

Hewett House Newsletter

12th February 2010

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Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Well another busy week in the hostel is almost over. Everyone appears to be settling in to both the school and Hostel routines and it is very pleasing to see our Year 9 girls realizing the importance of sleep!

Next Tuesday 16 February an electrician will come into the Hostel to check all electrical appliances. Certification of electrical equipment is necessary so that we comply with the health and safety regulations governing Boarding Hostels. It is necessary to undergo these checks annually. We certainly want to ensure all electrical equipment is safe and does not pose a fire risk.

Can you please discuss with your daughter what she might have that needs certification? This can be done for a small charge that will be put onto your Hostel account. Alternatively you can organize it to be done with your local electrician.

Appliances that do not need certification are:

Ipod chargers, Toothbrush chargers, phone chargers, clocks and lap tops.

Appliances that do need certification are: Hair straighteners, hair dryers, toasted sandwich makers, fridges, popcorn makers and stereos.

If you are unsure whether your equipment needs certification please ask the Hostel staff.

All girls needing equipment certified will need to name it (stickers are available at the Hostel reception) and bring it down to a designated area on Monday morning before school.

A reminder to families of 5 day girls who wish to stay in over the weekend - we do require advance notification of this. There is also a charge of \$25 each night. You will also be asked to explain why your daughter wishes to stay in. Some girls see the weekend as purely an extension to their social calendar – if this is the only reason, they may be declined.

Some of you may be aware that the daily timetable at school has changed this year. This has affected the morning tea and lunch breaks for our girls. Morning Tea is now at 11.05am and lunch at 1.15pm. To accommodate this change, our kitchen staff has been very obliging and is now providing a very substantial morning tea for the girls. However, the teaching staff at school feels that many of the girls in their classes are struggling to remain focused for that length of time. They have suggested the school have a snack break between morning classes.

The girls in the Hostel are provided with extremely nutritional food and plenty of it. No girl should ever miss breakfast and I believe this sets them up well for the day. However, I admit that some girls are small 'grazers' so if the break between breakfast and morning tea is too long for your daughter and you feel it is necessary for her to have a snack, then you will need to supply this for them. It is entirely *optional* so please discuss this with your daughter(s) over the weekend.

Following on from last week when I explained the procedure for canceling buses, Bob & Adele from Coachlines have contacted us to say that 10 girls cancelled their return bus to school this past Sunday. I understand that things come up but can I please urge you to consider all options before booking the bus. It presents both an inconvenience and a cost to the bus company who has provided a great service to us over the years.

As most of you are aware the Hostel provide a great service with the Hostel minivan transporting girls to and from their various activities after school. It is becoming a VERY busy service and at times it is difficult to accommodate everyone. From time to time your daughter may be required to take a taxi if Mrs McKenzie is unable to fit her destination on to the bus run. We certainly try to be very fair in the way it is organized. It has also become increasingly difficult for Mrs McKenzie to get girls to their activities on time if they are booked for 3.30pm. Although our girls finish school at 3.10pm, by the time they get out of school and organized it is getting very close to 3.30pm. At this time other schools are also finishing and the extra congestion on the roads means a quick trip takes a lot longer. We therefore ask that any bookings for the school minivan are made from 3.45pm onwards. Thanks for your understanding!

It looks like it is set to be a fabulous summer weekend. I hope you all have an enjoyable one.

Kind regards

Lianne Parkinson
Hostel Manager