



FIGTREE HIGH SCHOOL

SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Term 4 Week 10, 16 December 2020

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Term 1 Week 1 (A)	Week 1 Starting 25 January 2020
Wednesday 27/01/21	Staff Development Day 1
Thursday 28/01/21	Staff Development Day 2
Friday 29/01/21	Year 12 – Return to School Year 11 – Return to school Year 10 – Peer Support Leaders return to School Year 7 – Return to School
Term 1 Week 2 (B)	Week 2 Starting 1 February 2021
Monday 01/02/21	Year 10 – Return to School Year 9 – Return to School Year 8 – Return to school Sport Selections for Year 10 P4, Year 9 P5 and Year 8 P6
Tuesday 02/02/21	
Wednesday 03/02/21	Year 7 – Swim Test Excursion– 1:00pm
Thursday 04/02/21	Year 7 – BYOD Bootcamp – P1-3
Friday 05/02/21	School Swimming Carnival for Years 7, 11 & 12, and competitors only in Years 8, 9 & 10.
Term 1 Week 3 (A)	Week 3 Starting 8 February.2021
Monday 08/02/21	
Tuesday 09/02/21	School Photos for students in Years 7, 8 and 12 and SRC, Captains, family photos
Wednesday 10/02/21	Year 7 - Camp
Thursday 11/02/21	Year 7 - Camp
Friday 12/02/21	Year 7 - Camp

Year 12 Purple Year 11 Olive Year 10 Blue Year 9 Red
 Year 8 Green Year 7 Orange

Expectations of the Week

- WEEK 1:** **BE Respectful – All Settings**
Use appropriate language
- WEEK 2:** **BE Respectful - Technology**
Communicate using appropriate language
- WEEK 3:** **BE Respectful – Playing Fields/ Playground**
Speak respectfully

Thoughts from the Principal

We have made it!!! I think we will all say farewell to 2020 with a sense of relief.

HSC 2020

HSC results come out later this week due to the pushing back of the HSC by one week due to COVID. They are due for release on Friday 18 December. Year 12 students received counselling and guidance as to their post school options especially from the fantastic Deputy Principals, their marvellous Year Advisers Ms Parr and Ms McCarthy and our outstanding Careers Adviser Mr Sargent-Wilson. I will provide some details on their results in my first newsletter of 2021.

Celebration of Student Excellence

On Wednesday 9 December we held our annual Celebration of Student Excellence ceremony. This was an opportunity for the school to recognise and celebrate the achievements and success of our students. Despite the challenges and limited opportunities of 2020, these students have shone and given their personal best. Unfortunately we were unable to share this celebration with proud parents, caregivers and family in person. 21st century technology and our highly skilled Technology Support staff, as well as Ms Harlor, the key organiser of the event, enabled us to share the event online. I hope all Figtree High School households shared in the celebration at home watching the video link together as family.

Orientation Day

On Tuesday 1 December, as part of the transition from Year 6 to Year 7, Figtree High School hosted our annual Orientation day. Our 2021 Year 7 students participated in a full day of high school and experienced a wide

variety of theory and practical classes, allowing for students to not only become familiar with the classes they will be expected to attend next year, but also familiarise themselves with the school grounds, the facilities and the structure of a school day at Figtree High School. The Year 6 students were exemplary on the day and such a credit to their primary schools. We look forward to getting to know them better next year, as our new Year 7 group.



Life Ready

On Friday 27 November Year 11 participated in some Life Ready activities. Life Ready is a mandatory 25-hour course designed to prepare and support senior students as they encounter situations related to managing their health and safety, as they become more independent and gain greater responsibilities. It focuses on offering opportunities for students to build knowledge and skills for life.

The day was broken up into three sessions.

The first session was on Rescue Education and led by Fire and Rescue NSW. Rescue Education is a road safety and education initiative where firefighters deliver an interactive road safety presentation to potential learner drivers in high schools. The key message of the presentation is keeping young people safe on the road. In this session firefighters shared their real-life experiences of attending road crashes and simulated the rescue of a person trapped in a motor vehicle. I

would especially like to thank the firefighters from Wollongong and Unanderra stations for leading these sessions.

The second session students participated in was Study Skills and Employment Preparation workshops.

