



PEEL HIGH SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

WEEK 5, TERM 1 2023

BIG START TO 2023



Should you need to drop any items off to your child during school hours please drop them into the front office. Students are not permitted to meet you outside school grounds or wait near the front or back gates/fence to collect items from you.

Before School our playgrounds are unsupervised until 8.30am each morning and then only minimal supervision until school begins at 9.00 am.

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www.peel-h.schools.nsw.edu.au

PRINCIPALS REPORT

It has been a positive start to the year as students 7-12 arrived in Week 1 looking terrific in their school uniforms, equipped with their tools to learn, demonstrating 'Peel Pride' after the summer break. As a school we welcomed our newcomers; staff, Year 7 and students who have come to Peel from a variety of schools. High expectations of students and our school community were revisited, the importance of doing one's best and engaging in all that PHS has to offer reminded, as a way to be a contributing member of the 'Peel High School Family'.

Our staff began the year with a morning of Learning on Country, as Len Waters shared knowledge, stories and the importance of connection at the Tamworth Botanic Gardens. It was an opportunity for our staff to reconnect after the January break, before refocusing on lesson planning, curriculum delivery and assessment planning. A warm thankyou to Len for sharing his knowledge.



The Peel High School Open Day on 25 February will see the school opened to welcome all who would like to learn more about what Peel High School has to offer to students and families and I encourage you to come along to see our facilities and meet our staff.

As a Connected Communities school, we held our first reference group meeting for the year. Chaired by our local AECG President, Tom Flanders and attended by our Senior Leader Community Engagement, Janine Way, and a small group of parents. The purpose of the School Reference Group is to advise the Executive Principal on the implementation of the Connected Communities strategy. The School Reference Group will work collaboratively with the Executive Principal in the development, planning and shared decision making of the school's Connected Communities strategy.

Our students have already enjoyed a number of excursions from our newest recruits, in Year 7, who enjoyed their first high school camp at Coffs Harbour to our most experienced students in Year 12 who enjoyed the Southern University tour as they continue to explore post school opportunities.

I had the opportunity to share in celebrating excellence with Haley Johnson, our Dux of Year 12 2022, along with Year 12 advisor 2022, Ms Naarah Scholes and Legal Studies teacher Mrs Casey Barnett, when she was presented with the prestigious '**Everinghams and Solomons Bursary**', to support Haley as she embarks on her Studies of Law at Newcastle University. Everinghams and Solomons also presented a cheque for \$1000 to support the continued delivery of quality educational opportunities and I would like to thank them for their generous support of Peel High School.

Most recently, students, staff and family members took time to enjoy the swimming carnival which again provided a wonderful opportunity for students to compete in a competitive and fun way and spend time interacting with staff in a relaxed environment. The twilight carnival provided an opportunity for our school community to escape the heat of the day and enabled our school community to come together and enjoy this event.



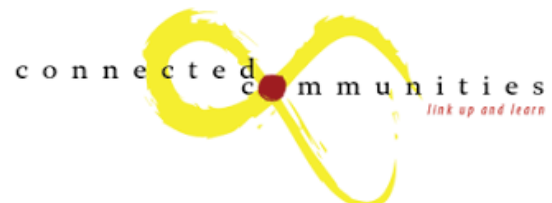
Unfortunately, this year we have been saddened by the loss of some of our school farm stock as a result of a number of vicious dog attacks. Our staff work hard to provide opportunities for our students to engage in opportunities that develop skills in the agricultural sector, preparing them for post school opportunities and providing them with access to a component of school life that makes them feel connected to the land. A reminder to those who live near our school to keep dogs contained in well fenced yards or restrained to ensure that we do not experience further loss.

My final message is a reminder to be courteous and respectful at all times when interacting with staff and students at Peel High School. As staff members we abide by the 'Dignity and Respect Charter' and as community members we expect that everyone abides by the **NSW Department of Education 'School Community Charter'** which outlines the responsibilities of parents, carers, educators and school staff in NSW public schools to ensure our learning environments are collaborative, supportive and cohesive.

Erica Burge

Executive Principal

<https://education.nsw.gov.au/public-schools/connected-communities/connected-communities-strategy>



School Community Charter

 **Collaborative. Respectful. Communication.**

The following School Community Charter outlines the responsibilities of parents, carers, educators and school staff in NSW public schools to ensure our learning environments are collaborative, supportive and cohesive.

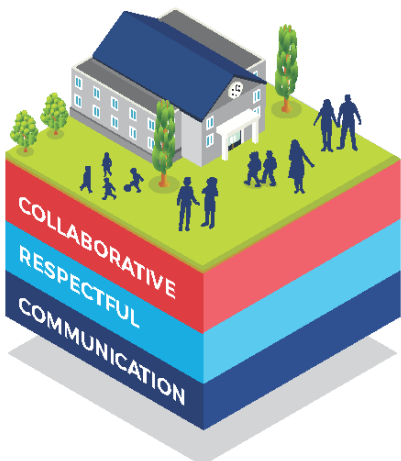
We treat
each other
with
respect

What our schools provide

NSW public schools work to create positive environments for students, staff and the entire school community that support student learning. We strive to ensure that every student is known, valued and cared for.

