



Dear Birdwood High School Families

Welcome to the 2023 school year, I hope you all have had an enjoyable and relaxing Christmas and New Year. I would like to welcome all of our new families, we are excited to share all that Birdwood High School has to offer with you and our teachers and support staff are ready to welcome you into the Birdwood High School community.

Birdwood High School is a vibrant community which is underpinned by our core values, **Respect, Resilience and Empathy** as well as our school motto '**Labor Omnia Vincit - Hard Work Conquers All**'. Our work is guided by our new school vision

'Driven by a dynamic and inclusive learning environment, we will empower and inspire students to be resilient, empathetic and adaptive learners, who strive for personal excellence in a rapidly changing world'

We are committed to provide a safe and supportive learning environment that encourages all students to be active participants in their learning.

Start of the year

As we communicated last year, Birdwood High School will continue with a staggered start this year. Our Year 7 and 12 students will return to school on Monday 30 January and 8 to 11 students will commence school on Tuesday 31 January.

On Monday our Year 7 and 12 students will participate in a program that will focus on developing positive habits for learning, conditions for success and familiarizing themselves with the school. All students are required to bring their laptops with them on Monday.

Families can locate the stationary list on our website, www.birdwoodhs.sa.edu.au/information/forms/

Mobile Phones

This year I am seeking support from families regarding our new mobile phone policy. Year 7 to 11 students are not permitted to access mobile phones and personal digital devices, excluding laptop computers, from the start to the end of each school day. Students who choose to bring mobile phones and personal digital devices to school must place them in a supplied pouch during morning Advisory and will collect them during advisory at the end of the day. This includes taking off any wearable technology that fits the definition of personal devices, such as smartwatches. Exemptions for students who use a device to manage a health condition or a student has personal circumstances that require them to have more ready access to their personal device, such as a primary carer to younger siblings or an unwell family member. Applications for exemptions can be made by emailing the principal directly, mark.hodgson426@schools.sa.edu.au

Students using EFTPOS facilities at the canteen will need to use a card rather than their phone or bring along money to purchase items.

I would appreciate if families could complete the survey link below, indicating whether their child or children will be bringing a mobile phone and/or personal device to school.

<https://forms.office.com/r/8kzLuKyQz0>

Students who are found in possession of and/or using a mobile phone during school hours will result in disciplinary action in line with our student management policy.

Languages

Unfortunately, we will not be offering Italian as a language option at Birdwood High School this year. This is due to our Italian teacher moving to an independent school and not being able to find a suitable replacement. All our year 7 and 8 students will be studying Japanese and Japanese is an option at year 9. Please contact me via email or by phone if you wish your year 8 or 9 student to continue with Italian, we will be able to organise remote lesson via the school of languages. I sincerely apologise to our year 7, 8 and 9 families for any inconvenience and distress caused by this decision.

Uniform

Birdwood High School is a school with strong traditions supported by the school community. Among these is the wearing of the school uniform. It is an expectation that all Birdwood High School students follow the school's uniform policy including black shoes. Details of our uniform can be located on our school website www.birdwoodhs.sa.edu.au/information/uniform-2/

I look forward to welcoming all students back next week and look forward to the next exciting chapter of Birdwood High School. Thank you for your continued support of our school.

Yours sincerely



Mark Hodgson
Principal

25 January 2023