

THE LINK

Leumeah High School Newsletter

28 February 2020 Term 1 Week 5

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From the Principal Mr. Zielinski

On behalf of our school community I warmly welcome all students and parents to the new school year and particularly to our new Year 7 students and parents, and all students from other years who join our school for the first time. I have been very pleased and indeed proud with how our students have quickly settled into the new school year and I am really looking forward to working with our students and their parents to maximise the learning and wellbeing outcomes for all our students.

The last few months have been very difficult for so many communities across our state. Drought, then fire and then flooding rains have made daily life very difficult. Whilst we have been lucky to avoid such issues, some of our families were caught up in the bushfire emergency on the South Coast over the new year. I would like to remind all our families that if any students or families have been impacted, please do not hesitate to contact the school. Our school counsellors, year advisors and student support officer, as well as all teachers, are able to support families if needed.

Year 7 have had a marvellous start to the school year culminating in the school camp a week ago. Despite some rain and giant mosquitoes as 'big as cockatoos' (or so says Mr White who attended the camp) the students had a wonderful time getting to know each other. I am particularly pleased with how our BYOD program for all of Year 7 has commenced. The school has prepared for this over the past 18 months developing programs, practising new teaching strategies and upgrading infrastructure. We know from our 7T class last year that trialled the BYOD program that attendance improved, behaviour was enhanced and strong progress in learning achieved. I am excited that all of Year 7 have this opportunity this year.

There have been some significant staff movements over the Christmas break. Mrs Julia Cifuentes-Post, who has been a member of our school for over 10 years, has been accepted into school counsellor, training this year. Julia was a fabulous teacher and will be a wonderful counsellor, she will be missed. We warmly welcome Rachel Ford who has replaced Julia. We also said goodbye to Mr Parry-Ewing, another highly respected and much loved teacher at our school who has moved to a school

nearer the City. His position will be filled shortly. Ms Catherine Modica who had been seconded to another school, was successful in gaining Head Teacher English at Eagle Vale High School where she will make an outstanding contribution; this position is currently being advertised. We warmly welcome Ms Sharon Newman who replaced Ms Osborne in Art, and Mrs Samantha Marcus was permanently appointed to or school after having been a temporary teacher here for 4 years. Mrs Marcus is currently on maternity leave having given birth to a beautiful baby girl "Frankie" at the end of the holidays. I am also delighted to welcome Ms Rachel Pearse as a permanent member of staff. Rachael has been teaching at our school since 2015 and is currently our Year 9 advisor. It is wonderful that she is now a permanent member of staff. Finally, I welcome Mr Shane Ellis as our new Head Teacher PDHPE who has replaced Mr Allsopp who had been on leave prior to his resignation. Mr Allsopp has recently been appointed as CEO of ACT Cricket and we wish him well in his new career.

Many thanks to all the Year 12 students and parents who attended the recent Year 12 information evening. It provided students and their parents an opportunity to be fully briefed on HSC requirements and also pick up some study tips for their last frantic year of high school.

CALENDER

FEBRUARY

28 Year 11 All My Own Work

MARCH

2	Fisher Zone	
	Swimming Carnival	
9	Parent Forum 6.30pm	
10	Year 7 2021	
	Information Evening	
13	School photo catch up day	
18	Years 7 & 8 Gala Day	
20	Year 7 10 Young Men's	
	Health Forum	
20	Years 7 & 8 Brainstorm	
23	Year 7 Digital Thumbprint	
30-31	Year 12 Half Yearly Exams	
APRIL		

	Year 12 Half Yearly Exam Last Day Term 1, 2020
27	First Day Term 2, 2020
MA	Y
4-8	Year 11 Exams
6	Year 7 Immunisations #1
12-1	5 Years 7 & 9 NAPLAN
21	School Athletics Carnival

I urge those parents who have yet to do so to download our free skoolbag app available from Google Play or the App Store. This app will keep you informed of the events that are taking place at school throughout the term. Simply search for Leumeah High, download and join the over 1000 families who are already using our Skoolbag app to keep themselves up to date about our school.

