Welcome to Year 5/6 Rooms 13, 14, 15 & 16. This Class Policy outlines the procedures for our classes for 2016. Please read the policy carefully and discuss any expectations outlined with your child.

Our Teaching Philosophy
The Senior Learning Area will be a happy, safe and supportive learning environment for your child. It is a place where children are encouraged to experiment and where they feel secure enough to take risks with their learning. The students in all senior classes will be provided with many opportunities to work together with the aim of developing their collaborative skills and fostering an attitude of support and unity. We understand that children develop at different rates and that within each class there is a range of abilities. To cater for these differences, students will be given many opportunities this year to work alongside other children within their own ability range. We believe that a student's character growth is an essential part of a well-rounded education. In the Senior Cluster, students are encouraged to take responsibility for their own education and development. They are given many additional roles and responsibilities around the school with the aim of developing the self-discipline and responsibility required to succeed in the workforce. All senior students actively participate in the school’s Virtues programme. This programme shows them how to express and practise the virtues that exist within themselves. We believe that all senior students should aspire to live by the school motto, ‘Strength in Honour’.

Classroom Rules
In the Senior Cluster the school's Three Rights are used as the guidelines and boundaries for the behavioural expectations for each student. The School Rights are:

We have the right to be free from harm.
We have the right to teach and learn.
We have the right for our property to be looked after.

Andrew Stewart Awards
The Greenies & Pinkies whole-school reward system is used in the Senior Cluster to recognise students who have demonstrated positive behaviour. Greenies are given for displaying virtues in any aspect of school life. Six greenies are traded for one pinkie and when six pinkies are recorded, an Andrew Stewart Achievement Award is presented to the student at assembly. A student's greenies earn points for their faction with a school shield presented to the faction with the most points at the end of the year.

Morning routine
Students who arrive at school prior to 8.30am must wait in the covered area outside the staffroom until dismissed by a member of admin. At 8.30am the classroom doors are opened and students are welcomed into the classroom. At this time, students should be completing any unfinished work and getting organised for the commencement of the school day at 8.40am.

Crunch and Sip
Due to the extended morning session, each senior class will be running a Crunch and Sip programme sometime between 9.50am and 10.00am. Children will only be allowed to crunch on fruit and vegetables and sip on water. Ideally, fruit and vegetables should be pre-cut as no cutting will be done at school. This is an opportunity for students to eat while they work. It is not a break-time.

Curriculum
The West Block will be planning and working collaboratively across all areas to ensure we are teaching the same concepts and catering for the different abilities within each year level. We have been performing common assessment tasks to group the students. The Senior Cluster teachers will be working in collaboration with our education assistant in the priority areas of English and Maths. This may mean your child will be working with an EA led group.
Standards
It is expected that all students in the Senior Cluster take responsibility for adhering to the standards set out in the School Handbook. This includes:

- Students wear appropriate school uniform at all times
- Students come to school prepared with the materials required for the school day.
- All school work should be presented at a standard that reflects the student’s full capabilities.
- All school books should be covered appropriately.
- Graffiti is not tolerated on any item or person at school.

Homework
In the Senior Classes students are EXPECTED to undertake a minimum of fifteen minutes reading per night in addition to learning the fortnightly spelling words from their journals. They will be required to learn fundamental maths facts and if possible complete tasks on the Mathletics and Reading Eggs computer programmes. Throughout the course of the year, students may also be set homework projects with the aim of developing their research skills in preparation for high school. On occasion, a student may be required to complete unfinished class work at home.

As parents and caregivers, you can support our programs by:

- Establishing a daily family routine which allows your child to arrive at school ON TIME and prepared each day at 8.30am, a quiet time for homework and a regular bed time.
- Supporting your child to read regularly and take time to read to them sometimes as well. Asking questions such as “What was the book about?” “Why did the character do that?” “What might happen next?” “What was your favourite part?” “How did that make you feel?”
- Ensuring all notes are returned to school promptly and that your child has all his/her book list items.
- Talking regularly to your child. Ask about their friends, their school work, successes and challenges they may be having.

Communication
We believe it is important for ongoing communication to exist between parents, teachers and students regarding the child’s achievement and progress. All senior students are required to have their diaries signed as evidence of completed homework and to use their diaries as an additional means of communication between teachers and parents. If you would like to discuss any issues regarding your child, please feel free to book a time to see us. It is important to understand that at the beginning and end of the day we may not have time for prolonged discussions and would prefer you to organise a set time to meet.

Specialist Teachers
Physical Education / Health Mr Maidens
Music Ms Veitch
LOTE (Indonesian) Mr Glendinning
Library Mrs Robertson

Support Staff in Senior Cluster
Mrs Hathornthwaite, Mrs Simpson and Mrs Blake.

We look forward to a happy and rewarding school year with your child. 

Mr Baker, Mr Byford, Mr Fairbairn, Mr Perkins, Miss Petkovic and Miss Vranjes.