

# **THE LINK**



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# From the Relieving Principal Mr. Glasgow

As I have said previously it is my honour and privilege to lead Leumeah High School. Current advice is the process to appoint the new Principal will start in Term 2 and will be looking to start in Term 3. Our Year 7 camp was a great success. I ventured up to see the students and they were all having a great time. I am especially proud of the Year 10 Peer Support Leaders who went and helped and mentored our new Year 7 students. Similarly, the Year 12 study camp saw our senior students gain valuable insights and skills to assist them as they prepare for their HSC. Can I say a big thank you to all of my staff who attended and gave up time with their families, it is greatly appreciated. Currently the senior Executive are working on our 2021-2024 School Plan while the details are being finalised the three Strategic Directions we will implement are 1) Growth and Attainment 2) Best Practice, Common Practice and 3) Aspiring and Connected Learners and Citizens.

Paul Zielinski's final action for Leumeah High School was to see large tracks of the school repainted. The school was in need of freshening up to ensure the learning spaces show the pride the staff have in the school. I want the classrooms and buildings to reflect the great teaching and learning that occurs in them. Throughout 2021 we will be continuing to ensure this happens. We are currently in the final stages of upgrading our wireless internet network at Leumeah High School to support our Future Focused Learning. The process started in January and so far we are tracking well to our dates of having the new network switched 'on' on the 17<sup>th</sup> of March.

Our Athletics carnival will be on 15<sup>th</sup> March 2021. Can I please emphasise that full sport uniform is to be worn to and from the athletics track. Students can run in correct running attire such as singlets and compression shorts eg skins. This is not a mufti day. Students are to be at the track by 8.30am or for those who are catching a bus to school we will have a groups, supervised by teachers walk down to the track. Please keep an eye out for further details as your child brings home their permission note.

# CALENDER

FRACE

# MARCH

- 15 Athletics Carnival
- 16 Year 11 Girls
- ABCN Focus Program
- 18 Years 7 & 8 Brainstorm
- 22-31 Year 12 Half Yearly Exams

# **APRIL**

- 1 Year 12 Half Yearly Exams
- 1 Last Day Term 1, 2021
- 2 Good Friday

19 First Day Term 2, 202126-30 Year 11 Exams

# MAY

- 6 Year 7 Immunisations #1
- 20 Zone Cross Country Carnival
- 24-29 Years 9 & 10 Exams
- 31 Years 7 & 8 Exams

## JUNE

- 1-4 Years 7 & 8 Exams
- 18 Zone Athletics Carnival
- 25 Last Day Term 2, 2021

A reminder to all parents, now that the weather is getting colder, of the importance that all students be in correct school uniform. Can I again thank all parents who ensure their children are dressed in school uniform each day. In particular, students must wear the proper school jumper or tracksuit top available from the uniform shop. No other jumper is permitted to be worn. If students wear the incorrect jumper to school they will be provided with a school jumper for the day. It is also a requirement under the WHS act that students wear black leather shoes to school each day. The Department of Education and Communities supports the wearing of school uniform by students and the upholding of high standards of dress by students. The P&C strongly endorse and support the policy that Leumeah High School students be required to wear school uniform. I ask all parents to ensure that students come dressed in uniform to school each day. At the last P&C meeting the following jacket was endorsed as a third option for students to wear. I am working with the supplier regarding cost and availability. I am hoping they will be around the \$75 and be available for the start of Term 2. Full details to come when I have them.



# Fabric:

320gm 3-layer performance softshell. Outer 95% polyester 5% elastane. Inner 100% polyester bonded fleece WP 3000 | BP 3000

# Features:

Light water repellent and wind resistant finish. 2 side zip pockets and 1 chest zip pocket. Concealed hood. Shaped back tail for added warmth and modesty

Dear parents and carers,

As we all know, 2020 was a tough year.

This was particularly so for our students and teachers who rose to the challenges in a disrupted year that included seven weeks of remote learning due to COVID-19.

For our students, this has been an unsettling time.

