

# **Parent Update**

Week 7, Term 2 - 2021

## Planning for the move to high school

Planning is well underway to ensure South Australia will be ready for when year 7 moves to high school next year.

Primary and high schools are working together at every level to ensure the move is successful for families.

We are also drawing on insights we have learnt from a pilot program involving three public high schools that started welcoming year 7 students in 2019.

## Benefits for your child

Under the Australian Curriculum, year 7 is designed to be taught in high school where students have access to specialist facilities such as fully equipped science laboratories. Year 7 is already taught in high school in every other state of Australia, with Queensland and Western Australia most recently making the move in 2015. We know from our pilot high schools that year 7s are well and truly ready for high school.

#### New education builds

Many of our schools are receiving building upgrades to support the year 7 move. The builds will deliver modern facilities to enhance your child's learning.

Visit our the <u>school upgrades</u> page of our website for details of building works at your local schools.

# Workforce planning

Our high schools will be staffed and ready to welcome year 7 and 8 students next year.

We are undertaking our biggest ever teacher recruitment drive in preparation for the move.

We are bringing many primary trained teachers into our high schools, ensuring they can continue to share their extensive accumulated knowledge of year 7 curriculum and teaching methods.

They will also be offered professional learning to ensure they have access to evidence-based approaches to teaching adolescent students.

## Local plans

Our primary and high schools have detailed individual implementation plans in place as they prepare for the year 7 to high school move. These reflect the individual needs of their local communities.

Factors being considered at the local level include the marking of special occasions, such as graduation ceremonies, for the double group of year 6 and year 7 students leaving primary school together this year.

Drawing on insights from our pilot program, our schools are also developing their own orientation and transition programs to ensure next year's year 7 and 8 students feel welcome at high school. They will have a strong emphasis on wellbeing, navigating the high school site and making new friends.

### Children with additional needs

Our primary and high schools will discuss the strengths and needs of all students moving into years 7 and 8, so that teachers can best plan for their learning and wellbeing. Our key focus is to set all children up for success in high school, including those with additional needs.

## Where to find out more

Stay informed through your school and the Department for Education's website: <a href="https://www.education.sa.gov.au/7toHS">www.education.sa.gov.au/7toHS</a>.

Or share your feedback with the project team by emailing: Year7toHS@sa.gov.au.