Leumeah High has again provided diaries for all students this year. In their diary, students are expected to record homework and assessments. As well, throughout the diary students will find study tips, school to work information and helpful hints regarding good behaviour along with important dates. It is a requirement that students bring their diary to school each day.

With the start of the new school year I again ask for support from parents who drive their children to and from school to be mindful of road rules to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all our students and other pedestrians during school starting and finishing times. Parents are reminded that there are very significant fines imposed for even minor traffic infringements in and around school. If at all possible I would ask parents to drop off and pick up students in Wyangala Cres rather than the front of the school each day. There is significantly less through traffic at the rear exit and this offers a safer alternative than the main entrance at the front of the school. You will find a list of some of the traffic offences and the fines they incur elsewhere in this edition of The Link. I also remind parents that it is illegal to pick up students in the bus bay and would ask that all parents refrain from driving through the bus bay at any time.

The most significant improvement made to the school over the school holidays has been the construction of a third basketball/netball court. Equally funded by the school and the Department at \$90,000 it will provide much needed additional sporting amenities for our students during lessons and also at recess and lunch each day. The court and the resurfacing of our two current courts is currently under way and should be ready for use in the next week or two. Also, our school should have taken delivery of a new 25 seater bus by the time you read this newsletter. The new bus will join our 12 seater we leased last year and provide our students with safe and economical travel for excursions and sports for the next 5 years.

Thank you to the vast majority of parents who have assisted in ensuring their child is dressed in appropriate school uniform each day. When all our students dress in correct uniform it sends a strong positive message to our community about the standards and ethos of Leumeah High and demonstrates the pride that the students have for their school. I do appreciate it can be difficult for parents on some days to "encourage" their children to wear correct uniform, particularly the black leather school shoes, and I thank each parent for their assistance. I do remind parents that it is important that all students wear black leather school shoes. It is a requirement of Work Health Safety and Workcover legislation that states students must wear sturdy leather shoes in areas such as science labs, craft rooms and workshops and food technology labs. Additionally, students must wear appropriate footwear for sport and PE when timetabled (such as runners/joggers). If students are not wearing appropriate footwear then they may not be allowed to participate in these activities on that day. It is also a requirement that all students are attired in correct full school uniform when on excursions. Parents are reminded that any student not in correct uniform on the day of the excursion will not be allowed to attend and if venues have been prepaid, then no refund will be available. All parents received information regarding what was appropriate school uniform at the end of last year.

Our first Leumeah Parent Forum for the year will be this Monday 9th March at 6.30pm in the school common room. I urge all parents to attend.

From the Deputies

Welcome back to 2020 and a big Welcome to our new Year 7 students as they embark on their high school journey here at Leumeah High School. It has been a busy but very exciting start to the year for all students and staff with many new changes happening across the school. Our Year 8T students are continuing their learning through the use of an iPad and they are making leaps and bounds with their education and engagement at school. Congratulations to those students as they were the best attended class across the whole school in 2019. Our Year 7 students have settled in well. It is such an exciting time for them with the infusion of the iPad device into their learning being very successful and the students have handled this transition very well. We have been up-skilling them through our excursion to the Apple Store at Penrith to build their iPad productivity skills and use of the Clips application for creating engaging projects and tasks. If your child was part of this experience please ask them what they learnt and get them to show you the wonderful skills they have acquired for their journey over the next six years and life beyond. Our feedback from the trip was extremely positive once again, with all students enjoying it immensely and learning a lot along the way. Year 7 has also recently arrived home from their first camp experience at high school. I am sure it will have created many memories for the students as they endured many obstacles and challenges they had to overcome like flying foxes, high ropes courses, strategy and innovative activities, archery and everyone's favourite night-time activity, Commando. At times, it was also challenging for the students with the many issues the weather presented, especially the crazy storm at 2.30am, and the students should be proud of how many were able to build their resilience and adapt to the changes around them. We have been busy holding Report Reflections for all students in Years 8-11. This process is vital in ensuring the students reflect, evaluate and plan for their learning, as this will enable them to learn from the past errors or difficulties they have faced in their schooling, and build positive goals and strategies to achieve those goals moving forward. We conduct these Report Reflections twice a year and we encourage you to chat with your child about the process and the goals they have set for themselves for 2020.