The government and department have recognised this with the announcement of a \$337 million program aimed at ensuring that schools can identify students who would benefit the most from intensive support. This will be tailored to their requirements to ensure that students' educational outcomes continue to improve in 2021. This funding has only been made available for 2021.

The 2021 COVID intensive learning support program will provide small group tuition for students who need it most at Leumeah High School.

All public schools across the state will benefit with an allocation to employ additional teachers and educators to support student learning.

Mr Gary Armstrong, Mrs Lisa Jensen, Ms Melanie Bettle and myself have been working on organising the small groups for tuition purposes. Students will be withdrawn three times a cycle in their group, with either literacy and/or numeracy being the focus of the tuition. It is hoped that as many students as possible will benefit from this program. Tutoring will be commencing next week and will run for 12 weeks for each group.

Best wishes

David O'Brien

# **From the Deputies**

Tem One has seen a busy start to the year. Students have been engaged in various extra-curricular activities as well as working studiously in their lessons.

In Week 5, representatives from Optus came into the school to deliver a program to all Years 7, 9 and 11 students. These Digital Thumbprint workshops are designed to support our young people and encourage them to be safe, responsible and positive with their online presence.

Years 8 and 10 received their latest inoculation of the HPV vaccine (Gardasil 9) and a single dose of the Diptheria, Tetanus and Pertussis vaccine (Boostrix). There will be a catch-up for any students who missed this later in the year.

On the 18<sup>th</sup> March, Year 7 and 8 will be participating in the Brain Storms Production as part of The National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence (NDA). This is an important day and marks Australian school communities standing together against bullying and violence.

Term One has seen Year 10 students involved in the HSC Minimum Standards testing. This is a process that supports and ensures students have a functional level of literacy and numeracy. To achieve an HSC in 2023 and beyond, students must ensure they have sat and passed the HSC Minimum Standards testing in Reading, Writing and Numeracy with each test taking 45 minutes.

Year 11 participated in the U-Turn the Wheel initiative last week where expert presenters led programs with students about the issues facing them as young drivers and reinforced strategies when dealing with learning to drive. The program itself reinforces the messages that parents are trying to communicate with their young drivers and that the decisions and actions made by drivers on the roads are their own responsibility and can often lead to unforeseen and tragic consequences.

Year 12 attended a study skills camp and spent three days learning about how to improve their study habits while having an opportunity to form stronger bonds with their teachers and peers. Year 12 will sit their Half-Yearly Examinations in Weeks 9 and 10 of this term also.

Year 12 Parent Teacher Night will take place on March 17<sup>th</sup> via Zoom and more information will go out to parents and carers on how to book a meeting with the teachers of their children.

International Women's Day will be celebrated on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March. We will celebrate this global day celebrating the social, economic, cultural, and political achievements of women. Female staff and students will celebrate with a morning tea and activities in the hall.

While it has been a busy start to the year, we are looking forward to all of the remaining activities, sporting events and learning that is taking place and will continue throughout the year.



# From the Year 8 Advisor

On behalf of Mrs Mitchell and Mr Thomas, I would like to welcome back all of Year 8 for 2021. Mr Thomas is joining the Year 8 team this year as Mrs Mitchell is off on maternity leave. Mrs Mitchell welcome a healthy baby boy last month to which Year 8 and myself would like to congratulate her.

The year has started off with a lot of events such as immunisations and the Swimming Carnival. At the Swimming Carnival the students demonstrated a high level of respect and cooperation as they partook in a number of events across the day. Most students took the opportunity to get into the water and had a great day.

The term is continuing to be a busy one with the Athletics Carnival (15th March) on the horizon and the rescheduled Brainstorm production (18th March). Students are reminded that they are to make their payments for both events to the front office and return their notes to the appropriate teachers.

In exciting news Year 8 have a mobile diary and food making classroom visiting 30th March. Students will learn how to milk a cow, make butter and cheese and learn more sustainable choices in the agriculture industry. There are limited spaces available so students are encouraged to return their notes and make their payments as soon as possible.

Ms Lemos

# From the Year 9 Advisor

Year 9 has already hit the ground running as 2021 is going to be a busy but exciting year ahead. A number of Year 9 students participated in the school swimming carnival and completed their swim tests. It was good to see the year group cheering on their friends and encouraging others to compete in some of the races.

