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Introduction

Dear Students

Welcome to Waikerie High School. This booklet is designed to help you enter high school as smoothly as possible. It will answer a lot of the questions that you may have about high school. Some questions may include; “what can I do at recess and lunch breaks?” the canteen, buses etc.

Please take the time to read this booklet over the next couple of weeks and to write down any questions that you may have in regards to the high school. Most of these questions can be answered by your Year 7 teacher/s or on the next visit that I will be at your school.

In the coming weeks, you will have the opportunity to visit the high school, in order to acquaint yourselves with the new surroundings. This will allow you see first hand the structure of the High School, its teachers and students.

As future students of Waikerie High School, we expect you to listen to all your teachers, attempt all work to the best of your abilities, follow school procedures, never give up if you don’t succeed and most importantly have fun while you are here. If you find it difficult to achieve all of the above commitments, make sure you talk to your Year Level Coordinator in Year 8 or your homegroup teacher as they will help you to achieve this. If you do not attempt to do this, you may find it difficult, so please ask for help and your teachers will help you.

As Transition Coordinator for this year, I hope that you find the transition process from primary school to high school a good and fun experience, so that you may begin Year 8 with confidence and enthusiasm.

Should you have any concerns regarding high school or the transition process, talk to your teachers at the primary school or ask me on my next visit to your school.

I look forward to meeting with you in the coming months.

Alannah Cheshire

Transition Coordinator
Routines and Rules

How does the canteen work?
There are few routines about the canteen that you will need to get used to. The canteen is a very popular place, and our canteen manager – Mrs Maywald - is one of the best you can get! Since the canteen gets busy, there are a few things you should know:
• You can order your lunch before school or at recess time by filling in a lunch order bag, which are found near the canteen counter. Place your money in the bag, and put the bag into the metal container.
• If you order your lunch, line up in the line nearest the wall. These people get served first.
• There are two other lines. The one furthest from the wall is an 'Express Lane' - you can only buy one or two items from this lane.
• You cannot buy anything for anyone else. You also cannot ask anyone to buy things for you. Lastly, you cannot push in, or let your friends push into the line.
• The canteen will close a few minutes before the end of recess or lunch, so get in early!
• Mrs Maywald can also provide hot water for noodles, etc.

How do I catch a bus to high school?
If you need to catch a bus to school next year, please read the information included in the transition kit. This explains the rules for bus travel, and includes an application form for travelling on the bus.

How does the Resource Centre work?
On transition day you will be shown the library (called the Resource Centre) at our school. All students will receive a photo ID when you arrive in Year 8. When you wish to borrow a book, you must bring your ID card with you. You cannot borrow a book if you have an overdue or if you don’t have your card.
For some subjects, like Maths and English, you will be given a book that you need to bring to every lesson. Each book will have your name printed inside the front cover. Make sure you look after this book - if you lose it, or any other library book, you will need to pay for it. If you lose a book, or if your book is stolen, let the librarians know as soon as possible.

Where do I store all of my books and things?
Every student will receive a locker, that will be located outside of your homegroup class room. If you want to lock your locker, please bring a padlock with you on your first day, we encourage you to lock your locker. Make sure you bring a spare key, and give it to your homegroup teacher to look after. If you lose your key, and you don’t have a spare, then your padlock will be cut, and you will need to buy another one.

What happens during a normal school day?
On your first day, you will be given a map and a time-table, that will outline who your teachers are, what rooms the lessons will be in, and what time each lesson begins and ends. On a normal school day, you will begin by meeting with your homegroup teacher for a period we call 'Class Teacher Period' (CTP), or 'Homegroup'. During this time, the morning notices will be read out to you, and the roll will be taken. Then, you will go to lesson 1, and then lesson 2 before you go to recess. After recess, you have lessons 3 and 4, and then it's time for lunch. After lunch, you will have another two lessons! After lesson six, you return to your homegroup for a five-minute CTP, where you pack your things and clean your homeroom. Except for Thursday when we have only 5 lessons and you get to go home a bit earlier, but your teachers stay and go to meetings!
What is there to do during recess and lunch?
For those of you who are interested in sport, then sports equipment can be borrowed. Cricket and football can be played on the oval, and tennis and basketball can be played on the courts.
Most students seem to enjoy spending recess and lunch sitting on the front lawns, and talking with their friends.
The Library is open for the second half of lunch, for those students who enjoy some peace and quiet, or want to read quietly.
Year 12 students run lunchtime competitions in tennis, indoor soccer, volleyball, netball and basketball. You can join some of your friends from within your house to form a team.

