



Principals Message

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Principal - Mark Marciniak

Welcome back to all our students, and a special welcome to our Year 7 students who have joined our community. I hope that everyone had a restful and safe holiday break. Although we have only been back for over a week it seems everyone is working frantically to get all the planning done for a very busy first term.

We are currently in the process of developing our new school plan for 2021 to 2024 after spending a significant portion of time analysing school data and obtaining feedback from our students via our Student Focus Group interviews that were held toward the end of last year. Our school plan 2021 to 2024 will be completed by the end of Term 1. Prior to its completion we will be consulting with our staff and parents to ratify our strategic directions over the next four years. Obviously there will be a continued focus on achieving school excellence in improving students' academic performance that will be measured externally through NAPLAN (Year 7 and 9) and HSC results. The school will continue to use internal data through regular testing and student assessments to ensure students are making constant learning improvement and teachers are reflecting on their teaching practice to ensure students are meeting learning milestones.

Whilst on the topic of student performance I would like to acknowledge and congratulate our former Year 12 cohort of 2020. This group of students were in Year 7 when I started my principalship at JCBTHS in 2015. They were also responsible for assisting the school in leading school wide change as ambassadors in implementing new initiatives, such as STEM Stage 4 and 5 courses, the primary school Robotics Program, primary school Touch Gala day competitions, primary school STEM Roadshows and much more within the school and across our community.

The highest ATAR was achieved by Nishal Narayan (97.9) which is a fantastic achievement. Nishal was also part of our Mathematics Acceleration Program and was successful in achieving two Band 6s in his HSC when he was in Year 10.

I wish all the students from our 2020 Year 12 cohort all the best in their future endeavours and I am confident that they will continue to achieve their best in their future years.

Welcome to our new teaching staff

With the continued growth in student numbers we have many new teachers joining our community. The following teachers will be teaching your sons and will be available to discuss your son's learning progress with you through our parent teacher report evenings or upon your request.

Dominic McGeary - Maths	Liam McConaghy – PDHPE/TAS
Christina Kazas - English	Daniel Van Ruth – CAPA-Music
Nick Cato - English	Tim Welfare – CAPA-Visual Arts
Rianne Mehdi - English	Kate Zhuang - Science
Kate Alison - HSIE	Heba Eloss – Support/Learning Support
Zeinab Mustapha - HSIE	Suzanne Johns - English

Covid 19 update

Although Covid 19 restrictions have eased since students have returned to school we are still following the NSW Health guidelines to ensure all members of our school community remain safe. As per last year any student or staff member who is presenting with symptoms of a cold or flu will need to refrain from attending school and immediately obtain a Covid 19 test before returning to school. It is essential if you have been asked to self-isolate or to get tested that you notify the school and provide evidence of your negative Covid 19 test result to the front office. We have a designated staff member who will follow up any student who has presented themselves as unwell with flu like symptoms to ensure all of our community is kept safe.

All classrooms and common spaces are equipped with hand sanitisers and students are encouraged to regularly clean their hands. Additional Covid 19 cleaners are still on site cleaning learning spaces and high touch areas around the school. As of next week the school will be implementing its QR code so visitors can scan in upon arriving. The school is open for parents to attend if they have an arranged interview or need to attend the school office.

In accordance with the current NSW Health guidelines face masks are required to be worn if your son is traveling on public transport. We have also been recently advised that this also extends to students and teachers who will be traveling on school buses for sport or to and from school carnivals and excursions. For students who do not have a face mask on the required day they are traveling via bus or train to a venue, the school will provide a new face mask for students. Please note that students are not required to wear face masks at school.

We appreciate your ongoing cooperation in maintaining a safe community.

Year 7

It has been a busy start for Year 7 students who have no doubt felt like they have been inundated with information. However to their credit they have done an outstanding job transitioning to high school and embracing all the changes and challenges they have been faced with. The Year Advisor, Ms Cvetkovska has been meeting with the students regularly and providing them with necessary information about upcoming events and how the school works. The students have had the opportunity to meet all the different people in the school, ranging from the Head Teachers of each Faculty, the Deputy Principal, our Student Support Officer, School Psychologist, School Chaplain, Learning and Support Teachers and our friendly office staff. I have had the opportunity to mingle with the students at recess and lunch and have also seen them in their classrooms. I will be continuing to meet with the students and try to learn all their names by the end of the term.