Another exciting opportunity now exists for our Years 9 and 10 students with our Project Based Learning electives. These action packed and engaging subjects have been developed by the teachers of Leumeah High School to excite the students with 'hands on' activities with the intent to design or create a project for display at the end of Term 2. More details about the exact dates are to come, but I am sure it will be an impressive event.

Years 11 and 12 students have started their Preliminary & HSC courses well and have arrived back to school with the academic mindset required to be a successful HSC student. This week our Year 11 students also had our U Turn the Wheel presentations and All My Own Work compulsory NESA requirements which are always great days on the school calendar. Students must attend these programs as they are vital in their lifelong education and skills required for the HSC and their future.

There have been many other activities also. The Swimming Carnival, Sports team sign up, School Photos, Homework Club and our After School Primary School visits. It has been a busy time at Leumeah High School and that's the way we like it. Plenty of activities to engage and excite the students so their learning can continue to grow throughout the year. If at any time any parents need to contact the school and speak to their respective Deputy Principal, I have detailed below your best contact-

Mr Dale White – Years 7 and 10

Mr Alex Glasgow- Years 9 and 11

Mr Matthew Fryer (Relieving for Mrs Irons)- Years 8 and 12

It has been a busy start for Year 7 at Leumeah High School!

In the first few weeks of their transition students have been busy organising their iPads, learning the layout of the school, making new friends, meeting their teachers, attending their first excursion and their first camp!

In Week 3 students attended Apple workshops held by Apple experts at their store in Penrith Westfields. At these workshops students were able to learn how to use their iPads productively and efficiently, creating Clip presentations all about them! Students showed creativity and impressive technology skills while representing their school to the best of their ability.

In Week 4 students attended our Year 7 Orientation Camp to the Great Aussie Bush Camp. It was a memorable experience forging new friendships and relationships. It was a lot of fun experiencing a range of activities such as the Mud World, high ropes and archery. We even survived an army of mosquitos and a scary midnight storm!

A reminder for all students to please pay their money to the front office and return your permission notes to their roll call teacher for the Brainstorm Production which will be held in March.

Homework Centre is available for all students on a Wednesday afternoon from 3:00pm-4:30pm. Please see Mr Smith in the HSIE staffroom for permission notes.

