



PARENT BULLETIN

JUNE 2020

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PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

COVID-19 Update

At the time of writing, we are just over a week into our return to full time school transition. The staff and I are just delighted to see the students and to be able to return to normal teaching and learning. As I have wandered about the school, I am constantly greeted by students who are telling me how much they have missed traditional schooling, not just because their friends are here but also because they can now see the intrinsic value of having their teachers on hand to explain concepts and to be able to ask questions, obtain feedback and work in groups in real time. This is just why we as a staff all chose our profession in the first place and whilst we all made the best of the circumstances, there is nothing like the interaction that teachers have with their classes when they can circulate and check in with their students.

The challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic has certainly presented a need for schools right across the state to find new ways to support learning for all our students and now that we are back to school, our Executive Team is looking to gather data about the experiences of our students and their parents throughout these unprecedented times. Already we have conducted planning deep analysis of these experiences with our teaching staff at the Staff Twilight Professional Learning session. I would also like to thank all the families who have undertaken our recent survey in which we gathered parental feedback on the elements of remote learning that worked best. Our intention is to learn from the positives of these recent experiences so that we can sustain the progress we have made.

As many parents would know, we were delighted to be able to offer loan devices including laptops, dongles and even specialist equipment like sewing machines. If your child was the recipient of any item of loan equipment while remote learning was taking place, I would now ask that this equipment be returned to school so that all students can benefit from the resources that Elderslie High School can offer.

Changes to our Reports

Over the last twelve months, Elderslie High School staff have been working on modifying our bi-annual reports to include an effort scale. As parents would know, our reports already include an A to E academic progress grade which reflects the achievement of students against the Common Grade Scale provided by the NSW Education Standards Authority. To accompany this academic grade, we have decided to include

a grade for effort to show the degree of hard work and initiative that students contribute to their learning. I am confident that many parents will value this kind of inclusion in our reports because many of us feel very strongly about our children trying their best at school. The decision to include a grade for effort will reflect the commitment of Elderslie High School staff to working with all our students on the process and academic journey and not just the final product that our students arrive at.

Many parents would be aware from my last COVID-19 update that the Department of Education has given permission to all schools to remove the academic progress grade (A – E) from the Semester 1 report. This decision was made by the Department due to interruptions in normal school learning brought about when students were away from the classroom. The timeline for report distribution has also been set back for Semester 1 and we now plan to issue all reports for Year 7-10 in Week 2, Term 3. Reports for this semester will be simplified but will still include such elements as comments about learning in the classroom as well as remotely and provide recommendations for improvements. For Semester 1, the effort scale will still be included.

Uniform

As a staff, we are always grateful for the vast majority of parents who ensure their children are in correct uniform every day. Of late, we have had a number of students coming to school wearing hoodies and other non-uniform items. These items are not part of our approved Elderslie High School uniform. Any student who is out of uniform will have their non-uniform item confiscated and be offered a loan item. The breach will then be recorded at school level.

Now that our uniform shop has resumed its normal operations on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday, we do expect to see that all our students are wearing the correct gear each and every day. Families can also order online and organise for their children to pick up their items when the shop next opens. If there are any families who require support to provide the correct uniform for their children, I ask that you put your request to me in writing so that I can consider how best we can assist. Further details of the uniform shop opening hours can be found on the school website.

Communication Channels

As I mentioned in the last edition of Parent Bulletin, there is so much information coming out from the school lately especially in light of the COVID-19 pandemic so I would like to take this opportunity to remind all our families of the wide range of channels through which we communicate with families. If you don't have our app in particular, I encourage you to download it. Our communication channels are:

- Website - <https://elderslie-h.schools.nsw.gov.au>
- Facebook - @ElderslieHSchool
- Twitter- @ElderslieHs
- Skoolbag App
- Parent Bulletin

Parents & Citizens Association Update

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we are currently unable to hold face to face P&C meetings so instead, our Week 7 meeting due to occur on Tuesday, June 9 will be run via the videoconferencing platform, Zoom. If you are a regular participant in Elderslie High School's P&C meetings, you will have already received a link to this scheduled Zoom. Anyone else from our parent community who wishes to attend is most welcome to do so. Please contact the office and the link will be emailed to you.