The start of this term has seen Year 9 have their first experiences from their elective subject classes as I look forward to seeing their progress throughout this year. For this year, Year 9 are encouraged to build on their resilience, participation and to go outside their comfort zone by signing up for a range of extra curricular opportunities. This could include work experience, signing up for a school sport, leadership programs and many more.

Ms Osman and myself look forward to seeing all the success Year 9 will achieve in 2021.

Mr Smith

Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.

Nelson Mandela

# From the Year 10 Advisor

Year 10 has had a great start to 2021, beginning with a team of Year 10 boys winning the relay race at the swimming carnival – congratulations boys! It was great to see so many students getting involved at the swimming carnival by competing in races, novelty events or swim tests. The athletics carnival is fast approaching and I am looking forward to seeing Year 10 participate with enthusiasm!

Students have started thinking about what subjects they may be interested in choosing for their senior years and are encouraged to speak to their teachers to find out which may be suitable for them. There will be a subject information evening next term – date to be advised. There are also a number of opportunities popping up for students to participate in extra curricular activities such as sporting teams and debating. It would be great to see Year 10 getting involved in these.

During weeks 5 & 6 students have begun attempting the HSC minimum standards tests. There are separate tests for reading, writing and numeracy with students being required to pass each one before graduating in Year 12. Students will be given multiple opportunities and extra support where necessary to help them build up their skills to pass these tests.

2021 is going to be a busy year for year 10 - I am looking forward to seeing great things happen.

# Ms Williams



# From the Year 11 Advisor

Year 11 have adjusted well to life as part of the senior school. It has been a pleasure to see students working well in their new classes and approaching their chosen subjects with enthusiasm. A number of students have taken the opportunity over the past 2 weeks to change their subjects, and I wish them all the best with their new subjects.

Year 11 have had a busy start to the year. The swimming carnival saw students participate in the races and novelty events, as well as undertake their first fundraising activity. The BBQ was a great success, especially from a participation point of view. Ms Scurr and I were very pleased with the way in which Year 11 pulled together to do the cooking and to spruik their product. We hope to see Year 11 approach the rest of our fundraising activities with this much excitement.

On Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> February, Year 11 students undertook the U-Turn the Wheel driver safety education program. Students learned about how to get and retain their Ls and Ps, how to celebrate safely and how to share the road with trucks. The students were able to experience first hand the dangers of the road with the viewing of a wrecked car and a first-hand experience of the blind spots in a truck. It was pleasing to see students participate in the activities and ask questions.

I look forward to seeing Year 11 go from strength to strength throughout 2021.

Ms Stojakovic



# From the Year 12 Advisor

It has been a fast start to 2021 for Year 12 at Leumeah, already engaging in many different tasks and activities throughout the duration of Term 1.

In Week 3, the cohort were involved in a Camp at Blue Gum Lodge in the Blue Mountains. The students as a whole were fantastic, working with an array of talented teachers who were working to develop their capacity and resilience leading into some of the most challenging months in their senior education. Students refined their study skills, boosted their confidence with using ALARM and took time out of their day to focus on the positives in their lives for themselves and their peers. The students also enjoyed themselves participating in Rock Climbing, Archery and the Billy Cart challenge however, were bested by the teachers in a game of trivia!

Year 12 had some time to engage with the world beyond Leumeah High School, attending the University of Wollongong Open Day in Week 4. Students had the opportunity to spend some time assimilating into university life, attending lectures, tutorials and exploring the vast opportunities the university has to offer. It was an exciting moment for those who attended to affirm their aspirations and help motivate them moving into the remainder of the year.

The cohort had a fantastic time at their final Swimming Carnival during their schooling life. Students dived in to the day with positivity and were fantastic in their support of their peers and took time out of their day to compete for one last time. With the upcoming Athletics Carnival in Week 8, it would be amazing to see the entire cohort there for one final opportunity to enjoy the school spirit that the carnivals bring.

