



ST CLAIR HIGH SCHOOL

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Dear Parent / Guardian

Since June 29th I have written to you to keep you informed of the school's response to the fire which occurred at our school. The task to get our students back to our school in our community has been enormous and I am proud to say it has been achieved.

Our Students

The staggered start to the term assisted in allowing students to see the changes to the school and get their bearings. As the Principal of St Clair High School I often speak to the students and staff about the concept of "personal best". This week I am delighted to have seen this concept showcased every single day. The students have reacted as "business as normal". No matter whether they have walked to the Rec Centre to do a PDHPE lesson, or travelled to the Science Labs to do a HSIE lesson, or walked to the oval (Portable City) for an English or Maths lesson, they have gone about their daily school life in the same manner they finished off term 2.

This is the new normal for our students and they have responded positively. We are all incredibly proud of the resilience they have shown and their attitude to what has happened.



The community response

The support we have had from so many areas of our community has been incredibly comforting for all of us. Thank you to those parents who attended our briefing session on the students' first day back at school and for their gratitude offered to our staff for having the school operational. This is not only very supportive but has embedded further the sense of community in the St Clair area, and done a great deal to keep the morale of the staff as high as it is.

To the families who have provided cards, gifts, resources and kind thoughts we are so grateful and humbled.

There continues to be so many kind words expressed on Facebook, by emails and texts and of course in person. I am deeply appreciative of every one of these and have shared them with our staff. Some of these words are deeply personal because of the connections that have been made with the school.

The Staff

The response of our staff continues to be one of the most amazing things to watch. In some sense it is more like defiance mixed with determination against the adverse situation. At times there are down moments but the collegial effort has ensured that these are limited.

I thank the staff for further giving up their time by attending daily staff meetings to ensure any updates can be communicated and any issues addressed as quickly as possible, moving furniture from one place to another and of course continuing to deliver high quality lessons to our students. The effort and time they are giving up every day is to ensure that our school operates as smoothly as possible and they have been very successful in this endeavour. The commitment of the staff to our school and our students is unwavering.



Demountables

As of week 2, more demountables will be operational which will allow us to remove some classes from their temporary classrooms in the hall. Yesterday students were issued an updated timetable to identify any changes. Students who were absent today can collect their timetable from the front office on Monday.

Remaining section of E Block

On Wednesday the DEC provided advice that contractors had been appointed to refit the remaining section of E Block. This work will involve replacing the roof, carpets and vinyl flooring as well as replacing or cleaning furniture. Work has already

commenced and is expected to be completed in mid-August. When this is completed the school will effectively be returned to normal, or our new “normal” living in portable rooms until the new building is completed.

Health and Safety

Under the circumstances we are currently operating there is an increased risk for students who suffer from asthma. In addition, the windy weather can be problematic for asthmatics. If your child suffers from asthma can you please ensure they have their puffer in their bag.

Due to the number of contractors and other visitors to the site it is imperative that students are **always in correct uniform**. This enables us to easily identify students. In the case of an emergency evacuation we will be moving to the netball courts opposite the school, it is essential that we can identify all students.

A reminder about a couple of dates

- 28th July: Subject selection evening for year 8 into 9 (6pm) and year 10 into 11 (7pm). This will take place in the school hall.
- 22nd August: ABW trivia night. This will now take place in the school hall and will launch both ABW and be a fundraising event.
- 19th August: P&C meeting in the common room at 7pm. At time further updates will be provided.

Although this whole event has been very difficult and we expect some bumps in the journey back, we are confident that we can continue to achieve our personal best.

The benchmarks we have set so far are more than impressive and I am incredibly grateful for the resilience and support shown by everyone.

Yours faithfully

Chris Presland (Principal)