Year 7 at Bwgcolman Community School

Students entering year 7 at Bwgcolman Community School in 2015 will be guaranteed a Flying Start to their high school education.

Our Junior Secondary staff have been working hard over the past two years preparing for this significant state wide shift.

Students from years 7-9 currently attend lessons at our distinct Junior Secondary campus. Depending on their educational requirements, students are placed in Year 7/8A or Year 7/8B.

To build trusting partnerships and to meaningfully address academic, social and emotional needs, we have implemented a Gradual Release model. This means that each Junior Secondary class is assigned a Home Teacher, who is responsible for proactively addressing issues and delivering key information at the start of each day. To facilitate a positive transition between primary and secondary school, Year 7 and 8 Home Teachers are responsible for teaching English and Maths every morning.

One of the keys to student success is providing quality teaching. Our Junior Secondary staff is highly motivated and deliver lessons using explicit teaching principles. A great amount of time and learning has been dedicated to understanding the adolescent learner, as well as the unique needs of Indigenous students living in a remote context. A recent key initiative has been developing teachers’ knowledge of higher-order thinking and implementing associated ‘Thinking Tools’.

Student well-being is another priority for us at Bwgcolman Community School. Junior Secondary staff run by the mantra, ‘You can’t teach them until you reach them’. Our Responsible Behaviour Plan is supported by SWPBL principles and Year 7 students have the opportunity to participate in a Men’s and Women’s Business program each Friday afternoon. During these times, students engage in practical activities that focus on Health, Teamwork, Culture and the Land/Sea.

Year 7 students also have the opportunity to develop their leadership skills by nominating to join our Junior Secondary Student Council. As a member of this team, students are charged with extra responsibilities, as well as being given the opportunity each term to participate in Leadership Enhancement workshops.

We understand the importance of connecting with parents and family. Our teachers are enthusiastic about building meaningful partnerships and demonstrate this through regular visits to students’ homes. We maintain an ‘open door’ policy, with parents and caregivers welcome to discuss any issues or concerns.

Bwgcolman Junior Secondary students are also highly supported by our active connections with community organisations. For example, we work closely with Queensland Health, our local PCYC, the Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council, Student Attendance Officers and visiting creative artists in an effort to improve holistic student outcomes.

We are very proud of our on-going Junior Secondary achievements and are committed to ensuring Bwgcolman students receive a highly practical and stimulating educational model.

We will be honoured with your child’s enrolment and hope that with your support we continue to enhance our standards and successes.

Todd Chatterton
Head of Department (Secondary)