As the term progresses, the arrival of Half-Yearly examinations provides a fantastic opportunity for students to develop fluency and confidence with tackling examinations similar to the HSC. It is vital students begin revising now to ensure they are prepared for the rigours of the examinations during Week 9 and 10.





Mr Curtain

# From the Head Teacher Secondary Studies

We have had an exciting start to the year at Leumeah High School.

In 2021, Year 9 and 10 have the opportunity to engage in our Project Based Learning electives, commonly known as the Z-elective. Each student will create or contribute to an individual or group 'product'. Students in Years 9 and 10 will partake in one of these subjects each semester. Their work will culminate in a showcase where our community will be invited to see their wonderful work.

I have been working closely with staff in supporting students in Years 10, 11 and 12 to meet the HSC Minimum Standards. To show they meet the HSC minimum standard, students need to achieve Level 3 or 4 in short online reading, writing and numeracy tests of skills for everyday life. You can find more information on the HSC Minimum Standards via the NESA website.

We had 40 Year 12 students attend the University of Wollongong Discovery Day on Wednesday 17th February and it was a great opportunity for our students to experience a day in the life of a university student. Students attended lectures on courses and subjects they were interested in, giving them an indication of what they might be interested in applying for in the near future.

eVET classes have commenced for the year and students are attending various different courses held across the Western Sydney TAFENSW campuses. If your child is unable to attend TAFE, they are required to notify the Careers Adviser before their class so that their TAFE teacher can be advised. Medical Certificates are often requested by TAFE in the event of illness and school examinations and assessments are not a reason for non-attendance.

We look forward to a great 2021!

Ms Scurr



# From the Maths Faculty

Term 1 in the Mathematics Faculty is off to a flying start, with renewed vigour and eagerness for all that the new year holds. We have been working exceptionally hard to prepare some new and engaging programs across all areas of our curriculum, feeding off our recent success over the past year with our HSC results.

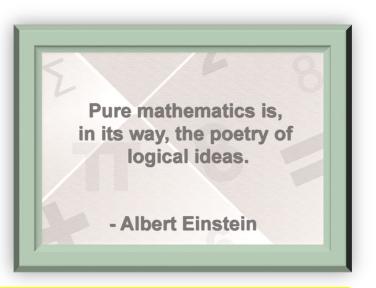
The Faculty has spent large volumes of time working to embed effective and efficient use of iPads and future focused learning in our classrooms. Our staff have set themselves the challenge of learning a plethora of new techniques that we are waiting to unleash and challenge both ourselves and our students with new learning experiences. In the next few weeks, students from Years 7-10 will be receiving their first assessment task – an investigation and take -home task – so it is imperative they are completing the task as soon as they receive it, gathering as much vital feedback from their teachers before it will

be due for submission.

Moving into the middle of the term it is vital that students in Stage 5&6 are bringing their textbook covers so that they will have access to such a vital resource. Moving into the remainder of the year, Stage 4 are encouraged to ensure they are proactive in bringing their iPads to school charged and ready to go to engage in the interactive lessons the faculty are delivering.

#### Mr Curtain

Rel. Head Teacher Mathematics.





The Bundalong Team would like to take this opportunity to welcome our new and returning students and their families to Leumeah High School.

2021 is sure to be another successful year of learning for students in the Bundalong Support Unit, as we continue to focus on the implementation of the 4Cs (Communication, Collaboration, Creativity and Critical Reflection) through the continued use of project-based learning activities and integration of technology.

Our Stage 4 class have completed their first 'Digital Bootcamp' and have already demonstrated pleasing progress in their skill development around iPads. Our Stage 5 students are enjoying their learning across different interest electives, both in the support unit and in other faculties across the school, and our Stage 6 students have been working conscientiously to complete their HSC requirements.

2021 also marks the start of what we hope to be a long and positive collaboration with the HSIE Faculty, regarding the delivery of HSC Courses in Ancient History and Business Studies. Teachers across both faculties are working together to ensure 'best practice' in terms of inclusive programming and implementation of assessment tasks.

We are looking forward to another successful year of learning in 2021!

