Welcome parents of our Year 7 classes. Both 7A and 7B have had a wonderful start to the school year and have been busy learning how things are done in high school. Some of the highlights as described by students include their school diaries where they are recording their homework each day. Parents should check these diaries on a regular basis as you will find assessment dates and notes from both Miss Taggart and myself.

Further highlights include getting familiar with swapping ends of the classroom for our lessons, as well as the ‘getting to know you’ games we have played where we built bridges to hold weights and completed a scavenger hunt.

Parents, we have been so impressed by the 100% attendance we have had in our Year 7 cohort – keep it up!!! We have also made a fantastic start with homework with nearly every student completing their assigned homework this week.

A great first week had by one and all. If at any time you have a question or concern, Miss Taggart and myself are always available by phone or by appointment. We would love to hear from you!

Mrs Jodi Hyland
Year 7 Teacher
FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Welcome to 2015

What a fantastic start to the year we have had. The Year 7s have brought their energy and exuberance to the high school which is great to see. We have hit the ground running and students are well into the normal routines of school life.

2015 is shaping up to be a busy year for teachers and students alike and setting high expectations for all is the primary focus, with key literacy and numeracy strategies being developed and implemented early this year.

‘Reading for Pleasure’ is an excellent strategy that can be used at home to dramatically improve literacy, at a set time each afternoon or night. Turn off the TV for 30 mins and have all the children grab a book, magazine, comic or newspaper and have quiet time, this will quickly see children starting to read over a short period of time. The key is to stick with it for a fortnight and push through all the reasons that the children will throw at us to give up. Also try having an older child read a bedtime story to the younger children too, this one is always a winner.

Creating a Learning Culture - The Impact of School Uniforms

A number of studies from around the world have shown improved academic, social, economic and school safety benefits when schools strictly enforce uniform. Students generally have an increased level of ‘sense of belonging’, this leads to increases in attendance, participation in school life and academic performance and behaviour, while decreasing the financial stress to parents to buy brand labelled clothing. By sweating the small things, we minimise having to deal with the larger issue that can sometimes occur.

New to our school? Stay in touch with the QSchools app

Families can keep up-to-date with the latest information from our school through the QSchools app. It’s an easy way to find vital school information including events and newsletters.

The QSchools app now allows for push notifications to deliver essential information directly to a device including emergency alerts and important updates.

Find out more on the DETE apps page.

Smoking banned 5 metres around school grounds

Smoking any tobacco products or using an electronic cigarette within five metres of any state or private school grounds has been banned. This applies before, during and after school hours as well as over weekends and school holidays.

On the spot fines can be issued by environmental health officers, police or other officers authorised by the local government to anyone found in breach of this legislation. The ban does not extend to businesses or residences that share a property boundary with a school.

Smokers are asked to put out your cigarette and dispose of the litter thoughtfully well before you reach the school boundary.


Mr Doug Watson
Principal

FROM HOD MIDDLE SCHOOL

What a fantastic start to the year we have had at St George State High School! With the welcome addition of Year 7 students for the first time, and Year 8 students also beginning their first year of high school, there were many new and eager faces on day one. Both groups of students have made a successful transition into high school, and we encourage parents to continue to reinforce the expectations of high school at home. These include:

- Using the school diary to keep track of homework and important information
- Wearing the correct school uniform on the right day
- Limiting the amount of jewellery for safety reasons

Also, congratulations must go to our newly elected Junior Secondary Captains, Brodie Wolff and Jessica Johnson. These students were elected by the student and staff body last year and will be excellent role models for all students in Year 7, 8 and 9. I look forward to working with Brodie and Jessica as well as all Junior Secondary students this year to continue to make St George State High the very best it can be.

Miss Kelly Ott
HOD Junior Secondary Schooling
FROM THE ACTING DEPUTY PRINCIPAL

Welcome back to school, and especially to our new Year 8 and Year 7 cohorts. What an exciting opportunity as we participate in the historic move of Year 7 into High School. A lot of preparations have been underway over the past few years to get ready for this inaugural event. It is so great to see all that hard work coming together and seeing the new Year 7 cohort engaging in their classes, making new friends as well as making meaningful connections with their teachers.

We also offer a warm welcome to our new staff. This year we are very privileged to welcome our new permanent Principal Mr Doug Watson. Mr Watson has a wealth of experience that he brings to St George State High School and it really is great to have him leading our team. In addition to our new permanent Principal, we also celebrate the addition of our permanent Head of Junior Secondary, Miss Kelly Ott. Miss Ott is joining us from just down the road at Roma. Miss Ott will also be teaching English & SOSE. We also welcome four new teaching staff, Mrs Kate King (Maths, English and relief), Miss Stephanie Wood (HPE, Tourism & Extra Support), Mrs Susanna Ratcliffe (English & History) and Mr Malcolm Durre (Maths & Science). So a big welcome to you all, we are glad you are a part of our community and are excited to have you as part of the team.

