

YEAR 7 TO HIGH SCHOOL IN 2022



Parent Update

Week 8, Term 4 – 2021

Countdown to high school in 2022

This Parent Update looks how you can support your child on the first day of high school and beyond, to help them settle in.

The tips are drawn from our pilot program and resources from our public school counterparts interstate.

School drop off and pick up

Every family needs to make decisions about school drop off and pick up that are right for their child. Most choose not to walk their child into the classroom on their first day.

High schools are more independent environments, and we know that year 7s are well and truly ready for them.

To do:

- ☐ Make sure your child knows where to assemble on the first morning of term 1.
- ☐ If possible, encourage them to arrange to meet a friend at a certain time and place in the school yard on their first morning.
- ☐ If you do intend to enter the school grounds, check and adhere to any COVID restrictions that may be in place.
- ☐ If you are driving, be mindful of speed and parking restrictions around the school and be prepared for large numbers of pedestrians.
- ☐ Pre-plan where you might park or drop your child off on that busy first morning.

Recess and lunch

Many of our high schools have canteens and lunch order options. Even if you don't usually do so, preparing a packed recess and lunch for your child might just give them one less thing to think about on those first few days.

To do:

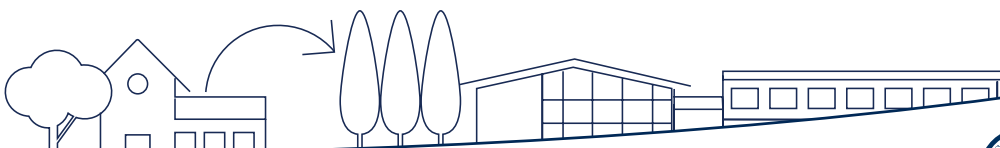
- ☐ If possible, consider preparing a packed recess and lunch for your child for their first week of school.
- ☐ You might like to invite your child to pack their own school lunch, encouraging their independence and self-management skills.

Extra-curricular opportunities

One of the great things about high school is the opportunities it offers for extra-curricular learning through sports, special projects, music groups and clubs.

To do:

- ☐ Talk to your child about activities and sports on offer and encourage them to get involved.
- ☐ Remind them that joining clubs and groups is a great way to meet like-minded people and make friends.



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Focus on wellbeing

Your child's wellbeing is just as important in high school as it is in primary school. The good news is that students from our pilot program largely felt settled and had made new friends by the end of term 1. But expect the first few weeks of high school to be a time of adjustment for you and your child.

To do:

- ☐ Remind your child that settling in and making friends takes time.
- ☐ Explain that it is normal to feel bit nervous and excited when starting high school, and these nerves may last beyond day 1.
- ☐ Ask the school who you should contact if you want to discuss your child's learning or social and emotional needs.
- ☐ Consider helping your child to work out a weekly timetable that includes study, extra-curricular activities, time with friends and time to relax.
- ☐ Talk to your them about their sleep needs – they may be extra tired in the first few weeks of school.

Get involved in your school community

High school students may be more independent, but our schools still need family volunteers.

To do:

- ☐ Consider nominating for the school's Governing Council or get involved with working bees – ask your school where you can volunteer.
- ☐ Ask your school if they will be using any apps, such as Daymap or SkoolBag, to communicate with parents. Download the apps or talk to the school if you will have difficulty accessing them.

Common questions

Every high school manages its daily routines individually. Your school will let you know what to expect but if in doubt you or your child can ask their teachers or front office staff about the following:

- Time the school day starts and ends.
- When lunch and recess breaks are held.
- Whether or not there are facilities to store bikes and helmets.
- What do if your child needs to leave school early.
- What to do if your child is absent or late.
- What to do if your child feels unwell at school.
- Whether or not your child can bring a mobile phone into class.
- Where to store their mobile phone if they are not allowed to bring it to class.

Where to find out more

Stay informed through your school and the Department for Education's website:
www.education.sa.gov.au/7toHS.

Or share your feedback with the project team by emailing: Year7toHS@sa.gov.au.

