



### COMMUNITY CONSULTATION CONCERNS

Initial response to common concerns arising from our decision to have students finish at 1:20pm on a Wednesday afternoon, beginning in 2023.

#### **How will students make their way home in the absence of school busses and parent availability at the early finish time?**

As mentioned, our school buses are unable to change their departure times on a Wednesday afternoon. For students who do not walk or ride, council busses run regularly throughout the day, which service many of our student's home areas. **Pacific Pines is also part of the 'On Demand' bus trial** which can be booked in advance. More information can be [found here](#).

If students are unable to access transport or find a safe way home, OR if parents prefer, students can stay at school during this time and be supervised by staff until 2:45pm when they will be able to resume their usual afternoon routine. Students who are staying at school must attend the allocated supervision room, they are not to be roaming the grounds or playing on the oval. A roll marking system will be put in place so that parents are notified if their student has not attended this supervised room when they are expected to.

#### **Are there measures ensuring students don't wander the streets and disrupt local business?**

Students who will be staying at school are expected to stay at school the entire time. They are not permitted to leave school for the lunch period and then return for Period 5, as per our normal school policy. Students who are going home instead will be allowed a "buffer" period to wait for busses or other modes of transport. After this time, we will have members of our Staff Leadership Team on hand in the community to move students on and ensure they will be finding a way home. Any students who indicate they are not intending to go home after 1:50pm will be directed back to school to be supervised until the normal finish time of 2:45pm. Students are not permitted to be loitering in the community during this Period 5 time. Any negative behaviour, disrespect, or disruption to local business will not be tolerated and will be dealt with in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct.

#### **What will students who remain at school be doing and how will we know if our student is there?**

Students remaining at school will be supervised by members of staff until 2:45pm. It will be an expectation that students attending bring appropriate work to engage in, and keep busy during this time. Students who remain at school are expected to be engaged in some form of educational work. This could be catching up on classroom work, homework, assessment items, study or revising notes for exams, continuing an art project (that isn't too messy), or reading (either a school novel or personal one). **Video games, or gaming of any nature, will not be permitted.**

### **Aren't students at home just going to use this time to play video games and not school work?**

The benefit of this regained time is that it does not need to be restricted to learning. Students who go home are free to use this time for study, work, sports, music, family time, medical appointments or to obtain greater school/life balance. It is down to the discretion of families to decide how their student spends this time.

### **With so much learning time lost over the past two years, is this really a great time to roll this out?**

With this lost learning time has also come higher levels of anxiety in students, lost sport time, lost time at part time jobs and greater pressure on students to adapt to an ever-changing environment. The timeslot being utilised was not a scheduled curriculum lesson, so they will not be missing out on additional curriculum learning time. By implementing this model, we are able to support student wellbeing by giving them the opportunity to use this time for school/life balance. This time does not need to be restricted to learning. Students are free to use this time for study, certificate work, additional hours at a part time job/traineeship/apprenticeship, sports training or gym sessions, music/dance/drama lessons or rehearsals, family time, medical appointments, or just to obtain greater school/life balance.

### **Professional Development should be done in your own time and no disrupt student learning. How is this benefitting the students?**

The majority of Professional Development for teachers is completed in their own time. This timeslot is being utilised to discuss student learning strategies, analyse student data, and formulate best practice around individualised instruction for each specific student in each class. Staff will utilise this time to collaborative examine individual student strengths and areas for improvement, develop strategies to improve student success and increase student engagement. Previously this lesson was our 'Pathways' lesson, not a scheduled curriculum lesson, and this time would often be used for assemblies, guest speakers, or for students to work on developing career goals. Whilst we continue to hold this work as a priority, these sessions have been, traditionally, under attended with ongoing high absenteeism. By implementing this model, we are able to further support students' wellbeing by giving them the opportunity to use this time for school/life balance. Some students will see this time as a better career building opportunity picking up additional work experience or working on their apprenticeships/traineeships. Others may use this time for further study in their chosen areas of interest. We will also be reworking our 'Homebase' lessons to add in additional career information sessions to ensure students are not missing out entirely on this information normally given during the 'Pathways' lessons.

We understand this structure may seem strange to families; however, I can assure all families that this arrangement is run very successful in many schools not only on the Gold Coast, but throughout Queensland. In some instances, this model has already been running for 5 or more years without issue. We will be providing more information about this early in the new year with additional information about letting us know if your student will be staying at school during this time, as well as the additional opportunities we will be providing, such as tutorials, intervention or guest speakers.