Building from the 2019 Year 10 'Preparation for Senior School' and 2020 Term 3 Year 11 'Integrated Study Skills Program', students were guided through skills and strategies to best prepare for the HSC assessment tasks and examinations. For students with a strong post-school vocational interest, there were workshops presented by Workplace Learning Illawarra and Hunter Group Training in regards to traineeship and apprenticeship employment applications and interviews.

During the third session students selected their own stress buster activities and participated in a range of activities designed to identify and learn ways to reduce stress.

The feedback from the students was overwhelmingly positive as they all expressed their desire for more days like this. A huge thank you to Mrs Glasgow, Ms Cook, Ms Faraday, Mr Healy, Mr Sargent-Wilson and Ms Harlor for their guidance on this day.



My thanks

Thank you to **our superb P&C** for their ongoing support, both financially as well as in representation on merit selection panels to appoint staff and for their incredible efforts in the school canteen, supporting students when they returned to school full time after the Learning from Home period. Thank you all parents who work so closely with us to educate our students/your children. Special mention to Tracy Newman who leaves us as her youngest child Payton completed the 2020 HSC.

Thank you to our **amazing staff at FHS** – I have said many times that I believe they are among the best staff I have worked with in 20 plus years of teaching. The media has been reporting that student learning, in particular literacy and numeracy, fell behind due to work missed in the 2020 lockdown. This did not happen at Figtree High School. Once students returned to full time school, we set about diagnosing where each student was up to and rewriting teaching programs to get them up to where they would have been if school in Terms 1 and 2 had been normal. We could only achieve this because of our outstanding **Teachers, Head Teachers and Deputy Principals and our equally amazing support staff at school.**

Thank you to our **wonderful students** who along with the staff make this school such a tremendous place to study and work. In the face of this world pandemic and the disruption to your schooling, you showed optimism, tenacity, a strong work ethic, grit, determination and cared for each other. These attributes will serve you well through the rest of your schooling and beyond into your future life.

Public Education at its best

I believe that Figtree High School is public education at its best. I note other schools put enormous advertisements up in the local shopping centres and on billboards ... we don't!! I ask every family, provided you are happy with the education at Figtree High School, to tell at least three people in your local community between now and the end of the year, as it is through word of mouth that schools' reputations grow best.

Return Dates for 2021

The return to school for the 2021 year is staggered as follows, beginning with **Week A** on the school timetable:

- Staff return on Wednesday 27 January and Thursday 28 January for two Staff Development Days
- Students in Years 7, 11 and 12 return Friday 29 January - Year 7 will move to the Auditorium and Years 11 and 12 will have an Assembly at 8:38am.
- Students in Years 8, 9 and 10 return Monday 1 February (8:38am with a whole school Assembly) Years 7, 11 and 12 have roll call following the assembly and then Period 1 as per their timetables). Students in Years 8, 9 and 10 will receive their timetable during their Year Meeting in period 1.

I wish everyone the best for a safe and happy holiday season and pass on warm wishes to the whole Figtree community on behalf of all of the staff at Figtree High School.

Daniel Ovens
Principal

Deputy Principal's Report

Semester 2 Reports

The Semester 2, end of year reports were distributed to students in Years 7-10 on Monday 14 December. This report provides parents/carers with a fantastic opportunity to sit down with their child and discuss their learning and progress. The report highlights each child's progress, achievements and areas for improvement in each subject studied over the past two terms. We encourage parents/carers and students to please read it carefully, discuss it and keep it in a safe place for future reference. Included with students reports was a list of stationary required for 2021 for each year group.

Also included in the report folder are the 2021 Term 1 start dates. In 2021, the NSW Department of Education

has granted all schools with an extra Staff Development Day in Term 1. So on Wednesday 28 and Thursday 29 January, staff will be onsite undertaking professional learning as part of the Staff Development Days. Students have a staggered return date and this was outlined by Mr Ovens on the previous page (3).

A note explaining uniform requirements has been added for your information at the back of this newsletter. The school requires students to wear enclosed black leather shoes. Shoes with other colours, including white on the edge of the soles, are not permitted under our uniform code. Students wearing canvas shoes will not be permitted to undertake practical work in a number of subjects. Please ensure that you read the requirements carefully – if there are any uncertainties with regards to uniform, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Year 7-10 Student Recognition Assemblies

On Monday 7 December, Year 7 and 10 were involved in Student Recognition Assemblies with Year 8 and 9 celebrating their assemblies on Thursday 10 December. This was an opportunity to celebrate students who achieved Year Advisers and Principal's Awards. This was a time to celebrate a very unusual year and to highlight the talented musicians that we have around the school. We would like to make a special mention to **Alex Dawson** in Year 8 who prepared a personalised Imovie for each year group as well as **Nickan Rahmannia, Leila Brown** and **Gabrielle Fisher** who sang the national anthem. Each assembly was chaired by the student leaders of that year group.

