TERM 2, 2014 FLYING START RESOURCE KIT (PRIMARY)

Here at Windsor State School, we’re helping our Year 6 and 7 students prepare for a smooth transition to high school.

This year is the final year that Year 7 will be a part of primary education in Queensland, which means that rather than preparing only our Year 7 students to make the move to high school, we’ll also be working with our Year 6 students.

We know that making the transition from primary to secondary school can be a big step for students. To ensure the move is a great success we will continue to work with parents, students and our local high schools.

In 2011, after consulting widely, the Queensland Government announced that Year 7 would become the first year of high school across the state in 2015. This reform was the centrepiece of a set of reforms known collectively as A Flying Start. There are good reasons why Year 7 will become the first year of high school in Queensland, including:

- as a result of the introduction of the Prep year in 2007 and raising of the school starting age by six months in 2008, almost half of our current Year 6 students will turn 13 in 2015 and will be in their eighth year of school, which is traditionally the right time to start high school
- educators agree that young teenagers are ready for the greater independence and depth of learning that high school provides
- our students will have greater access to specialist teachers and resources in high school, such as science teachers and labs, which will open up new educational opportunities and position them to take advantage of the Australian Curriculum
- the move will bring Queensland in line with most other states and territories, which makes it easier for families moving interstate while their children are still in secondary school.

We are working closely with our local high schools to ensure parents have appropriate information. We are happy to report that Kelvin Grove State College and Kedron State High School are:

- establishing a strong Junior Secondary model which will optimise your child’s learning and wellbeing as they transition through the early years of high school
- drawing on the experiences of the 20 state secondary schools which have piloted the Year 7 move to high school during the past three years
- recruiting a team of dedicated and passionate teachers who will support the learning of students in the Junior Secondary years
- working to ensure that sufficient classrooms and other facilities will be available for Year 7.

As parents, you may have some questions or concerns around your child’s transition to high school. We’re here to provide as much support as possible, and we would encourage you to come and speak with us or the high school where you intend to enrol your child.