Information that has been provided to Year 7 students and whole school upcoming events

- **School photos** – Monday 8th February if you haven't received your photo purchase package your son should receive it on Monday or you can contact the school.
- **Year 7 vaccinations** – is on Friday the 5th March, this information will be communicated to parents shortly.
- **Swimming carnival** – Thursday the 11th March, this information will be provided closer to the date.
- **Homework club** – will start on Monday 15th February and runs from 3 to 4pm in the school library. Notes will be provided to students. All students are encouraged to attend to get support completing their homework and assignments.

- **STEM Club** – will start on Tuesday the 9th February between 3 and 4pm. This is an opportunity for students to engage in a co-curricular learning experience using Lego Robotics, Virtual Reality kits, Minecraft and other exciting technological projects. Notes have been issued for STEM club, however spaces are still available.
- **Laptop distribution** – Year 7 laptops will be distributed midweek starting Monday 8th February. All student laptop loan charters need to be signed and to the office before laptops will be issued. Students will participate in an orientation program on how to use their laptops. All students will also participate in ongoing educational programs regarding ethical use of technology, cyber safety and on-line etiquette.
- **PAT testing** – all Year 7 students will be tested in literacy and numeracy so the school can collect baseline learning data on each student. This information will be provided to their classroom teachers and the Learning and Support Team will allocate learning support resources and personnel to support students in need of additional learning assistance. Parents will be contacted if their son needs a personalised learning and support plan. Student data will also be used to track individual student progress every six months.
- **Locker hire** – lockers are available for students to hire. A locker note can be obtained from the office.
- **SRE information** – students will receive their Special Religious Education opt in note. SRE is not compulsory. SRE is facilitated by our School Chaplain. Further information regarding SRE is available from our school website.
- **Year 7 School camp** – Wednesday 17th to Friday 19th of March. The Year 7 camp is compulsory for all students. It is a great opportunity to get to know your teachers, make new friends and be challenged. Notes will be provided next week. Should you require any financial assistance in meeting the cost of the camp please contact the school principal.
- **Summer sport selections** – occurred last Wednesday 3rd February. Students who will be traveling from school to play sport will need to have their permission notes signed and returned. All students are to wear their sport uniform to school on Wednesdays. Remember school finishes at 2:20pm on Wednesdays.
- **School Athletics Carnival** – Friday 26th March. Details will be provided closer to the time of the event.
- **Year 9 Camp** – Wednesday 24th to Friday 26th February, notes will be provided to students shortly.
- **Year 11 and 12 Study Skills workshop** – will be held on Thursday 11th February.
- **Year 11 Assessment Schedule and Information booklet** – will be provided to students on Friday 12 of February.
- **Year 7 2021 Assessment Schedule** – was issued to all Year 7 students on their orientation day last year. If you require an additional copy the Assessment Schedule it is accessible from the school website under the JCBTHS Year 7 Orientation Video.

For all upcoming events please access our school website and check on the school calendar or follow us on facebook.

General information

Our first P&C meeting will be held on Wednesday the 24th February in the school common room. This first meeting will also include our Annual General Meeting (AGM) which is the official process of electing representatives to the allocated positions associated with running the P&C. After the AGM we will resume with our first official P&C face to face meeting for 2021. All parents and community members are welcome. The meeting will unofficially start at 5:30pm as a meet and greet, tea/coffee and dessert starter. Then at 6pm the official meeting will take place.

Thank you to all the parents and carers who are using Hogben Street Kogarah as their drop off and pick up point. I have been trying to be there each morning and afternoon to ensure the students are safe and that the drop off, pick up point is working effectively. I am still in negotiations with Georges River Council to have signage placed in the street identifying it as a school drop off zone. If you would like to have a quick chat or introduce yourself I am always available during those times.

JCBTHS will continue to provide parents with specific updates and reminders via text messages, emails and short videos. If you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact the school's office staff by phone or email and they will either answer your question directly or refer you to the appropriate person.

If you have any suggestions on how the school can improve its communication to parents/carers, I would like to hear from you.

Thank you once again for your ongoing support in 2021.