

Dear Parents,

Something exciting is happening in Year _ this term. This week we are introducing students to Genius Hour.

What is Genius Hour?

Genius Hour is time set aside in class each week for students to research something they are passionate about.

Why is Genius Hour important?

Genius Hour will allow students to:

- ü Take ownership of their own learning journey. Genius Hour encourages lifelong learning, imagination, perseverance, self-awareness, adaptability, as well as other life-lessons.
- ü Promote, support and model creative, innovative thinking and inventiveness
- ü Discover and investigate further one of their passions
- ü Develop skills sets that are valuable in any learning situation à *research, experimentation, collaboration, creativity, problem solving and critical thinking*
- ü Reflect on and share their learning with others in a variety of ways, including blogging

How will Genius Hour work in the classroom?

Students will participate in Genius Hour sessions every Friday Morning for approximately 50 minutes to 1 hour. Initially students will work through some Genius Hour mini-lessons to help them begin their journey. These will include:

- § Introduction to Genius Hour à *What is it? What are the rules?*
- § Brainstorming à *What are you passionate about? What do you want to know more about?*
- § Questioning à *How do we formulate good inquiry-based questions?*
- § Proposals à *What will be your focus for the Genius Hour Project? How will you present your learning to others? What materials will you need? What is your success criteria?*
- § Blogging à *What is blogging? What is blogging etiquette? How will I use it during Genius Hour?*

Once a proposal has been approved by the teacher, students will begin their journey of researching, designing, making, blogging and sharing. This project will run until **Week 10** of this term, when students are expected to share what they have learnt with the class in a creative and engaging manner.

What is the teacher's role in Genius Hour?

The teacher's role is to guide, coach and facilitate students through the process. They will check in with student's regularly during sessions through 1:1 conferencing.

Why is blogging a part of Genius Hour?

One of the major components of the Genius Hour Project is blogging. The students will be using ___ as their blogging platform, that allows them to publish writing safely online and exercise digital citizenship within a secure classroom blogging space.

Students will be expected to write a blog post each session about the progress they are making with their project. By participating in this blog, students will be learning to reflect on their learning and effort, and actively thinking about what they need to focus on next time.

How will students present what they know?

Students are encouraged to present what they have learnt in unique and creative ways. This might mean that they make something, create a model, code something, compose a piece of music or writing, develop an animation or comic, present a speech or multimedia presentation. How they choose to present their understanding is up to them.

Can students work on their Projects at home?

Whilst this project is to be completed predominantly during school hours, we recognise that when someone is truly passionate about something they want to keep exploring, creating and learning. With this in mind, we are happy for students to work on parts of their projects at home, including gathering resources and materials to help them create a final product.

Assessment during Genius Hour

Genius Hour is ultimately about the learning process. Therefore, students will be assessed throughout their exploration and will be actively involved in creating the success criteria and evaluating the learning process.

We are excited to share this learning opportunity with your child. I am sure we will need to tweak things along the way as we embark on this new adventure in Year __. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us.

Kind Regards,

Teacher name