

4th June 2020

Dear Parents / Caregivers

Student Led Conferences Year 7-10

Wednesday 24th 1.30pm - 7.30pm

Tuesday 30th 1.30pm -6.30pm

The Middle Years mid-year communication with parents will be in the form of a three-way conference. These **student led conversations** (SLCs) are essential to our Middle Years mastery model of teaching and learning. Consequently, we will not be issuing a traditional report. Instead, students will lead a 15 minute conversation with their teacher and parent to discuss their learning. Teachers will have an online gradebook at the conference.

Student Led Conferences

Many schools in New Zealand are using some form of student-led or three-way conference communication, to share information with parents, in which the student is actively involved in the learning and reporting process. This is a fundamental shift away from the one-way transference of information about student learning from teacher to parents, and is consistent with the **characteristics** of effective assessment in the NZ Curriculum.

Student-led conferences take the form of a conversation between the student, their parents and a teacher. It is NOT essential to see a subject teacher as the nature of the conversation is a holistic approach to the student's learning. **For this reason parents are requested to only book ONE conference per student.** This approach allows the students an opportunity to share with their parents their growth as a learner and in so doing, students accept responsibility for their role in the teaching learning partnership. This demonstrates **a growing understanding of their development as independent learners.** The conferencing process involves discussing a portfolio of work in a range of subjects which the student has selected to share with a parent or guardian.

A key aspect of these student-led conferences is that each student is well prepared to take the central role during discussions with all three parties. Students will have prepared their online digital portfolios in Schoology. They will also have prepared a discussion outline.

In summary Student Led Conferences achieve the following goals:

- to help students demonstrate evidence of learning.
- to teach students the process of reflection and self-evaluation, essential skills in self-directed learning.
- to facilitate the development of students' organizational and oral communication skills and to increase their self-confidence.
- to encourage students, parents, and teachers to engage in open and honest dialogue.
- to encourage students to accept personal responsibility for their learning.
- to increase parent understanding of their child's learning.

Details to follow

Online Bookings for the SLCs will open on the 17th June. In some instances, parents who are unable to meet Face to Face will be invited to use Zoom for these SLCs.

All parents will be sent a link to do the online booking.

The Student Led Conference half days are:

Wednesday the 24th June 1.30pm-7.30pm and

Tuesday the 30th June 1.30pm -6.30pm

Middle Years students will therefore finish at 12.50pm on both days This will mean that bus students will wait in the hall from 12.50pm, the start of lunch for either their buses to arrive or parents to collect them.

Yours sincerely

Mandy Heim
Middle Years Lead