



WA COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE - HARVEY

An Independent Public School

Dear Parents and Carers,

As you are probably aware, a National Day of Mourning and public holiday has been declared on Thursday the 22nd of September 2022 to commemorate the Queen's death. Yesterday I sought formal advice and direction from the Department of Education about what this means for our College and Residential facility and I have three clear messages to share:

- School and the administration building will be closed on Thursday the 22nd September. There will be no classes for students.
- Residence will remain open on Thursday the 22nd September
- Friday is a normal school day

We are treating the Thursday as we would a one-day weekend. Parents are welcome to collect their children on Wednesday afternoon from 2.25pm so that they can spend the holiday together on Thursday. These students will then return back into residence Thursday afternoon/evening or Friday morning, ready to attend school at 8.00am on Friday 23rd September.

I am conscious though, given the single public holiday and that Friday is the end of term, that it may not be viable for residential families to collect their children and then return them again for school on Friday. To support families, the Residence will remain open (like we would on a weekend) and offer activities for students to engage in. Kitchen and cleaning staff will be on site, ensuring that students are catered for.

The Farm Skills Competition that was scheduled to occur on Thursday 22nd September in Perth as a lead up to the Royal Show has been postponed by the Royal Agricultural Society. Once a new date has been confirmed this will be communicated.

The Year 12 Dinner that was scheduled for the evening of Thursday 22nd September has been shifted to the evening of Tuesday 20th September.

To accommodate the shift of the dinner and to assist the Year 12 students to complete their assessments, a change of timetable days will be implemented for week 10.

The schedule for the week is as follows:

Monday 19th September	Tuesday 20th September	Wednesday 21st September	Thursday 22nd September (Public Holiday)	Friday 23rd September
Normal timetable	Wednesday timetable	Thursday timetable operating on Friday's time structure	School and Administration Closed. Residence remains open.	Normal timetable and times

All days in week 10, except the declared public holiday, remain as normal school days and the expectation is that students will be in attendance.

"Excellence and Innovation in Agricultural Education"

I understand that this public holiday announcement may cause some stress for families as they try to manage travel arrangements. I hope keeping the residential facility open offers some support to families. I ask that REACH requests are entered as soon as possible by residential students and families to indicate your child's plans and movements during week 10. Please indicate one of the following when entering the dates for the leave and in the comments section when submitting the REACH leave:

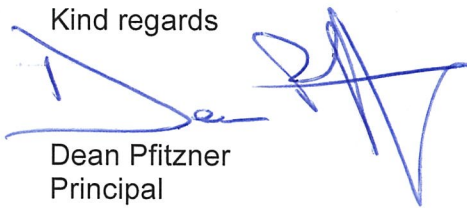
- Departing Wednesday 21st September and not returning until the beginning of Term 4.
- Departing Wednesday 21st September and returning to Residence to attend school on Friday 23rd September. (Note: An additional leave will need to be submitted to depart on the Friday afternoon at 2.25pm)
- Staying in Residence for the public holiday and departing after 2.25pm Friday 23rd September (Note: submit the leave details as per normal end of term arrangements, include in comment staying in on Thursday 22nd September).

This will assist the College greatly with determining the staffing, catering and activity planning for the students indicating they are staying in Residence on Thursday 22nd September.

Communication provided to Year 12 parents and students last Friday indicated the Year 12 students who had completed all their course work and VET qualifications were eligible to apply to leave the College as of Friday 23rd September. With the changes outlined above those students who are eligible will now be able to depart the College as of Wednesday 21st September. Parents will be notified if their child has completed all the required work and are eligible to depart the College.

Any questions please feel free to give me or the school a call.

Kind regards



Dean Pfitzner
Principal

13th September 2022