Year 8

Congratulations to Year 8 students on the successful completion of Stage 4 learning. As I read each student's report I was a very proud Deputy Principal. The vast majority of students have worked to the best of their ability. It is important that when reading the reports students look for the 'what' and 'how' they need to further improve. Can I also express my thanks to the two Year Advisers - Mrs Jenny Harvey and Mr Blake Thomas, for their significant efforts in supporting Year 8 students in 2020. They know, value and care for their students. Mrs Jill Murphy is returning as Year Adviser in 2021, so a special vote of appreciation is extended to

Mrs Jenny Harvey for all her energy and effort - it has been a pleasure to work with her over the last year.

It was wonderful to see such happy faces, eager to find out more information about and experience learning at Figtree High School during the Year 6 into 7 Orientation Day on Tuesday 1 December. The Year 9 Peer Support Leaders guided students around the school and led many of the activities. In 2021, Year 7 students will undergo a Bring Your Own Device Bootcamp on Thursday 4 February 2021. It is important that if students have a BYOD computer that they bring it to school each day, but particularly on this day. If a student does not have a device, one will be provided during this day for them to use. This newsletter has a copy of the note that went home on the Orientation Day about BYOD computers.

Year 9

It was fabulous to see so many Year 9 students receive Year Adviser Awards for Effort and Application, and Improvement in the recent Student Recognition Assembly for Year 9 on Thursday 10 December. This is a direct reflection of the dedication and commitment to learning that students have displayed. It was great to bring the students together to celebrate the successes.

Year 11

Congratulations to our Year 11 students, who not only survived their first term of HSC coursework, they have thrived. There has been a significant number of Year 11 students engaging in both collaborative and independent learning activities in the library and senior study during lunch breaks and study periods. This is setting them up for success. Most courses have had one HSC assessment task for each of their courses, which means that the calculation of students final HSC results has commenced.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank staff, students, parents and community members for a great year at Figtree High School, and wish you a wonderful break.

Trish Morgan – Years 8 and 12

Jemma Lawson – Years 7 and 10

Ellie Donovan – Years 9 and 11

TAS Faculty Report

While this has been a difficult year for everyone, the work on projects in our faculty has been significantly affected. That said, we continue to be amazed by the resilience of our students and the way in which they have soldiered on and completed work to the best of their ability.

Our construction boys had the opportunity to complete their concreting competency this term. Mr Hird led the boys through all of the requirements to form and cement a pathway between the school's bike store and the PDU.

A special thank you to Clearly Brothers who kindly donated the cement to complete the task. Another reminder of the wonderful community in which Figtree High School resides.



Our Kitchen Garden

Each semester a Technology Mandatory class is responsible for the care and maintenance of our school's garden. This semester, 7TM10 have played an important role in ensuring our garden is well cared for. We are excited to report that we are finally able to use the produce in many of our school projects. Recently we have harvested; silver beet, spinach, mini capsicums and our tomatoes are ripening.



Coffee Bean Café

Each year the Coffee Bean Café is run by the students. This is a part of their competency-based training in the Hospitality course. We would like to say farewell to the Year 12 cohort who have done a fantastic job this year honing their barista skills. We welcome the Year 11 cohort who are quickly becoming efficient with their food and beverage preparation and service.



Year 12, 2020



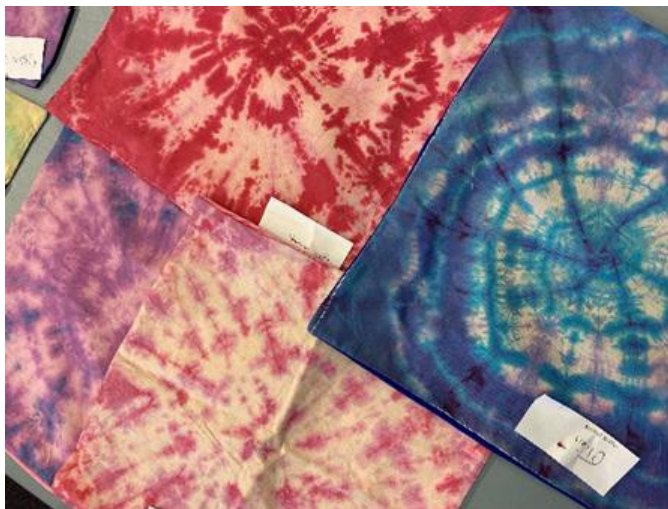
Stage 4 and Stage 5 Projects

Ms Kelly's Stage 4 Technology Mandatory class completed a textiles unit this semester and as a part of that, students were tasked with designing and constructing a pillow. Here are a few of the tie designs created by this class.