The best education happens when parents and schools work together.

The School Community Charter aligns with the NSW Department of Education Strategic Plan 2018 – 2022.



Positive environments

It is important that our NSW public schools are positive environments and that parents and carers are kept informed of students' progress and school announcements.

Parents and carers can expect:

- To be welcomed into our schools to work in partnership to promote student learning.
- Communication from school staff will be timely, polite and informative.
- Professional relationships with school staff are based on transparency, honesty and mutual respect.
- To be treated fairly. Tolerance and understanding are promoted as we respect diversity.

We
prioritise
the wellbeing
of all students
and staff

**Unsafe
behaviour**
is not acceptable
in our schools

We work
together
with the
school

**Ensuring respectful learning environments for all
members of NSW Public Schools communities.**



We create
collaborative
learning
environments

We
all play
our part

We work
in partnership
to promote
student
learning

Communicating with our schools

Our staff will find a time to talk to you when they can give you their full attention. Please remember that while our staff are in class or dealing with other matters, they may not be available to answer your questions immediately.

Our schools and communities will make sure that written communication is appropriate, fair and easy to read. We encourage you to use email and social media appropriately to connect with your school and stay up-to-date with up-coming events in the school community.

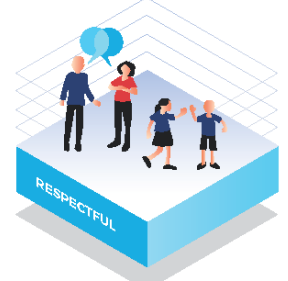
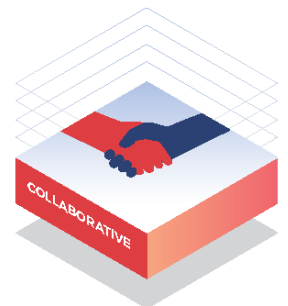
Our guide for parents, carers and students provides useful information about the complaints process:

education.nsw.gov.au/about-us/rights-and-accountability/complaints-compliments-and-suggestions/guide-for-parents-carers-and-students

Respectful communication is a right

In all workplaces people have the right to feel respected. Unacceptable and offensive behaviour has no place in our school communities.

To ensure the wellbeing of students, staff and the community in our schools, steps will be taken to address unacceptable behaviour. This may include restricting contact with the school community or, in more serious cases, referral to NSW Police.



Unacceptable behaviour may include but is not limited to:

- Aggressive or intimidating actions, such as violence, threatening gestures or physical proximity.
- Aggressive or intimidating language, including the use of obscenities, making sexist, racist or derogatory comments or using a rude tone.
- Treating members of the school community differently due to aspects such as their religion or disability.
- Inappropriate and time wasting communication.



Collaborative.
Respectful.
Communication.

School Community Charter

education.nsw.gov.au

YEAR 7 CAMP

On Monday 13 February, 60 students from year 7 departed Tamworth and travelled to the Coffs Harbour Adventure Centre. Over the course of the three day excursion students enjoyed a range of activities including the commando mud run, zorb balls, giant swing and sky wire.

Teachers Ms Burmester, Mr Wolridge, Ms Moyo and Aboriginal Education Officer Brad Withers also jumped in and got involved in all the camp had to offer.

On the final day of the excursion students visited Dolphin Marine Magic, getting up close and personal with sea lions, dolphins, turtles and penguins! All staff and students returned home safe and sound on Wednesday 15.

- Nicola Burmester





TAS 2023

Welcome back everyone. I would like to formally welcome our 2 new teachers to the faculty. Miss Woods, on a permanent basis in the TAS - Home Economics Faculty. And the enthusiastic and energetic Ms Gaynor! Please make them feel welcome with our usual Peel High School family welcome and hospitality.

In the TAS Faculty, we are looking forward to another fantastic year of Major Design Projects and Projects from our Stage 6 senior students in Design and Technology and Industrial Technology: Metal classes. Our Constructions students are also working on projects around the school such as the garden shed that will house the tools for the Bistro Garden as part of their assessed practical competencies. This year, our Hospitality classes will be catering morning teas and luncheons as well as special events like the EDGE workshop held last week for Stage 4 and 5 students.

In our Stage 4 classes, students are required to complete the Technology Mandatory course. This includes areas of technologies such as Coding and Digital Technology. Here at PHS, students complete each technology per semester each year. This ensures that they get an in depth and hands on experience of each technology as tasters for their elective choices at the end of Year 8.

And finally, our amazing Woodfired Pizza Oven has been completed in its construction. It will be in use by elective students and for various special functions throughout the school year.

- Mrs Chareunsouk-Hartley
Head Teacher of TAS



FUTURE GAME MASTERS

Early last month Mr Wenman was the designer who worked with students on devising a game that was the initiate of the Tamworth Video Library. As can be seen, we have a game designer amongst us who also runs game workshops during lunchtimes. If you're interested, see Mr Wenman in the Industrial Arts staffroom for more information.

