

## Message from the Principal



#### **SWIMMING CARNIVAL**

The year has begun at a rapid pace. Last Friday's Swimming Carnival was a real highlight. Our new Deputy Principal for years 7, 9 and 11 Ms Johnson introduced a fun race where students had 10 minutes to complete as many laps as possible. Working in House teams students accrued points with each lap contributing to the tally. After further requests from students a second round of 5 minutes ran later in the day. This format meant we had a record number of swimmers participate on the day. Many students who were not planning to swim, decided to dive into the water wearing their sports uniform. The teachers V Year 12 relay race was extremely competitive. Congratulations to Year 12 who achieved a narrow victory. Some of us teachers are already in training for next year. (



Below is a summary of our record breakers and Age Champions:

#### **Record Breakers**

James B. - Boys 100m Backstroke Tyler J. - Boys 17-19 100m Backstroke Toby J. - Boys 17-19 50m Backstroke Joshua W. - Boys 15 50m and 100m Butterfly

#### **Age Champions**

Girls 12 - Anique S.

Boys 12 - Santiago P.

Girls 13 - Emma W.

Boys 13 - Sean M.

Girls 14 - Sophie H.

Boys 14 - Jakob B.

Girls 15 - Lola J.

Boys 15 - Joshua W.

Girls 16 - Scarlett J.

Boys 16 - James B.

Girls 17+ - Charlotte J.

Boys 17+ - Tyler J.



In my Office is a large whiteboard has been mounted where I will track every competition we enter whether this be academic, sporting or creative challenges. I want all of our students to see themselves as a member of our school team and to want success. The student record holders have been added to the whiteboard.



#### **DISTINGUISHED ACHIEVERS ASSEMBLY**

On Tuesday we welcomed back those students from the HSC class of 2022 who achieved a Band 6 result (above 90). In the audience we had Years 10, 11 and 12 students. When speaking with students it was made clear that for HSC success students need to ensure they are prepared for assessment tasks by completing past exam papers and writing draft responses. The next steps for Years 10-12 were outlined and a summary can be seen below:

Year 10 – Ms Simic (Deputy Principal) and I will be meeting with every student in Year 10 during Term 1. The meetings will focus on goal setting and conversations around future study aspirations. This will be an initial step in understanding what courses our Year 10 students would like to study in Years 11 and 12. We are committed to providing a selection of courses that aligns with their interests and strengths.

**Year 11** – Year 11 students have now completed two weeks of course work. Students were reminded that if wanting to change courses they need to meet with Ms Johnson ASAP.

Year 12 – Over the break we have been working with an education consultant. We have used the Year 11 course marks to predict student ATAR scores. Although Year 11 assessment results do not impact a student's ATAR, the process of providing an 'indicative ATAR' allows students to have a clearer idea whether they are on track to achieve their goals or not. Ms Simic and I will be meeting with each Year 12 student to discuss their current projection. This information will also be shared with our Year 12 teachers to ensure students understand what is explicitly required for them to achieve their goals.

#### YEAR 7 WELCOME NIGHT IN THE HALL

Next Wednesday evening we will be holding our Year 7 Welcome Night between **6:00-7:00pm**. When planning this event, we have tried to strike a balance between discussing important information whilst providing opportunities for parents to meet one another. Please RSVP via the link below if you would like to attend by **3pm on Sunday 12 February**.



#### **DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION MEETING**

https://forms.gle/nxNzx9mnALyvxxXs9

Many thanks to all of the parents and carers who came along to Wednesday night's Diversity and Inclusion meeting. This is a parent led initiative that provides opportunities for parents to meet one another and connect with staff in an informal setting. In attendance were our Deputy Principals Ms Simic and Ms Johnson, Ms Nestor (Head Teacher Wellbeing), Mrs Coleman (Learning and Support Teacher), Mr Argue (Student Support Officer) and Ms Turner (Year 11 Adviser and Aboriginal Coordinator).

