



Special Edition

Dear Families

Last week, local media coverage gave the impression that violence and fighting at our school was frequent and out of control. Upon viewing the TV footage, it is my opinion that the images used were from incidents occurring in 2006 and 2007. I came to this conclusion by looking at the buildings in the background of the footage and from incident records kept by the school.

After discussions with staff who were at the school, during the time that the incidents occurred, I am satisfied that the misbehaviour depicted was appropriately dealt with. Consequences clearly communicated to all those involved that violence is not tolerated or condoned at Harristown High.

In my opinion, the media showed little regard for our school – its students, staff and families, in the way they misrepresented our values through sensational news stories that used outdated images.

I am disappointed that Win TV publicly portrayed misleading information about our students. This representation has caused concern and a significant distraction for our senior students who are currently undertaking end of semester examinations.

Therefore, what can we do in response to this?

We will continue to convey the real messages about our school through Hawk Talk and other means. I have spoken to Win TV and written a letter to The Chronicle to communicate the out-of-date nature of the information surrounding the TV coverage.

As families I encourage you to communicate the real story about our school to the Toowoomba community – the achievements of our students and staff and how we diligently deal with any negative behaviour. As there are a large number of families who make up our school community, I believe this might just make a difference.

Thank you for your support in the matter,

Warm regards

Regan Neumann
Executive Principal