Have a read of the news article below!

northerndailyleader.com.au

Thursday January 05, 2023 NORTHERN DAILY LEADER 3

NEWS

Kids roll the dice and pass go on chance to create board game

WHETHER it's strategy or pure luck, if a few kids play their cards right they could be the creators of a brand new board game.

Forget monopoly, yahtzee and snakes and ladders, under the guidance of a local award-winning board game designer the next generation are hoping they've picked the right hand to design a new family favourite.

Industrial arts teacher at Peel High School and game designer Michael Wenman laid down the rules for crafting the perfect board game at a design workshop hosted by the Tamworth City Library.

The designer told the *Leader* when it comes to making a game the most important element was a good theme.

"It needs to be one that people can latch onto and resonate with," he said.

A simple set of rules to avoid arguments and a balance between strategy and luck are also key pieces of the puzzle. "People can improve their skills and have a better chance at winning the game," Mr Wenman said.

"But if you lose the game



Henry Stilts, Johanna Pichler, Amelia Stilts and Michael Wenman at the board game design workshop. Picture by Gareth Gardner

you can blame you're dice rolls and not how bad you are as a player."

After the workshop the participants could submit

their games to the national 'Whipper Snapper' competition.

LibrarySTEAM and childhood literacy unit coordi-

nator Jonathan Stilts said the kids had come along "brimming" with ideas and the skills learnt would have real world application.

"There's a lot of problem solving to be done whether you're designing or playing," he said.

"Those skills of building

a game can be carried into today's digital economy."

A second workshop will be held at the library on January 11 at 12pm.

Days missed = years lost

A day here and there doesn't seem like much, but...

When your child misses just...

they miss weeks per year

and years over their school life

1 day per fortnight

=

4 weeks



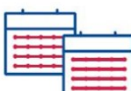
=

Over **1** year missed

1 day per week

=

8 weeks



=

Over **2.5** years missed

TAS COOKING FOR SHOW

This term in Technology Mandatory (Stage 4, Year 7 and Year 8 students) we are focusing on the area "Food & Ag" we have been cooking up a storm, learning new skills and working away making delicious baked goods to enter in the Tamworth Show. Years 9 and 10 have both been baking away in the kitchen cook off to make a delicious number of delicious show entries, including jam drops, choc chip cookies, cakes, cupcakes, slice and much more!





Year 10 Food Technology and Year 11 Hospitality students have been learning how to make a variety of sauces, chutney and relish. These are going to be jarred and put into the Tamworth Show. They have used a range of food preparation techniques, cooking methods and preservation techniques.

- Danielle Gaynor

FARMYARD FUN

The Stage 4 boys class visited the school's farm earlier this term, with Mr McCabe and myself. They will be learning about Food and Agriculture in Technology Mandatory this semester. Learning about animals, crops, hygiene, cooking methods, cooking equipment and much more!

Here are some of the photos taken during their school farm visit.

- Danielle Gaynor





Positive House Points

Earn 5 points every fortnight when
your **ATTENDANCE** is 90% or more!

Earn 1 point for correct uniform or
improved/consistent effort in class

Accumulate House Points to earn
canteen vouchers and attend reward
excursions... and help your house **WIN**
THE HOUSE CUP!

COMMUNITY CONNECTION

Year 10 Sista Speak group along side SLSO Krystle and Miss Shaw went on an excursion to the Coledale Community Centre, where they connected with local women and Elders at Bumbira Art & Culture Programs weekly art & yarn women's group.

The girls participated in weaving, painting and also shared yarns about their life, families and communities of care.

We listened as the Aunties shared knowledge and stories. Some of the girls found it so special to find family connections.

We are looking forward to more of these special days with our Elders.

GABA NGINDA to Cassie and Bec at Bumbira for hosting us today.

GABA NGINDA - Good You / Thank You.





Attendance Roadmap

100%

PERFECT BASE

At school everyday!

You will achieve personal excellence



96%

GOOD

Equates to 7 school days off each year



94%

ON THE WAY

Equates to 11 school days off each year



90%

DANGER ZONE – EDUCATIONALLY AT RISK

Equates to 1 month off each year



80%

EXTREME IMPACT

Equates to 2 months off each year



98%

IMPRESSIVE

Equates to 4 school days off each year



95%

NEARLY THERE

Equates to 9 school days off each year



92%

NEEDS TO IMPROVE

Equates to 15 days off each year



88%

SEVERE IMPACT

Equates to over a month off each year



below 80%

DESTRUCTIVE

Highly challenging to access any learning

• Calculations based on 196 learning days per year

YEAR 10 WORK FORCE READY

Year 10 students had an opportunity to learn about SBAT's (School-based apprenticeships and traineeships), work readiness and gain hands on self care advice and how to dress for a job interview.

They also engaged in group 'interview' scenarios with real local potential employees.

Shannon and the team from Edge were so engaging, students and staff enjoyed the workshop and how it was set up.

This was an amazing opportunity for students to educate them on pathways to get into Careers they want to be in!

GABA NGINDA - Good You / Thank You.

