



# Principal's Message

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**Term 1 Wk 5 2024**

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## Principal - Mark Marciniak

Welcome back to school for 2024 and a special welcome to our Year 7 students and their parents and carers. The school days and weeks are flying past and there has been so much happening and plenty more exciting activities for the students for the remainder of the term.

Year 7 and 8 students have received their laptop to provide every student with an equitable opportunity to use technology to support their learning and develop the necessary skills as digital citizens. Students in Years 9 to 12 are required to purchase a laptop of their own and bring their laptop to school every day. Students who do not have their own laptop can request to borrow a short term or long-term loan laptop from the school. A student laptop charter will need to be signed by the student and their parent/carer and returned to the student services office by the student before a loan laptop is issued. Students are still required to bring books for writing in class as well as other learning materials like pens/pencils a pencil case, scientific calculator, and any other subject specific materials.

All teachers have setup Google Classrooms for each subject where they post learning activities and resources, an overview of the learning for the topic, weekly homework, and assignments. This provides students with readily available learning resources to complete in class or at home if they have not finished the classwork as well as additional learning to support their learning from home. Parents can support their son's learning by asking them to access their Google Classroom accounts for each subject to check to see if they are completing all their classwork and assignments.

During information sessions when parents attend the school, we will provide directions to parents to familiarise them with the learning layout for their son's Google Classrooms. The systematic approach of developing a centralised set up of Google Classrooms was initiated from feedback provided by parents to lift student engagement levels in their learning at school and at home. I envisaged that with a collective focus between school and home, teachers and parents can continue to improve the educational support that can be provided for all students to add growth to student learning.

Thank you to all students who have purchased their school uniforms and wear them every day. I do acknowledge that our uniform provider Lowes at Rockdale has run out of stock. We are continuing to contact them on a regular basis to see when new stock will arrive. If your son does not have a school shirt, please have him wear either his Wednesday sport shirt or a white polo shirt or T shirt until you can purchase one for him.

School starts for students at 8:43am every day when the first bell sounds. Students should be onsite between 8:20 and 8:30am. I do understand there are times when students are unexpectedly late due to traffic conditions, late bus or train or an emergency. Students who attend after 8:45am will be provided with a warning. Students who continue to be late will be issued with a consequence that being either a recess, lunch or after school detention. Parents whose son arrives late to school will also receive a text message informing them of the time they arrived at school.

I appreciate your cooperation in supporting your son arriving to school on time.

Thank you to the parents who are using the designated drop off and pick up spots at Hogben Street across the Princes Highway footbridge or at the back of the school in Lachal Avenue. These two places are the safest places to drop and pick up your son. The driveway at the front of the school on the Princes Highway is not a drop off nor a pickup area. Cars that are stopping in the area to drop off or pick up their son are compromising the safety of their son, other pedestrians, and vehicles. This is a high traffic area and not a safe place to be stopping. The school and the department have spent a lot of time and money to create a safe entry and exit point for students and staff. Should you need to drop off or pickup your son from school in the morning, during school or in the afternoon due to exceptional circumstances please advise the office before attending or use the intercom at the gate to obtain access to the guest parking spots.

The new mobile phone policy implemented at the start of Term 4 2023 is still in effect for all schools in NSW. It is pleasing to see how responsive and cooperative the students have been to follow the policy that we have implemented at the school. The effect of the policy has seen a greater level of engagement in student learning in the classrooms and high levels of student socialisation in the playground. If a parent or carer needs to contact their son, please contact the school office and we will pass the message onto them. Students can access their phone at the end of the day when the bell goes.

We look forward to sharing another successful year supporting your son in their academic learning and their social and emotional development.

Year 7 Meet the Teacher	Tuesday 27 <sup>th</sup> February
Year 9 Camp	Wednesday 28 <sup>th</sup> February - Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> March
Open Evening for 2025 students and parents	Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> March
Vaccinations - Year 10- Meningococcal	Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> of March
Year 7 Camp	Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> - Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> March
Year 7 and 9 NAPLAN testing period	Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> to Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> March
School Athletics Carnival	Tuesday 26 <sup>th</sup> March
School Easter morning tea	Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> March
Good Friday Public Holiday	Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> March
Easter Public Holiday	Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> April
Community Iftar Dinner	Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> April
School Cross Country	Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> April
Last day of Term 1	Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> April

For the latest updates, information, news, and pictures of school activities please follow us on Facebook (James Cook Boys Technology High School) or access our website at <https://jamescookb-h.schools.nsw.gov.au/>

NSW Department of Education



# Every Day Matters

Make sure your child doesn't miss out on the important things like:

## Learning



## Strengthening friendships



## Emotional development



When it comes to attending school, every day matters.

Scan the QR code to learn more

