St Paul’s College: Whole School Focus - 2015

Theme 2015: A Golden Year - Our Jubilee

Assessment and Learning 7-12 Focus

Academic

- PLTs
- Homework and assignments.
- Academic Detention.
- Independent Learning Skills program (ILS)
- Deliberate teaching of instructional verbs.

Routines

- Diaries (Senior and Junior)
- Classroom expectations
- Punctuality
- Attendance
- Uniform

Year Group Focus

Year 7

- Continued targeting of Year 7 and 11 in the above areas. Working very closely with Year 7 teachers which includes helping with activities, visiting rooms, collecting data, helping with assessment etc. Common Formative Assessment will be the target.

Year 9 and 10

- Timetabled independent learning skills lesson once per fortnight targeting metacognition, self-efficacy, study skills and other issues relating to academic success.

Year 11

- Expectations in class.
- Homework (and follow up).
- Level of work completed.
- Organisation, plagiarism and study skills will be addressed.
- Meeting deadlines with assessment tasks and consequences for those who do not.
- Goal setting.
All Year Groups

- Classroom management – routines, rules and expectations set from day 1 and continue throughout the year.
- Use of diary every day.
- Goal setting each semester.
- Homework, stamp and follow up.
- Study skills and assignments.
- Academic Detention.
- A general focus on critical and creative thinking and inquiry learning.
- Work ethic and crackdown on the quality of work presented by students.
- Attendance – following up students who are regularly late and/or absent.
- Implementation of NAPLAN Focus (see below 7 - 12).
- Assessment – NAPLAN results Year 7 and 9, English (Enrichment), Maths (Enrichment) and Science Competitions (Enrichment) Benchmarking. PAT testing of literacy and numeracy across junior years.
- Addressing additional needs (in conjunction with Jan) and Enrichment of students (utilising CSO grants).

Examinations

Year 7 - Semester One no formal exam block  
Semester Two 50 min exams

Year 8 - Semester One 50min exams  
Year 8 - Semester Two 50 min exams

Year 9 - Semester One 60min exams  
Year 9 - Semester Two 60 min exams

Year 10 - Semester One 80min exams  
Year 10 - Semester Two 80 min exams

Whole School Approach – NAPLAN Results

Literacy Action Plan

* Revisit action plans for 2015 to be undertaken at the start of each semester in PLCs.

*Set literacy activities across specific KLAs in 7-10 with a particular focus on Years 7 and 9 for NAPLAN.

*Areas of literacy weaknesses will be targeted through the modules designed and implemented through the Diocese. Access to these will be through Moodle and Professional Development will occur during PLCs.

Writing

- **Engage students in writing.** E.g. persuasive devices- authoritative statement, conditional mood (e.g. *unless, even though*), directly addressing reader (e.g. “Only you can”), emphatic statements/emphasis etc.
- **Vocabulary and Spelling.** Build sustained, precise, effective **vocabulary for each topic.** Consistent work on **topic-specific vocabulary** - 10 words per session max, practise through spelling, definitions, Quizlet, sentences, synonyms, illustrating, Popplet, posters, etc.

- **Practise connectives** - words to link ideas e.g. “firstly”, “consequently”, “unless”, “for example”

- **Instructional verbs** (i.e. “explain”, “analyse”) to be **displayed on posters in all rooms and distributed to each student.** These are to be **explicitly taught in context with the subject material,** and to be **explained in terms of hierarchy of verbs /marks/requirements** (posters in rooms to assist).

- Instructional verbs incorporated into class tests and yearly exams as per the schedule below

| Relevant verb list to be distributed to each student and stuck into back of their books. | Yr 7-11 |
| Relevant verb list to be available on school Moodle page. | Yr 7-11 |
| When tests and exams are reviewed, the teacher points out the verb, reviews its meaning and relates it to the available marks (hierarchy poster). | Yr 7-11 |
| **All topic tests and exams** to have a copy of the verb list provided to each student. | Yr 7-10 |
| **All topic tests and exams** to have the key verb in questions underlined. | Yr 7-9 |

- **Literacy Component on Criteria Marking Guide**
  Criteria marking sheets in suitable KLA tasks will contain a mark component assessing literacy outcomes

**Reading**

- Stress the importance of reading activities with the classroom.
  Activities: Students read out loud. Student’s picture what is being read. After reading paragraph, article etc, get students to verbalise what was just read to class/peer or students write a sentence, paragraph about what was just read. Explain difficult vocab in information read.
  Comprehension activities in class and in assessment tasks and exams. Make sure questions go from lower order to higher order questions. Use instructional verbs.

- SSR will occur in morning PC on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. Students will be expected to read novels, biographies or graphic novels. No magazines allowed. Seniors allowed to read subject texts

- PLTs will run from 8.30am til 9.10am as per the staff handbook.
THE ABOVE AREAS IN LITERACY MUST BE UNDERTAKEN BY EVERY TEACHER IN EVERY CLASS AND SUBJECT FOR WHOLE SCHOOL STUDENT IMPROVEMENT.

Numeracy Action Plan

- Explicit teaching of percentages/fractions/decimal questions across all KLA’s.
- Decoding the literacy of written Numeracy questions. Understanding the instructional verbs of examination style questions involving Mathematics and/or Numeracy.

Sub group

Maths, Science, TAS, Music and PE meet as PLTs to target algebra and formula.

Other areas to address explicitly as they occur:

- Graphs
- Area
- Volume
- Temperature
- Measurement
- Ratio
- Abbreviations (mm, cm, vol, ml)
- Currency
- Timelines
- Averages
- Grid and map work