

Greetings all

Thanks to all who responded to the surveys, whether parent or staff. People showed their care for their children's education and their School by putting a lot of effort into the responses. The Board now has a wealth of feedback to assimilate and assist it with determining the strategic direction of the High School going forward. A couple of preliminary observations. We believe that the survey was open and general in its nature. There was inherent risk in that but the Board did want open and frank feedback. The Board was delighted to see there is a huge amount of positive feedback on the way the School goes about its business. As a standout in both surveys there was a lot of admiration for, and confidence in, the leadership of Elizabeth Forgie and the Board congratulates her for that recognition.

The work now is on analyzing the feedback on areas identified for improvement and how we can go about effecting change in those areas. One such clear area is communication, at all levels, and this is something that is within the power of the Board, Senior Leadership Team and staff to address. This is a priority for your Board. There are other areas of concern identified, as well as some interesting observations and ideas, and we will be publishing reports on the surveys which will be available to parents and staff respectively. These will be detailed and will take at least a few months to complete so please bear with us on that one. It has been a huge task preparing the surveys and special thanks to Board member Nici Curtis in particular who put a lot of time and effort into them.

With the first five weeks of the School year behind us and things like Year 7 camps being finished there is the feeling that the serious business of the School year, namely the academic aspects are well underway. The Board reminds parents that the Parent Evenings (the second of which is next Thursday 26 March) are a great opportunity to meet your child's teachers and check if they are settling in to the School year.

Alongside the curriculum aspects there are a number of extracurricular activities going on which provide the students with sporting and cultural opportunities. The Board's thanks to the staff and parents who give their time to enable these activities to take place.

It was distressing and frustrating to learn that the School had been the subject of some serious vandalism over the weekend. There is a direct cost to the School when these events happen and it is annoying in the extreme to have to spend funds repairing such mindless, stupid acts when that money should be made available for curriculum purposes. There is also an indirect cost in terms of staff time that remedying such acts entail.

It seems to be the time of the year when a number of students find themselves seriously at odds with the behaviour that is expected of them at the High School. There have been a number of instances of students being suspended. As well as taking up a significant amount of time for Deputy Principals and the Principal these students find themselves, with their parents or caregivers, in front of the Board to have their suspension reviewed. The Board can decide to overturn a suspension, to continue it but allow the student to

return to School (with or without conditions) or to exclude/expel the student. It is often hard balancing the interests of the individual student with those of the remainder of the students and staff. At the end of the day students who act in a certain way endanger their ability to remain at the High School and it is always sad if the consequences for them, and their families, are as significant as they can be. The rules of the High School are, however, clear. The types of offending that lead to suspension are not minor. The safety of staff and students is also paramount and those who choose to ignore that really do so at their peril.

On a more positive note a reminder to you all that the PTA AGM is coming up on Wednesday 25 March. The PTA does a great job in supporting many of the School events as well as being a key link between parents and the High School. The Board is grateful for all the efforts of the PTA and of the outgoing Committee and Executive in particular.

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The Board