Kind regards,
Mrs Jenny Lawrence
Principal

FROM THE DEPUTY PRINCIPALS

Natalie Martin (DP Years 9 & 12)

Year 12

Year 12 have been issued with a new Assessment Guidelines document which was revised due to the changes to assessment that the school made in response to the interruption to face to face teaching as a result of COVID-19. The school has decided to not run the Trial HSC Examinations and replace the exams with one hour examinations to be held in timetabled lessons during Weeks 9 and 10 of this Term. After much deliberation we determined that this decision was in the best interests of the whole Year 12 cohort considering the majority of students would not be adequately prepared to sit three hour examinations at the end of this term.

We have also decided to re-issue the Semester 1, Year 12 reports as our reports did not traditionally include an academic achievement grade and we felt that students and parents would value this information considering we have included a grade for effort on the reports. Since the return to school, the Head Teacher of Secondary Studies and the Senior Learning Mentor have been working with Year 12 students who had not yet met the HSC Minimum Standards. We will do our best to support these students so they can successfully achieve an HSC this year.

We are encouraging teachers of Year 12 to run holiday workshops between Terms 2 and 3. Our teachers are being encouraged to run non-assessable timed Trial HSC examinations so that willing students can have an experience as close as possible to the HSC to prepare them mentally for the upcoming final examinations. The remainder of the study day will give students the opportunity to go through the examination answers and increase their understanding of good quality answers. Year 12 students are encouraged to 'drop-in' to school on self-determined days. Students who have major works will be encouraged to complete their projects during the holidays as well.

Project Innovate

Two Year 8 classes have begun learning Lego Spike Prime Robotics, using the Lego kits and software loaded on the library laptops. Students share one Lego kit and one laptop between two students and will have the opportunity to complete a number of challenges whilst learning about block coding. Mrs Ferris and myself will be teaching robotics to most of Year 8 by the end of the year. So far students have responded positively to this teaching unit, so look out for the photos indicating progressive student achievement on our school Facebook page. Our plan is to enter some teams into the Lego League challenges which are generally populated by student from private schools. I am excited to be leading this initiative which is providing a future focused learning opportunity for our students.

7-10 Reports

Due to the loss of face to face teaching time we will be delaying the distribution of Year 7-10 reports until Week 3 of Term 3. This is when we would normally hold out Recognition Assemblies for student's achievement. At this stage we are not sure if the Recognition Assemblies will go ahead due to COVID-19 restrictions. Please read out regular updates on Skoolbag, Facebook and the school website.

Ms Natalie Martin
Deputy Principal
Years 9 & 12

Dale White (DP Years 8 & 11)

Welcome back to Term 2 for the majority of students. It has been a very exciting but somewhat different educational landscape to join the Elderslie High School team this term. I am looking forward to meeting all students over the next few weeks as we resume regular schooling and continue teaching and learning once again in the classroom. I have been very impressed with the resilience and adaptability of the students as the vast majority have worked diligently in the remote learning phase of COVID-19. It has been pleasing to hear from teachers that the work produced by students has exceeded their expectations with many seeking feedback on their classwork and furthering their learning by continually asking questions to move their learning forward. In 2020, I will be working with the students and their families from Years 8 and Year 11. As Elderslie High School is guided by DoE COVID-19 policies and procedures, please expect some modifications to the normal operation of the school over the next few weeks in some subjects as we phase slowly back towards pre COVID-19 learning.

