

QUAKERS HILL HIGH SCHOOL

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19 FEBRUARY 2021 CALENDAR DATES FOR TERM 1 2021

Monday 22 Feb	P&C Meeting @ 7pm
Tuesday 23 Feb	School Photo Day
Monday 1 March	Leadership Induction Assembly
Thursday 8 March	Year 8 Incursion—Smashed Live 2-3pm
Friday 5 March	Newsletter issued School Photo catch up
Monday 8 March	AGM P&C Meeting Senior Course Guide released Year 10 Year meeting
Tuesday 9 March	Barista Training Day
Thursday 11 March	Selective High School Placement Test—8-2.30pm
Friday 12 March	Bell Shakespeare incursion 9-10am Exec Conference

Monday 15 March—Thursday 1 April

Careers Program

Tuesday 16 March Year 5/6 Information Evening 6-8pm

Thursday 18 March QCCP excursion to Sydney Zoo

Friday 19 March Newsletter issued

Monday 22 March—Friday 26 March

Life Ready Program

Tuesday 23 March Year 5 & 6 GAT Information Presentation

Wednesday 24—Friday 26 March

Year 7 Camp

Tuesday 30 March Year 7 & 10 Vaccination Day

Thursday 1 April Last Day Term 1

SPORTS CALENDAR

Monday 1 March—Zone Swimming Carnival
Thursday 1 April—School Athletics Carnival



SMART Focus for Weeks 5 & 6: Using appropriate and respectful language to others

IMPORTANT NEWS FOR STUDENTS & PARENTS

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

THE EVENTS OF WEEK 3

Week 3 was a very eventful one for Quakers Hill High School with 3 major events taking place. This began on Tuesday 9 February with our Year 11 Assessment Information Evening. The evening provided parents and students the opportunity to have our senior assessment policies and processes explained to them and have any questions in this complex area answered. My thanks to Mr Head for leading the evening and preparing a comprehensive presentation that walked parents and students through the assessment process. Thanks also to Year 11 Adviser, Mr Hill and to Ms Mahon, who together with Ms Naicker and the assessment team, compiled the Assessment Information Book.

On Thursday 11 February we held our annual swimming carnival at Blacktown pool. This was a great day, with staff reporting excellent behaviour and participation from students. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr Hill, Mr Nash and Mr Hawkes for their excellent organisation of the day, made more complex due to Covid 19 restrictions. I would also like to thank the staff who attended the day for their hard work and professionalism in bringing the event together.

On the same day as the swimming carnival, our High School Taster Day was held, which saw students from our partner primary schools come to us for the day to sample the life of a high school student. Led by Ms Lachevre, Taster Day was a great success, with many smiling Year 6 faces featured throughout. I would like to recognise and thank Ms Lachevre and the staff who prepared and delivered sample lessons on the day as well as the leadership teams of our partner primary schools for supporting it.

P&C MEETING

A reminder that our next P&C meeting takes place on Monday 22 February at 7pm. All are welcome.

COVID 19 UPDATE

I would like to remind all families that it is still a requirement of the NSW government that all students over 12 years of age wear a face mask on public transport. I have provided the link below to the latest Covid 19 advice from the Department of Education.

<https://education.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/advice-for-families>

END OF YEAR AWARDS 2021

In 2021 there will be a change to the way some of our traditional special awards on Presentation Night are given. Some awards will be opened to more students than those in the most senior year and a small number will be deferred until 2022. This is for special awards only and will not affect course or sporting awards.

SAFE ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE

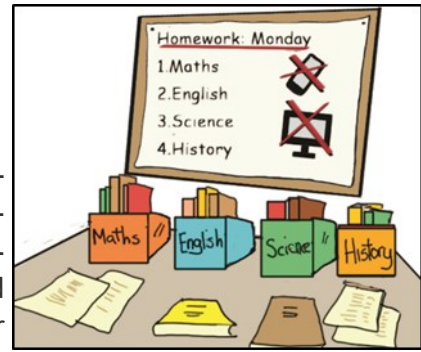
Parents and caregivers are reminded not to use the school parking areas for dropping off or collecting their children. This is for the safety of students and staff on the site. The parking areas are provided for staff and visitor use only. Please comply with this request and work out a safe place to drop off and collect your child outside the school grounds.