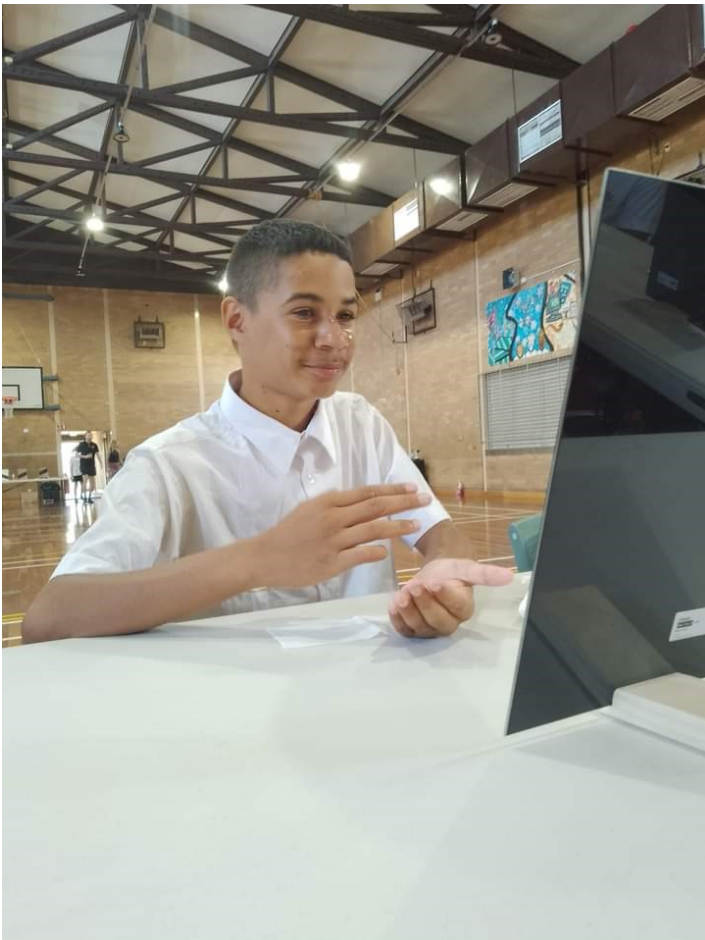
- Krystle Lamb

Extended Leave

PHS requires an 'Application For Extended Leave - Travel' Form to be completed when a student is going to be absent from school for an extended period of time - 1 Week or more (this leave may be due to a holiday etc..)

Any parent/carer wishing to take their child on extended leave can collect a form from the Front Office.

Form must be completed by a Parent/Carer and returned for Principal approval, prior to leave commencing



NAPLAN 2023

Year 7 and 9 students will sit the NAPLAN tests in Weeks eight and nine of this term. Peel High School will complete the NAPLAN tests online. More information on the tests is available on following pages of the Newsletter.

All students in NSW are expected to do the NAPLAN tests. Peel High School strongly encourages you to support your child's participation. The NAPLAN results will help our school to identify the learning needs of our students.

Students can be exempt from doing the tests if they:

- Are new to Australia with a language background other than English
- Have an intellectual disability or condition which severely limits their ability to participate in the tests.

Students may also be withdrawn from the NAPLAN tests by their parent or carer.

If you wish to withdraw your child, you need to discuss this with the principal and sign a consent form.

If your child has disability adjustments in class, they can have similar adjustments for the NAPLAN tests.

If you think your child should have disability adjustments for the NAPLAN, please phone the school to discuss the available options.

For more information on the NAPLAN tests, please view the following pages of the newsletter.

- Vicki Saville

PEEL HIGH SCHOOL

AFTER-SCHOOL SENIOR STUDY SESSIONS

No sign up needed - just turn up when you can!




**TUESDAYS 3:20PM - 5PM
@ THE LIBRARY**

Year 11 and 12 students are encouraged to attend Senior Study Sessions in the library where they can work on class work, assessments and study with the assistance of their teachers! Snacks are provided free of charge.

PEEL HIGH SCHOOL

AFTER-SCHOOL HOMEWORK CENTRE

Collect permission notes from the library!



**WEDNESDAYS 3:20PM - 5PM
@ THE LIBRARY**

All students are encouraged to attend Homework Centre in the library where they can work on class work, assessments and study with the assistance of their teachers! Snacks and afternoon bus-drop off for local students is provided free of charge.

NAPLAN 2023

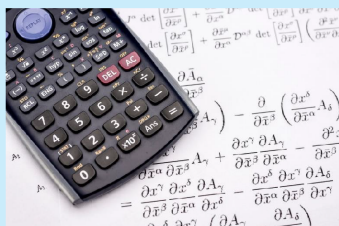
Information for students in Years 7 and 9

How can I get ready for NAPLAN?

Use the demonstration tests to practise the types of questions and tools available in the online tests.