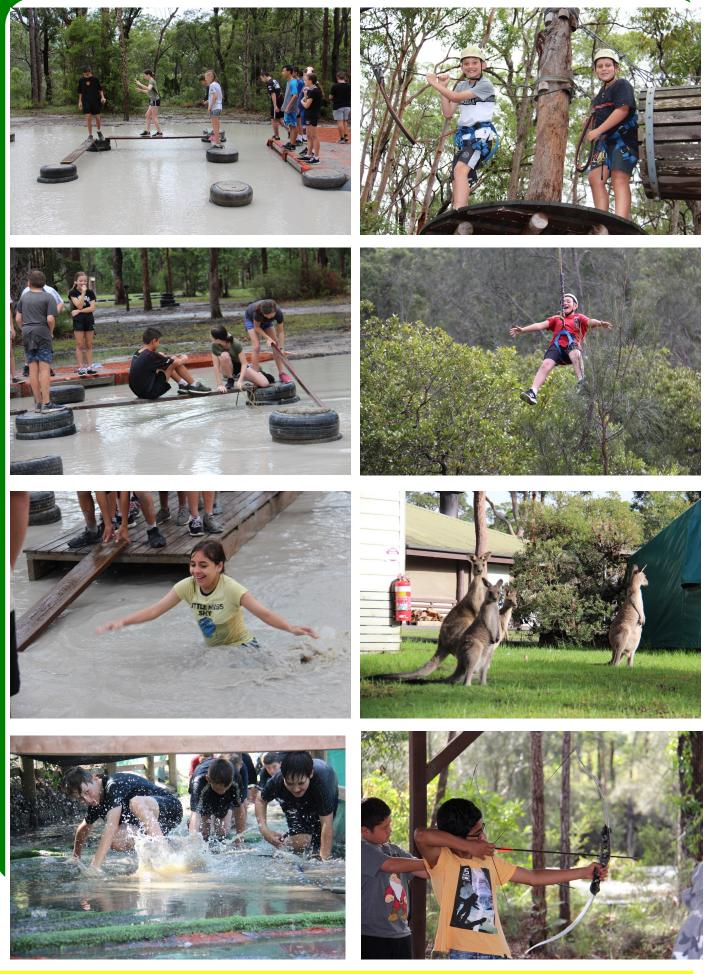
It has been a challenging start, however, students have handled the change well, demonstrating respect and cooperation towards their peers and teachers. I am extremely excited and look forward to the next six years as the Year Advisor. Keep up the excellent work Year 7!

Miss Lemos and Mrs Mitchell





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From the Year 9 Advisor

The start of the year has brought upon many new opportunities for Year 9. Year 9 students have had the opportunity to further their hospitality skills in the canteen by taking on a supervisor role to gain work experience. Year 9 have also had their first taste of elective subjects allowing students to further their skills in a range of different areas, including their interest electives that will allow students to create their own project by the end of semester 1. I can't wait to see the final products!

Year 9 are encouraged to step out of their comfort zone and sign up for a range of extra-curricular opportunities that are now available to them including sporting teams, Duke of Ed, work experience programs, leadership programs and many more. I look forward to an exciting and successful year ahead!

Ms Pearse



2020 Leadership Team

From the HSIE Faculty

The staff and students of the HSIE Faculty have hit the ground running and 2020 is shaping up to be yet another productive year. Team teaching and project based learning initiatives are a strong focus of the faculty moving forward and our students have embraced future focused learning opportunities, demonstrating their ability to collaborate, and to find creative solutions to real-world issues.

This year marks the introduction of an integrated Civics Course for Year 10 students, who will study a combination of History and Geography in a team taught environment. Students have responded well to this model of learning and teachers look forward to the ongoing success of this course and the achievement of students.

Stage 5 students of Commerce joined forces with Bundalong to undertake a "blind taste test" as a part of their study of consumer decisions. Students sampled well -known, high profile brands and compared the quality and cost of respective products with their "home" brand alternatives. Students were surprised to discover that cheaper alternatives not only looked more appealing, in some cases, but were also of better quality.

We welcome our Year 7 students to Leumeah and look forward to working with them, to enhance their iPad skills and explore Geography and History in a creative and engaging way that challenges students to do their best.

Finally, a reminder to all students to remain on top of their assessment tasks this term and to seek assistance from their teacher. Students are encouraged to submit a draft for feedback, in order to produce their best work.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions.

Viv Sullivan

Head Teacher HSIE

From the Careers Advisor

Congratulations to all of the Year 11 and Year 12 students who commenced TVET and EVET courses at TAFE this term. Students are participating in 1 or 2 year courses in Digital Technology, Human Services, Nursing, Electrotechnology, Mechanics, Salon Assistant, Construction, Community Services, Plumbing and Tourism.

There are two students commencing work placement in early March. They are Nadeem P and Brodee M. Brodee is participating in a 4 day Fire and Rescue course and Nadeem is participating in a Electrotechnology course.

It has been encouraging to see some students apply for apprenticeships.

There are currently some vacancies for Year 10 students who wish to go to TAFE.

