Dear parents and carers,

We welcome the new academic year and hope our community has had the opportunity to relax, recharge and connect with loved ones over the summer break. Our staff are looking forward to working with our students and families and growing the complete child.

**Uniform**

Wearing full school uniform is an expectation of our school. It is expected that all students return for school in 2023 with full school uniform. When students wear full school uniform, they are stating to the public that they attend Casula High and that they are proud to be recognised as part of our school community.

The NSW Government is also supplying Back to School vouchers for eligible 2023 school students which may be used to support families in purchasing uniform. Please see the Service NSW website for further information.

https://www.service.nsw.gov.au/back-to-school-vouchers

If families are experiencing financial difficulty, please contact the respective deputy principal for support.

Our students can wear their PE uniform to school on days where they have PE or Sport lessons. Students are required to wear black leather or leatherette shoes to school, including when they have PE or sport.

**Attendance**

Our staff understand the importance in having our students attend school every day they are well enough to do so.

Attendance at Casula High School is a shared responsibility between our staff, students and families and is supported by existing our Wellbeing and attendance team who work in partnership with families and external agencies to support students and their families in strengthening attendance patterns and overcoming barriers that impact on student attendance.

Parents and carers can help foster positive attendance patterns by:

* Ensuring their child arrives on time from the start of the school day, 8:40 and ready to participate in their learning. We ask families to ensure they have allowed sufficient time to avoid traffic congestion and dropping off younger siblings
* Promptly communicate any absences to the office via note, SMS or phone call within 7 days of the first day of absence
* Book appointments for children outside of school hours
* Work with Casula High School to encourage and support regular attendance

**Mobile phones and air pods**

Casula High School is a BYOD school, and our students use iPads or laptops to support teaching and learning. We do understand that parents use mobile phones a communication tool with their child at the conclusion of the day. If a student has a mobile phone, they are expected to have their mobile phone on silent and kept in their school bag. Students do not use mobile phones in classrooms, are encouraged to be electronically safe and respect the privacy of others by not recording students or staff. Students are advised to leave air pods at home as these are not used to support teaching and learning.

**Staggered finishing times**

We will continue with staggered finishing times for cohorts as our school continues to grow and to support the safety and wellbeing of our students. 

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Year** | **Dismissal Time Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday** | **Tuesday** |
| 7 and 10 | 2:50pm | 2:10pm |
| 8 and 9 | 2:55pm | 2:15pm |

Once teachers have escorted their class to the front of the school unless students are waiting to catch a bus home Year 7 – 10 students are encouraged to wait for parents and siblings away from the front gates to reduce mingling. 

**Year 11 and 12 Dismissal Times**

**Formal lessons will conclude at 12:50pm on Wednesday for year 11 students and 12:50pm on Thursday for year 12 students. Other than the above days, year 11 and 12 students’ lessons will conclude at 3pm.**

We look forward to working with our community in supporting our students and celebrating their achievements throughout the year. We ask that parents and carers contact the office on 9602 4320 for support in booking an appointment with the senior executive.

Yours sincerely,

Mr G Smith

Principal