



**PRAHRAN
HIGH
SCHOOL**

2020 THE PHS NEWS #1

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CREATIVITY | CURIOSITY | CHALLENGE | CHARACTER

MAKE AN IMPACT

MAKE AN IMPACT. 2020 WELCOME

Dear Families,

Tomorrow we begin week 2 of 2020 and our first full schedule of classes, after getting ready-to-learn last week in our inaugural transition and return to school 'Boot Camp'. Tomorrow marks the beginning of our normal learning and teaching program - full steam ahead from here. As the new week dawns, I write to share early updates of our progress, some pointers to what's coming up and early announcements and reminders.

I've been so pleased with the way school life has begun again at Prahran High School this year. There is such positive energy in our school and it's been wonderful to welcome our new students and families, along with welcoming back our Foundation students and families. We are a strong and close community.

What a difference a year makes!

It's worth remembering that we only actually took possession of our school site on 25 January 2019. When we began last year, everything was new, to all of us. Now, we know our way around, we are embedding our positive, learning culture and almost all our new students have had the opportunity to tour their new school with me before they began last week. We have more than doubled in size (students and staff) and we begin 2020 with 215 students in our care. It's a great place to be!

I very much look forward to our work together this year. Welcome to 2020 at Prahran High School.



Nathan Chisholm
Foundation Principal



MENTOR GROUPS AND TEACHER

This year, we deepen our approach to student wellbeing and connection, through the development of our Mentor Groups and Mentor Teachers. We have planned the organisation of our school around this structure, meaning that every student belongs to a central, supportive group, guided by a key teacher.

As we begin working closely with staff to build their capacity to meaningfully lead this work for students, and you, we work from this core belief: "...developing a Mentor Teacher approach will enhance student wellbeing, school connectedness and parent engagement. Mentor teachers will play a vital role as a primary, caring point of contact for students and families at PHS and will be expected to build strong relationships with both."

Students have worked closely with their Mentor Teachers as we have begun the new school year through our 'Ready-to-learn Boot Camp'. As the next week progresses, your child's Mentor Teacher will contact you to introduce themselves.

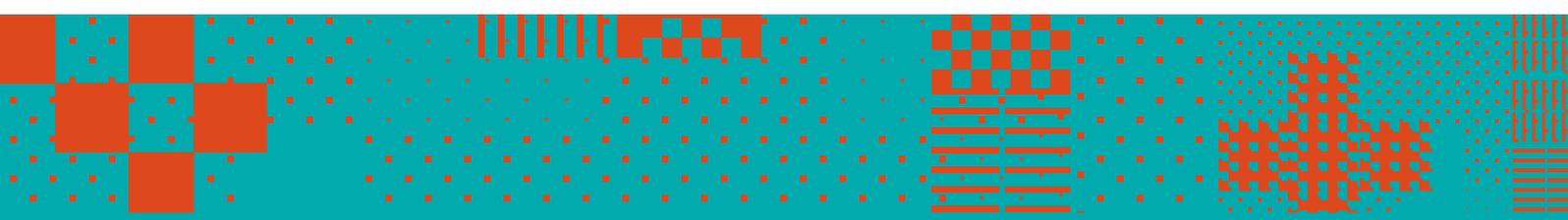
YEAR 8 MENTOR GROUPS 2020

As we completed Year 7 last year and finalised arrangements for Year 8, we re-planned student class placements, to reinvigorate group dynamics and to ensure the best possible learning environment for the students. When we form Mentor Groups at PHS, we consider the dynamic of groups from previous years, gender balance, ensuring mixed abilities, some friendship groups and then it's about planning to balance the size of five even-ish groups. We also expect that students come to see this simply as just part of secondary school life, adapting and growing year by year.

I do want to reiterate that core classes at our school are not, and will not be, streamed by ability. The labelling of 8A - 8E is just a naming convention for timetabling - there

is no order A-E. Most of the time students in Year 8 (and Year 7) will be learning in these A-E Mentor Groups and will also be working with, and across, other classes in a collaborative learning environment too, where it makes sense to do so.

Further, in 2020, I have decided to plan for smaller class sizes at Year 8 to support the development of Mentor relationships and collaborative learning practice. Your child will have considerably more individual attention at PHS this year than they would perhaps experience elsewhere. I'm excited to see how far we can take their learning outcomes again this year, building on all that was achieved in 2019.



We use Compass for announcements, requests for action, date reminders, organisational and administrative updates.

We promote The PHS News to share an insight into the life and vibrancy of our school.

SCHOOL COMMUNICATION STRATEGY

Effective school-home-school communication is so important for a smooth-running community and to enable us to truly work in partnership to ensure we're doing the very best we can for our students. To that end, Compass is vital and I encourage you to engage regularly with information on Compass in your own time, as well as reading important messages like this which are sent home.

At some times of the year, (like now as we begin) communication will be more regular. We are committed to communicating to you often, clearly and by managing the flow of messages, so you're not swamped by school messages all at once.

Along with Compass, we will also email and upload The PHS News twice a term. Rather than a traditional school newsletter, which we know has limited impact, from here The PHS News will be designed to showcase our school in that part of the term – our strategic progress, the success of our students and celebrating all that is great about life at PHS.

We are open to your suggestions and ideas for improvement as we progress.

CORONAVIRUS

Like me, you will have been reading and watching updates on the spread of the Corona virus in Australia and Victoria. Since the beginning of this worrying global event, our Department has been communicating regularly with Principals to ensure that we have accurate and timely information. At Prahran High School, we don't have the same cause for concern as some other school communities with different populations may have at this time.

Moving forward, today this advice came from Victoria's Chief Medical Health Officer, asking that "...parents/guardians/carers should ensure that any student returning from mainland China (not including Hong

Kong, Macau and Taiwan) who was in mainland China on or after 1 February 2020 is isolated at home and should not attend school until 14 days after they were last in mainland China." Further, the advice goes on to say that "the advice does not apply retrospectively".

I don't anticipate needing to have a conversation about isolation with any of our families at this point.

We are in a good position at our school and within our community. We will remain vigilant at school and remind students and staff of normal, healthy community practices like washing our hands, well and often. [Further advice can be found here for those who may wish to read more.](#)

SCHOOL UNIFORM

It is a Prahran High School expectation that correct school uniform is worn every day at school. We ask for your support in ensuring that your child wears their school uniform every day, neatly and correctly – including the shoes, socks and the tie.

As we begin school in warmer months, students may choose to wear either

1. Official school summer shorts, summer shirt, school tie, school pullover, grey school socks and school shoes

Or

2. Official school dress, school pullover, grey school socks and school shoes

Students should wear their full sports uniform on days they have practical sport as part of Healthy Body, Healthy Mind.

The sports uniform comprises: Official sports shorts, sports polo, soft shell sports jacket, sports cap, white sports socks and trainers of student's choice

NB: Students should not mix garments between the academic and sports uniforms.

SCHOOL BAG

The official Crumpler school bag is a compulsory part of the uniform and all students will require the bag on their first day.



YEAR 7 FAMILY WELCOME EVENING

We warmly invite Year 7 students and families to an informal PHS Welcome Evening. Please put this date in your diaries and we'll send a reminder closer to the evening.

What: Year 7 Family Welcome Evening

When: Wednesday 12 February 2020

Time: 6:00pm – 7:00pm

Where: Prahran High School



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

School Photographs

Tuesday 11 February 2020

Year 7 Immunisations

Wednesday 26 February 2020

Year 7 Adananc

Monday 16 March - Wednesday 18 March 2020