I have been impressed with how Year 8 has settled back into their learning in the classroom, obviously a heightened level of excitement will be felt as you see your friends again back at school but then it's time to resume our levels of application and concentration to continue your learning. I would also like to remind students that as we venture through these new times, it is not an opportunity to forget the values we have in place at Elderslie High School. Students need to ensure they continually practice the values of

Respect, Responsibility and Reflection when working at school in all their classes and with all their teachers and continue these behaviours at home. With an increase in students in Year 8 in 2020, there is now the need to create an extra class. This will provide exciting benefits to students with smaller class sizes and greater individualised learning opportunities by their teachers. However, all students should be aware that with the allocation of a new class for Year 8 this will mean some students will be adjusting their classes in Term 3. Our staff have strategically designed the classes to ensure the best educational outcomes for our students and I ask that you talk with your child to prepare them for any potential change they may have.

Year 11 have had some changes thrust upon them during this COVID-19 Remote Learning experience. The major change that will impact on then students in their Preliminary year will be the unfortunate cancellation of the first Assessment Task for many subjects in Term 1. This will mean there have been some changes required to Assessment Schedules and staff are currently sharing these changes with students in their classes. In the majority of cases, there will be only 2 formal assessment tasks for each subject remaining in the Preliminary year. It is vital students complete all assessment tasks at all times to demonstrate their knowledge, understanding and skills and with only two tasks this year I can't stress how imperative it will be as you prepare for the HSC year starting in Term 4 2020.

I am wishing students and parents a safe and healthy end to Term 2 and if I can assist you at any time please give me a call at school.

Mr Dale White
Deputy Principal
Years 8 and 11

Joanne Amos (DP Years 7 & 10)**Student Safety**

From time to time it is important to remind students about the need to consider their safety to and from school. Last week messages were given to students to encourage them to enter and exit the school grounds via the designated pedestrian gates. No student should use the carpark driveways for this purpose. We would also encourage parents to use the drop off zone at the front of the school and be mindful of not parking across the carpark driveways.

Year 8 and 10 - Subject Selection

The Year 10 Subject Selection evening has been tentatively organised for Wednesday 22 July from 6.30pm. This evening is an opportunity for crucial information about the Preliminary HSC to be presented in addition to the distribution of an information package including the subject selection form and how to select electives online. We are awaiting for further updates about social distancing restrictions in schools before we can confirm the date.

Additional to the evening, all faculties are currently working to produce videos to outline each of the subjects they offer.

These videos will be included in an EHS Year 10 Subject Selection Website to help students and their carers understand course outlines and requirements. Further information will be distributed to Year 10 students in the coming weeks.

Year 8 students will be required to complete their subject selections for Year 9 early in Term 3. Students will be given a booklet with information on courses offered including instructions on how to select courses online, as well as access to an EHS Year 8 Subject Selection Website. All students in Year 8 will be required to choose three electives for Year 9 2021.

Adjustment to Assessment Guidelines

With the change to remote learning, many assessment tasks that were initially planned for Term 2 did not proceed. Since we have returned to face to face learning each faculty has reviewed their assessment guidelines and made adjustments as needed to ensure that effective and meaningful assessments can occur for the remainder of the year. Each faculty will be distributing new assessment guidelines where necessary and the updated version of the Assessment Guidelines is now available on the school website.

Mrs Joanne Amos
Deputy Principal
Years 7 & 10

SRC REPORT

This month in June, the SRC team endeavour to get involved with a range of national and local initiatives to inform, educate and fundraise for organisations that need our help. It has been a quiet few weeks with working from home, so we are excited to get involved with the following:

Red Apple Day - to support those suffering from Bowel Cancer.

World Ocean Day - to educate and acknowledge the impact that we have, on our aquatic ecosystem and ways to reduce ocean pollution.

Refugee Week - to inform and share stories of hardship from our EHS community and acknowledge individuals in our community.

World Day Against Child Labour - to raise awareness and activism to prevent child labour, particularly in developing countries

International Bath Day - to recognise Greek scientist and mathematician, Archimedes and his discovery of measuring volume.

We are looking forward to sharing our projects with you next month!

SRC Team.