It was nice to reconnect with parents in older years and to welcome new Year 7 parents. We look forward to the next meeting

#### **NEW STAFF**

We have had new staff members joining us this year. In the coming weeks we will profile them in the newsletter so you get to know them a little. The following is a list of names of our new staff and the subject area/role within the school.

- Kelly Johnson, Deputy Principal
- Genevieve Nestor, Head Teacher Wellbeing
- Amanda Liu, Head Teacher English
- Helen Lepre, Head Teacher Languages, Teaching & Learning
- Maree Andresakis, Maths Teacher
- Eleni Caldis, School Counsellor (Mon & Tues)
- Danny Chen, HSIE Teacher
- Amanda Christiansen, TAS Teacher
- Jane Cowling, Learning Support
- Karen Dean, Languages Teacher
- Dhamstse Dolma EALD (Thurs)
- Kathryn Eriksson, HSIE Teacher
- Jordan Fowles, Sports Coordinator
- Alastair Goodison, PDHPE Teacher
- Jack Layton, HSIE Teacher
- Hayley Mort, English Teacher
- Samuel Oldmeadow, HSIE Teacher
- Luke West, English Teacher

#### **UNIFORM 2023**

Students are to come to school in full school uniform. When they have a PE lesson they will then change for the lesson and then will change back into their school uniform at the end of the class. The only exemption to this is if they have PE in Period 1, in which case they may wear PE uniform to school and will then change into school uniform at the end of the class or if they have PE in Period 5, in which case they may travel home in their PE uniform.

Years 8, 9 and 10 may wear PE uniform to school on Wednesday for Grade / Social sport.

#### STUDENT ATTENDANCE PROCEDURES

The Department of Education will focus on student attendance this year. All students should be in attendance over 90% of the time. Poor attendance impacts on students' learning and ultimately limits the options students have available to them at the end of school.

Student attendance declined during COVID across the State, and this year the Department is looking for an improvement. Family holidays during term time should be avoided and students should only be absent if they are ill or there is an exceptional need for them to be elsewhere.

#### **MOBILE PHONES**

Moving around the school it has been great to see classes settled and students engaged. We have had a significant decrease of negative incidents, meaning students are adapting well to the change. There is a further delay on the Yondr pouches. We are now expecting to pouches to arrive in 2-3 weeks.

As previously communicated, here are the steps we follow when seeing a student on their mobile phone in Years 7-10:

- 1. An incident is recorded on Sentral.
- 2. Parent/Carer is contacted and asked to collect the phone. If the phone cannot be collected on the day it will be held in storage overnight.

The Forest High School's *Use of Device and Online Services Procedure* can be found on our school website <a href="here">here</a>