Access the demonstration tests here:

<https://www.nap.edu.au/online-assessment/public-demonstration-site>

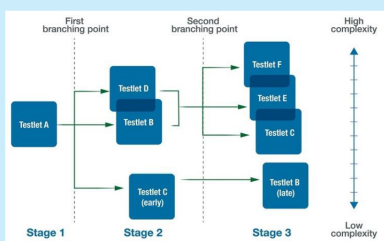
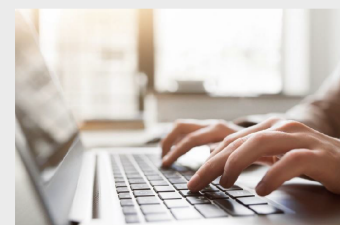


Can I use my own calculator for the numeracy test?

No. The online numeracy test will have an on-screen calculator. Try the NAPLAN online calculator in the numeracy demonstration tests on the public demonstration site.

Do I need to touch type?

No. You do not need to be able to touch type to complete the tests.



What is tailored testing?

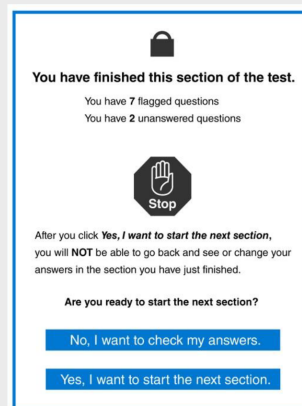
The test will change depending on your performance in the test. Questions get easier or harder based on your answers.

Conventions of language test important information

A message will appear on your device to let you know you have finished the spelling section of the test.

Check your answers before selecting *'Yes, I want to start the next section'*.

After you select *'Yes, I want to start the next section'*, the grammar and punctuation section will start. You will **not** be able to go back to the spelling section of the test.



Questions? Speak with your teacher or visit www.nap.edu.au/online-assessment

What is NAPLAN?

The National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) assesses the literacy and numeracy skills of students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9.

Students participate in NAPLAN tests in writing, reading, conventions of language (spelling, grammar and punctuation) and numeracy.

NAPLAN provides an understanding of how individual students are performing at the time of the tests. The tests are just one aspect of a school's assessment and reporting process – it does not replace ongoing assessments made by teachers about student performance.

NAPLAN also provides schools and education authorities with information about how education programs are working and whether young Australians are achieving important educational outcomes in literacy and numeracy.

The benefits of NAPLAN tests online

More precise results with an adaptive design: Tailored tests adapt to a student's performance and ask questions that match the student's achievement levels.

Better engagement: Research into online assessment indicates that students engage well with online tests as the questions are tailored to their achievement levels.

Tailored testing

Tailored testing provides a more precise assessment of a student's performance. Students at each year level start the tests with a similar set of questions. Depending on the number of questions they answer correctly, the next set of questions may be more, or less, difficult.

A student's NAPLAN result is based on both the amount and difficulty of questions the student answers correctly. A student who completes a more difficult set of questions is more likely to achieve a higher score.

Watch a video (3:06 length) to learn more about tailored testing: <https://youtu.be/oGFseJAM3Ew>

Supporting your child

The best approach for preparing your child for NAPLAN is to encourage your child to do the best they can on the day.

Excessive preparation or the use of coaching providers is not recommended.

Students can use the public demonstration site to practise the tools and type of questions they will experience in NAPLAN:
<https://www.nap.edu.au/online-assessment/public-demonstration-site>

NAPLAN 2023 test window

From 2023, NAPLAN will be held in March. This change has been made so results can be returned to schools earlier in the year. This will support teachers to understand the learning needs of their students and allow them to plan accordingly.

NAPLAN test window: 15 – 27 March 2023.

The 9-day test window accommodates schools with fewer devices that require flexibility in scheduling.

What if my child was absent on the day of a scheduled NAPLAN test?

Where possible, schools may arrange catch-up tests for individual students who were absent on the day of a scheduled NAPLAN test.

All Year 3 writing catch-up tests must be completed by Friday 20 March 2023.

All other catch-up tests must be completed by Monday 27 March 2023.

COVID-19 advice

Parents should keep students at home if they are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms.

Your child's school will be required to conduct NAPLAN testing in accordance with the latest NSW Government COVID-19 advice.

Year 3 writing test

The Year 3 writing test is conducted on paper. All other Year 3 NAPLAN tests will be online.

Students' digital skills

The digital skills required to complete NAPLAN are skills that students use in everyday classroom activities.

Students do not need to be able to touch type to complete the test. The online test is not about keyboard skills (just as the paper test was not about handwriting skills).

Withdrawals and exemptions

You can withdraw your child from NAPLAN tests.

A student may be granted a formal exemption if they have:

- significant intellectual disability and/or students with significant comorbidity that severely limit their capacity to participate in the tests, or
- a language background other than English, arrived from overseas and have been attending school in Australia for less than a year before the test.

Contact your child's school for further information and to complete the parent/carer consent form.

Privacy

NESA is responsible for the collection of personal information from NSW schools to be used during NAPLAN testing and reporting.

All data collected for NAPLAN is managed in accordance with NSW and Federal privacy legislation described in NESA's privacy management plan, which can be found on the NESA website:

<https://educationstandards.nsw.edu.au/wps/portal/nesa/about/who-we-are/privacy/naplan-privacy>

Results

Parents/carers receive two reports showing their child's achievements in NAPLAN: the individual student report (ISR) and additional student report (ASR). The ISR and ASR should always be interpreted with care. Teachers will have the best insight into a child's educational progress.

