



The  
Forest  
High  
School

WEEK 2 | TERM 2 2022



# Message from the Principal

## PARENT TEACHER EVENING

It was nice meeting a number of you at the Year 8 and 10 Parent Teacher Evening. Hopefully this provided you with some information on what your child is doing well and areas requiring attention. If your child was not present for the evening, take the time to assist them when planning some next steps. A strategy used by some families is to prioritise the 3 most important actions arising from the conversations with teachers. These can be discussed, written down and placed on the fridge. Each student's pathway will be different depending on the feedback from teachers. The most impactful change will come when students identify what needs to be done.

Here are some examples of next steps:

1. I will set aside 30 minutes each weekday over the next 3 weeks (Monday – Friday) to revise the chapter on Algebra.
2. During Week 4 of Term 2, I will write a draft paragraph and submit to my teacher for feedback in preparation for the upcoming history essay.
3. I will create a study plan for Term 2. Once complete, I will share this with other household members and place a copy on the fridge.

4. I will chat with Mr Smith about my progress in Commerce and ask him what tips he can give me as I try to gain a deeper understanding of marketing strategies.

We received feedback this morning that some parents were not able to speak with particular staff members. If this is the case, please don't hesitate to reach out to teachers you would like to contact. Please see our Communication Flowchart on Page 6.

## WORKING BEE

As mentioned in last week's communication we have a Working Bee this Saturday. The constant rain over the last 3 months has meant that our oval was not mowed throughout Term 1. Over the break we spent time whipper snipping areas that were particularly long. We put the call out last week and I'm pleased to report that we have around 15 parents signed up to help out this Saturday. The weather prediction is a perfect 19 degrees.

**When** - Saturday 7 May between 1.00pm-3:00pm

**How do I sign up?** Follow this link - <https://signup.com/go/NAmFBeV>

**What to bring?** Please bring your own whipper snipper.

**What to wear?** Please wear safety glasses and bring gum boots as the surface is very damp in sections.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact [Nathan.lawler6@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:Nathan.lawler6@det.nsw.edu.au). I look forward to providing some before and after pictures next week.

### **NAPLAN ONLINE (FROM NEXT WEEK)**

Students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 participate in the annual NAPLAN tests in writing, reading, conventions of language (spelling, grammar and punctuation) and numeracy. All NSW schools will sit NAPLAN online in 2022. Our school will be participating in NAPLAN between 10 and 20 May 2022. In preparation for NAPLAN, our school participated in online practice tests late last term with Year 7 and 9 students. The practice tests gave students an opportunity to become familiar with the test format, functions and tools of the online tests in a test environment.

Excessive preparation for NAPLAN is not recommended. Students can use the public demonstration site to familiarise themselves with the types of questions and tools available in NAPLAN.

Please see the attached Information for parents and carers following on Pages 4 and 5.



### **CROSS COUNTRY**

Today we held our annual Cross Country. It was great to see so many students and staff involved. We were lucky to have the sun out shining on a brisk 19-degree day (ideal running weather).

Special mention to our PDHPE department for coordinating a successful day. A highlight for me was seeing particular students shine who normally find classwork challenging. Your efforts were seen.

### **REMINDER - CHANGE TO ISOLATION REQUIREMENTS**

The change to isolation requirements for close contacts was made on 20 April 2022, and students and staff who are close contacts and have no symptoms are to continue to attend school.

Close contacts who attend school must:

- Notify the school via email: [theforest-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:theforest-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au)
- They should conduct a daily RAT and return a negative result each morning before attending school for 5 school days.
- They must wear a mask indoors except when eating or exercising.
- No student or staff member identified as a close contact will be permitted to participate in overnight excursions, including school camps.
- Remember: Staff and students cannot attend school if they are showing any COVID symptoms.
- If symptoms occur at any time, your child should not attend school and should undertake a Rapid Antigen Test (RAT).
- Additional delivery of RATs will be provided for students who are identified as close contacts and are returning to school.