As the holidays approach many of our Stage 4 and Stage 5 classes have participated in Christmas cookery. Classes have baked and decorated crackles, cookies, cakes and gingerbread houses.

The TAS Faculty would like to wish you all a safe and happy holiday and look forward to another year of creative and unique projects in our classes. A reminder that next year students must have leather shoes to participate in our courses and they will also need to purchase an apron and safety goggles from next year to participate in the practical lessons.





Karran Williamson
Head Teacher TAS

Sport 2021

With what has been a challenging year coming to an end, it is with much excitement that school representative sport will return in 2021. Figtree High School has a great sporting reputation and we can't wait to see our students displaying their talent once again.

Year 7

Sport for Year 7 will commence on Wednesday 3 February (Term 1, Week 2). On this date Year 7 students will complete their swimming test at Western Suburbs Swimming Pool - Unanderra. For the remainder of Term 1, Year 7 will participate in a rotation of sport activities at Sid Parrish Park, Figtree.

Years 8, 9 and 10

These year groups will select their Term 1 recreational sport on Monday 1 February (Term 1, Week 2) with students starting their chosen sport on Wednesday 3 February. Students must return their permission note to be able to participate in sports at are off-site.

Sports Carnivals

The Swimming Carnival will be held on Friday 5 February (Term 1, Week 2). Due to current COVID restrictions, only students in Years 7, 11 and 12 will be attending the swimming carnival as whole Year groups. Students in Years 8, 9 and 10 can only attend if they are a competitor for one or more events. For students who are non-competitors in Years 8, 9 and 10, a normal school day with their timetabled lessons will be held at school.

The Cross Country Carnival will take place on Wednesday 31 March (Term 1, Week 10). The Athletics Carnival will be held on Friday 14 May (Term 2, Week 4).

As a school community we can look forward to these events in 2021!

Representative Sport

South Coast (Regional) and CHS (State) trials are expected to re-commence next year. Students will be notified of these sport trials and events as they approach through the student notices in roll call each day. Students are encouraged to trial for sports and see Mr Riolo (PDHPE staffroom) if they have any questions.

CANTEEN NEWS

Next year the canteen will have hot and cold food available at both Lunch 1 and 2. It is preferable to pre-order before school as this will ensure students can have the food that they want.

Pizza's will be available on Thursdays and Butter Chicken will be available on Fridays at a cost of \$6.00 each.

The canteen will cease trading Tuesday 15 December and will not open Wednesday 16 December, the last day of term.

The canteen will reopen in Term 1 Week 2, Monday 1 February. This means that students in Years 7, 11 and 12 will need to bring a packed lunch on their first day of school on Friday 29 January.

GET SET FOR INFOFEST – DISCOVER THE JOB YOU WANT

18-22 January 2021

Discover the skills you need, for the job you want at TAFE NSW InfoFest. Are you looking for a 2021 career change or perhaps a new skill-set to stand out from the crowd? Find out how at TAFE NSW InfoFest!

Whether you're joining us online or on campus, you'll have the opportunity to connect with industry-expert teachers, join interactive workshops, explore state-of-the-art facilities and get the help you need to finalise your enrolment.

Registrations are mandatory so get in quick to secure your seat at your nearest participating campus.

If you need further information, drop into your local TAFE NSW campus or call us on 131 601 to speak to one of our friendly staff.

Ensure you keep checking back as new sessions will be regularly added.

<https://www.tafensw.edu.au/infofest>

HOLIDAY SAFETY - BEACHES

The summer holidays often involve many of our students enjoying the opportunity to spend time in the water at our local beaches. Students are reminded about beach safety and specifically;

- Check the beach conditions before and upon arrival
- Swim at patrolled beaches
- Follow the directions of lifeguards
- **Swim between the red and yellow flags**
- Use 50+ sunscreen, wear a shirt, hat and seek shade. Reapply sunscreen regularly!



