

June 27, 2018

Dear Parents and Students,

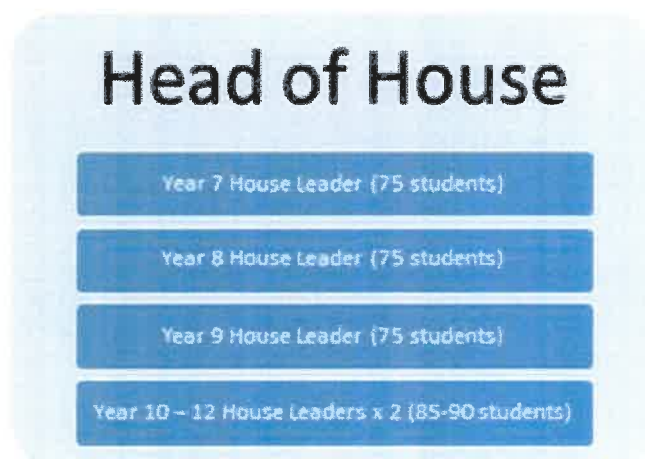
Brentwood Secondary College is an excellent school of which we are all proud members. One of the characteristics of our school is that we are continually striving to improve, achieve success and pursue both our individual and collective excellence. Over the past 12 months, the College has been engaged in a review process that has led to an investigation on how we can further improve our school so we are better able to ensure all Brentwood students have the opportunity to become successful learners, creative individuals, informed citizens and to build their overall confidence.

This has involved listening to, surveying and consulting with students, staff, parents, and experts in other schools and the education sector. In total 27 staff members across multiple teams have been leading these investigations and as a result, we are very excited to announce three key improvements that will be implemented over the coming years. These are outlined below:

What is improving?	Why does it need to improve and how it will increase student learning at Brentwood?
1. The timetable structure will change from a 6 period day to a four period day in 2019.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This will decrease learning time lost between periods with fewer transitions. Up to 5 minutes of learning time is lost between periods (i.e. Home Group & Period 1 / Period 3 and 4 / Period 5 and 6) when 1600 students are required to travel around the school. This will result in an even calmer and orderly learning environment with fewer interruptions to learning. This will allow practical tasks (i.e. Science Lab Tasks, Food Studies Lab Tasks, Physical Education Practical classes) to occur at any period and maximise the use of our specialist's spaces. Most importantly, it will enable our teachers to create richer and deeper learning tasks for students as it will allow more concentrated time for students to engage in their learning without moving classes.
2. Offering VET subjects in the VCE for Senior Students and the implementation of the Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning (VCAL) for Year 11's in 2020.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brentwood achieves outstanding VCE results with a majority of students continuing their formal education at various University institutions after Year 12. However, our students haven't had as many opportunities as other students to develop important enterprise skills (problem solving, teamwork and collaboration etc.) as part of their VCE program. Offering some VCE/VET subjects at Brentwood will provide students with the opportunity to develop these skills within a subject that contributes to their ATAR whilst also giving them an additional qualification. Further information regarding VCE/VET will be published in our school newsletter on Friday, June 29. In recent years there have been a group of students who have either exited Brentwood to enter a pathway at Tafe either studying a VCAL program or pathway to industry. For some of these students, this transition has been successful, however for others leaving Brentwood was not their preferred option and they have stayed to complete VCE or left anyway. A well designed and rigorous VCAL program at Brentwood will provide students who want to continue studying at our school and are motivated to achieve their best in a learning program that better suits their needs a better pathway option. In 2019 the school is aiming to design a VCAL program for implementation in 2020. A Brentwood VCAL program will meet the needs of a relatively small group of Brentwood students (maximum 20) and provide them with a challenging and exciting learning opportunity to better prepare them for their future pathway beyond Year 12.

3. Student Management Structure to include Houses

- Our current two sub school (Junior and Senior School) model was designed when the school was much smaller. It has become increasingly difficult to get to know students and their families as well as possible. Currently, there are 900 students in Junior School and 700 in Senior School. Each year level has 2 managers who support students, parents and teachers.
- In 2019 Brentwood will manage students through both a year level and house structure. This will mean that each student's house will become much more significant over the next 12-24 months. Students will still be managed in year levels, however, there will be one manager per house, per year level in Years 7-9 and 2 managers per house for Years 10-12. There will be four houses in total. The diagram below provides a visual representation of this for one of the four houses.



- This will provide students in each house with 1 manager for Years 7-9, a further 2 for Years 10-12 and 1 Head of House for their 6 years. This will result in House Leaders knowing their students and families better than our current model. It will also provide students with another opportunity to connect to Brentwood through a structured house system. As a result, this will further enhance the Brentwood school climate that supports students in achieving their best.
- There are a number of other opportunities that this structure will provide the school in terms of engaging students, parents and teachers in creating four new houses at Brentwood. This has the potential to greatly engage and connect our school community.

We are very excited about improving Brentwood for all students and families and we hope you are equally excited to see these improvements being implemented over the next few years. There are many steps to implementing each of these initiatives which we will report on regularly through the school newsletter. This will also include the involvement of students and parents where appropriate.

If parents would like to know more about these initiatives we will be running a brief presentation, followed by a forum on Monday, July 23 in the TLC building from 6.30 to 8.00pm. To ensure we are well prepared please RSVP to this forum on the following link: <https://www.trybooking.com/WRLX>

We look forward to sharing our progress with you over the coming months and years.

Yours sincerely

John Ballagh
Principal