



RUGBY NEWSLETTER – MARCH 2018

This is the first Rugby Newsletter for the year and is designed to provide regular updates on all Rugby activities and programs conducted at the College. 2018 is shaping up to be a very busy year for all Rugby programs as we try to build on the excellent developments from previous years.

1st XV TOUR – the 1st XV embark on a two match tour of NZ in April. The squad contest matches against Cambridge HS on Monday 9 April and Mauao HS on Thursday 12 April. The squad will contest a trial match v Marist Ashgrove on Wednesday 28 March and participate in a pre tour camp on Wednesday 4 and Thursday 5 April. We wish all involved a safe and rewarding tour.

JOHN ELDERS CUP (JEC) – the annual Open Rugby event will again be held at Downlands on Saturday 21 and Sunday 22 April. Six teams will contest this year's event with matches commencing at 9:00am on both days. Day 2 will involve playoffs, semi and the JEC Final so all Downlands Rugby supporters are encouraged to come to the games and cheer on our boys. The Downlands Rugby Committee will be hosting the Feast at Fulltime on Saturday following the last match. Former Downlands student and ex Wallaby Brett Robinson will be in attendance as our special guest.

DOWNLANDS RUGBY PLAYER FORM – last week all students received a letter and google form asking for information including DOB, Rugby position, training shirt size etc. This form needs to be returned by the end of Term 1 so information can be collated, training shirts ordered for the start of Rugby in Term 2.

SEASON LAUNCH – the Downlands Rugby Season Launch will be held on Thursday 19 April in the Graham Centre from 6:00-7:00pm. All players, parents and family are invited to attend. The night's activities will include the introduction of the Rugby Coaches, 1st XV Rugby Tour review and outline of the season dates and activities.

ANNUAL DOWNLANDS RUGBY CAMP – will be held on Saturday 12 May and will be a fully packed program of events. The day will commence with a Year 5-6 Rugby clinic from 8:00 -9:30am. The U13-Open age training will run from 9:30am – 12 noon while the Girls 7's activities will be held from 10:00am –12:30pm. Lachlan Parkinson & Aaron Palmer from the Reds will be in attendance to support days events. The 1st XV Rugby team will be playing a trial against Nudgee College at 12.30pm that day so it's an opportunity for all Rugby players to cheer them on. The day will also include internal trial matches for the U13-Open age groups. More information on the annual Rugby Camp will be circulated asap.

A-Z RUGBY – A Rugby education session for Downlands parents will be conducted at the College on Tuesday 1 May from 6:00 -7:00pm in Upper Highland. The session is designed to give parents more insight into Rugby terminology, laws and culture. More information to be circulated asap.

REFEREES COURSE – A Refereeing Kids Rugby Course will be conducted at Downlands on Wednesday 2 May from 6:00 -9:00pm. The course will be co-ordinated by Darling Downs Referees Association and be attended by International Referee Rohan Hoffman. I am appealing to parents and students in Years 9:00 -11:00 to get involved in doing the course as we need to bolster our stocks of Rugby officials.

Cost is \$30. More information ASAP.



FRIDAY MORNING SKILLS & FITNESS – these sessions kicked off on Friday 16 March with 55 enthusiastic students involved. The sessions continue until the end of Term 1 and recommence on Friday 27 April. Sessions run from 6:00 -7:15am.

U13-15 GYM CIRCUITS – In Term 2, gym circuits will commence for the U13-15 boys age groups. Players will be put into a group of approx. 25 players and attend gym circuits on a rotation on the following days & times – Monday and Wednesdays 6:15-7:00am / 3:15-4:00pm & 4:00-4:45pm.

RUGBY TRAINING COMMENCEMENT – afternoon training in the U13, 14, 15, 16 & Open divisions kicks off on Tuesday 24 April from 3:20-5:00pm on Lords South.

TRIAL MATCHES – Downlands play Ambrose Treacy College in a trial match at Downlands on Saturday 5 May in the U13 A, B, U14A, U15A & U16A's. A draw for the day will be circulated soon. The 1st XV then play Nudgee at Downlands on Saturday 12 May before the first full Rugby trial against Brisbane SHS (away) on Saturday 2 June.

Yours in Rugby

Murray Archibald
DIRECTOR OF RUGBY