agreed plan (known as Undertakings) to support your child's attendance at school.

- Application to the Children's Court – Compulsory Schooling Order

If your child's attendance at school remains unsatisfactory the Department

may apply to the Children's Court for a *Compulsory Schooling Order*. The Children's Court magistrate may order a Compulsory Schooling Conference to be convened.

- Prosecution in the Local Court

School and Department staff remain committed to working in partnership with you to address the issues which are preventing your child's full participation at school. In circumstances where a breach of compulsory schooling orders occurs further action may be taken against a parent in the Local Court. The result of court action can be the imposition of a community service order or a fine.

What age can my child leave school?

All New South Wales students must complete Year 10 or its equivalent. After Year 10, and up until they reach 17 years of age, there are a range of flexible options for students to [complete their schooling](#).

Working in Partnership

The Department of Education and Communities recognises that working collaboratively with students and their families is the best way to support the regular attendance of students at school.

We look forward to working in partnership with you to support your child to fulfil their life opportunities.

If a student misses as little as 8 days in a school term, by the end of primary school they'll have missed over a year of school.

Further information regarding school attendance can be obtained from the following websites:

Policy, information and brochures:

<http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/goto/school/a-z/attendance.php>

The school leaving age:

<http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/leaving-school/index.php>

Do you need an interpreter?

Interpreting services are available on request, including for the hearing impaired. The Telephone Interpreter Service is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week on 131 450. You will not be charged for this service.

For further advice and questions contact your educational services team

T 131 536

Learning and Engagement

Student Engagement & Interagency Partnerships

T 9244 5129

www.dec.nsw.gov.au

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