



Government of **Western Australia**
Country High School Hostels Authority



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Narrogin Residential College

College Managers Mid -Term Newsletter (Term 2, 2010)

Welcome to the term 2 Manager's Newsletter.

Singapore Visit 2010. Host Families.

Dunman High School in Singapore will be visiting from the 16th to the 23rd of June. There will be a contingent of 25 students and 3 staff. We are looking for College host families to accommodate these students over the weekend of the 18th and 20th of June. Families who have farms or rural properties are welcome to apply. The students will be in pairs, or on their own. Please call me to register your interest.

Student Computers and Internet at the College.

The College will soon acquire 16 computers from the school to add to our 4 newer computers. This will see 20 (10+10) computers (**with room to purchase more if there is a demand**) that are identical to the schools i.e. DoE faced and formatted. All the computers will be hard wired to the schools server. The College will then discontinue the aerial signal down to the dorms – this will mean that no internet will be available in the dorms. This has been a security risk to the school for years and has been proven time and again that students have used the internet inappropriately at the expense of the school, the College and fellow students. Extract from the Education Department, ICT section “*This (the wireless aspect to our internet service) is a major security issue and the Hostel should be disconnected....*” In addition to this, wireless signals can be picked up beyond the College by members of the public. This has been communicated to all students (19/5)

If significant funding becomes available, I will seriously pursue having the dorms hard wired at each desk; However, you can imagine the infrastructural costs associated with this. But this is our goal.

Year 11 and 12 students (only) will have College consent to purchase and use their own wireless internet service if they feel they have additional internet needs. Year 8s to 10s will not have this privilege. A number of CHSHA Colleges have debated this for years and are moving to computer lab set ups. A boarding provider in Perth has banned computers in dorms altogether let alone the internet. I have put this to the P&C and they see our point but suggested the option for 11s and 12s to have additional internet access.

Internet / Facebook.com etc

This is a consuming topic but appears regularly. Students accessing controversial sites via their own computers and personal internet are difficult to manage. With the new policy above, year 8s to 10s will no longer be able to have their own internet access. I do not think I have to justify the Colleges stand on this. Facebook.com and Myspace.com and other similar sites can be used as they were intended or can be used as unacceptable tools to harm other people. The incidents of teachers being vilified by some students and other students targeting individuals with devastating rumours have taken their toll. We also saw the extreme example of the teenage girl lured to her death by her “boyfriend” she met through Facebook. All this under the nose of parents. Accessing Facebook.com or Myspace.com and Youtube.com are banned at the College, with computer confiscation for any student caught accessing these sites. I am not coming up with a list of every site that may be used inappropriately; however I will target these very popular sites to make a point. The schools filtering will assist with this as well.

Term 2, 2010 Dates

Next Closed Weekend is Friday 4th June to return Monday 7th after 3:00pm. Grandparents Day Luncheon, Sunday 20th June, 12 noon. Singapore visitors 16th to 23rd June. Country Week starts Monday 28th.
End of Term 2 Friday 2nd July.

Year 11 and 12 Study Skills and Exam Preparation Workshop

This has been organised by the College for Monday 31st May for all year 11s with year 12s invited to attend. This will be conducted by Mrs Anna Burrows (Year 12 coordinator). The session will go from 7pm to 8pm in the Rec room. I will make this compulsory for all year 11s and an option for year 12s, as they have done this workshop already. Some may want to do this again. (Students have been told about this course)

P & C Meeting

The next College P&C meeting will be on **Friday, July 2nd** at 1:30pm (Last day of term 2). The last meeting had a good turn out with 7 in attendance. The main item discussed was the fundraising event for 2010. A raffle will be organised as with previous years. The P&C are putting this together; however, additional support with a task or two would be appreciated. Also any parents who have business contacts who could donate or subsidise a prize can get in touch with me.

NEW RETURN TIMES for Closed Weekend and Holiday return times – 3:00pm

A parent has asked if the College could open earlier on Close Weekends and start of terms. Her problem was having to travel in from a greater distance and hence wanted to be on the road sooner to avoid night driving (roos etc). 2.00pm was suggested. I stated our reasons for later return times but said I would put this to staff. So a compromise was agreed that **3:00pm** will be the return time for both Closed Weekends and start of term. (Term 1 is 9:00am). This is an hour earlier for Closed Weekends. Staff also saw the need to have the same return times for both occasions as not to confuse parents and students.

Year 12 Leavers Jackets.

The year 12s have selected a design for this years College Leavers top. We are now sourcing a good price from suppliers. Once this has been done, we will be taking orders and payment. As with last year, payments will secure a top.

Talking of year 12s – I will be talking to a select group of year 12 boys and girls, who have hit the radar with staff in respect to their behaviour for after lights out and to a degree during study time. I am asking all year 12 parents to ensure that they make contact with their son or daughter and stress the need to respect their fellow student's right to sleep and study. I will speak to the year 12 group about this in general terms and to some individuals. The River cruise, year 12 camp and privileges are at risk for some individuals. Non compliant year 12s will not be welcome to stay at the College during exam times if they can not be trusted. This has been communicated to all students (19/5).

Year 10 and 11 College Reports

These will be provided to parents at the end of this term.

Narrogin Recreation Centre Entry Fee.

I am negotiating a deal with the Council for a heavily reduced entry fee for our students - or if my budget permits, possibly covering the full cost of entry for any games and trainings. I will await their offer and will negotiate from there. It will also need to be something that is easily administered and implemented. I will let parents know as soon as possible of the outcome.

Leave from the College

I admit that our leave policy can be a bit confusing as to what is allowable as there are many leave scenarios that are presented to staff. Please understand that these rules are very similar (give or take) to what you will find in boarding handbooks across the country. The rules are conservative and particular for good reasons.

The basics;

1. **No "Overnight leave" in the Town of Narrogin** is permitted – Unless parents sign out their child in person.
2. **If a host and not the parent are picking up their child for any leave** – we expect a College fax Leave form to be completed. Regular arrangements can have a "one-off" Leave form completed to save parents repeatedly filling out a form. Download from the website or get a handful from staff.
3. **Hosts and Parents must be fully aware of each others plans** – e.g. if getting a bus to a hosts place for the weekend the host must first live out of town and must have made contact with the parents and vice-versa. (Teenagers do not always tell you everything – so please suss things out)
4. **There are no barriers to parents/guardians signing out their child from the College** – Only prior written or verbal notice is needed. We need to know who will be in and who will be out in advance.
5. **Any other leave arrangement must not conflict with our policy** – if in doubt get advice and permission from the College Manager for Leave that does not quite fit in with the norm.