What do I do if I get sick at high school?
If you get sick at high school, then please let your teacher know. If necessary, you may need to have a lie down in our sick room. For particularly bad illnesses, the school will ring a parent or guardian, and ask them to come and pick you up, so you can recover at home!
If you are sick during lesson, let your teacher know. They will write a note in your diary, that you then take to the front office. There, you will be given assistance by the staff members in the front office.
If you get ill or injured during recess or lunch, let the yard duty teacher know, or check in at the front office, where you will be given assistance.

Do I have to wear a school uniform?
Wearing of school uniform is compulsory. Many successful and prominent people have studied at our school. We should be really proud of this fact, and should show that we are proud to belong to such as successful school community by wearing our school uniform. Further information on the school uniform will be provided to your parents with the transition information.
Some people think wearing a uniform is boring and unnecessary. We really disagree with this at our school. We have achieved great things as a school - won awards for some of our programs, and most students who want to go to university achieve scores that enable them to do this. We have also had major success in sports. We are very proud of our school, and we hope that you will share in our pride by wearing our uniform.
It is also a safety issue – all students must wear uniform so we can identify who belongs at the school and who doesn’t.

PE Uniform – you must change into this for every practical lesson.

What do I do if I am late, or if I am away sick?
If you are away sick, or if you have a doctor's appointment in Adelaide, or a family commitment to attend to, we require you to get a note in your school diary, from your parents or guardians explaining why you were away. If you are away without getting a note or giving us a reason, we may need to phone your parents to find out what is going on.
If you come to school late, you will need a note from your parents or guardians explaining why you are late - maybe you had a doctor's appointment, or your car broke down! You will need to report to the Front Office where the staff will ask to see your note and show you how to sign in on the Attendance Management Computer. You also need to show your note to your homegroup teacher.
**What are the school rules?**
There are many new routines that you need to learn at high school - lesson times, moving from class to class, finding your way around, and so on. There are also a number of new rules that you will need to learn as you get to high school. We won’t give you a big list and make you memorise it, but on your first day, your teachers will explain the rules that they have in class, and your homegroup teacher will explain some of our school rules to you.
We don’t have a lot of rules, and the rules we do have are those, which ensure that all people in our school feel safe, and have the opportunity to be successful. If you are doing anything that could harm or hurt someone, or if you act in a way that disrupts people’s learning, then chances are you are breaking a rule.
Your teachers will explain these rules, and the consequences for breaking these rules, when you arrive at high school next year.

**Can I leave the school grounds during the day?**
Generally no. You certainly cannot just come and go as you please! There may be times when you need to leave to attend a doctor or dentist appointment, or something similar. If this is the case, then you must get a note from your parent or guardian and it must be in your diary. You show this note to your homegroup teacher in the morning, who will then sign your note.
When it is time to leave, show this note to the teacher of the class you have at that time, and then go to the Front Office. Here, the staff member at the Front Office will check your note, and you will need to sign out on the Attendance Management Computer.
Once you are on the school property you are not allowed to leave, i.e. when you get off the bus – stay put, do not leave the school, Skate Park and other places are out of bounds.
Sports, Camps and Excursions

What sports do you have at high school? What sporting house will I be in?
We have lots of sports that you can be involved in during the year! There are almost too many to list. Some of these sports include:

- Sports Days and Swimming Carnivals
- 9-a-side football
- Cross Country Running
- Indoor Soccer
- Lunchtime Sport
- Knock-out Footy, Netball, Basketball, Hockey
- ECA Sports

Each student will be assigned to a particular sporting house, just like you were in primary school. Our sporting houses are:

- CADELL - GREEN
- KING - BLUE
- RANDELL - RED
- RITCHIE - BLACK and WHITE

If you have an older brother or sister at high school, then you will join the same team as them. If you are the first child in your family to go to high school, then your house will be decided on other things, such as if your parents were in a particular house. You will find out the house that you are in early next year.

You will be able to support your house in swimming carnivals, sports days and cross country events. Even if you are utterly hopeless at sport, you can still earn points for your team just by going in events. Make sure you support your team - we like to make our sports days memorable events!

I'm hopeless at sports. Do I have to do sport in high school?
Every student in the state is required to take Health and Physical Education to the end of Year 10. Most students really enjoy PE, but for others it can be quite tough. However, since PE is compulsory, all students have to study it at school. If you are hopeless at sport, don't worry! You can still pass a subject like PE if you try! The PE teachers really appreciate students who try, whether they are good at sport or not. You will get to try a wide variety of sports, some you may never have played before, give it a go you never know you might be surprised how much fun you'll have.

As for sports days and swimming carnivals, all students are encouraged to participate. You may not be involved in a competitive event, but all students can participate in Splash Heats and Standards Day, which are designed for people of all ability levels. It is always good to support your house and your team, whether it is racing down the home straight, or cheering from the sidelines.