Raising Funds for MS Research

Hannah Case is an unassuming student in Year 12 who has set herself a goal to raise funds for Multiple Sclerosis research. Hannah took part in the May 50K which is a cause that is near to her and she is very passionate about. There are over 25,600 Australians living with MS and research is the key to changing the future of MS. The May 50K is a community fitness and fundraising challenge for 'Kiss Goodbye to MS', which is MS Research Australia's national fundraising campaign. It challenged Australians to walk or run 50 kilometers throughout the month of May to raise funds for life-changing research into MS. I am pleased to announce that Hannah has already surpassed the 50km requirement.

Although the challenge has now been completed, the fundraising aspect of this campaign is still actively going. If anyone would like to donate, you can simply visit the link and follow the prompts at

<https://www.themay50k.org/fundraisers/hannahcase40...>

The link also has all the information you need in order to learn more.

Scott Atterton
Year 12 Advisor

CAREERS REPORT

In selecting subjects for senior school, Year 10 students should consider the following:

- In which subjects am I most successful?
- Which subjects do I enjoy the most?
- What are my plans for the future?
- Which subjects are necessary or best to help me achieve my goals?
- Can I be successful in those subjects?
- Am I keeping my options open so I can change my mind about what I want to do in the future?
- Which subjects will help me develop skills in areas that interest me?

Do not choose subjects because your friends are choosing them or because you like the teacher.

Choose subjects that you are good at and are interested in.

UAC has a new Subject Compass site that can help guide you in your Subject Selection.

You will find it here –

<https://www.uac.edu.au/subject-compass/#/>

You can also look up lots of information regarding post school options on our school Careers website and book an appointment with me on the Book an Appointment tab.

<https://www.eldersliehighcareers.com/>

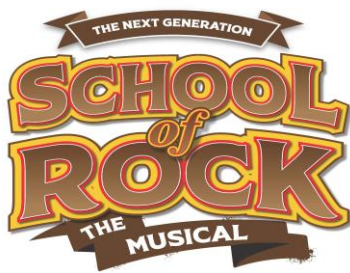
Parents or students who would like to discuss their subject selection options and any potential career implications of these, are encouraged to contact me at school on 02 4658 1110.

Year 12 students can easily access University course information at

<https://www.uac.edu.au/course-compass/> or come in and see me.

I hope to see your child soon.

Rebecca Whitfield
Careers Adviser



School of Rock 2020

School of Rock, 2020 was postponed to later in the year. Prior to the COVID 19 restrictions we were progressing steadily towards opening night, so the CAPA Staff, Cast, Crew, VA Club and Orchestra are all hoping to bring you an amazing Musical performance in Term 4. We are hoping rehearsals can resume soon. So, stay tuned for regular updates on Musical 2020.

Creative and Performing Arts Faculty



CAPA Update

Unfortunately, due to the challenges of 2020 many of our events, performance opportunities and ensemble rehearsals have been cancelled. Vocal Ensemble and Orchestra rehearsals have started again during Rollcall. It is hoped that Dance Company, Dance Ensemble, Ballroom Dance Ensemble, Visual Arts Club, Junior Drama Ensemble and Orchestra (Wednesday afternoon rehearsals) will commence Week 1 of Term 3. Unfortunately, Dance

Transition Ensemble cannot commence until we reach Phase 4 of our return to school program. Regular updates and reminders will be provided through Google Classrooms and Daily Notices.

Vocal Ensemble, Orchestra and CAPA uniform orders have arrived. Now that students have returned to school, they just need to bring their receipt to the Studio to pick up their uniform. We are looking forward to seeing the ensembles all dressed up and ready to perform later in the year.

Stay safe and be creative everyone!!

CAPA Faculty

Faces of EHS

What's your greatest achievement?

