24 November 2020

**YEAR 7 INDUCTION 2021**

Dear Parents and Carers

Staff have been working towards a plan for an Induction Program for the Year 7, 2021 cohort. The Executive at Albury High School feel that due to the COVID-19 disruptions and our inability to organise a full program for students this year, we will change our usual processes and trial an Induction at the start of next year.

There will be a Year 6 into 7 Orientation Day on Tuesday 1 December, 2020 at Albury High School from 9:30am to 2:30pm. This will be the first time the cohort will be able to visit the school. At present the Year 7, 2021 Induction will begin on their first day of school on Friday 29 January, 2021 with the following timeline:-

* **9:00am** - Students must be at the hall. Students will have the opportunity to meet senior executive and wellbeing staff. This is their first meeting as a year group.
* **10:00am** - Students will begin working with Year 11 students, orientating themselves further with the school and their new timetables.
* **12:00pm** - Lunch
* **12:30pm** - Students will meet with their class groups for the rest of the day. This will include a photo being taken for our Sentral system.

We are encouraging parents and carers to purchase the school sports shirt and cap as a bundle cost of $45.00. This can be done before school commences in 2021 from our school office in the closing weeks of school in 2020. The Albury High School P&C will purchase a book pack for all our incoming Year 7 students to welcome them to our school in 2021. The P&C understand that Covid-19 has been a difficult time for families and wanted students to have all the equipment to start their high school journey. This will be a one off gesture and we thank our P&C for this contribution.

**Monday 1 February – Thursday 25 February**

* Students will be placed in six classes of mixed ability for a month.
* During the first 4 weeks the emphasis will be on engaging students in their learning and building positive relationships with staff. To do this we will have a strong focus on the metalanguage and vocabulary of each subject area and the requirements for each student to be successful at high school. Our wellbeing classes and other scheduled activities will look to build strong bonds between students.
* During this period students will be involved in a number of formal and informal assessments so that we can build the best possible picture of their abilities. This information will be combined with the rich data from primary schools to allow students to be placed in classes that best meet their needs and allow our staff to tailor learning to best enable student growth.
* In Mandatory Technology lessons, students will sit the on-line BEST START assessments, this information will be used to assist in class placements. They will then study essential computing skills needed in all Mandatory Tech classes.

We believe a more structured and data informed start to the year will result in less class movements and angst that this causes during the year. We will however contact parents individually, if after time we feel students are not demonstrating growth, to discuss moving them to a class that better suits their learning.

**Friday 26 February**

* Students will take part in various team building activities as a year group. The exact nature of this day is dependent on COVID-19 restrictions which could still be in place during Term 1, 2021.

**Monday 1 March**

* Students will commence their identified ability class groups.

**CLASS PLACEMENT FROM MONDAY 1 MARCH**

* The class placement will be determined by our Faculty Head Teachers in conjunction with the Year Advisor – Mrs Elyssa May, Wellbeing Head Teacher – Mrs Carolyn Ratcliffe and Educational Support Head Teacher – Mrs Sharon Borham. Placement in classes will be via information received from local primary schools, the initial 4 week in-class induction assessments and the external BEST START data.

There are an expected 167 students starting Year 7 at Albury High School in 2021. This will mean we will have 6 main classes, one of which will be a literacy class to assist students with their learning needs. We believe with the information we will gather at the start of the year it will assist us to provide the best possible transition in a hopefully post Covid-19 environment and give students the best possible start to high school.

In 2021 our school will be introducing YONDR pouches for mobile phones, meaning students will not have access to their phones during the day without the express permission of a teacher to us them for class purposes.

We look forward to meeting your children and starting the now rescheduled Centenary celebrations in 2021.

Yours truly

MR DARRYL WARD MR DAMIAN TOOHEY

Principal Deputy Principal