



WELLBEING MATTERS @ MOOREBANK

POSITIVE RELATIONSHIPS POSITIVE OUTCOMES

SPOTLIGHT ON YEAR 11

JESS MATOS HERE - I'M THE YEAR 11 YEAR ADVISOR. I STEPPED INTO THE ROLE FOLLOWING THE SAD FAREWELL OF DOMINIQUE SERISIER AND MATT KENDALL EARLIER THIS YEAR. I HAVE TAUGHT A LOT OF THESE STUDENTS SINCE I STARTED HERE, AND HAVE DEVELOPED A GOOD RAPPORT WITH MOST OF THEM. WHEN DANIEL AND MEGAN ASKED IF I WANTED TO BE THEIR ASSISTANT AND THEN YEAR ADVISOR - I DIDN'T HESITATE TO SAY YES.

SINCE TAKING OVER THE ROLE, THE BIGGEST WELLBEING INITIATIVE WE HAVE DONE IS THE DEPARTMENT'S LIFE READY COURSE IN WEEK 10 OF TERM 3. THIS PROGRAM FOCUSED ON GETTING STUDENTS READY FOR LIFE OUTSIDE OF SCHOOL AND INCLUDED SESSIONS ON MENTAL HEALTH, SAFE RELATIONSHIPS AND THE DANGERS OF DRUGS AND ALCOHOL. THE WEEK FINISHED OFF WITH A MAKE-SHIFT PICNIC DAY ON THE CRICKET OVAL WHERE THE GROUP PARTICIPATED IN A SCAVENGER HUNT, HAD A PIZZA PICNIC AND SOME GOOD ROUNDS OF FOOTY.

I HAVE APPRECIATED EVERYONE'S INPUT IN AWARDING SOME FUN END-OF-2020 AWARDS TO THE GROUP... THE WINNERS OF THESE AWARDS WILL BE ANNOUNCED AT AN UPCOMING YEAR MEETING.



POSITIVITY

People with the Positivity strength are often successful in what they put their mind to. Parents don't need to worry too much about their future as these teens have a natural energy that keeps them motivated. They are good with people and will do well when job opportunities arise.

People with Positivity are usually outgoing and like social environments. They like to be the life of the party. Occasionally, this can lead them in fun-seeking behaviour, so gently guide them and give them some great outlets for healthy fun and connection.

WHY STUDENT ATTENDANCE MATTERS

The overall school attendance picture in Australia is good. Years 1-10 students attend, on average, 92% of 'available school days' in Australia (ACARA, 2018). The overall proportion of Australian students who attend school regularly is also good, with 75% of Years 1-10 students attending at least 90% of available school days (ACARA, 2018).

Australia's school attendance rate is comparable to other countries with high performing education systems. For example, in 2016/2017 the overall attendance rate in state-funded schools in England was 95.3% (Department for Education, 2018).

There are, however, areas of concern:

- 25% of Australian school students attend less than 90% of school days – this equates to approximately 20 or more days absent in a school year
- attendance rates tend to decline in secondary school, from Year 8 onwards
- there is a notable attendance gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous students, as well as between students from metropolitan and remote locations.

Non-attendance has a variety of effects on students, both academically and socially. Absenteeism can increase social isolation, including alienation and lack of engagement with the school community and peers, leading to emotional and behavioural difficulties (Carroll, 2013; Gottfried, 2014). It is also associated with an increased likelihood of drop-out (Keppens & Spruyt, 2017; London, Sanchez, Castrechini, & Castrechini, 2016).

There are a variety of interrelated factors that influence attendance rates. Some factors are school-related while others relate to individual and family contexts. Critically, the evidence suggests that early attendance and declining attendance habits from primary to secondary school have important ramifications for later years of schooling and student outcomes.

THINGS THAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP IMPROVE ATTENDANCE

1. Keep rolls that reflect high professional standards
2. Being vigilant about lateness and truancy
3. Endeavour to maintain a positive relationship with students who miss class and tend to be disengaged
4. Develop classroom strategies to address student catching up on missed work. Communicate this to your classes.
5. Flagging students of concern to the Year Adviser.

EVERY DAY COUNTS...

A day here or there doesn't seem like much, but...

When your child misses just...	that equals...	which is...	and therefore, from Kindy to Year 12, that is...	This means that the best your child can achieve is...
1 day each fortnight	20 days per year	4 weeks per year	Nearly 1 ½ a years of school	Equal to finishing Year 11
1 day a week	40 days per year	8 weeks per year	Over 2 ½ years of school	Equal to finishing Year 10
2 days a week	80 days per year	16 weeks per year	Over 5 years of learning	Equal to finishing Year 7
3 days a week	120 days per year	24 weeks per year	Nearly 8 years of learning	Equal to finishing Year 4

Give your child every chance to succeed...

Every day counts!



A sense of belonging to the school

As part of the OECD's global education survey, the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA), a sample of Australian 15 year old students were asked to rate their level of agreement against several items measuring students' sense of 'belonging' at their school. Overall, "Australian students reported having a significantly poorer sense of belonging at school compared to students across the OECD" (De Bortoli, 2018).

THE ROLE OF THE HSLO

The role of the Home School Liaison Officer (HSLO) at MHS is to work closely with the Head Teacher Student Wellbeing in identifying students whose attendance has dropped below 90%. This is done on a fortnightly basis and Year Advisers are provided with suggested interventions and follow up.

If a student's attendance does not improve, the HT Wellbeing can make a referral to the HSLO (Home School Liaison Program) for support in re-engaging a student. If there is no improvement after the implementation of the program, a case conference is held, undertakings are written and there is the possibility that the case can end up in the court system with parents/carers facing an \$11,000 fine. In most cases, the matter is resolved before getting to court, however it is important to identify students whose attendance is poor in their early years of high school. For most, students who are over the age of 15 are not put on the HSLO case load and the school is asked to manage their attendance.

Please note, a student who has 90% attendance but only 70% attendance in your class will not become a HSLO referral. In our fortnightly meetings, we look at the whole school day attendance, not the attendance in individual classes. This is ultimately the role of the classroom teacher.