I have always had an interest in drama and theatre. I have selected it as a subject every year and now continued into Year 11 and 12. I have also taken weekly screen acting classes at NIDA for the past year now. My interest hasn't just been in performing but the whole process of putting together a production. In Year 10 I was excited to have been selected to participate in the Campbelltown Arts Centre Ticket Parade Program which exposed me to shows that I may not have normally gone to see. At the end of Year 10 I became aware of the Sydney Theatre Company's Young Wharfies Program and although I thought my chances would be slim due to the number of applicants I decided to apply. The application process was initially an essay about a show I had seen, followed by an audition and I was fortunate enough to be accepted into the program. I attend every few weeks doing workshops with industry professionals and watching performances which have so far included Terence Rattigan's play "The Deep Blue Sea" and Marieke Hardy's adaption of Dario Fo's play "Can't Pay? Won't Pay?" The Sydney Theatre Company team has been overwhelmingly supportive of all of the twenty Young Wharfies in the program. This generosity of people working in the industry has allowed me to gain so much insight into all areas of production, especially areas that I had not even previously considered such as the process of play adaptations. I'm looking forward to the rest of the year. The knowledge that I will gain will hopefully assist me through my HSC and in making career decisions in the future.

Liv Carter-Smith, Year 11



Faces of EHS

What is something you are proud of?

I am proud of achieving my black belt in Taekwondo. It took 4 years of consistent and hard core training but in the end it was worth it.

I train 2 days a week for over 1 hour each day. I train under the United Taekwondo organisation. There are some days when I am tired but I go to get fitter, healthier and stronger. Taekwondo helps me in a lot of areas of life, like when we do jumping back, side and front kicks. The jumping involved helps me do things like hurdles in athletics. This sport not only helps me in physical areas but also in social areas in life. Taekwondo teaches you defence which lets me keep my head held high.

To get my black belt, I had to remember 13 different patterns which are defence and attack moves, put together they form a sequence of moves that can be used in situations where you are in trouble. I had to spar (fighting without contact) many people for several minutes and sometimes 2 at a time. The last part which I had to complete was board breaks, where I had to break a 2cm thick board with a side kick, then a jumping back kick and a flying side kick. The hardest one to break was a 2 board (4cm) with an elbow.

Being able to receive my belt was a great honour, I was able to share it with my dad and it was amazing to do.

Abbey Reed, Year 8



What keeps you busy?

Outside of attending school, I have a casual job at a local supermarket and participate in hockey and swimming for sport. For me, hockey is a time away from school work, to enjoy and play competitively against people I know and to improve my physical health and fitness. My casual job has kept me busy especially during the holidays and this phase of COVID-19, where I have been working on average 25-30 hours each week. It has been very full-on working in retail during COVID-19 but it has taught me lessons of resilience and gratitude when it comes buying only the essentials during a tough time. Outside of these activities, I have a study schedule set up to balance my work and school. This schedule keeps me in a routine and allows me to get things in on time and to a high standard. Away from all of this,

when I have spare time I like to go for a walk, watch Netflix, have online calls with friends and family, go shopping and go to the beach.

Emily Condon, Year 11



Catching Up With Our Alumni – James Morse Class of 2001

Achievements at Elderslie High School

- Completed School Certificate and Higher School Certificate.
- Received awards at Presentation Evening for placing first in English, Economics and Music.
- Recipient of two Bronze medallions, one Silver medallion, one Gold medallion, and a Senior School Plaque.
- Winner of Lions Club Youth of the Year Competition
- Represented Elderslie High School across various sports and extra-curricular activities; cricket, basketball, lawn bowls, swimming, cross-country, athletics, public speaking and debating
- Member of the SRC and various musical groups, such as Concert Band, Jazz Ensemble and Stage Band.

Achievements since 2001

- Graduated University of Western Sydney with Bachelor of Economics, Bachelor of Laws (Hons) and Graduate Diploma of Legal Practice (With Distinction).
- Admitted as a lawyer of the Supreme Court of New South Wales and the High Court of Australia.
- Employed as a Senior Associate at DLA Piper, a leading global law firm.
- Recognised as an Accredited Specialist in Commercial Litigation (*only around 100 or so solicitors in NSW hold this recognition*).

