Dear parents

RE: 2016 Semester One Student Reports:

Student reports are being sent home today which summarise your child’s learning for the first semester (2016). I would like to provide some explanation as to what they do and don’t contain.

The current reporting requirements are based on the Education Funding Agreement with the Commonwealth government and require that schools report student achievement to parents twice a year using a five point scale or equivalent.

Schools must also comply with this requirement of the Victorian Registration and Qualifications Authority:

“A school must ensure that there is ongoing assessment, monitoring and recording of each student’s performance and provide each student and parent with access to accurate information about the student’s performance. Access to information must include at least two written reports to parents per year.”

The difficulties in determining the most effective ways of reporting student achievement are a product of attempts to meet competing demands of the Federal and State Governments.

The way in which our school and teachers have addressed this is by providing achievement standards, as well as statements that describe the work a student has completed over the reporting period and the learning they have demonstrated through that work.

When assigning a grade, teachers use moderation processes to ensure that there is consistency between different classes. Reports also are not designed to directly give
information about the level of student achievement in relation to their peers (instead they are compared to the expected standards).

I understand that the current reporting can be frustrating and ‘lacking more of a personal touch’, however we are constrained by the system as it stands at the moment.

Please note that next term I intend to review the way that we report to parents. This includes our current report format as well as parent teacher interviews. A sub-committee will be set up that contains board members, staff representatives and parents. I also intend to seek student feedback on what they expect. All parents will be invited to give feedback to guide our process which will in turn be fed back to the sub-committee.

Yours sincerely

Duncan Arendse
Principal