Information for Parents

27 January 2015

Dear Parents

Welcome to Year Five at Scone Grammar School! We are very excited about working alongside your child in the year ahead. Please find some important information below, which we hope will help you and your child begin to get acquainted with his or her new class.

Classroom Names for 2016

This year all our Primary classrooms have been named after ‘Leaders who have changed their world’. Year Five Blue has accordingly selected ‘Princess Di’ and Year 5 Gold has selected ‘Theodor Geisel, also known as Dr Seuss’. A number of learning activities throughout the year will especially focus on these themes and their special features as we explore and learn about our world.

Teaching and Learning in 2016

While we will be responsible for the teaching of English, Mathematics, History and Geography, Science and Technology (S&T), Personal Development and Health and Creative and Performing Arts (CAPA), the following teachers will also contribute to your child's learning experiences at school:

- Music - Mrs Tori Saunders
- Library - Ms Louise Broomfield
- French - Miss Anne Davies
- Christian Studies - Mrs Amanda Berry
- Physical Education (PE) - Miss Jessica Day and Mr Tim Holden

Please note that Sport is on Tuesdays each week. In addition, PE is on Wednesdays every week for 5Blue. In 5Gold, PE is on Wednesday in Week 1, and on Friday in Week 2. Students should wear their PE uniform for Sport every Tuesday, as well as on their PE days.

A copy of the student timetable for your child's class will be pasted into his or her diary.

Alongside the formal aspects of our curriculum in Year Five, there will be additional focuses this year on self-reflection and peer evaluation; on further developing the ability to work independently and in group situations; and on developing leadership skills and values in preparation for Year Six in 2017.

Class rules, rewards and consequences will be discussed during Week One so that all children are clear about what to expect from their class environment. As part of this, we will be working with your child to set some personal goals for the 2016 academic year. Again we would appreciate your assistance in discussing these with your child during the first week of term.

Covering and Presentation of Books and Protection of Student iPads

Pride in presentation of all work will be an integral part of Year Five, whether in a paper-based or digital format.
Exercise books should be clearly labelled with your child's name, class and the relevant subject printed clearly in the top right hand corner. Books need to be covered in contact (coloured / patterned or clear) or clear plastic, as these will wear better in your child's bag and desk over the course of the year.

We would be grateful if books could be covered by Monday of Week Three, this term. Thank you for your assistance in what we appreciate is a big job!

Your child’s iPad should be brought to and from School in a sturdy protective covering. It is a firm expectation that the iPad will be placed in the classroom at the commencement of each School day, where it should remain throughout the day unless being used for a learning activity or under explicit direction from a teacher. iPads will then be allowed to be taken home in students’ bags at the end of the School day, remaining inside their bags until they have returned home for the afternoon.

Please note that students will **not** be given permission to have recreational use of their iPads outside their own classroom during Recess or Lunchtimes.

**Student Diaries**

The School Diary is an integral part of the vital communication link between home and school. The children will be expected to bring it to school each day. It would be appreciated if you would sign the diary daily. We encourage you to use the diary as an active tool for communication with us as we work alongside you and your child this year.

Another important form of communication this year will be via email. Please ensure that our email details are up-to-date on the school system.

**Homework**

Homework in Year Five this year will include a range of regular English and Mathematics activities, as well as some research and project work during the year. Homework tasks will be clearly outlined in the front of their homework book and posted in digital format on Edmodo.

Homework will commence in Week Two of Term One and will be set on a weekly basis. Maths Mentals Homework will also be done through the online maths programme, Mathletics. Your child’s Mathletics username and password will be distributed in the near future.

We’d like to ask that you encourage your child’s homework routine and participate with them by having them read for about 20 minutes each evening; regular reading at home will be part of the weekly homework in 2016. We appreciate that many children are already doing this.

**Student School email Accounts and online passwords**

Students in all year groups at Scone Grammar School have a student email address and will be set up with an appropriate password in the first week of Term One.

In Year Five, we will be using the Edmodo learning network. In addition, all Primary students this year will continue to have a subscription to Mathletics.

Although central copies will be kept of children’s passwords, it will be important that you and your child keep the password and usernames safe, so that all areas of their work can be accessed securely and without difficulty.
Edmodo Educational Networking tool

Edmodo, which will be used in Year 5, is a free and secure learning network for teachers, students, and schools. It provides a safe way for us to connect, share content, access homework, participate in discussions and receive class information.

It is important to note that Edmodo will not be used as a social network like Facebook, MySpace, Snapchat, etc. It is our requirement that this tool be used strictly for educational purposes using and according to clear guidelines. (n.b. We would also not be expecting any Year 5 students to be using the above mentioned social networking programmes at their age.)

Your child will receive login details for his / her Edmodo account as well as published guidelines and information for you as a parent so that you can also be involved in our online communications. In the meantime, if you have any questions about the use of Edmodo in Year Five this year, don’t hesitate to ask.

Educational Apps and eBooks on Student iPads

A list of educational and productivity apps to be loaded onto your child’s iPad will be distributed. These apps will need to be loaded at home using the students Apple ID. If you have any queries or issues with this process please do not hesitate to contact us for assistance.

Further details regarding iPads and their application in our classroom will be provided at the Year 3-6 Information Night during week 2 of Term.

In the meantime, if you are familiar with the iPad as a tool, you may assist us by setting up folders on the desktop of your child’s iPad that separate School Apps from Home or other apps (e.g. games, photos, etc.). This will assist your child in navigating his / her way around the iPad as we open up apps and files in the classroom together. Just as we will seek to work with your child to keep their desk and classroom spaces tidy and organised, we will be seeking to do the same with their digital spaces on their device. Thank you!

Our Year Five Information Night will be held on Tuesday, 2nd February (Week 2).

Further details on this evening will be forthcoming. We would appreciate if you would attend, as it will be our chance to meet you and put faces to names, as well as your chance to find out more about the exciting learning journey ahead of your child this year.

In the meantime, please be assured that our classrooms are always open and you are most welcome at any time.

If you have any concerns or questions, please do not hesitate to contact us. We are looking forward to meeting you and thank you for allowing us the privilege of being part of your children’s learning experiences during this year.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Libby Tesoriero and Miss Aili Ireland
Year Five Class Teachers