

08/06/2022

Dear Parents and Carers

The staff of Redbank Plains State High School are very conscious of the challenging financial times we live in and the school makes every effort to deliver the best educational outcomes for your student in the most cost-efficient manner. This letter outlines the benefits your student receives from the school's Resource Hire Scheme and explains how the school will deliver an educational program to your child that is fit for purpose in the 21st Century.

In Queensland state schools, tuition (teaching) and assessment have always been provided free of charge. However, the resources to support learning such as textbooks, exercise books, excursion and camp fees and sports and school uniforms have always been provided by parents. The Queensland government provides a textbook allowance to schools for each student to partly defray these costs.

Like all schools, Redbank Plains State High School charges a Student Resource Scheme fee to cover some of these costs with the remainder subsidised by the school's Investing for Success (I4S) scheme (which is Queensland's usage of the Gonski needs-based educational funding program). We charge all families the same fee, irrespective of the higher cost of some subjects, as we want all students to have the same choice of subjects.

Being part of the Resource Hire Scheme is great value due to the subsidy the school provides from the school's I4S funding. The average school textbook now costs \$65 or more. Multiply this by the four core subjects in Junior Secondary and by six subjects in Senior Secondary and you have an annual cost for texts alone of over \$260 to \$390. Consumables for subjects such as Art and Design Technologies average over \$100 per year per subject. If you add on the cost of photocopying, sports equipment, software licences, student access to educational management, support and testing programs such as Compass and Education Perfect, students receive access to resources worth over \$650 in junior secondary and \$800 in Senior Secondary for a cost of \$275 in Junior Secondary and \$325 in Senior Secondary. This is respectively \$1.37 and \$1.62 per day!

In 2023 we will extend our compulsory laptop program to five-year levels -7, 8, 10, 11 and 12- with laptops strongly encouraged for Year 9 as well. Our experience in 2022 has proven the laptop program improves student engagement and outcomes and prepares students far better for post-school earning and learning. Students will have two laptop options in 2023. They either provide their own laptop or can rent one from the school for \$200 a year (that is \$1 per day for a 200-day school year).

We have made laptops compulsory for a number of reasons. Modern educational practices, including at home learning, are dependent on students having a laptop. Many publishers are no longer producing printed texts and, with texts loaded onto a laptop, texts are always available. With a laptop class, learning, homework and assignment writing are seamless between school and home and this results in more productivity and better results. Most importantly, our students find laptop learning more effective. A survey of 182 students with laptops found that over 80% of students believed that using a laptop had improved their learning and 80% believed it had helped them be more engaged with homework.

Participation in the school's resource Hire Scheme is vital to your student's success. At \$1.37 per day in Junior and \$1.62 per day in Senior, it is also great value for money!

Yours faithfully



Tom Beck Executive Principal: Redbank Plains State High School