Warning Signs

Use a yellow background, and include simple symbols to communicate what you should be aware of. It's important to always observe and abide by the safety signs.



Regulatory Signs

disregard these signs.



<https://beachsafe.org.au/>



Figtree High School Book lists for 2021

In addition to general stationery such as blue, black and red pens, lead pencil, eraser, coloured pencils, ruler and glue, students will require subject workbooks according to the table below. The books that need to be purchased will depend on the students' pattern of study. Figtree high School is a BYOD school. Specifications for computers are on our website. It is recommended that each student has an 8GB thumb drive to transfer and store computer files.

Subjects	Yr7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	
English	Book pack available from the school	A4 128 lined page book	A4 192 lined page book	A4 192 lined page book	
Child Studies			A4 20 pocket clear front display folder A4 128 lined page book	A4 20 pocket clear front display folder A4 128 lined page book	
Commerce			A4 192 lined page book	A4 192 lined page book	
Drama			A4 Visual Art Diary	A4 Visual Art Diary	
Food Technology			A4 20 pocket clear front display folder	A4 20 pocket clear front display folder	
Geography			A4 128 lined page book, A4 20 pocket clear front display folder	A4 192 lined page book, A4 20 pocket clear front display folder	A4 192 lined page book, A4 20 pocket clear front display folder
History			A4 128 lined page book	A4 192 lined page book	A4 192 lined page book
History Elective				A4 192 lined page book	A4 192 lined page book
IT Timber/ Metal				A4 20 pocket clear front display folder	A4 20 pocket clear front display folder
Interior Design				A4 128 lined page book	A4 128 lined page book
Information Software Technology				A4 20 pocket clear front display folder	A4 20 pocket clear front display folder
Languages			A4 192 lined page book	A4 192 lined page book	A4 192 lined page book
Marine Studies				A4 128 lined page book	A4 128 lined page book
Mathematics			3x A4 128 page grid book, geometry set, Calculator (Casio Fx-82AU PLUS II preferred), Textbook Cover <i>Calc. and cover available from the Front Office</i>	3x A4 128 page grid book, geometry set, Calculator (Casio Fx-82AU PLUS II preferred), Textbook Cover <i>Calc. and cover available from the Front Office</i>	3x A4 128 page grid book, geometry set, Calculator (Casio Fx-82AU PLUS II preferred), Textbook Cover <i>Calc. and cover available from the Front Office</i>
Music			A4 96 page music book	A4 96 page music book, 20 pocket plastic sleeve display folder	A4 96 page music book, 20 pocket plastic sleeve display folder
PASS				A4 128 lined page book	A4 128 lined page book
PDHPE/Health			A4 128 lined page book	A4 128 lined page book	A4 128 lined page book
Photography				60 page A4 VAPD, 32GB SD Card	60 page 11x14" VAPD, 32GB SD Card
Science			A4 128 lined page book	A4 192 lined page book	A4 192 lined page book
Visual Arts			A4 60 page VAPD	60 page 11x14" VAPD	60 page 11x14" VAPD

A separate book is required for each course. Students will be advised of additional course equipment requirements when they begin their program of study in 2021.

Figtree High School Uniform

Years 7, 8 and 9 2021

The Department of Education supports the wearing of school uniform, which promotes a sense of belonging for students and creates a positive identity for the school community. School uniforms also contribute to the personal safety of students by allowing easier recognition of students inside the school and in the community.

Formal consultation with students, teachers and other staff, parents or carers, and the school community (including the Parents and Citizens' Association) led to the design of a new school uniform in 2019. The new school uniform is applicable for Year 7, 8, 9, 11 and 12 in 2021.

The Figtree High School uniform can only be purchased from Lowes, at Figtree Grove.

The PE/Sport uniform is still being sold through Figtree High School.

Note: Girls are still able to wear the FHS navy shorts with the blouse or polo shirt as part of our school uniform.



JUNIOR UNIFORM GIRLS

- FHS tartan box pleat tunic
- Navy FHS embroidered shorts
- Navy FHS embroidered pants
- White junior blouse with crest
- White polo with FHS crest
- Black leather school shoes and black/white socks

JUNIOR BOYS UNIFORM

- Navy FHS embroidered shorts
- Navy FHS embroidered trousers
- White shirt with FHS crest
- White polo with FHS crest
- Black leather school shoes and black/white socks

BOYS AND GIRLS SPORTS UNIFORM

- FHS tracksuit with crest
- FHS polo with crest
- Navy FHS embroidered sports shorts

JUNIOR BOYS AND GIRLS

- Navy sloppy joe with FHS crest
- Navy soft shell jacket with FHS crest
- School Blazer
- Navy Tie

There is **no** junior girls skirt.