Ms Edwards

Head Teacher Special Education



The HSIE Faculty would like to take this opportunity to welcome our new and returning students to Leumeah High School. As with 2020, team teaching and project-based learning initiatives will continue to be a strong focus of the faculty during 2021. I am very pleased to report that our students are participating with energy and enthusiasm in these initiatives, developing their critical thinking skills and their ability to work together to devise creative solutions to real-world issues.

2021 also marks the start of what we hope to be a long and positive collaboration with the Bundalong Faculty, regarding the delivery of HSC Courses in Ancient History and Business Studies. Teachers across both faculties are working together to ensure best practise in terms of inclusive programming and implementation of assessment tasks.

We welcome our Year 7 students to Leumeah and look forward to working with them, along with Year 8, to enhance their iPad skills and explore Geography and History in a creative and engaging way that challenges all students to do their best.

Finally, a reminder to all students to be prepared for their learning each and every day. For Year 7 and 8 students, as well as students of 9T, devices must be fully charged. For all students, across all HSIE subjects and year groups, books and necessary equipment must be brought to school on a daily basis.

We look forward to an excellent year of learning!

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

Mrs Sullivan

Head Teacher HSIE



# **Justice and Police Museum Excursion**

Last Friday, members of The Law Society attended an excursion to the Police and Justice Museum where they stepped into the dark side of Sydney's past with a visit to an 1890's police station. With this, they immersed themselves in more than a century of underworld Sydney, which included thugs, locals and drifters and learnt about how laws have evolved to reflect changing societal values. They also considered what it would have been like awaiting trial in holding cells. The highlight of the program was when students engaged in a mock trial about drink driving at the Local Court in which they assumed the roles of various court officials. The excursion ended perfectly with some lunch on the harbour under blue skies and a beaming sun.





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# THE LINK—LEUMEAH HIGH SCHOOL

# From the Science Faculty

The Science faculty would like to welcome all students starting or returning to LHS in 2021.

With Term 1 well underway, we have already seen our first 2 Enhancing Learning opportunities for Year 12 Science students.

Investigating Science students visited the ANSTO Nuclear Reactor in Lucas Heights to investigate the social and ethical considerations around the use of Nuclear Energy as well as gaining valuable insight into the benefits if using a nuclear reactor to conduct research and produce medical isotopes.

Earth and Environmental Science students made the trek to the Geoscience Centre in Canberra to observe the largest research facility in all thing's geology in Australia as well as Australia's only Tectonic Monitoring Station. Students heard from professional volcanologist and seismologists who discussed their roles and responsibilities in an effort to further students understanding of Hazards. They even had a great time setting off the seismograph with a mini Leumeah High School Earthquake.





We are all looking forward to the upcoming learning opportunities that have been planned for Year 11 Chemistry and Year 11 Biology students.

In class Year 11 Investigating Science students are positively crawling from their investigation into observable factors on Meal Worms and Woodies.





We are fortunate to welcome two new teachers to our faculty in Mr Spratt and Ms Fait-Jaboult, and to our returning teachers in Ms Purcell, Ms Lemos, Mr Dimitrievski, Mr Al Nakeeb and Ms Baker.

The Science faculty would like to encourage all students to maintain their enthusiastic attitude with which they have approached their studies so far throughout the year to come.

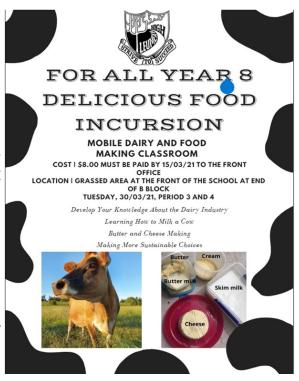
# LTAS DESIGNING AND PRODUCING

# March 2021

A variety of courses are underway in LTAS across Years 7-12 and in the next edition we will publish the usual visual display of a variety of completed projects.

Year 7 TM are actively pursuing design investigations in coding and game design, food from paddock to plate, monster creations and bottle rocket design for the furthest flightpath. Year 8 TM are invested in creative coding using the Arduino circuit, delicious food, eco design wise jewellery and timber caddy creations. Stage 4 courses have Assessment Tasks in progress as published on the assessment schedules.

