



15 August 2017

Dear Parents and Caregivers

YEAR 9 FUTURE EARTH Workshop Day

The theme for National Science Week this year is 'Future Earth'. To further explore this theme of sustainability, energy decarbonisation and water and food security, all year 9s will take part in a one day workshop day on **Friday 25 August, Week 5** on the first floor of St Catherine's (students will be spread out across rooms STC101-105).

As preparation for this workshop, students will be watching the ABC's documentary "War on Waste" leading up to Week 5. This show introduces topics of sustainability, responsible use of resources, and the incredible problem of plastic waste in our society.

The workshop day will involve students collaborating in small groups within an engineering design process to generate an idea, project, or product to solve one particular problem in the 'war on waste'. This design process will be supported with an online teaching module. Students will need to bring a charged laptop and their pencil case with them to the workshop. An email will be sent closer to the day with details of how to access the online module.

Also during the day, all Year 9 students will participate in a virtual reality incursion to further explore "Future Earth" and technology of the future. Each Home Class will be allocated one lesson during the day when they will experience immersive virtual reality simulations in booths prepared by Edge VR in St Dominic's Hall.

Many schools are using VR devices and students are finding the technology amazing and incredibly engaging. However, before using VR equipment participants should be aware that manufacturers of equipment and applications do list safety warnings as below:

When using VR devices for extended periods or the first time, you may experience nausea, discomfort, eye strain, disorientation, or other symptoms similar to motion sickness. If this occurs, please immediately discontinue using the device. It is recommended that users follow the 20-20-20 rule – after 20 minutes of VR use, rest your eyes for 20 seconds by looking 20m away. If users are prone to seizures, it is recommended that they consult a doctor before using VR devices. It is not recommended to use the equipment when extremely tired, or suffering from colds/flu and this can increase your susceptibility to adverse symptoms.

Having considered the information above please complete the permission slip, sign and have your son/daughter **return it to the Student Services Office by 4.00pm Tuesday 22 August.**

Yours sincerely

Lara Lang
Science Coordinator
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I do / do not give permission for my son / daughter _____

Home Class _____ to participate in the VR incursion.

Signed: _____

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