

Dear Families

We have already hit the half way mark for the term and it feels like yesterday that we were welcoming our new Year 7 students to the school!

The second half of the term is set to be as exciting and busy as the first and we look forward to welcoming Dan Breen into the acting principal role for that period. I know that Kerrie has been overwhelmed by your lovely emails of support for her time on personal leave and keeps telling me she is missing our school already! We wish her well for a speedy recovery.

A few points for this week:

Student Safety

As you may be aware, police have been investigating some incidents in Belconnen related to a man approaching students. We wish to remind parents and guardians to help our children understand the importance of stranger safety and reporting any unusual approaches immediately. Any suspicious activity or approaches to children should be reported to ACT Police on 131444. If you believe there is any suspicious activity near our school please let us know immediately.

Timetable

We have been undertaking some evidence gathering over the five week period seeking to find the 'optimum' break time for our students. Following targeted observations, trialing of a couple of different lengths of break and gaining feedback from students, staff and parents we have identified that the 35 minute breaks are the most productive – giving time for food and fun without becoming overwhelming – for the majority of our student body; and that the extra break on Friday is a fabulous opportunity for extending social interactions through organised and non-organised activity. So our final settling point for breaks will now be 35 minute morning break and a 35 minute afternoon break with the longer break on Fridays. We have managed a very subtle reshuffle of the timetable so that we lose no teaching time for classes. This subtly changed timetable which maintains all the benefits but optimizes times will now be the permanent timetable for our school and will be on the website soon. I am really proud to work in a school where student voice, community and staff feedback as well as data and evidence are used for decision making.

Sick Students

A reminder regarding students who are unwell. If a student is feeling sick or has hurt themselves in some way they must go first to the front office where they will be seen by a trained First Aid Officer or supported to contact home for collection. Recently a number of students are simply ringing/texting parents from the playground or between class time and asking parents to come and collect them. This makes our work more complex and we would like your help in encouraging your children to follow our process. If they contact you we request that you please ask them to come straight to the front office and remind them that this is the process at Campbell High. We will never try to stop your child from calling you if they feel they need to but do need to follow correct first aid and management processes.

Call for Donations

As part of our support for students at break times, our wonderful drama teacher, Sophie Benassi, will soon be opening the drama room for two breaks per week. This will be a quiet and relaxed space for students who wish to spend time out of the noise and busy pace of the playground. We are asking for donations of high quality, clean items to support this:

- Large floor cushions/pillows for lounging
- Throw rugs or quilts for creating the cozy feel
- Intact and fully useable board games for quiet, collaborative play

We would be most grateful if these could be dropped to the front office in the coming two weeks.

Year 7 Immunisations

These are taking place on Friday of next week. Please ensure your student drinks plenty of water to be hydrated and has breakfast in the morning so that they are in the best position for their injections.

Project Rockitt

Our year 7 and 8 students had the opportunity to be part of an interactive session delivered by the Project Rockitt Team focused on cybersafety and supporting our students to become aware of the support that is available to them if they feel they are being bullied through social media. It was a fun, engaging way to learn about some new skills and forms part of the long term work we are doing to educate and support our kids in this brave new online world.

Many thanks and best wishes for the long weekend,

Katherine