Dorrigo High School

Senior Commitment
2013/14
Message to the HSC student

Welcome to the Senior School

Congratulations on starting or continuing your HSC studies. The next year is going to be exciting and rewarding. By now you will realise that you will need to make some sort of commitment if you want to get your best HSC in the next 12 months.

This booklet outlines information about what this commitment involves. It contains general information from the Board of Studies and the Department of Education and specific information applying to senior students at Dorrigo High School.

Make sure that you read and understand what is written here. You will need to sign and return the commitment at the end of this booklet to verify to the school that you understand and accept what is required.

Message to HSC Parents/Carers

Congratulations. Your child is now in the commencing or graduating HSC year. We hope that together with you we can help your child maximise their HSC experience. This booklet is designed to point out clearly what is the level of student commitment needed to gain a good HSC result. While we recognise that a good HSC requires a commitment from parents and teachers as well, this booklet focuses on the student.

The Senior Commitment is not a list of rules for a senior student, but a guide to what they can expect in the next year. It is designed to help students understand what the school expects from them.

We encourage you to discuss and clarify with your son/daughter their commitment to school in order to support them through the next year.

We ask that you co-sign their commitment at the end of this document as an indicator that they have your support in what they are about to undertake.

M Bleakeley
Principal
November 2013
Board of Studies Requirements

English is the only compulsory HSC subject and your English mark must count towards your ATAR (if you aim to get one).

To be eligible for the award of the HSC, you must satisfactorily complete at least 12 units of Preliminary and 10 units of HSC courses over the two years of your senior studies.

As a minimum you must study:
- at least six units of Board developed courses
- two units of English
- at least three courses of two unit value or greater

Commitment
It is your responsibility to ensure you are meeting the pattern of study requirements at all times. You cannot change or drop a subject without permission in writing from the school and your parents.

ATAR requirements

To get an ATAR you must:

1. Check on your HSC entry form (managed by Mr Mayo in Term 1) that you are eligible for a ATAR
2. Study at least 10 units of UAI courses, which includes English and not more than one Category B course
3. Meet all of the BOS requirements shown above.

Commitment
It is your responsibility to ensure you are studying ten units of the correct subjects to gain an ATAR. When Mr Mayo gives you an enrolment confirmation sheet from the Board of Studies, it is your responsibility to check and verify that you are correctly enrolled for the HSC and an ATAR (if needed). You must notify Mr Mayo if you change your address or any personal details during this year.
Satisfactory Completion of a Course

To receive a result in a course which will count towards an HSC and/or an ATAR, you must satisfactorily complete that course.

Satisfactory completion of a course involves:

1. **Following the course set by the Board** – this means you must attend classes, do the work set by the teacher, study the topics contained in the syllabus, hand in the work required including assessment and non-assessment tasks etc.

2. **Applying yourself with diligence and sustained effort** – this means that you must work consistently and demonstrate to your teacher that you have made sufficient effort throughout the course.

3. **Achieving some or all of the course outcomes** – this means actually doing the work, handing in the assignments and class work and being able to show that you have learnt something about the subject by achieving good marks.

**N Award warnings**

The Principal will give you and your parents/carers written warnings in sufficient time to allow you to correct any problems regarding your achievement, application or completion of courses – the three criteria above. If you receive an N award letter you must complete the tasks as detailed in the letter.

If you receive two ‘N Award’ warnings in any particular course and you do not complete the tasks it may result in an N determination, which means you have not completed that course and cannot count it towards your HSC or ATAR.

**Commitment**

You need to be prepared to satisfactorily complete all your courses by achieving all three indicators above in every subject. If you are not committed to this you may not receive your HSC. The key issues in this section are attendance and effort.
HSC Assessment Tasks
A separate booklet has been issued to you called the Dorrigo HS Senior Studies Assessment Policy 2014. This booklet outlines the school and Board of Studies policies regarding HSC assessment tasks. You must ensure you have a copy of this booklet.

Satisfactory completion of a course can be demonstrated by handing in all assessment tasks. Assessment task marks contribute towards your school mark which is submitted for the HSC. If you fail to hand in assessment tasks, you will receive an N warning and you will be given a zero mark for that task.

The procedures for absence from assessment tasks and late submission of assessment tasks are fully outlined in the Dorrigo HS Senior Studies Assessment Policy 2014.

All the work you submit for assessment tasks must be your own. Please read carefully the sections in the Assessment Policy booklet on plagiarism and malpractice.

Commitment
You need to do the best you can in all assessment tasks to give yourself the best possible chance at a good final HSC mark. Your commitment is to complete all tasks to the best of your ability and to hand in all assessment tasks on time. You must submit your own work.

Effective use of study periods
Study periods must be spent in the Library or an allocated study room. You are extremely fortunate to have such a great facility at your disposal. Study periods must not be spent in the quad or playground. Study periods provide a great opportunity to complete homework, revision and to engage in study for tests and assessments. You always have something to do even if you do not have assessment tasks due.

Commitment
All senior students have the responsibility to ensure they use study periods effectively and need to make a commitment that they won’t waste this valuable time.
Homework, study and work
It is our expectation that all senior students will complete regular nightly homework, revision and study. Research has shown that students who revise their work and prepare for the next lesson at home are far more effective and cope much more easily with the stresses of the HSC.

