



FIGTREE HIGH SCHOOL

PARENT BULLETIN

Term 2 Week 6, 2 June 2017

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T2 Week 7	Week Starting 5 June
Monday 5/6/17	Year 12 - Vaccination Day Year 12 - Geography Excursion UOW Year 11 - Vaccination Day Top Blokes Boys Program
Tuesday 6/6/17	Year 11 - Biology Task Year 9 - Links to Learning Shakespeare Festival Band Rehearsals until 4:40pm
Wednesday 7/6/17	Shakespeare Festival Rehearsals until 4:40pm
Thursday 8/6/17	Year 12 - Maths Assessment Task Year 11 - English Standard
Friday 9/6/17	Year 12 - Maths General Assessment Task Year 11 - English Standard Year 11 - United Nations Forum - Keira HS
T2 Week 8	Week Starting 12 June
Monday 12/6/17	Queen's Birthday Public Holiday
Tuesday 13/6/17	Year 9 - Links to Learning Shakespeare Festival Band Rehearsals until 4:40pm
Wednesday 14/6/17	Year 12 - Physics Task Year 10 - PASS Practical Flip Out Year 9 - PASS Practical Flip Out Shakespeare Festival - production rehearsal and performance Southern NSWRL Secondary Finals day Albion Park
Thursday 15/6/17	Year 12 - Parent Teacher Interviews Year 11 - Parent Teacher Interviews Year 8 - Parent Teacher Interviews South Coast Mountain Bike Championships
Friday 16/6/17	Year 12 - Economics Assessment Task Year 12 - Geography Assessment Year 12 - PASS/SLR Lasertag Year 10 - PASS/SLR Lasertag Year 9 - PASS/SLR Lasertag Defence Force Recruiting Information
T2 Week 9	Week Starting 19 June
Monday 19/6/17	Year 12 - Geography - Sydney Top Blokes Boys Program
Tuesday 20/6/17	Year 11 - Geography Task Year 9 - Links to Learning
Wednesday 21/6/17	Year 12 - Business Studies UOW
Thursday 22/6/17	Year 12 - Aboriginal Studies Assessment Task Year 11 - SAC Assessment Year 9 - Brainstorm Production Year 7 - Zoo Excursion Science
Friday 23/6/17	Year 12 - Mathematics Excursion UOW Year 11 - Aboriginal Studies Zone Athletics Carnival - Beaton Park

T2 Week 10	Week Starting 26 June
Monday 26/6/17	Year 11 - Business Studies Assessment Year 10 - Merit Assembly Year 7 - Merit Assembly State Senior Band Camp Top Blokes Boys Program NAIDOC Week Official Assembly
Tuesday 27/6/17	Year 12 - Chemistry Task Year 9 - Links to Learning Year 9 - Merit Assembly Year 8 - Merit Assembly State Senior Band Camp Maths Competition
Wednesday 28/6/17	Year 12 - Chemistry Task State Senior Band Camp
Thursday 29/6/17	Year 10 - Parent Teacher Interviews Year 9 - Parent Teacher Interviews Year 7 - Parent Teacher Interviews State Senior Band Camp
Friday 30/6/17	State Senior Band Camp
Year 12 Purple Year 11 Olive Year 10 Blue Year 9 Red Year 8 Green Year 7 Orange	



Thoughts from the Principal

So much news to read about and celebrate in this mid-term edition.

I am so proud of our students who:

- are performing this week at the Illawarra Dance Festival
- participated in the School Athletics Carnivals – ours and 4 of our partner primary schools as student leaders
- have been selected to represent at regional, state and national levels in sport
- represented our school in the Illawarra South East Performing Ensemble
- competed in the Shakespeare competition and are preparing for the Figtree High School Shakespeare Festival 14 June 2017

We celebrate the depth of professional talent within our school and are proud to announce the following staffing updates:

- Mrs Jennifer English – selected for a Department of Education position with the Centre for Educational Statistics and Evaluation. Mrs English has been seconded to this promotion position for three years and began at CESE this week.
- Ms Trish Morgan, Deputy Principal – selected for a 15-week position with the Department of Education in leading schools in the new NAPLAN online process. Ms Morgan starts this role in two weeks' time.
- Mr Aaron Kellaway – permanently appointed to Keira High School. Mr Kellaway commences his position at the beginning of next term and we wish him well.