Mr Andrew Skehan

Principal

STUDY SKILLS TIP FOR FEBRUARY – WHY DO WE HAVE TO DO HOMEWORK?

Homework, or Home Learning as some schools now prefer to call it, serves many purposes. It may be to consolidate or check or extend the learning from the day, or prepare for the learning to come in subsequent days. It could be to do with longer term work such as assignments or preparing for tests and examinations. Ultimately it comes back to what school is all about – learning. And learning not just about learning content, but learning and developing skills. At times students feel that the work they are doing at school is not relevant to their lives, however sometimes we need to look beyond the content to the purpose of the learning exercise. At times the content will be a vehicle to teach particular skills. Much of what we learn in Mathematics develops the problem-solving circuits in our brain. When you are analysing Shakespeare you are learning not just about Shakespeare, but to think critically and expand your point of view and broaden your experience of the world through examination of different lives, emotions and experiences. The message is that everything you learn at school has purpose and value, even if you can't always quite see it at the time.



There is much debate in the media as to the value of homework. In Primary school it has been shown that only a small number of students actually benefit from doing homework in terms of academic achievement. The exception to this is reading at home – every student will benefit from this. However, other benefits cannot be discounted: developing independent working skills, establishing study routines necessary for learning in later years, helping students master things they are struggling with and allowing parental involvement.

In secondary school homework has been proven to be an essential component of academic success in the senior years. The reality of Year 11 and 12 is that a large component of independent learning needs to be undertaken at home. One of the biggest problems for students transitioning to the senior years is that they have not learnt to work effectively and efficiently in the home environment. This is why developing good habits and learning to do at least a solid hour a day of home study is essential in Years 7-10. It is also about developing the qualities of discipline and perseverance, both essential for senior studies. Students will not like every subject equally, so students need to learn how to make themselves do the work even for their least favourite subjects.

What can you do this year to manage your homework effectively? Try these top tips:

1. **GET ORGANISED STRAIGHT AWAY:** As soon as you get home unpack your bag before you have a break and something to eat. Lay out all the work first. It is easier to get started if you have everything ready to go.
2. **PRIORITISE AND PLAN:** Before you start work, write a list of what needs to be done and decide what order you will do it. Focus on what is most important, not just what subject you like best! Also write down how long you think each task will take to do.
3. **DEVELOP THINKING PATHWAYS:** Keep in your mind that it is all about learning. Try

and look beyond the actual content to what type of skill this homework might be developing in you – analysing, critical thinking, writing skills, or problem-solving skills for example.

4. CHUNK TIME INTO FOCUSED BLOCKS: Do your work in 20-30 minute blocks with no distractions during that time. So, switch off the TV, turn off your phone for that 20-30 minutes. When you just focus on the work that needs to be done you'll be amazed at how much work you complete. Of course, if you are on a roll, you can keep going past the 30 minutes.

ALTERNATE AND CHIP AWAY: If there is a task you really don't want to do then alternate this with a task you enjoy doing. For example, 15 minutes on the homework you like, 5 minutes on the homework you don't like. When you chip away at it you will be surprised how quickly you get through the work.

Learn more this year about how to improve your results and be more efficient and effective with your schoolwork by working through the units on www.studyskillshandbook.com.au - our school's access details are:

Username: quakershillhs

Password: 45success



Quakers Hill High School

SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHS WILL BE TAKEN ON:

Tuesday 23 February 2021 and Friday 5 March 2021

**ORDER NOW go to www.advancedlife.com.au and enter the code
XZR MHV ZLF**

Dear Parents,

School photographs are scheduled to be taken by *advancedlife*. Whilst an envelope and flyer will be distributed shortly, if possible it is our preference that ordering be completed online to reduce administration and potential security issues related to the return of cash and envelopes on photo day.

Orders for packages and sibling photographs can be placed securely online at www.advancedlife.com.au using our school's unique 9 digit *advancedorder* code. Portrait and group package orders are due by photography day.

Should you wish to purchase a sibling photograph online, the order must be placed no later than the day before photography day. Sibling photographs will only be taken if an order has been placed.

Should you have any queries concerning school photographs or online ordering, please contact us at www.advancedlife.com.au/contact