ACHIEVING SUCCESS IN SACE

INTRODUCTION

The number of students remaining at school for the completion of Year 12 has increased in recent years to a point where this is an expectation for the very great majority.

“Completing Year 12” also means more than just finishing twelve years at school. Students need to have covered the requirements of the South Australian Certificate of Education if they are to have fully completed their secondary education.

We believe it is necessary for our school community to be clearly aware of our school’s beliefs and expectations in regard to our Senior students.

This pamphlet looks at the main issues in our Senior Secondary group of policies which cover SACE students in Years 11, 12 and 13 who are over 17, and no longer under legal compulsion to attend high school.

OUR BELIEFS

Peterborough High School's senior secondary policies and procedures are based on the following five core beliefs:

- We believe that the main purpose of school attendance is to gain a successful education, and that our school practices must be directed to this purpose.
- We believe that all students have a right to, and a need for schooling beyond the years of compulsion, and that this schooling should offer a variety of career paths, and be based on effective teaching and learning practices.
- We recognise that education is important for its own sake, but believe that for our senior students the structure and content of their formal studies should lead towards appropriate documentation, which includes the South Australian Certificate of Education (or ‘SACE’) and the Student Achievement Record (or ‘SAR’).
- Because enrolment at school beyond the age of seventeen years is not compulsory, we assume that those whose continue into their SACE do so because they (and their caregivers) see value in such education.
- We believe, therefore, that senior secondary years will be characterised by a sense of purpose and goal orientation, and a corresponding commitment to purposeful study, a respect for others, and a real desire to succeed.

OUR EXPECTATIONS

It will be clear from these five beliefs that the senior years need to be purposeful and well organised. We believe it is most important that our expectations of each other are clearly stated.

Students and their caregivers may expect from Peterborough High School:

- A cooperative, harassment free environment which respects the rights of teachers to teach and students to learn with commitment,
- Equal opportunities to reach one’s full potential regardless of one’s circumstances,
- Adequate counselling in the selection of appropriate subjects for completing the SACE,
- Careful explanation of their subject requirements, and where appropriate, the opportunity to negotiate aspects of study,
- Access to personal and career counselling, daily support and information through their home group,
Accurate assessments and reports of their activities, and a comprehensive student achievement record when they leave.

The school may expect from students:

- A cooperative, purposeful and goal oriented attitude, and a commitment to study,
- Regular and punctual attendance, and written reasons for those times when this is not possible,
- Submission of assignments by due dates, and specific written reasons, within SACE guidelines where appropriate, will be given when this is not possible,
- Close adherence to the school’s rules, so that a good working environment for all is maintained.

SPECIFIC ISSUES

If we are to meet these expectations, it is important that our procedures, or ways of doing things, are clearly understood and carried out by all students. Specific mention needs to be made of the following procedures:

Assignments and Tests:

All SACE 1 and 2 subject and course outlines will be carefully explained to students at the start of the semester. These include an assessment program which must follow the requirements of the relevant subject outlines. We expect that:

- All assignments will be completed and submitted by the due date,
- Work not submitted by the due date will not be assessed, and awarded “zero” or “not completed” on student records, except when:
  - Circumstances deemed valid by the Principal have prohibited this required punctuality. These will usually be of a medical nature, and the school may require a doctor’s certificate.
  - In such cases, an extension, usually of one day, will be negotiated between the teacher and the student.
- In order to plan effectively, students are strongly urged to keep a diary. It is the responsibility of students to alert subject teachers to their workloads in other subjects. Provided a request is made some days before the deadline, an extension may be negotiated when workloads are temporarily very congested. Such extensions will not be automatic, and will not be issued if they clearly advantage some students over others.
- The staff will at all times sympathetically consider those circumstances which might prevent students from fulfilling their assessment obligations. Nonetheless, we cannot give credit for work which is not done, or for skills and knowledge which have not been acquired.

School Study Periods:

Private study periods are timetabled for all Year 11 and 12 students so that can work on assignments, lesson follow-up and revision. They are expected to arrive on time, with all materials, and study in silence. Normal school rules will apply.

Home Study:

With the approval of parents/caregivers, Year 12 students may choose to study at home when they have no timetabled lessons and are not required to attend by subject teachers or for school activities.

Unsatisfactory Progress:

When the School staff perceives that a student’s progress or behaviour is becoming unsatisfactory, and in a way that works against their own interests or the rights of others,

- Counselling will be immediately increased, caregivers will be notified, and possibly an interview will be arranged as well.
- If unsatisfactory behaviour or progress further continues, students may be placed on a specific written contract, or even suspended while their enrolment at this school is reviewed. Students whose irresponsible behaviour or lack of purposeful study affects the rights of others may ultimately be excluded altogether for up to one semester, or even have their enrolment at Peterborough High School terminated.
Subject Changes:

If possible, subject changes may be arranged early in the semester, following discussion with the Deputy Principal. Such changes will only be permitted when all agree that such a change is in the best interests of the student, and a place is available in a new subject. Students will not be permitted to withdraw from subjects and thus lighten their load unless the Senior School Coordinator, Deputy and Principal are satisfied that there are good grounds for so doing.

Adult Students:

Many of our students are nearing, or have achieved full adult status. Obviously, for such members of our school, the many references to caregivers need not apply. Adult students are required to abide by our school's rules of conduct, including the observance of our dress code and the rights of others to a cooperative, courteous, purposeful, and harassment-free environment.

ACHIEVING SUCCESS IN SACE

Name ………………………………………………………………………………………………………

I have read and understood the Peterborough High School Achieving Success in SACE policy. I agree to follow school policies, procedures and rules.

Signature of Student …………………………………………………………………………………

Signature of Parent/Caregiver ……………………………………………………………