
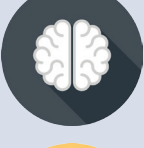

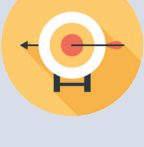


The Top Ten:

A successful secondary school transition program

-  **LEADERSHIP:**
leadership is a specialist skill
-  **STAFFING:**
get the right people on the bus in the right seats
-  **ORIENTATION AND TRANSITION PROGRAM:**
create a feeling of purpose, belonging and safety
-  **CAMPS:**
create shared experiences and a shared sense of achievement
-  **TECHNOLOGY:**
don't stop educating
-  **COMMUNICATION WITH PARENTS:**
don't be a keyboard warrior/worrier
-  **A WELLBEING CURRICULUM:**
build a holistic foundation
-  **ACADEMIC SUPPORT:**
don't let homework go home
-  **EXTRA-CURRICULAR INVOLVEMENT:**
sport, music, service: every student involved every term
-  **MAKE IT CLEAR WHAT YOU STAND FOR:**
create a common language

Year 7 takes the No Compromise TSS Pledge

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Year 7 Co-Ordinator



On January 23rd, a typically balmy day more suited to the beach than jackets and ties, 2017's Year 7 cohort commenced their TSS journey. One hundred and fifty students anxiously sat and waited for their first lesson to commence: ears still ringing from the drumline; eyes scanning for a familiar face; the interminable summer holidays suddenly seeming just a few days too short.

The year's first lesson? The TSS Pledge.

While TSS boys come in all shapes and sizes, from all over the world, the Pledge outlines the five attributes upon which we, as a school, are not willing to compromise. We aren't a sporting academy, or a tertiary-entrance factory, but we are unwavering in our commitment to produce young men of integrity. The Pledge articulates the honourable traits that are the hallmarks of a Southport student.

1. Look after others

Wonder, a children's novel by R.J. Palacio, tells the story of a boy with a facial deformity beginning his education at Beecher Prep, a fictional private school. Worried about how the other students will respond to the new boy, the Headmaster begins the year with a simple request: "Shall we make a new rule of life...always to try to be a little kinder than is necessary." Profound and touching in its honest simplicity, this quotation articulates the pastoral focus of Term One: we expect the boys to be kind, tolerant, and caring. Looking after others by being a little kinder than necessary creates a welcoming atmosphere, foregrounding the fundamental importance of simply being a good bloke.



2. Work hard in my studies

Grit: The Power of Passion and Perseverance by Angela Duckworth is essential reading for coaches, teachers and parents. According to Duckworth, "gritty people have a growth mindset; when bad things happen they don't give up." To work hard in one's studies in Year 7 is about developing the habit of unwavering effort; it is not about being a straight 'A' student. In Year 7, we celebrate boys who have goals, and implement systems to achieve those goals. If grit is living life like it's a marathon, not a sprint, then Year 7 is the first few kilometres where you seek to find a rhythm you can maintain for the next few hours.



3. Be involved in extracurricular activities/pursuits

Duckworth devotes a whole chapter of *Grit* to the importance of extracurricular pursuits. In team sports and musical ensembles, boys learn the importance of meaningful practice, of committing to a season, and the hard work it takes to get better. Students involved in the School's extracurricular programme feel a greater sense of belonging, develop a broader friendship group, and enjoy coming to school. Most importantly, it's about having fun. In Term One, Year 7 boys were involved in cross country, cricket, debating, sailing, and swimming, a few even coxing in the rowing programme. Boys are happy when they are busy, when they are involved, and when they are challenged.



4. Be drug free

While Year 7 boys often gloss over this aspect of the Pledge, questioning its relevance to pre-adolescents, it provides an opportunity to reflect upon the risks of poor nutrition, and the dangers of highly caffeinated 'energy' drinks. The final message of this year's commencement assembly was the importance of wellbeing: train like an athlete, eat like a nutritionist, and sleep like a baby. The boys are consistently reminded to prioritise eight to nine hours quality sleep each evening – the quality coming from steering clear of caffeine and limiting screen time in evenings. It's a cliché worth repeating: a healthy mind begins with a healthy body.



5. Look for opportunities to show leadership by making things better for others

TSS boys are learning to lead, so it is vital in Year 7 that we define what leadership is, and that we model and celebrate servant leadership, which simply encompasses putting the needs of others first. The inspiration for our approach to leadership comes from *Leaders Eat Last* by Simon Sinek, in which he explains that, "...the true price of leadership is the willingness to place the needs of others above your own." Leaders at TSS aren't pacesetters, they don't boss others around; in Year 7 boys learn that leaders listen, seek to quietly inspire, and above all have the courage to put others first - to sacrifice so that others can succeed.

