

Dear Parents/Carers

EXPLAINING HOW STANDING TALLER CAME ABOUT AND HOW IT WORKS

TLSC Tumby Umbi Campus continues to strengthen our partnership between students, parents/carers and staff to support our great students to be the best they can be by increasing their independence in learning and continuing to lift their achievement.

We have worked with students, parents/carers and staff to complete a full review of

- Subjects we offer for study
- Number of electives we offer in Years 9 and 10
- How we report students learning in all years
- How we can best support students to develop strong personal values across all years

As a result of the review we have already

- Increased the types of subjects we offer in Years 9 and 10
- Introduced a third elective in Year 9 – one an aspirational subject and the other two interest subjects. This will continue into Year 10
- Strengthened study pathways for our students in Years 9 and 10

These changes have the potential to increase parent/carer involvement in deciding the best way for their child to complete their middle years education, ready for the senior years. We will continue to make changes in this area as teachers prepare and teach the NSW version of the Australian Curriculum in 2014.

As a result of all this work we have

- Decided to make small changes to the look of our formal reports distributed in Term 2 and Term 4. That report will not include a pupil profile because you will be regularly updated on those areas covered in the pupil profile. Reports will inform parents/carers about their child's learning achievement in each subject area. Comments will not refer to behaviour or attendance.
- Decided to remove the pupil profile on our formal reports and replace it with regular feedback mailed to parents twice each term. Why? The pupil profile on the formal reports does not give enough information to parents and students about how students can become better learners. Students need to know what they need to do to improve.

Our work with parents/carers, students and staff has also shown very strong support for our campus motto of *Standing Tall* and our values of *Respect, Responsibility, Integrity, Fairness*. We can see an opportunity to further lift students' achievement and continue to strengthen those values by increasing the amount of formal feedback parents/carers and students receive.

The decision has been made that any increase in feedback to parents/carers will be based on clear, published expectations scored on a scale of 1 to 10 (top score). The program would be called Standing Taller because it would be based on our campus motto - *Standing Tall* and our values of *Respect, Responsibility, Integrity, Fairness*.

Standing Taller will give feedback letting parents/carers know how independent their child is in accepting *Responsibility* for achieving personal best in every subject and roll call in the following skills and habits essential for success in further study and employment

- Having an excellent attendance record (*Respect and Responsibility*)
- Explaining absences promptly (*Respect and Responsibility*)
- Proudly wearing full campus uniform (*Respect and Responsibility*)
- Being punctual to school every day – arriving before 7.50am ready for learning to start at 8.00am and to every class (*Respect*)
- Being prepared to learn with all equipment (*Responsibility*)
- Completing classwork to personal best (*Integrity*)
- Working with other students to support every student's achievement (*Integrity and Fairness*)
- Having respectful relationships with peers and staff (*Respect, Responsibility, Integrity, Fairness*)

Students will receive a score from 1 to 10 (being the top score) on how independent they are against the set of descriptions for the classroom and roll call. These descriptions are printed on the back of every Standing Taller letter sent to parents/carers twice every term.

I commend this program to you. It is the result of our already strong partnership and the sound thinking of parents/carers, students and staff. Please contact the campus on 43856802 or via email ADDRESS if you require further information about Standing Taller. Your first Standing Taller letter is attached. Thank you for taking the time to share the feedback with your child and discuss what he or she can and will do to show improvement in the next round of Standing Taller.

Yours sincerely

Shayne Player