### **Upcoming Events**

**WEDNESDAY 15 FEBRUARY** 

Year 7 Parent Evening 6-7pm

**WEDNESDAY 22 FEBRUARY** 

P&C Meeting - 7pm

**THURSDAY 23 FEBRUARY** 

**Athletics Carnival** 

8-10 MARCH

Year 7 Camp

**TUESDAY 14 MARCH** 

Years 7 & 12 Parent Teacher Interviews

20 - 22 MARCH

Year 11 Camp

**FRIDAY 24 MARCH** 

School Photographs

**MONDAY 27 MARCH** 

Years 9 & 11 Parent Teacher Interviews

THURSDAY 6 APRIL

Yarrabee Film Festival

FRIDAY 7 APRIL

Good Friday - School Closed

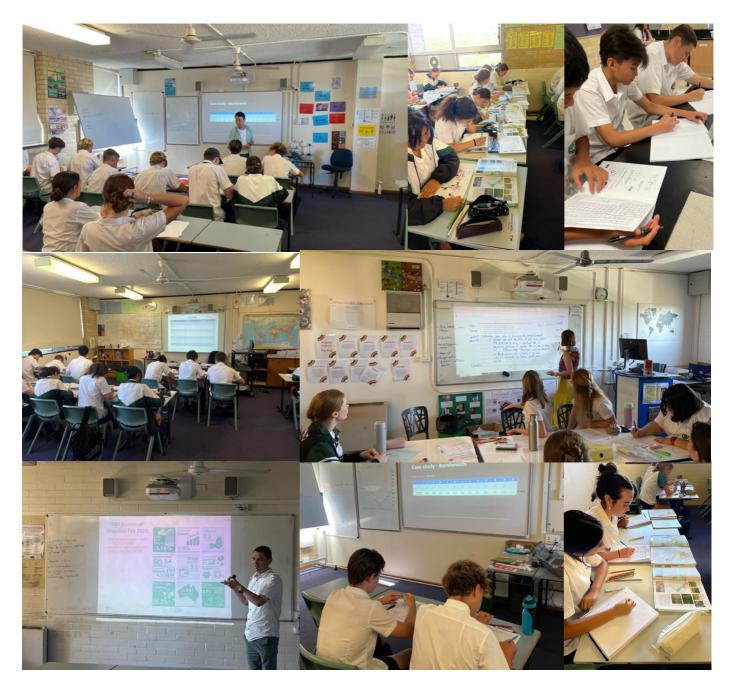


# Explicit Teaching.

AT THE FOREST HIGH SCHOOL WE FOLLOW:

- I DO TEACHER LED
- WE DO TEACHER WORKING ALONGSIDE STUDENTS
- YOU DO STUDENT LED

Explicit teaching practices involve teachers clearly explaining to students why they are learning something, what they are expected to do, how to do it and what it looks like when they've succeeded





We're introducing a Coding Club in Term 1 2023 for students to have the opportunity to learn computer programming and, when they have some experience, to work on projects every week with some assistance.

They will be learning Python programming, which is one of the most commonly used programming languages, and is an extremely desirable skill in many jobs at the moment. It's very suitable for beginners, but also great for students with some experience. Once they get some knowledge, they can use it to build websites, data analysis, games, controlling hardware, and almost anything they can think of.

We'll be focussing on teaching beginners the basics, then working through building some fun games, with the goal of the students being able to build their own project ideas when they feel a bit more confident.

No previous programming experience is necessary, just a keen interest to learn something new that they could find a lot of fun.

Time: Wednesday mornings 7:30am - 8:30am in the Library

Could any interested students complete the Google form in the link below to help us plan what the group will be able to work on.

https://forms.office.com/r/UGty8yvTwi

**Starts Week 4!!** 



### CANVAS INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

Canvas is the online learning management system that we use at The Forest High School. It is accessible to parents and students 24/7. It is personalised for each student, and includes information on lessons, resources, homework and assignment information.

To connect to Canvas and observe your student, please follow these steps:

- Students will firstly need to <u>create a pairing code</u> via their settings on their own Canvas login. This code can be found by clicking their picture in the global navigation bar, choose settings and on the right hand side of the page click 'Pair with Observer'.
- Create a Canvas account by accessing our login page: <a href="https://theforest.instructure.com/login/canvas">https://theforest.instructure.com/login/canvas</a>
- Click on 'Parent of a Canvas user? Click here for an account.' in the top right of the window.
- Complete the Parent sign-up page.
- For smart phone access, download the Canvas Parent App on your smartphone (look for the blue logo above).

How Parents can use Canvas on a computer

How Parents can use Canvas via the App

A range of helpful guides and videos <u>can be found here in the Canvas Knowledge base.</u>

Logon to Canvas for Parents

Details are also available on our school website here:

<a href="https://theforest-h.schools.nsw.gov.au/about-our-school/student-and-parent-portal/canvas-parent-information.html">https://theforest-h.schools.nsw.gov.au/about-our-school/student-and-parent-portal/canvas-parent-information.html</a>