Do we have any camps or excursions?
A camp for Year 8 is planned for you Term 1, 2015. An aquatics camp at Barmera is planned. Also different subjects have various excursions that students can go on.
As well, there are a number of sporting activities that you can be involved in.

What are some fun things that we will get to do in high school?
Well, apart from some of the sporting and camping activities that have been outlined in some earlier questions, there are a lot of other things that you can be involved in.
From time to time, inter-class sports are organised for you to participate in. Every year an Indoor Soccer competition is run. Inter-class Floor Hockey has also been organised for Year 8s in past years.
Subjects and Teachers

Who will my teachers be in high school?
You won’t know the answer to this until you arrive next year! You will know who your homegroup teacher is. You will meet him or her on Transition Day and Camp. One of the hardest things for you to get used to is having five or six different teachers a day, rather than the one or two teachers you had at primary school. This can be difficult at times - different teachers in different classes have different rules, and these can be confusing! Listen carefully to your teachers early in the year, and they will explain their expectations to you. If you can try to do the right thing in all of your classes, you should have no problems!

Can I pick the teachers that I have?
No, you can’t. But don’t worry, all the teachers at our school will do their best to help you settle in, and to help you to succeed. If you listen to your teachers, are polite and cooperative, and follow the class rules, then you should have no problems!

Do I get to pick my subjects?
Year 8 students will study English, Maths, Science, Health and Physical Education, Technology – Woodwork, Metalwork, IT and Electronics, and The Arts – Music, Drama, Art and Photography for a whole year. You will study Geography and History for one semester and then Language for a term. Some subjects will be new while others will have a different focus than those in primary school, so it is important in Year 8 for all students to study in all areas. In Year 9 you get more of a choice, though some subjects are still compulsory. As you get higher, into Year 10, Year 11 and Year 12 you get more choice.

What do I do if I don’t get along with a teacher or student in my class?
As mentioned earlier, you shouldn’t have any hassles with any teachers if you act in a polite and cooperative manner. If you think that a teacher is being unfair, or is picking on you, then perhaps you could speak to them. Chances are, they aren’t being unfair at all - they may be worried about your behaviour, or the standard of work you are producing, and want you to do better. If you do feel that you have a real problem with a teacher, speak with your homegroup teacher or the School Counsellor, who can help you sort out any hassles that you may be having. If you have any problems with a student in your class, you should arrange to speak with the subject teacher to discuss your problem. Other options may be to talk to the student who is upsetting you. If you explain to them that you don’t like their attitude or behaviour, then they may realise their mistake, and stop hassling you. We have a Harassment Policy in our school that we take very, very seriously. You will be told about this policy on your first day at high school.

Will I be in a class with my friends?
You may not be in a class with your ‘best’ friend, but classes are organised so that there are some familiar faces to you in your new class. Your primary school teachers will help us work out which homegroup you will be assigned to, and we make sure that there is more than one person from each primary school in each class (if that is possible!). Coming to the high school may be a little intimidating if you come from a small primary school, but in time you will get to know a lot of other students from other schools, and make a lot of new friends.

What do I do if the work is too hard?
If you find the work that you are doing is too hard, then please speak with your teacher, who will try to help you with your difficulties. If that doesn’t work, and you are really struggling with the work, then speak to your homegroup teacher, who will be able to help you. Don’t be too worried about the work being too difficult. Most students who come to high school are able to cope with the work, especially if you really try hard. If you do find the work difficult, then the teachers will help you with this. We want all students to succeed at our school!
I hope that doesn't happen to me!!!

What if I get bullied or harassed?
Our school has a policy against bullying and harassment. At Waikerie High School, harassment is not acceptable, and we treat all harassment very seriously. On your first day at high school, your class teacher will run through the Harassment Policy, and this will give you all the information about what to do if you are bullied. If you do get harassed or bullied at high school, there are a lot of people who will help you, including your class teacher, the School Counsellor, the Chaplain, and the Harassment Counsellors. You will find out all about them on your first day at high school.

Will I be attacked by water balloons (or worse!) when I get to high school on transition day?
You may have heard a few rumours about this. Perhaps some of your friends that you know who are already in high school have told you to look out for water balloons on Transition Day. Fortunately, most of these threats are only jokes, but those students who are silly enough to actually try to hit primary school students with water balloons will be in big trouble if they are caught. And there is a fair chance that they will get caught! During lesson time, you will be with teachers, and between lessons, you will be with some older students who have been trained to help you during your first days at high school. These students, and the teachers, will be on the 'look out' for any trouble. At recess and lunch, the yard duty teachers will keep an eye on you, as will some older students. If any student does make any trouble for you, please let someone know, and we will talk to them. Any students who are caught with water balloons, or who are caught harassing or threatening primary school students will be in very serious trouble.