We acknowledge and sincerely thank Mrs Diane Grant for the 12 years of service with the Figtree High School P&C. Our school is very grateful for her commitment and care for our students, and for the countless hours she has dedicated in various roles on the P&C.



Mrs Karen Burke and Mrs Diane Grant

In other P&C news, we warmly welcome the newly elected President, Mrs Jacqui Brown, and the many new members attending P&C. The recent meeting was a-buzz with several fundraising ideas that will enable a range of resources for our students. The Entertainment Book is just the beginning. The next meeting is on Wednesday 21 June 2017 at 6:30pm.

Enjoy reading about the wonderful achievements of your children.

Mrs Karen Burke
Principal

PBL Core Values

WEEK 7:	Safety Play approved games only in the playground
WEEK 8:	Learning Move quickly back to the classroom at the end of the break
WEEK 9:	Respect Be at the canteen only to buy for yourself
WEEK 10:	Respect Put rubbish in the bins

Deputy Principals' Reports

Attendance Matters

At Figtree High School attendance matters. It is important that we are on time each day for school, make appointments for outside school time and attend every day unless there are exceptional circumstances or illness. This allows students to maximise their learning opportunities. If students are absent from school or late to school a letter/email or reply text to the SMS of explanation should be provided to the school within 7 days of the first day of absence. The explanation should clearly outline the reason for absence or late arrival.

Year 7, 9 and 11

Student from Years 7 and 9 were fully engaged in completing the NAPLAN assessments during Week 3 of this term. They completed assessments in reading, writing, language conventions and numeracy. The attendance of students during this time was excellent. The results are due back into the school later in the year and will inform teachers to provide more tailored quality programs that better address the needs of individual students. Year 7 and 9 reports will be distributed in either Week 9 or 10 of this term, with

Parent/Teacher Afternoon and Evening on Thursday 29 June, 2017 in the auditorium. Bookings will be made electronically and information will be distributed to families closer to the date.

Students in Year 11 are busy completing assessments for the Preliminary course. It is pleasing to see how students are motivated to achieve and display the knowledge and understanding they have in assessment tasks. A vital part of the assessment cycle is the feedback that students receive from their teachers. It is an important factor in improvement that students utilise that feedback. It is hoped that reports will be distributed to students during either Week 6 or 7 of this term with Parent/Teacher Afternoon and Evening on Thursday 15 June, 2017 in the auditorium. Bookings will be made electronically and information will be distributed to families closer to the date.

Trish Morgan

Deputy Principal

Uniform

It is very pleasing to see such a high standard of uniform from the majority of Figtree High School students. It is important to remember as we head into the cooler months, that students ensure all parts of their uniform are correct, particularly jackets/jumpers, footwear and pants. Some quick uniform facts:

- Our school jumper/jacket is navy for all students.
- GREY is NOT a school colour for jumper/jackets.
- School pants/shorts must be navy.
- Any Collegians football jackets and shorts are not school uniform.
- A full list of our uniform requirements is available on the school website; reminders are also posted on our Facebook page.
- Figtree High School is a workplace and therefore are governed by OH&S guidelines, therefore adequate protective footwear is required even if you are not actually in those specific areas of most risk. School shoes must be black leather, fully enclosed. White stripe, ticks or patterns are not permitted, shoes must be all black.

Year 12 Update

Year 12 students recently participated in a Wellbeing day that focused on improving academic achievement. Thank you to Mrs Harlor, Mrs Hunt and Mr Kellaway our Year 12 Advisers who were responsible for ensuring the success of this day. Year 12 students have been asking for advice around effective study skills. In addition to the subject specific feedback your teachers are able to provide, many resources are readily available on the internet and in libraries. It is often helpful to trial a range of strategies in order to determine what works best for you. Irrespective of which specific strategies you select, the keys to effective study are:

- Being organised - having a comfortable space.
- Being self-disciplined - setting yourself goals (and sticking to them).
- Studying smarter - not harder!
- One simple step that I encourage all senior students to take is to make an agreed time each evening with your closest friends in which you will not call each other or make social media contact. This will ensure your study time is not interrupted and is, therefore, more effective.

