



3rd June 2020

Dear Parents, Guardians and Secondary Students,

Re: Homeroom allocations for the next school year

As the end of the school year approaches we are already beginning to think about the next school year. One of our most important and sensitive tasks is deciding how to group students in homerooms so that students are placed in groups with other people they are comfortable with, but also get the opportunity to form new friendships. Our approach, similar to previous years, is to regroup students at the beginning of each academic year (with the exception of Year 12 going into Year 13), taking into account students' wishes as well as teachers' professional judgement.

Students have been sent a form in which to indicate three or four people whom they would like to be placed in the same homeroom with next year. The order of the choices does not matter. We will try our best to put every student with at least one of their choices but cannot guarantee this as there are sometimes factors outside our control (eg. when a student withdraws from the school over the summer holiday).

Before the summer holiday, the main teachers of each year level will meet to group students for the new academic year. They will take into account students' indicated choices, the need for a balance of gender, nationalities and learning profiles, and their judgement of how to best group students to ensure good dynamics within each homeroom. Parents and students will learn which homeroom they are placed in when they receive timetables shortly before the new school year starts.

Sometimes students are taken out of their comfort zone when they learn that they have been placed with a new group of people. We believe this is natural and an important part of building resilience and learning to form new relationships. The first few days of the new school year will include team activities that will help students overcome any discomfort and feel part of their new homeroom. We would appreciate your trust in this process and ask that you refrain from requesting any changes to homeroom allocations. In our observation, what sometimes is seen as a crisis to students (when they don't get their homeroom choice) on the first day of school is a non issue by day three.

Sincerely,

Daniel Costich

Assistant Head of Secondary