

27th January, 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

As part of our commitment to looking after the health and wellbeing of our students, a new initiative for 2023 has been the introduction of our school-wide wellbeing program. “Actioning Change Together” (ACT) will be taught in one lesson per week (Years 7 to 10) or two lessons per week (Years 11 and 12). The purpose of ACT is to proactively teach all students to work together in a collaborative, safe and respectful space. Students will learn how they can take actions to better themselves individually, as well as collectively, and to actively promote positive social change.

The ACT curriculum includes the three areas of study listed below. Year Level assemblies will also be held during ACT time.

Respectful Relationships Education

One core feature of the ACT program is the explicit teaching of the Respect curriculum.

In August 2015, the Queensland Government responded to the final report from the Special Taskforce on Domestic and Family Violence in Queensland. The “Respect” program stems from recommendation 24, which supports the introduction of programs in state schools to embed, through the school life of all secondary and primary state schools, a culture that emphasises:

- developing and maintaining respectful relationships
- respecting self
- gender equality.

The Respect program has been developed by the department as part of the broad multi-departmental Queensland Government approach to ending domestic and family violence.

The Respect program is a Prep to Year 12 primary prevention program focused on influencing behaviour change to prevent undesirable social consequences such as domestic and family violence. This is done through challenging attitudes about violence and gender construction that are known to lead to violence, while also supporting students to develop pro-social behaviours that lead to equitable and respectful relationships.

Within our ACT program, the Respect curriculum will include opportunities for the explicit and age appropriate teaching of the skills and knowledge including personal and social awareness, human rights, gender equality and equity, respectful relationships and interactions, consent education, preventing domestic and family violence, and help seeking and reporting strategies that are needed to develop positive and respectful relationships.

By implementing the Respect program within ACT, our school will give students opportunities for social and emotional learning in self-awareness, self-management, social awareness, relationships, ethics, values, social norms, stereotypes, human rights, risk and responsible decision-making. A growing body of evidence shows that social and emotional learning of this nature leads to:

- improved social and emotional skills, self-concept, bonding to school and classroom behaviour
- less disruptive classroom behaviour, aggression, bullying and delinquent acts
- reduced emotional distress such as depression, stress or social withdrawal.

Specifically in Years 7 to 10, the curriculum will cover how our students face more complex life decisions in a rapidly changing environment. They interact with their peers and technology, and require skills to manage online identities and interactions. Students will examine and address areas related to themselves, their families and communities.

In ACT, students will learn how to take positive action to enhance their own and others' health, safety and wellbeing. They will examine the nature of their relationships and other factors that influence people's beliefs, attitudes, opportunities, decisions, behaviour's and actions. And they will reflect on the personal and social skills needed to maintain respectful relationships, including online and offline situations requiring consent.

As our Year 11 and 12 students approach adulthood, in ACT they will reflect on the quality of their relationships, how effective they are and what guides them. Students will learn about the importance of ethics in relationships and how ethical relationships lead to positive and healthy interactions, including ways of seeking, giving and denying consent. They are challenged to evaluate personal or collective beliefs and behaviours that support the use of violence. Students explore gender inequality and its connection to domestic and family violence, and are encouraged to become active citizens and upstanders to make improvements in their community.

If you would like further information on the Respect curriculum, which will be taught throughout our ACT curriculum, we encourage you to visit the Education Queensland website <https://education.qld.gov.au/curriculum/stages-of-schooling/respectful-relationships>.

A link to the Respect program, as well as a number of Parent Information Fact Sheets, can be found on our website in our Parent Resources section.



Positive Behaviour for Learning

Another core feature of ACT will be the explicit teaching of Positive Behaviour for Learning. This topic will be more prevalent in Years 7, 8 and 9. Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL) is a framework that promotes positive behaviour across a school and helps schools develop safe and supportive learning environments. Aspects of the PBL framework will be taught during ACT, including the explicit teaching of expected behaviours and the establishment and reinforcement of clear and consistent boundaries.

Careers Education

The final core feature of ACT will be the inclusion of dedicated Careers Education lessons. This topic will be covered in conjunction with JET-Plan (Junior Education and Training) preparation in Year 9, SET-Plan (Senior Education and Training) preparation in Year 10, and with a heavy futures-focus in Years 11 and 12. Students in Years 7 and 8 will investigate goal setting, personal strengths and weaknesses, subject choice options and future career pathways, with the intent to prepare them to make successful subject choices in Years 9 and 10. Students in Year 11 and 12 will concentrate on study skills, time management, assessment techniques and preparing for exams. They will monitor their own learning and QCE tracking at critical junctures, to ensure they understand what is required for success in their chosen pathway. The Careers Education in Years 10, 11 and 12 will include presentations and resources from Elevate Education, and you can find out more information about their programs at <https://au.elevateeducation.com/>

If you have any questions regarding the ACT curriculum, please contact Julie Cook, HOD Student Services, on 3385 4555 for more information.

Kind regards,

Kyrra Mickelborough
Principal

Julie Cook
HOD Student Services