It is never too early to start developing effective study habits.

Mobile Phone Policy

It is also timely to remind students of school policy in relation to mobile phones, that is, the use of mobile phones during the school day is not permitted due to the distraction to learning. Our Mobile Phone Policy clearly states that phones are to be switched off and in bags. Students are also reminded that the wearing of headphones is not permitted in the classroom.

Working in partnership with our school community

Just a reminder to parents that with well over 900 students, Figtree High School is a very busy place. We value your input and are available to discuss matters with you, however we do request that you ring and make an appointment. This way we can schedule a time and gather appropriate information so that we can work in partnership to best support all students.

Jo Clifford

Deputy Principal

English and Drama Report

Last Thursday our Drama Ensemble group competed in the Regional Shakespeare Festival at WHSPA in front of a panel of two well-known actors:

Damien Strouthos - who has played Romeo with Sport with Jove, Mercutio and Caliban with Bell Shakespeare Company.

Dannielle King – who played Katherina in, The Taming of the Shrew and Gertrude with Sport with Jove and works regularly with the Sydney Theatre Company.

It was an intense competition with our ensemble group performing Romeo and Juliet in a 7 minute mash-up. The performers took the stage with energy and passion. I am proud to announce that they came second in the Regional festival. The feedback from the panel was inspiring as they commended our students on a fabulous and creative performance.

I would like to congratulate the FHS Drama Ensemble group for their commitment and excellent performance on the day.

Caitlin Edwards
Zachary Seymour
Dorian Ruddell
Jessica Ellem
Samantha Curle
Lianna Mckinnon
Abby Cole
Jessica Cillekens

I would also like to congratulate their Drama teacher Ms Abbey Munro for her directing of the performance.

Romeo and Juliet will be one of our showcase performances at our Shakespeare Festival on Wednesday 14th June.

Hope to see you there!

Ms Angela Mintzas
Head Teacher
English/Drama

Here are some snapshots of the performance at WHSPA



CAPA Committee Report

PHOTOGRAPHY WALKING TOUR EXCURSION

"I LOVE WOLLONGONG BECAUSE..."



During week 3, Miss Cook and her Photographic and Digital Media students from Years 10 and 11 embarked on a Walking Tour around Figtree to capture images that depicted what they love about the area. These photographs were then carefully edited and submitted as part of the **I Love Wollongong Because...** exhibition for the Wollongong Youth Centre. We are looking forward to seeing these high quality photographs on display! They will be enlarged to a "life size" 1.8mtrs in height.



Students pose for a "life-imitating-art" moment whilst gathering images for the exhibition.

The works will be on display at the **Wollongong Youth Centre** from 23 June until 18 September, 2017. Figtree High School is proud to invite parents, staff and community members to the exhibition opening on the **Friday June 23 at 4pm** to celebrate this success.

A limited selection from the exhibition will also be on display during our **Shakespeare Festival**.

CAPA is very proud of the creative skills displayed by these talented students.



A "sneak peak" at some of the photographs that will be on show. Students, Daniel Jaques (Year 10), Nova Tucker (Year 12) and Natasha Hynoski (Year 10) have entered these works, which will be printed on panels that are 600mm (wide) x 1800mm (high).

SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL PROPS TEAM

During Wednesday afternoons the Shakespeare Festival Props Team have been working hard to design and paint a variety of props for the upcoming festival. April Martins, Georgia Verastegui, Madeline Noronha, Clara Lazova and Ruby Taylor-Simon are excited to share their creations with you and hope to see you all there on the night. Thank you to CAPA Committee member Samuel Birch who also volunteered to use his filmmaking skills to make one of the exciting props come to life.

ADVANCED MACRAME STUDIO ART SESSIONS

Our talented Year 8 students have now finished their **Advanced Macrame Studio Art Sessions** and have produced some fabulous fibre artworks!