Figtree High School Uniform - Year 10 2021

The Department of Education supports the wearing of school uniform, which promotes a sense of belonging for students and creates a positive identity for the school community. School uniforms also contribute to the personal safety of students by allowing easier recognition of students inside the school and in the community. Formal consultation with students, teachers and other staff, parents or carers, and the school community (including the Parents and Citizens' Association) led to the design of a new school uniform. The new school uniform is applicable for Year 7, 8, 9, 11 and 12.

The new school uniforms are available for all students if they have outgrown their current uniform, but parents of Year 10 students are not required to purchase the new uniform for the start of 2021 if their child's current uniform still fits them. The Figtree High School uniform can only be purchased from Lowes, at Figtree Grove. The PE/Sport uniform is still being sold through Figtree High School.

The photographs below show the major changes for the new junior uniform. Note: Girls are still able to wear the FHS navy shorts with the blouse or polo shirt as part of our school uniform.



JUNIOR UNIFORM GIRLS

- FHS tartan box pleat tunic
- Navy FHS embroidered shorts
- Navy FHS embroidered pants
- White junior blouse with crest
- White polo with FHS crest
- Black leather school shoes and black/white socks

There is no junior girls skirt.



JUNIOR BOYS UNIFORM

- Navy FHS embroidered shorts
- Navy FHS embroidered trousers
- White shirt with FHS crest
- White polo with FHS crest
- Black leather school shoes and black/white socks



BOYS AND GIRLS SPORTS UNIFORM

- FHS tracksuit with crest
- FHS polo with crest
- Navy FHS embroidered sports shorts



JUNIOR BOYS AND GIRLS

- Navy sloppy joe with FHS crest
- Navy soft shell jacket with FHS crest
- School Blazer
- Navy Tie



Previous school uniform that Year 10 students can continue to wear if it still fits them:

School shorts for girls and boys should have the Figtree High School Logo or be plain blue in colour, with no sport branded logos.

Figtree High School Uniform

Year 11 2021

The Department of Education supports the wearing of school uniform, which promotes a sense of belonging for students and creates a positive identity for the school community. School uniforms also contribute to the personal safety of students by allowing easier recognition of students inside the school and in the community.

Formal consultation with students, teachers and other staff, parents or carers, and the school community (including the Parents and Citizens' Association) has led to the design of a new school uniform which was introduced in 2019, beginning with Year 7 and Year 11 students.

The Figtree High School uniform can only be purchased from Lowes, at Figtree Grove.

The photographs below show the senior uniform which needs to be worn by all Year 11 students in 2021.



SENIOR UNIFORM GIRLS

FHS tartan box pleat skirt
Navy FHS embroidered shorts
Navy FHS embroidered pants
White senior blouse with crest
White polo with FHS crest
Black leather school shoes and
black/white socks

SENIOR BOYS UNIFORM

Grey FHS embroidered shorts
Grey FHS embroidered trousers
White shirt with FHS crest
White polo with FHS crest
Black leather school shoes and
black/white socks

SENIOR BOYS AND GIRLS

Navy sloppy joe with FHS crest
Navy soft shell jacket with FHS crest
School Blazer

Navy Tie



Students who are studying Sport, Lifestyle and Recreation will still need their PE/Sport uniform. The PE/Sport uniform is able to be worn for these practical lessons, or to school on a Wednesday.

Year 11 students are not required to participate in the weekly sport periods on Wednesday afternoons. The PE/Sport uniform is still available for purchase at Figtree High School.

A school PE/Sport tracksuit is available for purchase from Lowes, at Figtree Grove.

FIGTREE



JUNIOR SOCCER CLUB

Figtree Junior Soccer Club is the club for all ages and all abilities to play soccer in a safe and friendly environment. Whether it is social or competitive teams you are looking for, we have a team to suit.

All our coaches aim to make soccer fun and to develop every single player.

Registration for the 2021 Soccer Season opens on Monday 4th January 2020.

Check out our website <https://figtreefc.majestri.com.au> for more details or drop us an email at juniors@figtreefc.onmicrosoft.com

