

WELCOME

If the smiles of our students and general feeling when I walk around the school is any indication, we have had a really strong start to the 2018 school year.

We welcome new students—and a terrific team of new staff—who have joined us in 2018. Our Year 7 students have settled in very well to life on the secondary campus and our Kindergarten students have commenced the first days in school (here and at the Community Kindy) with lots of energy and excitement.

Two key priorities for us in Term 1 are uniform and punctuality. It is uplifting to see our students all proudly wearing the Bullsbrook College uniform. Thank you to parents for your support.

The time spent in the classroom is precious. Being at school **every day** and in class on time after each break shows our staff that their students value learning. Hence our emphasis on punctuality.

Our school's moral purpose—Better Teaching, Better Learning, Better Achievement for All—is being chanted and proudly displayed throughout the school. Staff are working steadily on a whole school focus—Explicit Instruction. The work commenced in 2017 with external experts. Each term we have a new focus. This term's focus is Engagement Norms.....but more about that in the next newsletter in a few days' time.

BETTER TEACHING BETTER LEARNING
BETTER ACHIEVEMENT FOR ALL

Mobile Phones

There is a lot of pressure on schools when students use their mobile phones inappropriately. Sadly, in some cases the phone becomes more important than respectful and cooperative conversations with human beings – including teachers.

In our school, we want technology to be a positive resource. However, mobile phones are not part of that. When used inappropriately, they become a very big – and unnecessary – distraction from learning.

For that reason **MOBILE PHONES ARE NOT TO BE SEEN OR HEARD** at school. Please do not contact your child on their phone during school time. Students have been reminded that, should they need to make

contact with a family member during the school day, they are able to access a school phone. This is the same for parents wanting to contact a child during the day. If it's an urgent requirement, then phone our main number (9571 1220) so we can assist you without distracting from classroom priorities.

If the mobile phone rules are broken the phone will be confiscated and parents will be requested to collect the phone from our Reception.



STRIVE & ACHIEVE

Cyberbullying

The saddest news we can ever receive is to find out that a friend, family member or colleague is being bullied. Bullying – and in particular cyberbullying – has very damaging effects on an individual's sense of wellbeing and general health.

Please be vigilant about online safety and your child's use of technology. There are many resources now available for children which have so much potential to enhance their creativity, access to exciting resources and connectivity. However, there are also very real dangers online.

The office of the eSafety Commissioner has very good information on their website for parents and carers (and students/children) at www.esafety.gov.au. That site has a link for making complaints about cyberbullying – with a stated commitment to helping to "have serious cyberbullying material removed from social media sites".

There are many good websites referencing anti bullying and cyberbullying. Some of these are listed here.

Bullyingnoway.gov.au
Stopbullying.gov
Kidshelpline.com.au (1800 55 1800)
eHeadspace 1800 650 890
Lifeline 13 11 14
Cybersafetysolutions.com.au
Netalert.gov.au
Bullying.org
Wiredsafety.org
GetNetWise.org
Generationnext.com.au

It takes a village to raise a child. A positive partnership between parents and their child's school strengthens our capacity to protect our children. Importantly, the parents of children who are bullying others have a vital role to play in supporting the parents of those who are victims of that bullying.

Online vigilance about how children are using social media is a responsibility for parents and carers as well as teachers.

BE SAFE ONLINE!

Safe Schools WA

Bullbrook College is a proud signatory to the **Safe Schools Coalition** and is one of many such schools listed across Australia. The program is "opt-in" and – in consultation with our School Board - we chose to "opt-in".

The information below is intended to assist members of our community in gaining factual information about this program and to explain why our school considers it a worthy resource for us when the curriculum requires it.

Access to the resource is free. The resources are aimed at school staff—teachers and principals, children, parents and carers.

As noted on the website the information is evidence based and professionally constructed according to the sound principles of education.

Our work to consistently support all of our students and staff irrespective of race, faith, gender or sexual orientation is important in the Australian community if we are to overcome discrimination.

Our laws require each of us as Australian citizens to be respectful of the human rights of all. Respect only comes with education and information. Ignorance or lack of access to good information builds fear, resentment or hatred.

The program is constructive – not an attempt to brainwash or convert.

Importantly, our curriculum is carefully structured to be age appropriate. Teachers will only use what is considered to be educationally sound.

Health and Physical Education teachers (HPE) will always inform parents when they are delivering curriculum of a sensitive nature so that parents may decide if they wish their child to be exempted from that lesson.

Parents and carers are encouraged to visit these websites

www.safeschoolscoalition.org.au and www.studentwellbeinghub.edu.au to find out more or to telephone me if you have any questions or concerns.



"Bullying and discrimination can impact students through: poor mental health; poor academic achievement; lower rates of attendance; and higher rates of suicide."

BULLSBROOK
— COLLEGE —



95 Chittering
Bullbrook

Road
6084

Phone: 9571 1220

Website: www.bullbrook-college.wa.edu.au

Email: Bullbrook.College@education.wa.edu.au