English Policy

Our key focus is to develop the literacy skills of students. To achieve this goal we develop and regularly revise our teaching programs to ensure skills in Reading, Writing, Speaking, Listening and Viewing are incorporated meaningfully into each unit and are taught explicitly.

Visual literacy is increasing in its importance in the study of English. A new mandatory component is the teaching of Film across all years. Viewing a variety of visual material is relevant and appropriate. Generally, the films studied in years 7 to 9 are rated G or PG but there are occasions, especially in Years 9 and 10 where student may need to view films rated M. Such films usually have particular relevance to class work and will be shown with guidance from the teacher.

Assessment in Years 7 to 9 is derived from the class tasks and assessments given by each class teacher. In 2001, several cross form tests will be conducted to assess Reading, Comprehension and Writing skills in Terms 2 and 3. All tests and assessments must be completed on or by the due date. If absent, students must supply a valid reason supported by a note from home and further evidence such as a doctor’s certificate. Consequences for submitting a task late include a loss of marks. In some cases a zero will be awarded for lateness or failure to supply a valid reason. Technology failures are not acceptable reasons for non-submission. Discussions with the teacher or Head Teacher well before assessments are due often prevents many problems from arising. Please discuss any travel plans with the Head Teacher before leaving to go on holidays. All assessments are to be submitted in hardcopy. Under no circumstances will tasks be accepted on a storage device or by email etc.

Plagiarism is not accepted. Any sources used in an assignment must be acknowledged. Students who plagiarise or cheat will receive a zero for the task and a letter home informing parents of the infringement. They will also be required to resubmit the task.

The use of the DER laptops is encouraged for the research and recording of information. Each student is responsible for charging the computer so it is ready for a days’ use and bringing it to school on the required days. A consequence will be given to students who regularly forget to bring their laptops or who forget to charge them. Teachers are aware of the importance of maintaining the skills of handwriting and will require students keep an exercise book and write in it regularly.

Interested students will be given the opportunity to participate in Debating, Public Speaking competitions as well as the Premier’s Reading Challenge, either in or out of class, as they occur throughout the year.

Student in Years 7 and 9 will sit for the NAPLAN test in May. Students in Years 7 and 9 will be given NAPLAN test practice during REAL as well as in their Key Learning Areas. Time will be devoted to NAPLAN practice for English during periods allocated by each class teacher.

Students are required to read and study at least one novel as part of their study of literature. Novels that are issued to students must be returned. If the novel is lost or damaged, a letter will be issued requiring the novel be replaced or a payment be sent for the cost of replacement. The issuing of further novels and texts may be suspended.

Homework gives students a chance to reflect independently on the material being taught in class. It allows them to extend their learning beyond the classroom. Homework is ongoing and set as either a formal or informal task by the teacher. Student who are unable to complete formal homework should supply a note explaining why homework has not been completed. Student who fail to complete formal homework tasks and who do not supply a note will receive a consequence, usually in the form of a detention or note home to parents. Informal tasks include the viewing of relevant television programs or reading a wide range of material.