

## Principal's Report – Governing Council 10-2-2020

Welcome back to the new school year.

We have hit the ground running despite all of the preparation and planning that went into the start, there were still a few challenges.

The 'One Stop Shop' at the 7-12 Campus was extremely busy but a huge success. We have already looked at how it can be improved for next year, and we will also look at how we might be able to incorporate R-6. This would be especially helpful for parents who have students at both campuses.

As you are aware, we are implementing a whole range of initiatives to create 'a safe and enjoyable learning environment for all' and this has incorporated the Berry Street Education Model fully supported and paid for by DfE.

All staff (SSOs and teachers) participated in a whole day training on the Thursday before students came back to school. This was the second day of a four-day training. There is another one this term and in term 2. Most schools in SA will be doing this training over the next few years.

The first week of school was about getting all students ready to learn and a belated letter went home (7-12 Campus) explaining what this was all about, we apologised for this oversight. Out of 900 families we have had less than 2% raise an issue about it directly to us. We have had a lot of very positive feedback as well.

My take on it is – a school year is long and challenging for all. A bit like a football or netball season, we don't go straight into competition without a pre-season where we look at the game plan, team rules and develop relationships etc. Hence – 'ready to learn' or 'ready to play'.

Attendance has been an enormous issue and last year was not good at all especially in the Senior years. We will be looking at whole school R-12 attendance but in particular tracking and monitoring senior school attendance and academic rigour more closely than ever before as there is a direct correlation between attendance and achievement.

Despite the disappointing attendance data our results overall have continued to get better albeit not as good as they could be. We are working very closely with Ann Prime (Education Director) and her team on our Site Improvement Plan and using data to inform practice. The revised SIP will not be available until 14<sup>th</sup> February. I will share it with you after this date on the website and at the next GC meeting.

Facilities upgrades and renewals are on track (see Becky's report) and I am very impressed with the work we are doing with DfE on upgrading ICT (see ICT Report). I have started working with the VET coordinator and some other key staff on implementing the new DfE VET in Schools Policy. One initiative we have taken on is a website for career planning- a

one-stop-shop for career pathways. This website is still under construction but can be viewed by clicking on this link below.

<https://www.efscareerpathways.com/>

I have just received notice that the school has been programmed for a DfE External Review in Week 2, Term 2. This will require us to do quite a bit of preparation leading up to the review, but I am very confident that the work the team has been doing is on the right track. However, I am looking forward to positive and constructive feedback from the review so as we can continuously improve educational options and outcomes for all students at EFS as per the DfE World Class Education Strategy.

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