



## Stage 3 Class Changes

Friday, August 11, 2016.

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

When classes resumed at the start of 2017 we had a small Year 6 cohort. There were only 10 Year 6 girls. As we did not know which high school the girls were attending at the time, we decided to keep all of the girls in the same class as to avoid isolating any of them later in the year (for example if we put 5 girls in each class and four of them went to one high school it could have been difficult for the isolated student).

Since the start of the year we have had a lot of Year 6 enrolments, mostly girls. We have also had several since the commencement of term. Mr Hughes (6H) now has 22 girls in his class. At the start of next term two more girls will be starting Year 6 at our school. We do not want to enrol them in a class without other Year 6 girls. Enrolling them in 6H though would mean that the class would have 35 students. As you are aware, we like to keep our class sizes small where possible. So, to avoid the large class getting even bigger, I have decided to form an additional class in Stage 3.

To minimise the amount of disruption to classes, the following will occur:

- Staff have been consulted regarding the pending change;
- Stage 3 parents are invited to discuss the changes, and ask questions, at a meeting being held in the Year 6 classrooms from 4.45-5.30pm next Monday, August 14.

### Year 6:

- Mr Hughes will retain all of his class (it was too difficult to select which girls were to leave his class as so many of them are new);
- All of the Year 6 boys in 5/6K will join their Year 6 peers in 6H;
- All Year 6 students will be team-taught by Mr Adam Hughes and Miss Tammy Pauline;
- Year 6 students will be taught in the current 6H and 5/6K classrooms with the doors open.

### Year 5:

- The Year 5 girls in Mrs Lisa Kellaway's class (17) will remain with Mrs Kellaway;
- With Mrs Anna Charlton's class (5C) increasing in size of late also (due to new enrolments), 7 boys from 5C will move into Mrs Kellaway's class;
- Mrs Kellaway's class (5K) will be taught from the library and library classes will be taught from the neighbouring Technology Room;
- Parents of the 7 5C boys who are selected to move, have been contacted directly today.

To support students in transitioning to the new arrangement, a Stage 3 meeting has been held today outlining the changes. The 5C boys have been spoken to individually after their parents were consulted. Mr Hughes and Miss Pauline will be having some planning time to program collaboratively and ensure a successful transition. In addition, Mrs Charlton and Mrs Kellaway will share assessment information to support the smooth transition for the students changing class teachers.

We will be making the change from Monday August 21, Week 6 (Monday week). The sooner we make the change, the more 1:1 and small group support the students will be able to get within their smaller classes. In addition, the early change will also support students settling in to their new class and teachers assessing and supporting students in preparation for the Semester 2 reporting period.

We are very lucky to have Miss Pauline team teaching with Mr Hughes. She has been working full time at our school for almost a term, and has taken many classes as a casual teacher prior to that. She is very excited to be teaching Year 6 and both Miss Pauline and Mr Hughes are looking forward to working together. They are excited about having the additional staff support across Year 3.

I would like to thank the staff I have been working with to make the change, and the parents who have been consulted so far, for their understanding and support. It is difficult making change at any time. Working together we can ensure the change is well supported to ensure a smooth transition and that all students are best supported in their learning. Having smaller classes and more staff support will be a great asset to these students before they commence high school.

If you have any questions about the above changes, and cannot attend Monday evening's information meeting, please contact the school Administration Office on (02) 64951266 to arrange a time to meet/talk with me.

Regards,



Michelle Hulme  
Principal