Thanks for your support.



## DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION SUB COMMITTEE

I'm looking forward to joining the Diversity and Inclusion Sub-Committee that will meet next Wednesday evening at 7:00pm. It was following feedback from the Committee in Term 1 that led to the creation of the Communication Flowchart. This was circulated in last week's update and can be found again on Page 6.

# What's New?



Following feedback through the weekly Coffee with the Principal sessions we will have a new initiative starting soon. A weekly Chess Club will be open to students as a place to learn the game, meet other students and have fun playing chess. Further information to come.

## The Upcoming Week:

**MONDAY 9 MAY**

Year 9 Elevate - Period 3

## Year 10 Zoo Excursion

**WEDNESDAY 11 MAY - FRIDAY 13 MAY**  
**NAPLAN TESTING**

Wednesday 11 May - Year 7 Writing - Period 1

Wednesday 11 May - Year 9 Writing - Period 3

Thursday 12 May - Year 7 Reading - Periods 1 & 2

Thursday 12 May - Year 9 Reading - Periods 3 & 4

Friday 13 May - Catch Up Day

THURSDAY 12 MAY

### Vaccinations - Year 10 Men's ACWY & Year 7/8

## Catch Up



# NAPLAN – information for parents and carers



2022

## Why do students do NAPLAN?

NAPLAN is a national literacy and numeracy assessment that students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 sit in May each year. It is the only national assessment all Australian students do.

As students progress through their school years, it's important to check how well they are learning the essential skills of reading, writing and numeracy.

NAPLAN assesses the literacy and numeracy skills that students are learning through the school curriculum and allows parents/carers to see how their child is progressing against national standards and over time.

NAPLAN is just one aspect of a school's assessment and reporting process. It doesn't replace ongoing assessments made by teachers about student performance, but it can provide teachers with additional information about students' progress.

NAPLAN also provides schools, education authorities and governments with information about how education programs are working and whether young Australians are achieving important educational outcomes in literacy and numeracy.

## Your child will do the NAPLAN tests online

Schools are transitioning from paper-based to computer-based assessments. Most schools will complete NAPLAN tests online in 2022. All Year 3 students will continue to complete the writing assessment on paper.

Online NAPLAN tests provide more precise results and are more engaging for students. One of the main benefits is tailored (or adaptive) testing, where the test presents questions which may be more or less difficult depending on a student's responses.

Tailored testing allows a wider range of student abilities to be assessed and measures student achievement more precisely. A student's overall NAPLAN result is based on both the number and complexity of questions they answer correctly. Your child should not be concerned if they find questions challenging; they may be taking a more complex test pathway.

## What does NAPLAN assess?

NAPLAN assesses literacy and numeracy skills that students are learning through their regular school curriculum.

Students sit assessments in writing, reading, conventions of language (spelling, grammar and punctuation) and numeracy. Questions assess content linked to the Australian Curriculum: English and Mathematics.

All government and non-government education authorities have contributed to the development of NAPLAN test materials.

To find out more about NAPLAN, visit [nap.edu.au](http://nap.edu.au)

## Participation in NAPLAN

NAPLAN is for everyone. ACARA supports inclusive testing so all students can participate in the national assessment program.

Adjustments are available for students with disability who have diverse functional abilities and needs.

Schools should work with parents/carers and students to identify, on a case-by-case basis, reasonable adjustments required for individual students with disability to access NAPLAN. Adjustments should reflect the support normally provided for classroom assessments.

To help inform these decisions, you may consult the [NAPLAN public demonstration site](#), the [Guide for schools to assist students with disability to access NAPLAN](#), or our [series of videos](#) where parents/carers, teachers and students share their experience of using NAPLAN adjustments.

In exceptional circumstances, a student with a disability that severely limits their capacity to participate in the assessment, or a student who has recently arrived in Australia and has a non-English speaking background, may be granted a formal exemption.

