

12 November 2024

**Re: Years 5 and 6 Class Structure 2025**

Dear Parents/Caregivers of student in Year 4 and 5,

Our college is currently in the process of finalising class structures and staffing arrangements for 2025. After a thorough review of student numbers and with thoughtful consideration of the academic and social benefits for our students, we have decided to shift from straight year-level classes to a composite class structure for Years 5 and 6 in 2025.

This decision has been made to ensure that we continue to provide a supportive learning environment for all students. The new composite class structure allows us to maintain class sizes that provide individualised attention and support for each student.

Additionally, we are confident that composite classes across Years 5 and 6 will allow teachers to deliver the curriculum in such a way that students deepen their understanding of key concepts and promote independent learning, which is especially valuable as they prepare to transition into secondary school in the coming years.

As part of our normal year-to-year transition processes, students have recently completed a sociogram within their year level to help teachers with class placements for next year. Students listed 5 peers who they feel most confident and comfortable with to learn alongside. We endeavour to place students with at least two of their chosen peers.

In recognising that their 'social circle' will be bigger next year as a Year 5/6 cohort, students will complete another sociogram to include a broader selection of students. This will assist us in getting class placements right, allowing all students to learn, grow and flourish.

Class placements are a complex task, and teachers spend considerable time weighing up a range of factors that include:

- *Progress of learning*
- *Student's individual needs (social/emotional, learning, physical, behavioural)*
- *Relationships*
- *A balance of gender*

Indeed, composite classes across Years 5 and 6 will allow for a simpler process for class placements because there will be more options for us to place students, as opposed to them needing to be placed in either one or two classes. Spreading the students across four different Year 5/6 classes will enable them to explore new friendships across a broader subset of their peers. Nonetheless, when we place students in a class we will still focus on the overall learning and wellbeing needs of each student.

Thank you for your continued partnership in your child's learning and wellbeing. We look forward to watching our Year 5 and Year 6 students continuing to learn and grow in this new structure. Please feel free to contact the college if you have any questions.

Regards,



Leigh O'Shaughnessy  
4-6 Learning & Wellbeing Director



Damian Smith  
Principal