Will the older students pick on me?
Most of the older students remember what it is like to begin at high school, and most of them are very friendly and cooperative. If any older students pick on you for any reason, then let your teacher, or one of your Student Helpers know, and these students will be spoken to about their bad behaviour. You can also see an SRC member if you have any hassles, and would like to speak to a student rather than a teacher. You will know who these people are - they will be wearing special badges. The SRC students will give you all the help and support they can to help you settle in!

Where can I get help if I need it?
The first person you should go to if you have any hassles is your home-group teacher. They will give you all the help they can with any problem you have, whether you are being harassed, getting lost, or having trouble in a certain subject. You can get help from other people, too:

The Social Worker - You will meet Mrs Barker during your transition visits. He is someone you can talk to about any hassles that you have. It is easy to arrange an appointment to meet with Mrs Barker, just by filling out a form on his office door. His office can be found at the end of the corridor in the main building.

The Year 8 Organiser - You will meet Mrs Cheshire during your transition visits, too.

These are the people in charge of all the Year 8s in 2015. If you need any help with anything at all, then feel free to talk to them, as they are more than happy to help you.

The Christian Pastoral Support Worker – Tim Hensel is the current Chaplain at WHS.

The Principal – Ms Oakey is the current Principal at WHS.
The Senior Leaders – Currently, Mr Griffiths is the Senior School Senior Leader, Mrs Schultz is the Middle School Senior Leader and Mr Tripodi is the Senior Leader responsible for Numeracy Improvement at our school. They are in charge of behaviour in the school, and if you are having any hassles with other students, then you may like to speak with them.

Other teachers - If you have a teacher that you really like and feel comfortable with, then feel free to seek help from them. They will give you support!

Students - The SRC and Student Helpers will give you help and advice. Groups of Year 8 students will have Student Helpers, and it is their job to help you settle in at high school. SRC representatives will also help you. These students will be wearing special badges, so you know who they are.

What does the school already know about me?
The High School has received information about you from your primary school and your parents. We know about your allergies and any illnesses that you have. Your primary school has given us information about the things you like, and the things that you are good at, or things that you may need help with. All of this information is confidential - we cannot tell anyone about it. We use this information to help us decide which classes you go into, as well as other things. However, at the high school, we realise that you are starting at a new school, with new routines and ways of doing things. If you have been in trouble in primary school, then we will certainly not treat you badly in high school. Everyone deserves a second chance at doing the right thing!
The beginning of next year

Do we get to visit high school before we begin next year?
You sure do! The transition program begins in Term 3. Initially, a teacher will visit you from the high school, and will talk to you about high school life.

What happens at the beginning of next year?
On the first day, we begin with a whole school assembly. When the siren goes, all the students will move down to the Hall, where you will be welcomed to the school by the Principal. If you are unsure where the Hall is, or which door to enter, just follow the crowd - they'll show you the way. You should recognise the Year 8 teachers, since you will meet them later this term. They will direct you to where you have to sit. After the assembly, you will go to your homeroom with your homgroup teacher, where you will receive your timetable, and some other important information. After this period, you will continue on with the day, by heading off to your different subjects.

What do I do if I get lost?
You will get a map on the first day to help find your way around. If you get lost, then ask a teacher for help. If you can’t find a teacher, then head to the front office desk, and they will be able to help you. Also, you can ask an SRC member for help - they can be identified as they wear special SRC badges.

Where do I get my books?
A list of the books, pens and pencils that you need for your subjects will be given to you later this year, as well as information as to where you can purchase these items. Make sure these are all clearly marked with your name. Please cover your books, so that they will stay in a good condition.
The textbooks you need, such as English novels, Maths books, etc. will be loaned to you from the library. The class teacher will arrange to borrow these for you.
You will be given a school Diary, pen, pencil eraser and lined pad on the first day of school. Your diary is a very important communication tool and you need to look after it as every student must have one, you will not be permitted out of class without a diary note i.e. to go to the toilet, use pod computers, etc.

How will I know what class to go to?
You will receive a timetable on your first day, and this will indicate which rooms you need to go to, and what times each lesson will be on. You will also be given a map to help you find your way from class to class.

Do I have to do homework?
Yes, all Year 8 students are expected by their teachers to do homework that is set. This may be up to one hour per night. If you feel like you have too much homework make sure you talk to your teachers.

Round Table Folders
At the end of next year you will be required to present a summary of your year to your homgroup teacher, parents and invited guests. In order to do this to the best of your ability you must work hard to get organized and keep your assignments, that way you will have a variety of work to choose from for your folder.

Good luck for your high school life! Remember, if you try to do your best, and to act in a responsible and respectful manner, then you shouldn't have too many hassles at all. Year 8 will be a great year for you to get to know other students, as well as to learn a lot of new and interesting subjects.

We look forward to seeing you next year!