22 February 2012

Dear Parent/Caregiver

RE: YEAR 7, 8, 9 AND 10 ENGLISH

Welcome to the new school year. We are writing to advise of some activities in your child’s English classroom; details as follows:

1 SPELLING

Your child will have a weekly list of spelling words to learn. These will be tested each week. Students have been advised of our expectation that they will regard learning their words as ongoing homework and your encouragement in this regard would be appreciated also.

2 READING

We were fortunate, in 2010, to receive funding to purchase some wonderful novels for students to read. This reading is over and above any novel set for study this year. Your child will be participating in quiet reading in class on a weekly basis. It is expected that a book report will be submitted at the end of the term, reporting on one of the novels which your child has read. If your child would prefer to bring in a book from home to read and report on, that is fine. You would appreciate that apart from strengthening key literacy skills like comprehension and vocabulary building, the aim of this time is to foster a love of reading and this task is certainly easier if your child is happy with the book they are reading. Kindly note though that magazines and comics will not be acceptable.

3 WHITLAM INSTITUTE, WHAT MATTERS WRITING COMPETITION

All students will be encouraged to enter this wonderful writing competition. Entry is at no cost. In essence, students need to submit a 400-600 word piece of writing based upon "What Matters" to them. You may be aware that our school has a proud tradition of success with respect to this competition having had a number of students both win and receive highly commended placings in recent years. We encourage you to talk over your child’s writing ideas with them.

Should you have any queries in relation to any matter set out above please do not hesitate to contact us. Your ongoing support is appreciated; looking forward to another great year.

Yours sincerely

The English Faculty