School Uniforms

As students begin the school year it is imperative that they are in the correct school uniform and it is worn on the right day. For our new families a detailed outline of our sports and formal uniform are on pages 4 & 15 of your school prospectus and for our returning families the uniform dress code can be found on our school webpage at the address below.

It is the students’ responsibility to wear the correct full school uniform for each day including wearing the formal uniform every Wednesday.

School Uniform Dress Code


Mr David Jeffs
Acting Deputy Principal

UNIFORM - SHOES
Reminder to all students & parents!
Shoes worn to school must be lace up shoes to comply with Workplace Health & Safety standards.

FROM HOD SENIOR SCHOOL

Welcome back everyone! I am excited about the opportunities that 2015 can bring many of us. In order to get the most out of our experiences this year, it is important that we are ready to face whatever challenges come our way. For our senior students, this means:

- Reflecting on whether the subjects chosen suit their interests and abilities
- Writing a plan for success. How many hours a night will you spend on your school work? One website recommends that the number of hours of study per week should be equal to the year level of the student.
- Being prepared for school – wearing the right uniform proudly can put you in the right frame of mind and bringing the correct materials to class means that you don’t miss out on any learning opportunities.
- Communicating with your teacher regularly. Asking questions can help you understand what’s happening in class, and eliminate any confusion. Ask for feedback on your progress, as it helps to keep focused on where you need to improve.

If parents or students have any concerns about school, my door is always open. If you would like to make an appointment please contact the school or email me jmcgr99@eq.edu.au.

Ms Jo McGrath
A/HOD Senior Schooling
Fast start to 2015 Sport

13 to 19 Years Sport

Term 1 is a busy time for school sport with the majority of extra-curricular sporting opportunities occurring in the first few weeks. If your student is interested in trialling for a school sports team they will need to ensure they are listening to student notices each day to ensure they are up to date with when the sign-ups, trials, trainings and meetings are taking place. Please note that this year all trials for sports (except swimming, cross country & athletics) will occur after school due to limited time in lunch breaks. If it is not possible for your child to attend a given trial (work, travel home etc), please contact the school so we can look at another option.

12 Years Sport

The Year 7s coming to high school this year has meant an expansion in our school sport program. Our 12 year old students (turning 12 in 2015) will still have school sport opportunities in 2015. These students will go through the Balonne District pathway. Students again will have to listen to notices to ensure they are aware of what is coming up. If your student is interested in trialling for a Balonne District team they will need to nominate with Miss Natalie Taggart. In return they will receive a “red slip” and a permission and medical form which will need to be returned to school by the due date. Once this has occurred your student will be right to attend the trial. It will be your responsibility to pick your student up from school and get them to where the trial is taking place. If you have any questions regarding process please contact the school.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sport</th>
<th>Sign-On</th>
<th>School Trial</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Softball</td>
<td>27 January</td>
<td>28 January</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tennis</td>
<td>27 January</td>
<td>29 January</td>
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<tr>
<td>Swimming</td>
<td>29 January</td>
<td>4 February</td>
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<tr>
<td>Soccer</td>
<td>27 January</td>
<td>13 – 15 Yrs: 3 February; 16 – 19 Yrs: 5 February</td>
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<tr>
<td>Squash</td>
<td>2 February</td>
<td>N/A</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cricket</td>
<td>2 February</td>
<td>N/A</td>
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<tr>
<td>Basketball</td>
<td>9 February</td>
<td>12 February</td>
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<tr>
<td>Netball</td>
<td>16 February</td>
<td>13 – 15 Yrs: 24 February; 16 – 19 Yrs: 19 February</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rugby League</td>
<td>16 February</td>
<td>19 February</td>
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<tr>
<td>Golf</td>
<td>2 March</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Touch</td>
<td>2 March</td>
<td>13 – 15 Yrs: 10 March; 16 – 19 Yrs: 5 March</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Wanted - Pre-loved Books

THE YEAR 7 ENGLISH DEPARTMENT IS ASKING FOR DONATIONS OF ANY PRE-LOVED BOOKS (FICTION OR NON-FICTION) TO BE UTILISED BY THE YEAR 7’S. IF YOU HAVE ANY ENQUIRES PLEASE DON’T HESITATE TO CALL THE SCHOOL. MISS TAGGART (YR 7 ENGLISH TEACHER)