All Year 8 have a DELICIOUS FOOD incursion planned for the 30/3/21 with a dairy visit and onsite demonstration of milk processing, cheese and butter making. The details are in the graphic and the permission note soon coming home.



The stage 5 electives have a combination of Year 9 and 10 students, who are working cooperatively on practical projects and assessment tasks in Food Technology, Industrial Technology Timber and Industrial Technology Metal and Information and Software Technology. Food Technology students are focused on basic skills in food preparation and current food trends in a unit called My Kitchen Rules. The Metal classes are designing and making a trendy candle holder and the Timber students are creating a multi timber wall clocks. The IST class is researching and designing network systems for homes, offices or a business.

The stage 6 classes in Industrial Technology Timber YII and YI2, Food Technology Y I2 and VET Hospitality YII and I2 are progressing through coursework and tasks and preparing for the upcoming Half Yearly Exams.

**WORKPLACEMENT HOSTS NEEDED**. Year 11 VET Hospitality students will undertake **workplacement in Term 2** and we thank our generous local hosts who provide entry level work for a week. Further contacts are urgently sought for willing and appropriate hosts that can be supplied to the LHS Admin Office, any LTAS staff member or MWLP 02 46251863 or info@mwlp.com.au The key areas are Hospitality, Business Services and Retail.

**ELECTIVE COURSE FEES** are due which cover the cost of consumable materials used in practical projects.

# SAVE ITEMS FOR OUR PROJECTS - RECYCLE, REUSE, RETHINK, REDUCE WASTE

Any clean newspaper in most courses, empty plastic soft drink bottles would be helpful donations for the basis of the bottle rocket projects and any stashes or piles of any variety of natural colour timber offcuts of a usable size would be appreciated for features in wall clocks (Y9/10) and desk cady designs (Y8).





# **From the Sports Co-ordinator**

As we return to a more normal year of sport, Leumeah High School has and will be involved in numerous competitions held in Term 1. Currently these events include:

- The School Swimming Carnival and Fisher Zone Swimming (completed)

- The School Athletics Carnival (Week 8, Monday)

- Year 10 Recreational Sport (Weeks 4-9, rolling Wednesday afternoons)

- A range of Knock-Out Team Sports and Zone Sporting Teams (students should see the school coaches for more information)

- Year 7-10 School Sport (Year 8 Tuesdays, Year 10 Wednesdays, Year 7 Thursdays and Year 9 Fridays)



Mr Grubnic







# **SWIMMING CARNIVAL**













# **Year 7 Orientation Camp**

During Week 4 of Term 1, many of the Year 7 cohort attended a 3 day Orientation Camp at the Great Aussie Bush Camp in the Tea Gardens. This camp was a great opportunity for Year 7 to build and strengthen friendships, develop their resilience and challenge themselves to participate in a range of individual and team building activities. Many of the students enjoyed the archery, indoor rock climbing and the high ropes challenge, however, the mud run was definitely a firm favourite amongst the group.

While the weather was not on our side and the mud seemed never ending, the rain did not dampen the experience. In addition to the day time activities, the students enjoyed the night time disco where many of them danced the night away. Most students also liked sitting around the camp fire eating marshmallows and listening to the camp leader's 'scary stories'.

Overall, the orientation camp was a success, with all students returning home happy and healthy, albeit a little tired.

Ms Price Year 7 Advisor







# YEAR 7 CAMP



















Public Schools NSW

# **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.

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
- gives 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 are my legal responsibilities? 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.

LEARNING AND ENGAGEMENT

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.



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# 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 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*.

NSW DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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 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

http://www.schools.nsw.edu. au/studentsupport/programs/ attendance.php

### The school leaving age

http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/ leavingschool/index.php

### For further advice contact

Educational services

T 131 536

- Learning and Engagement
- Student Engagement and Interagency Partnerships

T 9244 5356

www.dec.nsw.gov.au

#### Do you need an interpreter?

If you need help with English and would like further information please call the Telephone Interpreter Service on **131 450** and ask for an interpreter in your language. The operator will get an interpreter on the line to assist you with your conversation. You will not be charged for this service.

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LEARNING AND ENGAGEMENT