Macarthur Careers Expo is on June 4. Years 10 to 12 are welcome to attend. We will leave school at approximately 9.50am and return by lunctime.

Over the next few months it is important for Year 12 students to attend open days at university. I will publish some dates next month.

From Bundalong

It has been a busy yet exciting start in the Bundalong Support Unit with students having lots of fun experimenting with the use of iPads and different apps to support their learning.

Our Stage 4 class have been utilising their creative skills to create personal avatars and have been recording their own voices to make them more realistic. Over the next few weeks, they will begin their own garden as part of their technology class.

Our Stage 5 students have been busy with their elective classes. In Commerce, they joined with the mainstream Commerce class to participate in blind taste testing of different brands of foods to explore consumer decisions in terms of quality versus cost. They have also been actively using their iPads to work on the creation of their short films as part of their Short Film Festival elective.

Our Stage 6 students have been working diligently on completing their HSC requirements. They have been actively engaged in their learning and have used their iPads to support their growth and understanding.

We are looking forward to another successful year of learning in 2020, and welcome our four new students and their families.

Ms Edwards

Mr. Melluish

Rel. Careers Advisor





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From the Science Faculty

It has been a very busy start to 2020.

Yr 12 Science students have almost completed half of their HSC content and are working hard to meet course outcomes. Soon they will be completing their 2nd assessment task and we look forward to seeing the evidence of their hard work.

Yr 11 Earth and Environmental students have their NESA mandated Field Study to Penrith Lakes in week 10 of this term. This is a course requirement and part of their assessable depth study into the human impacts on the region and water management strategies. As a first-time destination, we eagerly look forward to this experience.

Eager to embrace the exciting possibilities the Interest Based Electives offer to students in terms of engaging content and skill develop, the Science faculty developed a CSI-Forensic Science Course. We were overwhelmed with the level of interest from students and are currently running 2 classes, with another 2 classes set to run in second semester. Students have found the content highly interesting and have been working hard to develop their deductive reasoning skills. Through the use of board games, VR scenarios and good old fashion treasure hunts students are learning the importance of observations, problem solving and critical thinking. With the foundation skills establish students will soon start fingerprint analysis, trace material comparisons and chemical testing. We will do our best to contain Ms Lemos' enthusiasm for a LHS Body Farm in order to conduct an entomology study centred around decomposition. While the students will be sure to love it, we might not all have the stomach for this endeavour.

How are your observation skills? Do you know where these LHS landmarks were taken?









We have so much more to do and are looking forward to a productive and fascinating year. Science Faculty

From the Maths Faculty

2020 has started, and all students have settled in well to their Maths classes. Please let me remind all parents/carers that it is imperative that your child comes to school fully prepared, with all necessary equipment in Maths being pens, pencils, a rule, calculator, workbook, and a textbook cover (for students in Years 9 & 10). Students in Years 7 and in 8T all need to make sure that their iPads are fully charged each morning for the day ahead. Within the next couple of weeks, all students in Years 7 and 8 will each receive a folder inside of which they will place their topic workbook. If parents of students in these grades would like their child to have access to a textbook for extra revision, then please send them to see Mrs Fry or Mr Garagounis, who will allocate texts accordingly.

The school has, once again, purchased Mathletics for every student this year. It would be appreciated if the \$10 charge for this is paid to the front office as soon as possible, to help offset the substantial cost of this program to the school. All students should have received their username and password by the time you read this. Students can access the many great resources on the site through www.mathletics.com.au.

The school has also purchased Edrolo for our Senior Students. Please ask your child to make sure that they signed up at <u>https://edrolo.com.au</u> and have joined the relevant class for each subject they are studying. There are some fantastic videos and activities for students to do to assist them in their understanding of the topics studied and for preparation for their exams.

I, and my faculty, look forward to working collaboratively with you this year to ensure the best possible outcomes for your child in Mathematics. Please be reminded that homework is regularly given in this subject, so ask your child about this. Senior students also receive a weekly homework assignment. If your child says they have no homework, then have them revise their work. Regular and continual revision is necessary to ensure that taught concepts are retained and consolidated. If there are ever any concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at the school.