Reports are dispatched to schools who then distribute the reports to parents/carers.

More information

For further NAPLAN information visit:

<https://nap.edu.au/naplan/for-parents-carers>

Questions?

If you have any questions, please contact your child's teacher in the first instance.

NSW Education Standards Authority

NAPLAN team

Phone: 1300 119 556 or (02) 9367 8382

Email: naplan.nsw@nesa.nsw.edu.au

Disability adjustment information for parents and carers NAPLAN 2023

Disability adjustments are available for NAPLAN to enable students with disability to participate on the same basis as other students.

The adjustments provided for NAPLAN should reflect the type of support and assistance your child is already receiving for classroom assessments. Some adjustments, however, are not available for NAPLAN tests where it may interfere with the skills being tested. For example, a support person cannot read questions or stimulus material to your child in the reading or conventions of language tests.

If you have a child with disability, the first step is to talk to your child's teacher about disability adjustment options. You will need to provide consent for any adjustments. Many of the adjustments are at the discretion of the school but adjustments such as braille or large print test material require your child's school to make an application to NESA.

Available disability adjustments

Rest breaks may be provided to students with disability who may experience fatigue during assessments. Your child's test time will be paused for the duration of the rest break.

Extra test time may be provided for students with disability who are usually provided with extra time to complete classroom assessments.

A **NAPLAN support person** may assist a student with disability to access the tests if they usually work with a support person for assessments.

A **Scribe** may assist a student with disability to complete the writing test only. The scribe and student must be familiar with the NAPLAN scribe rules. The student must regularly work with a scribe in the classroom. A student with a temporary injury, such as a broken arm, may **not** have a scribe assist with completing the test.

An **Oral/sign support person** may assist a student with a hearing impairment by reading or signing some sections of the tests. **Alternative items – audio** may also be appropriate for these students as spelling questions that rely on audio will be replaced with proofreading spelling questions.

Alternative items – visual may be appropriate for students with a vision impairment as simplified or enlarged images can be provided. A zoom function is available for all students to magnify the screen.

Assistive technology is used by many students with disability to access digital content. If your child's assistive technology is not compatible with the NAPLAN application, a special URL can be provided so they may sit the tests outside the NAPLAN application.

Colour themes are available for students who normally access classroom assessments on coloured paper. Alternatively, your child can use **Colour contrast modification** to work outside the NAPLAN application and use their own device's settings or software to change the screen colour.

If the NAPLAN online tests are not accessible for your child, they may be able to sit an **Alternative format (disability adjustment) test**, such as braille or large print test material.

You should contact your child's teacher as soon as possible if you consider the NAPLAN online tests are not accessible for your child.

Questions?

Please contact your child's teacher if you have any questions.

NSW Education Standards Authority

NAPLAN team

Phone: 1300 119 556 or (02) 9367 8382

Email: naplan.nsw@nesa.nsw.edu.au



Compulsory school attendance

Information for parents

Education for your child is important and regular attendance at school is essential for your child to achieve their educational best and increase their career and life options. NSW public schools work in partnership with parents to encourage and support regular attendance of children and young people. When your child attends school every day, learning becomes easier and your child will build and maintain friendships with other children.

What are my Legal responsibilities?

Education in New South Wales is compulsory for all children between the ages of six years and below the minimum school leaving age of 17 years. The Education Act 1990 requires that parents ensure their children of compulsory school age are enrolled at, and regularly attend school, or, are registered with the NSW Education and Standards Authority for home schooling.

Once enrolled, children are required to attend school each day it is open for students.

The Importance of arriving on time

Arriving at school and class on time:

- Ensures that students do not miss out on important learning activities scheduled early in the day
- Helps students learn the importance of punctuality and routine
- Give students time to greet their friends before class
- Reduces classroom disruption

Lateness is recorded as a partial absence and must be explained by parents.

What if my child has to be away from school?

On occasion, your child may need to be absent from school. Justified reasons for student absences may include:

- being sick, or having an infectious disease
- having an unavoidable medical appointment
- being required to attend a recognised religious holiday
- exceptional or urgent family circumstance (e.g. attending a funeral)

Following an absence from school you must ensure that within 7 days you provide your child's school with a verbal or written explanation for the absence. However, if the school has not received an explanation from you within 2 days, the school may contact you to discuss the absence.

Principals may decline to accept an explanation that you have provided if they do not believe the absence is in the best interest of your child. In these circumstances your child's absence would be recorded as unjustified. When this happens the principal will discuss their decision with you and the reasons why.

Principals may request medical certificates or other documentation when frequent or long term absences are explained as being due to illness. Principals may also seek parental permission to speak with medical specialists to obtain information to collaboratively develop a health care plan to support your child. If the request is denied, the principal can record the absences as unjustified.

Travel

Families are encouraged to travel during school holidays. If travel during school term is necessary, discuss this with your child's school principal. An Application for Extended Leave may need to be completed. Absences relating to travel will be marked as leave on the roll and therefore contribute to your child's total absences for the year.