Elsie Stratford, Grace Siminski, Jessica Todoroska, Lily Jones, Learn-Rose Elton, Samuel Daykin and Nina Graovac have been perfecting their Macrame skills on Tuesday afternoons and lunchtime sessions throughout Term One and Two.

Macrame is a fibre art form that is created by knotting and weaving.

These works will be on display in the front office from Week 6 and our next round of the Macrame Studio Art Sessions, this time for 'beginners' will re-commence in Term 4.

All students and staff welcome! This has been a great workshop series led by Mrs Basham (who we used to know as Miss Wunsch). Enquiries to the CAPA staff room.



*Students proudly display the result of their **Advanced Macrame Studio Art Sessions**.*

LIBRARY NEWS

The Library has been buzzing!

From 8:00am until after school, students can be seen in our wonderful library.

The Library is open in the morning for students who may need to finish homework tasks or get organised before roll call, catch up on some reading, quietly play board games, or read the news. We are also open every day during Lunch 1 and Lunch 2 (except for Lunch 2 on Wednesday). Homework Club on Monday after school has had a steady attendance rate.

All students are welcome, and there is definitely room for a few more. Teachers are on standby to help where they can. Please come along - we supply the snacks!

Over the last few weeks, Language students have set up camp on the resident computers to participate in the "Language Perfect World Championship". Good luck to those students participating this year!

The library has recently acquired new books and magazines, fiction and graphic novels, HSC Study Guides and various magazines titles including, 'Delicious', 'Healthy Food', 'Australian Geographic', 'Marvel', 'Inside Sport', and others all eagerly waiting to be borrowed.

If any student needs help with assessments or course work during the day or before school, our Relieving Librarian, Ms Lucy Pulham is there to give a helping hand, or perhaps some advice on where to find the information you need for your project, essay or report.

SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL SUNDAY REHEARSALS

Shakespeare Festival is just around the corner and students are putting in extra time to prepare an exciting and original event for our audience on **Wednesday 14 June, 2017**. Our first Sunday rehearsal on 28 May gave us an opportunity to integrate the music items with the drama and dance. We will be rehearsing again on Sunday 4 June ahead of our week of dress and technical rehearsals. It is great to see our students working together to develop their skills in this complex performance medium. We look forward to seeing all of our cast and crew next Sunday for another rehearsal session.

Mr Malouf - Head Teacher (relieving) CAPA

WELLBEING REPORT

Top Blokes Boys Mentoring Program

Figtree High School is excited about the introduction of the Top Blokes Mentoring Program.

The program is a 16-week mentoring program for male students aged 14-17 years. The program uses a prevention and early intervention framework to provide an environment that fosters critical thinking so that the boys can build self-efficacy and the skills to lead healthy and safe lives. It is aimed to promote positive behaviour and strong role models for young men. The program addresses issues of alcohol and drug use, mental health, sexting, anger management, relationships, racism and sexuality.

Currently we have 25 boys involved in the Top Blokes Mentoring Program who are from Years 9 and 10. The boys meet their mentors each Monday morning. The feedback from the mentors has been very positive and we are looking forward to seeing the benefits of this program with our boys.

Year Meetings

This term the Wellbeing team has introduced Year Meetings. These will be held twice each term and will focus on array of Wellbeing issues. One of the main focuses during these meetings was on Expect Respect. This program centres around respectful relationships. Students are reminded of the five points of the Expect Respect program.

1. DO NOT retaliate – it will only make things worse
2. Clearly tell the person ENOUGH. Do this in a polite but firm way.
3. Walk away.
4. If the situation does not improve, tell your Teacher or Year Adviser. You should also tell your Parent or Carer.
5. Always report any new instances of bullying to your Teacher or Year Adviser and Parent or Carer.

Year 12 Wellbeing Day

On Monday 22 May, all Year 12 students were involved in a Wellbeing Day. The day focused on areas that the students identified as concerns for them during their

HSC year. Students were involved in a number of workshops which covered time management, stress management, mindfulness, study skills, effective exam technique and Headspace presentation. I would like to thank the Year 12 Advisers – Mr Kellaway, Ms Hunt, Ms Harlor for their organisation of the day. Also, thank you to our workshop presenters Mrs English, Mrs Glasgow, Mrs J. Clifford and our counsellor Mr Gary Rosser.