From the Welfare Faculty

The Year 7 Orientation camp at the Tea Gardens occurred during the 17th, 18th and 19th of February this year. Students had the opportunities to participate in some exciting activities which included the giant swing, commando and mud island. This camp allowed students to bond with their peers through their combined participation in some fun activities and build a rapport with their Year Advisors, Ms Lemos and Ms Mitchell, and Year 7 teachers. Year 7 told many teaching staff they had a great experience on the camp, when they returned to Leumeah High School on Thursday.

During week 5, Year 7 students will complete the Best Start testing. Best Start Year 7 is a new literacy and numeracy assessment package for schools to use in the first five weeks of Year 7. It is designed to provide teachers with consistent and up-to-date information about new students' skills and abilities in literacy and numeracy, identify students at risk of falling behind and help inform targeted teaching and intervention strategies.

Year 7 and Year 8 have an engaging incursion planned for March the 20th at Leumeah High School. During this incursion students will view an engaging and high energy show called "The Flipside" performed by Brainstorm Productions. The cost of this incursion is \$7.00 and will educate students about cyber safety and the importance of making ethical and responsible choices online.

The Welfare Team is looking forward to the commencement of several wellbeing programs which we offer at our school, including but not limited to, Links 2 Learning, Fast Forward and LEAPS throughout the year.

Ms C. Needham Relieving Head Teacher Welfare At the conclusion of the Leumeah High School Swimming Carnival 30 competitors will be progressing to the Zone Carnival. The Zone Carnival will be held at Gordon Fetterplace Aquatic Centre (Bradbury Pools) on Monday, 2nd March.

Congratulations to the following students who have been selected to represent L.H.S. at the Zone Carnival:

Males:

Joshua B, Lachlan B, Riley B, Oscar C, Logan C, Isaac C, Andrew C, Xander DJ, Nicolas D, Isaac-Paul E, Zaine G, David G, Odin H, Justin J, Cleveland K-P, Isaac K, Corey L, Joshua Ma, Joshua Mi, Jamie M, Khang N, Joshua P, Clinton R, Gurkirat S, Kohen S, Jayden S, Jezreel T, Taylen W & Kynan W.

Females:

Mineke B-H, Giorgia C, Natalie C, Lani D M, Taylor H, Madison H, Jade H, Kaydence J, Naomi L & Ellaura P.

The House Cup points based on the Swimming Results from all participants this year have been counted and the current standings are as follows:

Freeman - 1st Dore - 2nd Warby - 3rd Macarthur - 4th

Thank you to all students, family members and staff for assisting, competing in and supporting the event!



THE LINK—LEUMEAH HIGH SCHOOL



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OPEN NIGHT

Tuesday 10th March 2020

Information Session: 6.00-7.30pm in the school library

Optional School Tour: 5:15pm

We will be providing an opportunity for a guided tour of our school. Families and potential future students are most welcome to visit our open classrooms and see some learning in action.

This is an opportunity for future students to explore their local high school

Cnr Junction & Leumeah Roads, LEUMEAH, NSW Telephone : (02) 4625 7755 Facsimile : (02) 4628 5015 Email : leumeah-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au





Compulsory School Attendance

Information for parents

Education for your child is important and regular attendance at school is essential for your child to achieve their educational best and increase their career and life options. NSW public schools work in partnership with parents to encourage and support regular attendance of children and young people. When your child attends school every day, learning becomes easier and your child will build and maintain friendships with other children.

What are my legal responsibilities?

Education in New South Wales is compulsory for all children between the ages of six years and below the minimum school leaving age. The *Education Act 1990* requires that parents ensure their children of compulsory school age are enrolled at, and regularly attend school, or, are registered with the Board of Studies, Teaching and Educational Standards for homeschooling.

Once enrolled, children are required to attend school each day it is open for students.

