

Dear Alumni,

There have been a number of people contacting the school asking me to address the decision announced by Minister for Education, Adrian Piccoli, to relocate the HAHS.

The fact is that I, like every other member of the Hurlstone community, was surprised by the decision made public on Wednesday 18 November. I was informed early that morning, with senior officers of the Department who attended the school and informed the senior executive, staff and then students of the impending announcement. A letter addressed to the Hurlstone Community from Mr Nicholas Magriplis, Director Public Schools NSW, was also given to students to deliver to parents. This letter, and any other information given to us about the decision, was also placed on our website.

It has been prudent not to write anything until I was able to digest the announcement myself. I now want to take this opportunity to clarify some of the misinformation presented in the media, both traditional and social, about the decision.

- The name and function of Hurlstone Agricultural High School will transfer to a new education facility to be purpose built on the grounds of Western Sydney University, Hawkesbury. The newly built selective and boarding school at WSU will focus on agricultural and STEM (science, technology, engineering and maths) education and will include the latest in agricultural scientific equipment and resources. It will enrol its first cohort of Year 7 and Year 11 day and boarding students in 2020.
- The current site at Roy Watts Road Glenfield will continue to house Hurlstone Agricultural High School until at some future point a new name is determined by the school community. The school on the Glenfield site will remain a fully selective high school. Boarders will remain on site until 2022.
- The number of selective student places at the Glenfield site will increase over time with each year group finally having 180 students. The year this will come into effect will be mapped out in consultation with various directorates within the department and community members will be advised accordingly.
- Boarders at our school in Year 7 and 11 2020 will have the option of transferring to the Hawkesbury site. In 2021, boarders in Years 7, 8, 11 and 12 will have this option as well, and then in 2022, boarders in Years 7, 8, 9, 11 and 12 again will have this option. By 2023, the Hawkesbury site will be able to accommodate boarders in all year groups.
- All students who enrol under the name Hurlstone Agricultural High School at Glenfield before 2018 will graduate from Hurlstone Agricultural High School. Those Year 7 students enrolling from 2018 will graduate from a selective school on the Glenfield site which will have a new name determined by the school community. At all times during the next seven years, and beyond, maintaining excellent academic standards at Hurlstone and the high school with the new name will remain a high priority.
- The physical historical entities integral to the Glenfield campus of Hurlstone Agricultural High School will be relocated or, where this is not possible, recreated at the Hawkesbury campus.

Some land at Glenfield will be sold and the money from this sale will be used as follows:

- More than \$30 million will be spent on the education precinct at Glenfield –including a major upgrade of the existing high school - a much needed improvement. Major refurbishment/rebuild of the three schools for specific purposes (Campbell House, Glenfield Park and Ajuga) will also be undertaken from these funds
- Land will be reserved for a new primary school catering for up to 1000 students in the Glenfield precinct
- \$35 million will be spent building the new Hurlstone Agricultural High School located at Western Sydney University's Hawkesbury campus.
- New schools will be built at Oran Park and Gledswood
- An additional 180 new classrooms will be created across South Western Sydney,

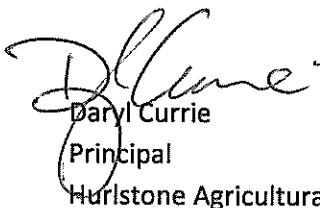
When I became Principal of Hurlstone Agricultural High School, part of my brief was to reinvigorate the teaching of agriculture and the use of the farm at Hurlstone Agricultural High School and to re-engage the community with the boarding school. The physical improvements to the boarding school have been extensively promoted and do not need listing here.

The decision to relocate the school does not change this direction. I remain responsible for reinvigorating both agricultural education and boarding at Hurlstone, regardless of whether it is at Glenfield or Hawkesbury. Over the next five years, very little will change; the school needs to remain one of NSW's premier selective schools , it needs to continue offering students an academic pathway in studying Agriculture, it needs to continue disseminating the values which help to grow Hurlstonians.

As well as this task, I now also have the responsibility to, just like in 1926, ensure that the values, academic success and spirit of Hurlstone are transported to a new environment. Added to this is the imperative to keep all those attributes alive and well at a selective school on the Glenfield site. I will work closely with the staff, students, school community and alumni to ensure that the spirit and intent of McMullen and Longmuire, and all those that came after them at the Glenfield site, not only survives the transition but are embedded and flourish in two NSW educational institutions.

This is an important time for all of us and there are more questions that will be considered in the coming years that will inform planning, support and action to make the transition a smooth one.

Regards



Daryl Currie
Principal
Hurlstone Agricultural High School