7th December 2011

Modification of School Structures for 2012

Dear Parents / Carers,

The school has undertaken a review of the Stage 6 (Year 11 and 12) structures that have existed at the school over recent years. The review highlighted some concerns from staff and parents, including:

1. Students currently receive 8 periods per cycle face-to-face teaching. This means that most students have a considerable number of study periods, which have not been used effectively by many students;
2. Students who are at TAFE on Fridays currently miss up to 6 periods of face-to-face teaching per week, sometimes in the same subjects.

The proposed restructure means:

Classes will operate for all Years 11 and 12 students on the following basis each week: 6 periods per day, Monday through Thursday, and periods 1, 2 and 3 on Friday. Having met all requirements and indicative hours, students are then able to go home, or avail themselves of school facilities for individual study, assessment task preparation, Extension classes, study group interaction and so on. **This means that the school day for senior students ends each Friday at 12:00 pm. The school week for junior students (Years 7 to 10) will remain the same as it was in 2011.**

The proposed restructure of Stage 6 will achieve the following:

1. All students will receive 9 periods per fortnight face-to-face teaching (thereby decreasing the number of study periods and increasing face-to-face contact so that it is up to par with other local high schools);
2. TAFE students will only miss one period of each of their subjects on a Friday;
3. Scope exists for individual students or study groups to operate on Friday afternoon;
4. Opportunity exists for Extension classes to run within normal school hours.

In a competitive world, it is critical that our students receive quality face-to-face tuition that is comparable to other schools. This restructure utilizes efficiency increases to provide for this, without decreasing the breadth of subject selection across the senior school. It also guards against student “down time” while at school and supports the “we are here to work and learn” philosophy.

To meet the structural requirements of the proposed change, it has been necessary to change the arrangements for Junior Sport. **Year 9 and 10 Sport will be moved from Wednesday periods 5 & 6 to Friday periods 5 & 6. Year 7 and 8 Sport will remain on Wednesday, but will take place during periods 5 and 6.**

Please contact me at school if you have any questions about these changes.

Yours sincerely,

Pat Cavanagh
Principal