The importance of arriving on time

Arriving at school and class on time:

- Ensures that students do not miss out on important learning activities scheduled early in the day
- Helps students learn the importance of punctuality and routine
- Give students time to greet their friends before class
- Reduces classroom disruption

Lateness is recorded as a partial absence and must be explained by parents.

What if my child has to be away from school?

On occasion, your child may need to be absent from school. Justified reasons for student absences may include:

- being sick, or having an infectious disease
- having an unavoidable medical appointment
- being required to attend a
 recognised religious holiday
- exceptional or urgent family circumstance (e.g. attending a funeral)

Following an absence from school you must ensure that within 7 days you provide your child's school with a verbal or written explanation for the absence. However, if the school has not received an explanation from you within 2 days, the school may contact you to discuss the absence.

Principals may decline to accept an explanation that you have provided if they do not believe the absence is in the best interest of your child. In these circumstances your child's absence would be recorded as unjustified. When this happens the principal will discuss their decision with you and the reasons why. Principals may request medical certificates or other documentation when frequent or long term absences are explained as being due to illness. Principals may also seek parental permission to speak with medical specialists to obtain information to collaboratively develop a health care plan to support your child. If the request is denied, the principal can record the absences as unjustified.

Travel

Families are encouraged to travel during school holidays. If travel during school term is necessary, discuss this with your child's school principal. An *Application for Extended Leave* may need to be completed. Absences relating to travel will be marked as leave on the roll and therefore contribute to your child's total absences for the year.

In some circumstances students may be eligible to enrol in distance education for travel periods over 50 school days. This should be discussed with your child's school principal.





My child won't go to school. What should I do?

You should contact the principal as soon as possible to discuss the issue and ask for help. Strategies to help improve attendance may include a referral to the school's learning and support team or linking your child with appropriate support networks. The principal may seek further support from the Home School Liaison Program to develop an Attendance Improvement Plan.

What might happen if my child continues to have unacceptable absences?

It is important to understand that the Department of Education and Communities may be required to take further action where children of compulsory school age have recurring numbers of unexplained or unjustified absences from school.

Some of the following actions may be undertaken:

 Compulsory Schooling Conferences

You may be asked, along with your child, to attend a Compulsory Schooling Conference. The conference will help to identify the supports your child may need to have in place so they attend school regularly. The school, parents and agencies will work together to develop an agreed plan (known as Undertakings) to support your child's attendance at school.

Application to the Children's Court
 – Compulsory Schooling Order

If your child's attendance at school remains unsatisfactory the Department

may apply to the Children's Court for a Compulsory Schooling Order. The Children's Court magistrate may order a Compulsory Schooling Conference to be convened.

Prosecution in the Local Court

School and Department staff remain committed to working in partnership with you to address the issues which are preventing your child's full participation at school. In circumstances where a breach of compulsory schooling orders occurs further action may be taken against a parent in the Local Court. The result of court action can be the imposition of a community service order or a fine.

What age can my child leave school?

All New South Wales students must complete Year 10 or its equivalent. After Year 10, and up until they reach 17 years of age, there are a range of flexible options for students to complete their schooling.

Working in Partnership

The Department of Education and Communities recognises that working collaboratively with students and their families is the best way to support the regular attendance of students at school.

We look forward to working in partnership with you to support your child to fulfil their life opportunities. If a student misses as little as 8 days in a school term, by the end of primary school they'll have missed over a year of school.

Further information regarding school attendance can be obtained from the following websites:

Policy, information and brochures:

Please visit the Department of Education's *Policy library*

The school leaving age:

Please visit the Department of Education's *Wellbeing and Learning* website

Do you need an interpreter?

Interpreting services are available on request, including for the hearing impaired. The Telephone Interpreter Service is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week on 131 450. You will not be charged for this service.

For further advice and questions contact your educational services team

T 131 536

Learning and Engagement

Student Engagement & Interagency Partnerships

T 9244 512

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