

2019

PRAHRAN HIGH SCHOOL

PHS NEWS #2

Meeting People – Making Progress

As I write this update for our fledgling Prahran High School community, I'm reflecting on the positive energy evident at our two major community forums, held this past week. Last Tuesday and Thursday evenings, I was privileged to have the opportunity to begin to outline my vision for our new school to the community.

It was fantastic to meet so many interested children and families at the events, hosted by St Kilda Primary School. Across both nights, we welcomed about 400 people and the feedback I've received so far has been overwhelmingly positive. Thank you to those families who joined us.

The forums allowed me to make a presentation about my experiences, core beliefs and plans for the school. We also provided a chance for the architects - Gray Puksand, to share their vision for the building. I greatly appreciated Stephen and David being with us.

Most importantly I then led a significant 'town hall' style question and answer session. The questions were rigorous and helpful for me to further clarify my thinking and planning as we progress. I was especially pleased that so many children were brave enough to ask questions on the roving microphones, in such a big room of people.

Today, I've also attached a 'Q and A Edition 2' document with this newsletter. As I did last time, I've compiled some of the key questions that have been asked of me and provided some further detail. We kept a record of questions asked at the Forums and the attached 'Q and A' flows directly from these evenings together.

My sincere thanks to Sue Higgins and the St Kilda PS community for hosting the Forums in the school hall. The venue was perfect and I'm grateful for Sue and members of her team being there with us until pack-up both nights at 9pm. Thank you.

Since I last wrote, I've spent considerable time in our primary schools, talking to children and families. I've also met parents, school councillors and other key stakeholders around the community as we build the relationships that are so important to the new school. I've valued the contact with people very much and have found the questions and conversations to be helpful, productive and enjoyable. The warmth of the primary schools and families has been genuine and greatly appreciated.

Particular highlights have been mini forums I've had at South Yarra, Armadale and Ripponlea Primary Schools (with more planned this week) and a fantastic, fast-paced question time with the Grade 6 class at Windsor PS. All of these consultative discussions are helping shape the new Prahran High School.



Draft Curriculum Outline – Year 7, 2019

At the official forums, I began to outline how the curriculum will be planned for our first Year 7 students in 2019. This is still in draft form and there is more to be done to flesh this out much, much more, however I wanted to share my early thinking with you.

Year 7 2019: Overarching Thematic Value - Curiosity and Connections

Our Year 7 program is designed to foster an enthusiastic sense of curiosity in students. We aim to support our young leaders to make learning, social and civic connections. Students will have agency in their learning and they will have significant opportunity for collaboration.

Prahran High School Subjects	Time Allocation	The Victorian Curriculum
English	3 sessions	English
Mathematics	3 sessions	Mathematics - <i>Critical and Creative Thinking</i>
The Ethical Scientist	2 sessions	Science - <i>Ethical</i>
The Humanities: Past, Present and Future	2 sessions	Humanities - <i>Intercultural</i>
Language (tbc)	2 sessions	Languages
Heathy Mind and Body	3 sessions	HAPE - <i>Personal and Social Learning</i>
The Arts - Drama/Music/Visual Art	3 sessions	The Arts
Design Lab	2 sessions	Design and Tehnnology Digital Technologies - <i>Critical and Creative Thinking</i>

NB: This draft outline is tentatively planned around 4 x 75 minute sessions each day.

It's important to remember that we are a Victorian State Government High School and as such we are responsible for teaching the Victorian Curriculum. How we plan and teach the curriculum is up to us, but there are key accountabilities which we need to meet, and we will. The above subjects flow from the Victorian Curriculum and are in their development phase. You will see that we're planning for an explicit, meaningful embrace of the Capabilities, as well as the more traditional content Discipline areas.

You will also see in the draft outline that we will teach a Language at Prahran High School. We are and while I've not yet arrived

at the final decision, I've narrowed the choice. I plan to send a simple survey very soon to the community to seek some feedback about language learning preference for your child. Once I gather some more input we'll arrive at the decision and we'll add this important detail to the curriculum outline in the next newsletter.

This is the curriculum – the 'what' we teach. Much work is currently being also undertaken to develop our approach to our instructional practice. This will be the Prahran High School Learning and Teaching Framework – the 'how' we teach. Watch this space.

Year 6-7 Transition Leading to Enrolment 2019

As you're reading this PHS News and you're a parent of a Grade 6 child, you'll be well aware that the transition process is racing toward its first key date – Friday. Once you decide which school you wish your child to attend for Year 7, an Application for Year 7 Placement form should be completed and returned to your child's Grade 6 teacher. The preferences are important and if Prahran High School is your preferred school, please do list us as your first preference.

Making Progress on High Street

Along with the community consultation, development of curriculum and our school colours and brand, the builders have been making very steady (in fact, quite fast) progress on the construction of Prahran High School. As you walk past, the sheer scale of the building is becoming more and more evident. Along with the concrete, which has all been poured, there are internal developments too, which are harder to see, but I hope this photo helps you visualise what's happening on the inside. This image features the huge steel structures which form the stairs and seating bleachers between the floors and surrounding the central atrium.



[CLICK HERE](http://www.schoolbuildings.vic.gov.au/Pages/Schools/Prahran-High.aspx) to visit
[www.schoolbuildings.vic.gov.au/Pages/
Schools/Prahran-High.aspx](http://www.schoolbuildings.vic.gov.au/Pages/Schools/Prahran-High.aspx)

**These forms are due back
in to primary schools by
Friday 11th May**

Keeping in Touch

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pahranhighschoolnews@gmail.com

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Official Facebook Page

As we're developing our school together, this page becomes our school website and will be regularly updated with our progress and exciting milestones. Please like our page and join the journey toward Year 7 2019.

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