School should be your number one priority. One way that you will demonstrate this is by how much work you do at home and how often you do it. An average of twenty hours homework and study per week is a good guide.

Part time work commitments and sporting activities should be kept in balance. Using your study periods at school efficiently can assist you to manage your work and sporting commitments. Many of our students who work are able to have time off when exams or assignments are due at school.

Commitment
You need to make a commitment that school will be your top priority during the HSC year. This will include a period each night for homework, revision, summary writing, assessment tasks, class assignments and study. Work commitments should be balanced with school and sporting commitments.

Completion of tasks that do not count for HSC Assessment
Work done in class may not be related to an assessment task. Students are reminded that class work and assignments that are not HSC assessment tasks need to be completed. All class work and tasks are important because they relate to the syllabus and to your full understanding of the course. As always, work set by teachers can and will be used by examiners in the final HSC exams.

Commitment
It is your responsibility to complete all class work, assignments, revision and research in addition to HSC assessment tasks.
**School Uniform**
Senior students are expected to wear full school uniform as is every other student in the school.

**Commitment**
All students at Dorrigo High School, including senior students, need to be prepared to wear school uniform to school every day and on official school excursions and sporting visits.

**Driving**
All students who drive need to take care and be responsible when driving. No school or family wants to see any injuries to their students. You are often driving at the busiest times of the day when there are buses and small children about.

**If you wish to drive to school** at any time during the year, you must return the permission note at the end of this booklet to the front office, signed by your parent or carer.

**If you wish to travel as a passenger in a car driven by another student to and from school** at any time during the year, you must also return the appropriate permission slip at the end of this booklet to the front office. Passengers have just as much responsibility as the driver to ensure safety on the roads. Under no circumstances are drivers to take other students with them unless they have permission to do so. Only senior students with parental permission are allowed to travel in student cars.

**Commitment**
If you wish to drive or travel in a car driven by another student, you must return the permission slips at the end of this booklet. Please take care when driving to and from school. You must not have younger students in the car under any circumstances.
Seeking help

Your performance in the HSC is your responsibility. However, you are not expected to make it without support and assistance from others. Asking for help is important and crucial to your success. This applies equally to both curriculum and welfare issues. The school will always try to meet your individual needs as long as you communicate with us. At Dorrigo HS we care for and look after each other. The following people are always available to you:

Your Parents
Your Friends
Year Advisor
Careers Advisor
School Counsellor
Deputy and Principal

For online assistance you may use:

BOS advice line - www.boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au/
HSC online - hsc.csu.edu.au/

Commitment

Students at Dorrigo High School will support each other and seek help when problems arise.
Commitment by the Student:
I am prepared to make the necessary commitment to the HSC in 2014 as outlined in the Senior Commitment document in relation to:

- Board of Studies requirements
- UAI requirements
- Requirements for the satisfactory completion of a course
- HSC assessment tasks
- Effective use of study periods
- Homework, study and work commitments
- Completion of non-assessment tasks

I am prepared to accept the responsibility of a senior student and to follow the school rules regarding:

- School uniform
- Driving
- Seeking Help

Name (printed please): ______________________________
Signed: ______________________________________ Date: ___________________

Parent/Carer Acknowledgement:
I have read, understand and accept the school rules for senior students regarding:

- School uniform
- Driving
- Seeking Help

Name (printed please): _____________________________
Signed: _____________________________________ Date: ____________________
Permission to Drive to and from School

Driver’s Permission Note

I, ____________________________________ phone number: __________________
(Parents Name)
give permission for my child ___________________________________ to
(Student’s Name)
drive to and from school.

☐ My child is allowed to carry only the student/s listed below as a passenger to/from
school:
1.___________________________________
2.___________________________________
3.___________________________________
4.___________________________________

Or

☐ My child is allowed to carry any student passenger to and from school

Car / bike registration number(s): _________________________________________

Parent’s Signature: _________________________________ Date: ______________

I, the student identified above, agree to take all due care and follow all rules regarding
driving to/from school.

Student’s Signature: ________________________________ Date: ______________

Note: The number of passengers is determined by the number of seat belts fitted in the
vehicle as per NSW legalisation.
Permission to travel as a passenger to/from school

Passenger’s Permission Note

I, ________________________________ phone number: ____________________
(Parents Name)

give permission for my child ________________________________ to
(Student’s Name)
travel to and from school as a passenger in another student’s car.

☐ My child is allowed to travel to and from school as a passenger in the following student/s car:

_________________________________

_________________________________

_________________________________

Or

☐ My child is allowed to travel to and from school as a passenger in any student’s car.

Parent’s Signature: ________________________________ Date: ______________

I, the student identified above, agree to take all due care and follow all rules regarding driving to/from school.

Student’s Signature: ________________________________ Date: ______________
Our Core Values are:

Respect, Be Safe, Personal Best

We Value:

• learning and growing
• being in a team – parents, students, staff, community
• achievement in academic, cultural and sporting pursuits
• developing responsibility and mutual respect
  • feeling safe at school
• our environment at school and in the community.