Anna (Senior Community Engagement Officer, Headspace) was one of the workshop presenters. Below you will find some 'Tips for a healthy headspace'.

There are a number of ways you can look after your mental health and wellbeing every day.

Get informed

Understanding more about what you're going through is an important first step. Information to help you make good decisions about relationships, school, finances and seeking help is available in a number of ways. Read pamphlets, articles or fact sheets, listen to podcasts, talk to or watch videos about others who have had similar experiences, read trusted websites for information, or ask a trusted adult for advice.

Eat well

Eating well doesn't only reduce the risk of physical health problems, like heart disease and diabetes, but it can also help with your sleeping patterns, energy levels, and your general health and wellbeing. You might have noticed that your mood can affect your appetite and food intake. A good balanced diet with less of the bad things (e.g. junk food and lots of sugars) and more of the good things (e.g. vegies, fruit, whole grains and plenty of water) will make sure you have all of the vitamins and minerals to help your body and brain function well.

Sleep well

Getting a good night's sleep helps you feel energised, focused and motivated. Adolescence is a time when a number of changes to the "body clock" impact on sleeping patterns and you are more likely to have problems with sleep. Developing a sleeping routine can help you sleep much better. To do this try to wake up around the same time each day, get out of bed when you wake up, and go to bed around the same time each night. Avoiding caffeine after lunchtime, having a quiet, dark and uncluttered bedroom and shutting down your phone, laptop and other electronic devices before bed can also help you get a good night's sleep.

Physical activity

Physical activity is important for everyone's health and wellbeing. If you're feeling down or finding things are difficult, physical activity may be the last thing you feel like doing. But even small activities like walking around the block can help relieve stress and frustration, provide a good distraction from your thoughts, help you concentrate and can help you look and feel better. Find a physical activity that you enjoy (e.g. swimming, playing sports with friends or cycling) and make a plan to do it regularly.

Build strategies

We all have coping strategies – some good, some not so good (e.g. using drugs and alcohol). There are various positive coping strategies you can try; exercise, relaxation techniques, talking to someone, writing or art. Experiment with what works best for you.

Reduce harmful effects of alcohol and drug use

Some people make the mistake of thinking that taking drugs and/or alcohol can help get them through tough times. While it may help people to cope temporarily, drugs and alcohol are one of the leading causes of harm to Australian young people and can contribute to, or trigger, mental health problems over time. Being responsible and reducing your use can improve your health and wellbeing.

Set realistic goals

Setting realistic goals can help you to work towards a healthy headspace. Small, realistic goals can be a great way to work towards feeling well – everyone has to start somewhere. Work towards eating well, getting more active, sleeping better and also think about working towards long-term life goals. Setting and achieving realistic goals can be incredibly motivating and can help build self-confidence.

Change your self-talk

Self-talk is the way that you talk to yourself, that voice inside your head. It can be positive (e.g. "I can make it through this exam") or negative (e.g. "I'm never going to be able to pass this subject"). There are a number of things you can do to change the direction of your self-talk. First, listen to your inner voice – is your self-talk helping you or reinforcing bad feelings? Next, try to replace your negative thoughts with more realistic ones. Try to look for a more rational spin on your

situation or think of strategies to tackle your problems, rather than giving up hope. By working on your self-talk the more you'll feel confident and in control of yourself.

Relax

There are many ways to relax and different relaxation techniques to use to overcome stress. Progressive muscle relaxation involves tensing and relaxing specific groups of muscles from your feet all the way to your head, while focussing on your feelings of tension and relaxation. You could also try breathing techniques, such as deep breathing or focussed breathing.

Be socially active and get involved

Social relationships are really important to your general wellbeing. It is okay to take time out for yourself but friends can provide support when you're having a tough time. Spending time with friends is also really important for keeping and building on existing friendships.

