Junior Secondary 2015 Update
William Ross State High School has an outstanding academic reputation with a key focus on the welfare of all students. We have highly enviable achievements in all areas of school life including the sports, performing arts, visual arts, languages other than English, the sciences, mathematics and the technology areas of study. We offer services and support for individual students that other schools simply are unable to provide. Each student is tracked in terms of his or her learning and personal welfare. A highly skilled team of specialists continually analyse how students are enjoying and succeeding during their secondary learning journey and support students and their families as required.

We are ready for our Year 7 students arriving in 2015
In preparation for our Year 7 cohort in 2015, we are currently constructing state-of-the-art facilities specifically for our Year 7 students. They are designed around the learning and personal needs of students are based on research conducted in Queensland and interstate. These facilities will bristle with the latest learning technologies to ensure student learning is maximised in an environment which is stimulating, energising and aimed at the requirements of the young adolescent. A key focus will be achieving academic excellence. Specialist facilities will ensure each child has the best environment in which to excel in the key learning areas of English, Mathematics, Science and Humanities (History, Geography). We are very fortunate also to have a team of specialist junior secondary teachers skilfully led by our Deputy Principal of Junior School. Our Junior Secondary team will ensure resources and facilities are effectively used to produce the best possible learning outcomes. This team of outstanding educators and support personnel are keenly focused on ensuring each child reaches his or her full potential. Our focus is to create learning experiences that will engage learners, enhance higher order thinking skills, improve literacy and numeracy standards and optimise lifelong learning attributes. We understand that with the shift of Year 7 comes some anxiety and excitement from parents and students, so as well as the curriculum, we will offer a range of programs and support to assist students’ transition to high school life. The Junior Secondary team will reflect and refine our current programs, policies and practices and will identify new and innovative strategies for the future. We will be supported with guiding principles for Junior Secondary:

- Distinct Identity
- Quality teaching
- Student wellbeing
- Parent and community involvement
- Leadership
- Local decision making
Current Curriculum Programs and Structures
The school has spent the last year investigating highly successful models of early adolescent pedagogy within our pedagogical framework ‘The Science and Art of Teaching’. There is a team of teachers working to develop high school curriculum for Year 7 and adjust the Years 8 and 9 curriculum offerings. The school’s junior secondary curriculum has a strong emphasis in the core areas of Mathematics, English, Science and History with the opportunity for students to engage in more specialist areas as they progress through the years. Enrolment packages are available NOW for 2015 and an extensive transition program scheduled.

The Junior Secondary model will cluster subjects, enabling one teacher to take two or more subjects, reducing the number of teachers that students have to get to know. A core feature of Junior Secondary schooling is a reduction of the number of teachers a student interacts with across a week. Along with our Year Level Co-ordinators and faculty structures we are introducing cross faculty connections where teachers meet and discuss support and differentiation strategies for the class groupings. Class groups extend across all of the KLA's. This allow teachers to gain a detailed picture of each child, including any learning difficulties and strengths. This information is also sought from parents and the student when enrolling. Testing is also done during transition days and NAPLAN data is analysed to ascertain student’s literacy and numeracy level. Individual support flows from this information. The subjects studied in year 7 are derived from the Australian Curriculum. It is our intention to ensure this subject range is a broad as our facilities are able to provide.

WRSHS provides comprehensive support for students at various levels. Roll marking teachers and the Year level

Student Wellbeing and Development: Getting To Know Our Students
At WRSFS the teachers get to know their students before they have even arrived. Teachers collect and analyse literacy and numeracy data collected form NAPLAN results and from tests completed during transition days to ensure that they are best prepared to cater for the needs of incoming students. Transition days held on campus and at our Primary partner schools allows our teachers and students to develop relationships transferrable for 2015. All teachers in the Junior Secondary school develop targeted differentiation plans for their classes. These plans identify strategies specific to the needs of students with goals for improving their level of achievement.

Support Structures
Students often find the move from primary into secondary schooling quire daunting; not only are they experiencing a range of physical, emotional and psychological changes, they are also in a new environment with many different teachers. At William Ross State High School we have a range of structures in place to ensure that students feel connected to their school and know to whom to turn.

Students begin each day with a roll marking class. This roll marking teacher is un by the same teacher each day to enable the teachers to check in with the students and address any apprehensions that they may have. Each cohort of students also has a Deputy Principal and a Year Level Co-ordinator whom are responsible for them from when they enter our school until they graduate to the next year level. There is also a Head of Teaching and Learning and Curriculum HODs for each faculty that students can talk with if they prefer. In addition to this support, William Ross state High School has a Student Support Services Team consisting of a School Nurse, Chaplain, Community Education Councillor, Defence Transition Mentor, Youth Worker and a Guidance Officer. Further information about the roles of these specialist can be found on our school website under Student Support Services.

More Information about Junior Secondary
For further information about the transition of Year 7 students into High School, visit the Flying Start website: http://flyingstart.qld.gov.au/Pages/home.aspx. Updates regarding Junior Secondary at William Ross State High School will be uploaded to our School Website. If you have specific questions you can contact our Deputy Principal of Junior Secondary, Pam Prichard (ppric10@eq.edu.au ).