



17 September 2018

Dear Parents and Guardians of Year 6 Students

To assist in planning for the transition of your child into high school, I wanted to take this opportunity to provide some additional information about the process.

1. Enrolment applications

Enrolments for Year 7 2019 have opened and we have started to receive completed enrolment packages from parents. These packages are available for collection from our school office which is open between 8am and 3:45pm weekdays during the school term. Could I please ask that if you haven't already collected an enrolment package that you make plans to do so at your earliest convenience and return the completed forms soon after.

As we are an enrolment managed school, the office staff will ask to see evidence of residency within our catchment (or confirm the current enrolment of an older sibling). We ask for this evidence at this point of the process to avoid the inconvenience for parents that would come from completing the enrolment forms only to later find out that they live outside the catchment. Acceptable forms of evidence include: utility bill (e.g. electricity, gas), lease agreement, rates notice or phone account showing a landline or internet usage.

A full copy of the Enrolment Management Plan can be found at:

<http://education.qld.gov.au/schools/catchment/plan-g/gladstone-shs.html>

Furthermore, you can check your address in relation to school catchment zones at:

<http://www.qgso.qld.gov.au/maps/edmap/>

To facilitate the process of constructing class lists for 2019, we ask that you return the completed enrolment forms to our school office **as soon as possible** but no later than **Friday 9 November 2018**.

2. Orientation Days

An important component of our transition process are the Orientation Days. Later in the year we host the Year 6 students for two days of orientation activities. This opportunity is invaluable in familiarising students with our school and easing some of their anxieties about the impending move. To be able to attend these days, it is very important that we have received completed enrolment forms for your child.

This year, the Orientation Days will occur on Monday 3 December and Tuesday 4 December 2018. Closer to the time we will disseminate information to students and parents via their primary schools.

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3. Star Classes and Scholarships

We have started to receive queries about our Star Class program and opportunities for scholarships.

In previous years, we have offered what was called the Star Class program. In 2017 and 2018 we reviewed our structures and have decided that we will cease this program at the end of this year. Therefore, we are not offering the Star Class program in 2019. Educational research suggests that classes such as this often do not have the outcomes for which they are designed. We highly value the academic success of our students and believe, based on our experiences and the information gathered after research on this topic, we can achieve strong outcomes in mixed ability classroom settings.

We have received some enquiries about scholarships. We are pleased to be continuing this program for next year and are currently finalising the criteria and scope of the 2019 scholarships. We will be sending out information about this early in Term 4.

4. Additional Information Evening

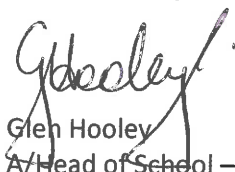
We were incredibly pleased with the attendance at the recent Information Evening. At this event we were able to present to prospective students and parents a range of information about some of the strategic structures of Year 7 at our school.

We were also grateful to receive some feedback from some of the attendees and based on that feedback we are planning a second Information Evening which will include more of a focus on the day-to-day operational and logistical elements of high school. We understand that it is often a culmination of the 'little' things that creates anxiety about the move to high school and at this additional Information Evening we will cover many of these.

This event will take place on the afternoon of **Tuesday 30 October 2018** and, similar to last time, we will disseminate specific information about it via primary schools early in Term 4.

The transition to secondary school is understandably both an exciting and daunting experience for students. We aim to ensure that this process is as smooth as possible. As such, if there are any questions you would like to ask, please don't hesitate to contact Glen Hooley, A/Head of School – Junior on 49766111 or ghool2@eq.edu.au

Yours sincerely



Glen Hooley
A/Head of School – Junior



Garry Goltz
Principal

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