Your school principal and your local test administration authority can give you more information on adjustments for students with disability or the process required to gain a formal exemption.

## What if my child is absent from school on NAPLAN days?

Where possible, schools may arrange for individual students who are absent at the time of testing to complete missed tests at another time during the school's test schedule.

## What can I do to support my child?

Students are not expected to study for NAPLAN.

You can support your child by reassuring them that NAPLAN is a part of their school program and reminding them to simply do their best.

ACARA does not recommend excessive preparation for NAPLAN or the use of services by coaching providers.

Some familiarisation and explanation of NAPLAN is useful to help students understand and be comfortable with the format of the tests. Teachers will ensure students are familiar with the types of questions in the tests and will provide appropriate support and guidance.

See the types of questions and tools available in the online NAPLAN assessments at [nap.edu.au/online-assessment/public-demonstration-site](http://nap.edu.au/online-assessment/public-demonstration-site)

## NAPLAN timetable

The NAPLAN online test window is nine days. This is to accommodate schools that may have fewer devices.

The NAPLAN online test window starts on Tuesday 10 May and finishes on Friday 20 May 2022. Tests must be scheduled as soon as possible within the testing window, prioritising the first week.

Online NAPLAN test scheduling requirements are detailed in the table below.

## How is my child's performance reported?

Individual student performance is shown on a national achievement scale for each assessment. A result at the national minimum standard indicates that the student has demonstrated the basic literacy and numeracy skills needed to participate fully in that year level.

A NAPLAN individual student report will be provided by your child's school later in the year. If you do not receive a report, you should contact your child's school.

## How are NAPLAN results used?

- Students and parents/carers may use individual results to discuss progress with teachers.
- Teachers use results to help identify students who need greater challenges or extra support.
- Schools use results to identify strengths and areas of need to improve teaching programs, and to set goals in literacy and numeracy.
- School systems use results to review programs and support offered to schools.
- The community can see information about the performance of schools over time at [myschool.edu.au](http://myschool.edu.au)

## Where can I get more information?

For more information about NAPLAN:

- contact your child's school
- contact your local test administration authority at [nap.edu.au/TAA](http://nap.edu.au/TAA)
- visit [nap.edu.au](http://nap.edu.au)

To learn how ACARA handles personal information for NAPLAN, visit [nap.edu.au/naplan/privacy](http://nap.edu.au/naplan/privacy)

Test	Scheduling requirements	Duration	Test description
Writing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Year 3 students do the writing test on paper (on day 1 only)</li> <li>• Year 5 writing must start on day 1 (schools must prioritise completion of writing across days 1 and 2 only)</li> <li>• Years 7 and 9 writing must start on day 2 (schools must prioritise completion of writing across days 2 and 3 only)</li> </ul>	Year 3: 40 min. Year 5: 42 min. Year 7: 42 min. Year 9: 42 min.	Students are provided with a 'writing stimulus' (sometimes called a 'prompt' – an idea or topic) and asked to write a response in a particular genre (narrative or persuasive writing)
Reading	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To ensure online schools are able to complete NAPLAN tests within the nine-day testing window, Year 7 and 9 students can start with reading on day 1; however, writing must start on day 2</li> <li>• To be completed <b>before</b> the conventions of language test</li> </ul>	Year 3: 45 min. Year 5: 50 min. Year 7: 65 min. Year 9: 65 min.	Students read a range of informative, imaginative and persuasive texts and then answer related questions
Conventions of language	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To be completed <b>after</b> the reading test</li> </ul>	Year 3: 45 min. Year 5: 45 min. Year 7: 45 min. Year 9: 45 min.	Assesses spelling, grammar and punctuation
Numeracy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To be completed <b>after</b> the conventions of language test</li> </ul>	Year 3: 45 min. Year 5: 50 min. Year 7: 65 min. Year 9: 65 min.	Assesses number and algebra, measurement and geometry, and statistics and probability