Practice conflict resolution

Having a hard time with friends or family is difficult for most people. Talking through the issues in a calm and thoughtful way is the best approach. Avoid getting personal, be willing to compromise and listen to their perspective.

Help and be kind to others

Do something to help someone else. Acts of kindness help other people but also make you feel good. Give a compliment, offer to help someone out or volunteer either on a once off project or an ongoing basis and allow yourself to feel good for making someone else feel good.

Develop assertiveness skills

Being assertive means standing up for your own rights; valuing yourself and valuing others' opinions without letting them dominate you.

Seek help

A problem can sometimes be too hard to solve alone, even with support from friends and family. Be honest with yourself about when you may need support and get professional help. You can see your general practitioner (GP), make an appointment to chat to someone at your local headspace centre or visit headspace.org.au. (continued)

Finding help might feel scary at the start but it gets easier over time. Getting support can help you to keep on track with school, study or work, and in your personal and family relationships. The sooner you get help the sooner things can begin to improve for you.

For more information visit [ehespace.org.au](https://www.headspace.org.au).

(Excerpt from Headspace website:

<https://www.headspace.org.au/>)

Zone Cross Country

On Friday 12 May, the Zone Cross Country Carnival was held at Nicholson Park. It was a beautiful day and we had a large number of runners compete on the day. Our boys and girls team both came fourth. This meant we ended up coming fourth overall for the carnival. The following runners placed in the top 10 and will now be off to the Regional Carnival on the 2 June.

Clay Baldock, Zane Howarth, Jessica Buffett, Ned Glasgow, Georgia Sturman, Cameron Lodge, Jayden Smileski, Mikayla Markham, Kayden Hill, Travis Anderson and Travis Elliot.



Gymnastics

In Week 5, 2 of our students who will be competing at the Australian National Gymnastics Championships in Melbourne. Payton Williams and Jarrod Buick have both been successful in making this elite team.

Jarrod has been through a vigorous program to achieve this goal. He has competed in 3 major competitions recently where he was placed in the top 3. This gave him an overall point score where he came out as NSW number 1 entrant. Jarrod's favourite event is the pommel horse.

Payton has also had a vigorous training and competing timetable. She has also competed in 3 major competitions. She was placed in the top 3 of each of these events. Payton competes at a level 10, which is the highest level for her age group.

If both students are successful in placing in the top 6 for their level, they will be eligible to represent Australia at the Trans-Tasman competition in New Zealand later in the year.

Hannah Sheridan, another gymnast, has been selected to represent NSW in the Border Challenge. This will occur later in the year.

We wish all our gymnasts the best of luck for the upcoming events in Melbourne and look forward to hearing of their results.



AFL

Congratulations to Ethan Ball who has been selected in the South Coast AFL team. Ethan travelled to Batemans Bay for the trial day and was successful in gaining selection. He will now attend the CHS carnival, which will take place in Albury.



Rugby League

Congratulations to Matthew Delbanco, Matthew Nicholson and Zac Lomax who were all selected into the Southern District Rugby League team. The boys will compete in a 3 day NSW CHS Carnival in Toronto.



Netball

Congratulations to Shae Marum and Lauryn Neto who were both selected in the South Coast Netball team. Both girls will travel to Minto to compete in the NSW CHS Championships.



Football

We had a strong contingent of students attend the South Coast Football trials in Moruya last term. Three of our students were successful in gaining selection into the South Coast team. Congratulations to Tyren Maclou, Emanuel Hondroudakis and Phillip Cancar. These boys will now play in Griffith at the NSW CHS Championships.

Hockey

Congratulations to Emily McKinnon and Jake Sheppard who has gained selection into the South Coast hockey team. Emily was selected to play goalie in the team. She will now compete at the NSW CHS Hockey Championships in Tamworth. Jake will compete at the championships in Grafton.



South Coast Table Tennis Champions

Figtree High School have become the champions of South Coast table tennis after defeating Kiama High School in the final last Thursday. A huge congratulations to our team members - Sam Rada, Owen Howard, Dylan Ward and Brandon Hargans, who defeated their opposition in great style, winning 6-1. The boys will represent South Coast at the State titles later in the year.



