



ERINA HIGH SCHOOL
A caring community committed to excellence in education

Year 7 2018
Focus on Teaching and Learning
Information Package

Dear Parents/carers,

Erina High School is committed to providing the very best educational outcomes for your children in Year 7 2018 that caters for the broad range of 21st century learners. We aim to do this using a multi-faceted approach to teaching and learning that is designed to suit individual student learning needs. All Year 7 students will be exposed to a learning platform called erina-Technology enrichment classroom (eTec) using school computers and laptops. Educational research has shown that using technology in the classroom improves student academic performance, literacy skills, retention and engagement. Technology is an integral part of day to day life; work and leisure.

All students will have access to cloud (Web based) applications to complete work, collaborate with teachers, parents and peers and submit assessments. This unique learning platform will be incorporated into 5 curriculum areas; English, Science, HSIE, PE and Computers.

Class Structure Year 7 2018

In 2018 Erina High School will operate an "A" stream class, Mixed Ability classes one will be designated an e Tec class and a Learning Opportunities class. All classes follow the same curriculum which is differentiated to meet individual learning needs. The "A" stream class works more quickly through course material and explores topics in greater depth. This class is through an application process that requires students, parents and class teachers to nominate and support the application. Students are required to provide some work samples verified by their class teacher as well as sit for a Literacy and Numeracy test at Erina High School during term 2 2017. The application form is included in this information package.

A year 7 eTec class will be formed based on an expression of interest and application process for students with an aptitude for this type of learning. Students in this class will use a Chromebook running Chrome OS for approximately \$380.00 that families are expected to purchase. This class will have greater exposure to eTec with utilising this technology across most subject areas. The application form for the eTec class is provided in this information package.

Students in the Mixed Ability classes meet course outcomes following the Stage 4 curriculum, but may spend more time as needed, focused on particular areas that require further development particularly in Literacy and Numeracy. The formation of these classes is in consultation with Year 6 teachers and all aspects of learning, application and social factors are considered.

Students in the Learning Opportunities class are provided with explicit teaching and learning activities to improve their levels of literacy and numeracy that, in turn, support the learning in all other curriculum areas. This class is a smaller highly structured class of up to 16 students. The number of teachers on the class has been reduced with one teacher delivering Maths, Science and PDHPE and one teacher delivering English, History and Geography. All other courses are delivered by specialist teachers as normal. This allows for greater teacher relationships to be fostered with individual student learning plans developed. Additional support staff and specialist learning teachers will be allocated to the class at varying times to provide further assistance. Parents can nominate an expression of interest for this class which is included in this information package.

At the conclusion of the Semester 1 Assessment and Reporting cycle all class placements are reviewed to ensure each student is appropriately placed to challenge and support their learning. This will mean that some students may be moved from a mixed ability class to the "A" stream class and some students in the "A" stream class could be moved to a mixed ability class. Additional students not previously identified with specific learning needs may be moved into the Learning Opportunities class or students in the Learning Opportunities class may move into a mixed ability class. All class placement changes are discussed with parents and students. The eTEC class will be formed at this stage of the year.

Ensuring students are allocated to the right class, according to their learning and social needs, is critical to their success in secondary schooling. A great deal of planning and negotiation with Year 6 teachers occurs to determine class placements at Erina High School. For further information on teaching and learning or class structure for year 7 2018 please contact me at Erina High School on 43677246 if I can be of any further assistance.

Yours Sincerely

Karen Nicol
Principal
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