In some circumstances students may be eligible to enrol in distance education for travel periods over 50 school days. This should be discussed with your child's school principal.

My child won't go to school what should I do?

You should contact the principal as soon as possible to discuss the issue and ask for help. Strategies to help improve attendance may include a referral to the school's learning and support team or linking your child with appropriate support networks. The principal may seek further support from the Home School Liaison Program to develop an Attendance Improvement Plan.

What might happen if my child continues to have unacceptable absences?

It is important to understand that the Department of Education may be required to take further action where children of compulsory school age have recurring numbers of unexplained or unjustified absences from school.

Some of the following actions may be undertaken:

- Compulsory Schooling Conferences

You may be asked, along with your child, to attend a Compulsory Schooling Conference. The conference will help to identify the supports your child may need to have in place so they attend school regularly. The school, parents and agencies will work together to develop an agreed plan (known as Undertakings) to support your child's attendance at school.

- Application to the Children's Court – Compulsory Schooling Order

If your child's attendance at school remains unsatisfactory the Department may apply to the Children's Court for a Compulsory Schooling Order. The Children's Court magistrate may order a Compulsory Schooling Conference to be convened.

- Prosecution in the Local Court

School and Department staff remain committed to working in partnership with you to address the issues which are preventing your child's full participation at school. In circumstances where a breach of compulsory schooling orders occurs further action may be taken against a parent in the Local Court. The result of court action can be the imposition of a community service order or a fine.

What age can my child leave school?

All New South Wales students must complete Year 10 or its equivalent. After Year 10, and up until they reach 17 years of age, there are a range of flexible options for students to complete their schooling.

Working in Partnership

The NSW Department of Education recognises that working collaboratively with students and their families is the best way to support the regular attendance of students at school.

We look forward to working in partnership with you to support your child to fulfil their life opportunities.

Days missed = years lost

A day here and there doesn't seem like much, but...



More information

Further Information regarding school attendance can be obtained from the following websites:

Policy, information and brochures:

Please visit the Department of Education's Policy Library AND The Department's Attendance Matters Website

The school leaving age:

Please visit the Department of Education's Wellbeing and Learning website

Do you need an interpreter?

Interpreting services are available on request, including for the hearing impaired. The Telephone Interpreter Service is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week on **131 450**. You will not be charged for this service.

Students enrolled into the program must:

- have an 80 percent attendance record of training sessions and activities over the period of the program
- take part in the practical and theory assessment process and
- be deemed competent by the program coordinator.

All equipment associated with the program is provided by the NSW RFS. Students participating in the program will be outfitted with NSW RFS personal protective clothing and equipment which is returned at the completion of the program.

Delivery the program

While the program is delivered by NSW RFS members the school is required to support the program by providing supervision during training sessions.

Schools can express interest in running the program by contacting:

NSW Rural Fire Service
Youth Development Officer
Phone 02 8741 5555 or
Email volunteer@rfs.nsw.gov.au



NSW Rural Fire Service Secondary Schools Cadet Program

Your time to shine

NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE
Head Office 15 Carter Street, Lidcombe NSW 2141
Locked Mail Bag 17, Granville NSW 2142

Phone 02 8741 5555
Email volunteer@rfs.nsw.gov.au

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www.rfs.nsw.gov.au

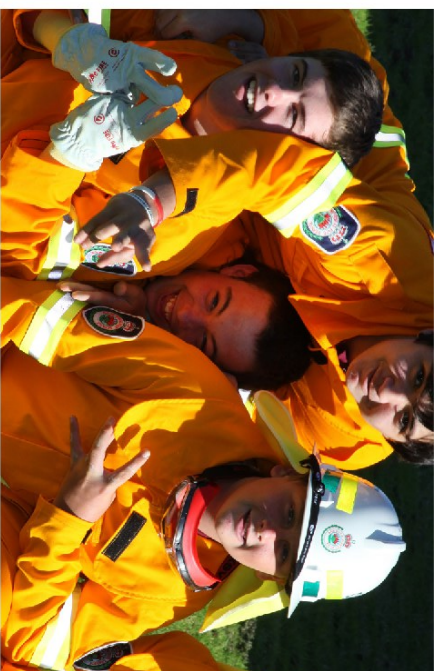


About the NSW Rural Fire Service

The NSW Rural Fire Service (NSW RFS) is the world's largest volunteer fire service – our organisation has more than 70,000 hard working, professional and dedicated volunteers in communities right across New South Wales.

Volunteers have been protecting local communities from bush and grass fires for more than 100 years. Today, our volunteers perform a wide variety of roles and attend a range of emergencies like bush and grass fires, house and structure fires, road accidents as well as provide assistance at other events like floods, storms and searches.

We also aim to reduce the impact of bush fires by reducing hazards and educating the community about fire prevention and precautions.



The Secondary Schools Cadet Program

The NSW RFS Secondary Schools Cadet Program is a great way for students to learn new skills which will last them a lifetime. The program provides Year 9 and 10 students with an insight into fire safety and prevention whilst developing practical life skills and a general appreciation of community service and volunteerism.

