

8 April 2019

ICAS Assessments – 2019

Dear parents and carers,

Our school, like many others in our area, have supported the University of New South Wales ICAS assessment program for many years. Up until last year, the assessments – including reading, writing, mathematics and spelling - have been pen and paper tests.

Like most schools, our school conducted the assessments before school, supervised by teachers outside of teaching hours. Whilst the results of the assessments provided interesting information, we did not use the analytics of the results to inform teaching practice; the data provided by ICAS is not directly linked to school-based teaching and learning programs. Parents and students appeared to enjoy receiving the certificates and other associated awards, however, it should be noted that the results/awards have never been used as part of OC/Selective High School application processes.

Late last year, schools were informed by ICAS that the new testing program would be administered via an on-line tool, which can only be facilitated within schools. Whilst we accept that on-line testing is a feature of the way we operate in schools, the logistics associated with ICAS going on-line is highly problematic, particularly for schools which have traditionally had high levels of participation. This information has been relayed to ICAS, however, there have been no decisions to provide a pen/paper option for 2019.

After much consideration it has been decided that our school will not participate in 2019 ICAS. Whilst this is disappointing, I want to assure all parents that students will not be disadvantaged. The ICAS results, as mentioned above, have never been used to determine academic progress nor have the results been used as part of OC/Selective High School applications.

It should be noted, that many of the larger primary schools in our area that have supported ICAS in the past have also opted not to participate this year, including Riverbank, Ironbark Ridge, Beaumont Hills, Caddies Creek, Cherrybrook, Beecroft, Murray Farm, Oakhill Drive, West Pennant Hills, Epping West and Epping Heights Public Schools.

Thank you for your understanding.

Chris Herbert
Principal