Careers Expo Survey Winner - Caitlin Edwards

Tracey Storm (Careers Expo Co-ordinator) from Work Place Learning Illawarra was here to present Caitlin Edwards from Year 10, with a \$100 gift voucher. Caitlin's name was drawn from 100's of students who attended the Expo.



Mrs Tracey Storm and Mr Adam Sargent-Wilson

Gold Award

Congratulations to Payton Williams who was presented with her Gold Award on Assembly. This award was acknowledged with a long citation outlining the wide range of commitment Payton has to her schooling, including achievements in academics and sport along with community involvement.



Mrs Karen Burke and Payton Williams

Vocal Ensemble

Our Stage 4 and 5 vocal ensemble enjoy leading the student body in the singing of our national anthem.



Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability

Notification for Parents and Carers

All Government and non-Government schools across Australia are required to participate annually in the Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability (NCCD).

All Australian schools will collect data on their students who are receiving adjustments to meet additional learning and support needs in accordance with their obligations under the *Disability Discrimination Act 1992* and *Disability Standards for Education 2005*. This data will be provided to the Australian Government to assist in the development of a consistent, national picture of the education needs of students with disability.

The data provided to the Australian Government by the NSW Department of Education is provided in such a way that it cannot be used to identify any individual student or school.

General information about the national data collection can be found on the Australian Government Department of Education and Training [website](http://education.gov.au/fact-sheets-nationally-consistent-collection-data-school-students-disability) at <http://education.gov.au/fact-sheets-nationally-consistent-collection-data-school-students-disability>.

Privacy Protection

The NSW Department of Education follows the requirements of the *Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998* and the *Health Records and Information Privacy Act 2002*. Schools will collect, record, store and use data about individual students in line with these requirements. Data security and protection is a priority and students' personal details will be kept confidential.

Under Clause 52 of the Commonwealth *Australian Education Regulation 2013*, data collected by the NSW Department of Education for the NCCD must be provided to the Australian Government Department of Education and Training. This includes the number of students at each level of education, the number in each category of disability and the number at each level of adjustment. The information is provided to the Commonwealth as a series of number sets that cannot be used to identify any individual student or school.

The Australian Government Department of Education and Training follows the requirements of the Commonwealth *Privacy Act 1988* when handling any data provided by NSW Department of Education in connection with the national data collection. A public information notice has been developed to by the Australian Government to provide students, parents and carers with important privacy information in relation to the data collection. This notice is available on the [department's website](http://education.gov.au/notices) at <http://education.gov.au/notices>

If you have any questions about the data collection please do not hesitate to contact Ms Vanessa Glasgow (Head Teacher Teaching and Learning)



Information for parents and carers

WHAT IS THE NATIONAL DATA COLLECTION?

The Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability (the national data collection) is an annual collection that counts the number of school students receiving an adjustment due to disability and the level of reasonable adjustment they are receiving.

The national data collection counts students who have been identified by a school team as receiving an adjustment to address a disability as defined under the *Disability Discrimination Act 1992* (the DDA). The DDA can be accessed from the ComLaw website at www.comlaw.gov.au.

WHAT IS THE BENEFIT FOR MY CHILD?

The aim of the national data collection is to collect quality information about school students receiving an adjustment due to disability in Australia.

This information will help teachers, principals, education authorities and families to better support students with disability to take part in school on the same basis as other students.

The national data collection provides an opportunity for schools to review their learning and support systems and processes to continually improve education outcomes for their students with disability.

WHY IS THIS DATA BEING COLLECTED?

All schools across Australia collect information about students with disability. But the type of information currently collected varies between each state and territory and across government, Catholic and independent school sectors.

When undertaking the national data collection, every school in Australia uses the same method to collect information. Therefore, a government school in suburban Sydney collects and submits data in the same way as a Catholic school in country Victoria and an independent school in the Northern Territory.

The annual collection aims to, over time, lead to nationally consistent, high quality data that will enable schools, education authorities and

governments to gain a more complete understanding of students who are receiving adjustments because of disability in schools in Australia, and how to best support them.

WHAT ARE SCHOOLS REQUIRED TO DO FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITY?