The aim of the program is to:

- Develop an interest in the NSW RFS and its traditions
- Provide cadets with a knowledge of fire safety and preparedness
- Develop the qualities of leadership, self-discipline, self-reliance, initiative and team work
- Encourage cadets to continue service in the NSW RFS or other community service organisations
- Provide training that can contribute to NSW RFS firefighter and other specialist training.

These qualifications can be used in later life, whether it's for work or for joining a volunteer rural fire brigade.

The Secondary Schools Cadet Program can be linked to NSW Personal Development, Health and Physical Education (PDHPE) Years 7-10 Syllabus.

“I have had so much fun with the NSW RFS and have learnt a lot about team work and taking responsibility”

James Peaty – 2010 NSW RFS Cadet of the Year



Program overview

The majority of the program is based on practical activities however there may be some theory involved. We encourage our members to tailor the program to suit their local community. Typically, the program will run over a 10 week period with 1-2 hours of instruction per week. Below is an example of a 10 week Secondary Schools Cadet Program.

Week:

1. Overview of the NSW RFS and fire behaviour
2. Structure of the NSW RFS, vehicles and familiarisation
3. NSW RFS rank and bush firefighting equipment
4. Emergency services in the local community
5. Bush fire survival plan and emergency drills
6. Casualty assistance
7. Practical scenarios
8. Brigade visits and extinguishers
9. Practical scenarios and revision
10. Final theory and practical assessment and presentation of certificates.

The program is primarily coordinated and delivered by NSW RFS volunteers and therefore the availability of these personnel will determine both the class size and when the program can be held.

Usually class sizes are around 15-20 students; ideally classes will be held midweek in the afternoon (1.00pm to 3.00pm for example).

During the program students will be divided into teams of five to six students, where they will develop leadership and teamwork skills.



Tamworth Local
Aboriginal Education Consultative Group



The TLAECG welcomes you to attend our local meetings. We encourage our mob to participate in the consultative and decision-making process of education and training for our children.

We are members of the North West 2 Regional AECG and the NSW AECG.

If you would like to attend and/or become a member, please feel free to attend at the times and locations below.

If you would like to present at our meetings or would like any further information, please email our secretary on taecg.secretary@gmail.com.

Meetings start at 4:15pm

Term 1	Week 3 (4) 15 th February	Tamworth HS
	Week 8 22 nd March	Oxley HS
Term 2	Week 3 10 th May	Tamworth PS
	Week 8 14 June	Bullimbal
Term 3	Week 3 2 nd August	Tamworth South PS
	Week 8 6 th September	Parry School
Term 4	Week 3 25 th October	Hillvue PS
	Week 8 29 th November	Peel HS

UPCOMING DATES & EVENTS

February 25	Open Day	March 10	Photo Day
February 27	P&C Uniform Shop Open 8:30am-10am	March 13	P&C Uniform Shop Open 8:30am-10am
March 1	Year 7 Disco	March 14	Catch Up Photo Day
March 1	Meet Parents BBQ	March 15 - March 27	NAPLAN
March 2	Year 7 Vaccinations	March 20	P&C Uniform Shop Open 8:30am-10am
March 3	Year 8 Cultural Day	March 20	P&C Meeting 6pm
March 6	P&C Uniform Shop Open 8:30am-10am	March 27	P&C Uniform Shop Open 8:30am-10am
March 6	Tutankhamun Road Show 9am - 1:30pm	March 28	WW1 Living History Visit Years 9, 11 & 12
		March 30	Legal Mock Trials Years 11 & 12 9am

A REMINDER TO ALL VISITORS, PARENTS & CARERS WHEN VISITING**PEEL HIGH SCHOOL**

- If you need to bring items to students at school, they are to be dropped off at the front office.
 - No takeaway food is to be delivered to school for students during the school day.
- If you wish to meet with a staff member, please make an appointment through the front office.
- No visitors are to access the Peel High School site without signing in at the front office.

Thank you for your cooperation.

- Erica Burge (Executive Principal)

PHS P&C Uniform Shop open **EVERY MONDAY** between 8:30am and 10am. Or by appointment.

Pop in and see Sue for all your uniform needs.

The P&C meet every third Monday of the month at 6pm (except Public Holidays & School Holidays)

NSW Department of Education

School Planner 2023



Term one	Week	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday / Sunday
January	1	23	24	25	26	27	28/29
January / February	2	30	31	1	2	3	4/5
February	3	6	7	8	9	10	11/12
February	4	13	14	15	16	17	18/19
February	5	20	21	22	23	24	25/26
February / March	6	27	28	1	2	3	4/5
March	7	6	7	8	9	10	11/12
March	8	13	14	15	16	17	18/19
March	9	20	21	22	23	24	25/26
March / April	10	27	28	29	30	31	1/2
April	11	3	4	5	6	7	8/9



Scan me for practical school tips!

To help your child get the most out of their school year and to explore our resources, check out our going to school hub at education.nsw.gov.au/going-to-school