



HANDS ON LEARNING

HoL Program: Information for parents for program participation – Secondary

Dear Parent/Guardian

We invite you to read this information about the Hands on Learning (HoL) program offered at our school. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any further questions.

Introduction

HoL allows secondary school students to participate 1 day per week in various practical projects, which may be within the school or outside in the local community. Some examples include building basic structures, bricklaying, furniture making, painting, sculpture and landscaping. In 2023 we are focusing on hospitality through the HoLs Café.

The group will consist of 2 staff, Dinah Jones and Mark Riordan, and up to 10 students from different year levels in years 7-10. The staff are referred to as artisan-teachers and are employed by the school.

Students will spend an entire day in HoL and as well as completing practical projects they will also prepare and share meals together as a group.

Why we are doing it

HoL was implemented to provide students with a wider choice of curriculum. We intentionally designed this program to provide an alternative to the classroom structure and normal learning style, where new skills can be learnt by doing and experiencing.

Popularity of the program

It is a privilege for students to have an opportunity to be in the HoL program. We have limited places, and a waiting list exists of students wishing to be involved. This is not a program for students who want a day out of school. This program helps students maintain a positive attitude to school, and they really look forward to their HoL day.

The four pillars of HoL: why this is our foundation

HoL is an innovative onsite education program made up of four fundamental elements that build a platform for young people to grow in confidence, engage and achieve at school.



A place to belong
A physical sanctuary at school.



People to belong to
Small teams working together, sharing meals and building strong relationships.



Real things to do
Engaging in creative and meaningful projects.



A chance to give back
Making valuable contributions to their community, building self-esteem and connection.

Success of the structure

The mixed structure of the groups, with girls and boys, and the range of age groups, provides an opportunity for leadership skills to be developed and provides a positive learning environment for the younger students taking a natural lead from the older ones in the group.

Developing community attitudes

We actively seek involvement in community project work which is a great opportunity to foster positive attitudes towards the local community, which teaches the students the value of shared goals and purposes which are the fabric of our society.

Clothing and footwear

HoL students will be out of school uniform or wearing an agreed HoL uniform on the days they attend. HoL students wear clothing appropriate for use on a work site. These may include: leather shoes or boots, old clothes that may get paint, mud and dirt on them, hats, sunscreen and shoulders covered at all times.

Mobile phones/personal IT/music devices

Mobile phones and personal IT and music devices cause unacceptable distraction on the worksite and are not permitted. Mobile phones are great, but they can cause major distractions when working with others and it is important to work safely. Therefore, just like a job site and following school policy, mobile phones will be looked after by HoL artisan-teachers during the day.

Site safety

All safety procedures are to be followed including:

- Unauthorised tools or equipment are not allowed
- Safety equipment must be worn where necessary (gloves, hats, eye wear, vests, ear muffs)
- Unauthorised ladder or structure climbing is not allowed

Smoking

All Schools have a strict non-smoking policy for students and staff. Smoking is not permitted on the school grounds or the HoL worksite.

Visitors/parent/guardians

All visitors to the site must report to the School Administration Building

Meals

HoL students are asked to contribute \$5 towards the cost of the food and drink which they will have during the day. The food helps cover breakfast, recess and lunch.

Students are expected to eat together and not leave the group until everyone has finished and the table has been cleaned/cleared.

NO other food or beverages are permitted on site – these include drinks such as Red Bull, MOTHER, V or soft drinks that may impact on, mood and the work capacity of the students.

Student performance

HoL students will be assessed on three main areas of participation:

- Having a strong work ethic
- Being a positive team member (good listener, considerate and helpful)
- Working on areas of personal development and behaviour using Focus Plans

All students will have their places reviewed and those who do not perform across these areas may not be able to continue with the HoL experience.

Attendance

HoL operates for a full school day. Students are permitted to be at the hut no earlier than 15 minutes before the commencement of their normal school start time and are encouraged to have breakfast if they need. Students will be dismissed from the HoL hut at the end of the school day. Any changes to attendance need to go through normal school procedures ie: ring school office if going to be late or not attending.

Excursions

HoL students will be involved in projects/activities off site and will be required to have the appropriate permission forms signed by a parent or guardian.

Name of artisan-teacher: Dinah Jones

Name of artisan-teacher: Mark Riordan

Dinah Jones
TEACHER

Amanda Cooper
PRINCIPAL