All students are entitled to a quality learning experience at school.

Schools are required to make reasonable adjustments, where needed, to assist students with disability to access and participate in education free from discrimination and on the same basis as other students.

These responsibilities are outlined in the DDA and the Disability Standards for Education 2005 (the Standards). The Standards require educators, students, parents and others (e.g. allied health professionals) to work together so that students with disability can participate in education. The Standards can be accessed via the ComLaw website at www.comlaw.gov.au.

WHAT IS A REASONABLE ADJUSTMENT?

A reasonable adjustment is a measure or action taken to help a student with disability access and participate in education on the same basis as other students. Reasonable adjustments reflect the assessed individual needs of the student, and are provided in consultation with the student and/or their parents and carers. Reasonable adjustments can be made across the whole school setting (e.g. ramps into school buildings), in the classroom (such as adapting teaching methods) and at an individual student level (e.g. extra tuition for a student with learning difficulties).

WHAT INFORMATION WILL BE COLLECTED?

Every year your child's school will collect the following information for each student receiving an adjustment due to disability:

- the student's level of education (i.e. primary or secondary)
- the student's level of adjustment
- the student's broad type of disability.

The information collected by schools will be available to all governments to inform policy and program improvement for students with disability.

WHO IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL DATA COLLECTION?

The definition of disability for the national data collection is based on the broad definition under the DDA.

For the purposes of the national data collection, students with learning difficulties, such as dyslexia or auditory processing disorder, as well as chronic health conditions like epilepsy or diabetes, that require monitoring and the provision of adjustments by the school, may be included.

WHO COLLECTS INFORMATION FOR THE NATIONAL DATA COLLECTION?

Teachers and school staff count the number of students receiving an adjustment due to disability in their school, and the level of reasonable adjustment they are provided, based on:

- consultation with parents and carers in the course of determining and providing reasonable adjustments
- the school team's observations and professional judgements
- any medical or other professional diagnosis
- other relevant information.

School principals are responsible for ensuring the information identified about each student is accurate.

HOW IS MY CHILD'S PRIVACY PROTECTED?

Protecting the privacy and confidentiality of all students and their families is essential and is an explicit focus of the national data collection. Personal details, such as student names or other identifying information, are not provided to local or federal education authorities.

Further information about privacy is available from www.education.gov.au/notices.

IS THE NATIONAL DATA COLLECTION COMPULSORY?

Yes. All education ministers agreed to full implementation of the national data collection from 2015. This means that all schools must now collect and submit information annually on the number of students receiving adjustments due to disability in their care, and the level of adjustment they receive.

Information about the arrangements that may apply to your school in relation to this data collection is available from your child's school principal and the relevant education authority.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Contact your child's school if you have further questions about the Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability.

You can also visit www.education.gov.au/nationally-consistent-collection-data-school-students-disability.

An e-learning resource about the Disability Standards for Education 2005 is freely available for the use of individuals, families and communities at <http://resource.dse.theeducationinstitute.edu.au/>.

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Drama, Music, Visual Arts and Dance

Wednesday 14th June 6:30pm

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What employers want?
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Hear from and talk to:

Employers	Current Apprentices	Group Training Organisations
TAFE NSW	Training Services NSW	Apprenticeship Networks
Skillsroad Show	Defence Force Recruiting	

When and Where:

Wednesday June 14, 2017
6:00pm – 8:00pm
The Shellharbour Club

Tuesday June 20, 2017
6:00pm – 8:00pm
The Builders Club, Wollongong

Bookings for FREE event in Shellharbour on June 14, go to:
<https://register.eventarc.com/38320/>

Bookings for FREE event in Wollongong on June 20, go to:
<https://register.eventarc.com/38321/>

Juniors must be accompanied by an adult.

Queries: Contact Workplace Learning (02) 4225 2526 or tracey@iawlp.org.au

TAFE NSW


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Mini Olympics event for People with Disability!

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DESIGN competition

Entries close Friday 28 July 2017. The winner will receive a **\$200 CASH PRIZE** for their design. To submit or for more info email us at marketing@eetgroup.com.au

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