- Published several articles in numerous industry publications, such as the Australian and New Zealand Property Journal, Law Society Journal, Australian Property Law Bulletin, etc. I have also worked with eminent industry members, such as The Honourable Michael Kirby AC CMG, to produce various speeches and articles that have been published in both Australian and UK journals.

- Happily married, with a child.



P & C MEETINGS 2020

ALL parents of students and interested members of the Elderslie community are invited to attend these meetings.

Our next Meeting for 2020 will be:
Tuesday, 9th June 2020
(Via Zoom)

NSW Universities Open Days 2020 - JobJump

Australian National University

22 August

<https://www.anu.edu.au/study/events/open-day-2020>

ACU Open Day Dates

Ballarat Campus Sunday 30 August

Brisbane Campus Saturday 25 July

Blacktown Campus Saturday 1 August

Canberra Campus Saturday 22 August

Melbourne Campus Sunday 9 August

North Sydney Campus Saturday 5 September

Strathfield Campus Saturday 12 September

<https://www.acu.edu.au/student-life/experience-uni-before-you-start/open-day>

Charles Sturt University,

Orange - Sunday 2 August

Wagga Wagga - Sunday 9 August

Albury-Wodonga - Sunday 16 August

Bathurst - Sunday 23 August

Port Macquarie - Sunday 30 August

Dubbo - Saturday 5 September

<https://study.csu.edu.au/life/events>

CQ University Sydney

Virtual Open Days

1 August (10am–1pm)

15 August (10am–1pm)

Online Chat (3–6pm): 12 August, 26 August, 16 Sep, 8 October, 24 November

<https://www.cqu.edu.au/courses/future-students/future-study-options/open-days>

Griffith University

Gold Coast, Nathan, South Bank: 9 August

<http://eriffith.edu.au/open-day>

La Trobe University

Melbourne: 2 August

Shepparton: 7 August

Mildura: 12 August

Albury-Wodonga: 16 August

Bendigo: 23 August

Sydney: 26 August

<https://www.latrobe.edu.au/openday>

Macquarie Uni

15 August

<https://openday.mq.edu.au/>

National Art School

5 September

<https://nas.edu.au/open-day/>

Southern Cross University

Coffs Harbour Friday 14 August

National Marine Science Centre Saturday 15 August

Gold Coast Sunday 16 August

Lismore Friday 21 August

<https://www.scu.edu.au/study-at-scu/info-days/>

University of Canberra

22 August

<https://www.canberra.edu.au/openday>

University of New England

Book a campus tour

<https://www.une.edu.au/study/study-on-campus/campus-tours>

University of Newcastle

Central Coast Saturday 1 August

Newcastle Saturday 29 August

<https://www.newcastle.edu.au/study/open-day>

University of Notre Dame Sydney

Saturday 29 August 2020

<https://www.notredame.edu.au/events>

University of NSW

5 September

<https://www.futurestudents.unsw.edu.au/openday>

UNSW ADFA Canberra

22 August

https://www.defencejobs.gov.au/students-and-education/australian-defence-force-academy/adfa-open-day?gclid=EA1aQobChMI_KT46Mni6QIVj9eWCh053AijEAAYASAAEFELRh_D_BwE&gclid=aw.ds

University of Sydney

29 August

<https://www.sydney.edu.au/study/events-for-prospective-students/undergraduate.html>

University of Tasmania Sydney

Rozelle/Darlinghurst Saturday 29 August

<https://www.utas.edu.au/open-day>

University of Technology

Saturday 29 August

<https://openday.uts.edu.au/>

University of Wollongong

8 August

<http://openday.uow.edu.au/>

Western Sydney University

Parramatta South and Parramatta City: 16 August

Liverpool City: 19 September

<https://www.westernsydney.edu.au/openday.html>

NSW Universities Virtual Tours



Australian
National
University



ACU

AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY



UNSW
SYDNEY

[UNSW ADFA Canberra](#)



CQ University
AUSTRALIA



THE UNIVERSITY OF
SYDNEY



LA TROBE
UNIVERSITY



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