

Letters from the School

MEMO TO ALL STUDENTS FROM THE HEAD

I don't know how many times I have to say this. The playground equipment is there for exercise and for fun. But, as I have repeatedly said, care must be taken or serious injuries will result. This sort of thing, for example, is simply not on. Hanging off the bars with nothing between you and the ground is an accident waiting to happen.

I've spoken to Laurie Keete about his irresponsible actions in this instance and he has accepted that, if something had gone wrong, he might have broken his neck.

Matron is particularly concerned that she might not have the resources if someone sustains a major injury. She has only one part-time assistant two days a week.

For goodness' sake. Grow up. Enjoy yourselves by all means but try to stop short of idiocy.

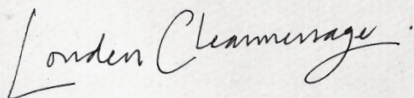


Dear Mr and Mrs Keete,

I have had occasion recently to talk to Laurie about irresponsible behaviour in the playground. He may have mentioned this. It was in relation to hanging upside down on the bars, a dangerous practice and one which is strictly forbidden. Laurie made the point, in our refreshingly honest discussion, that he is a talented all-round sportsman and can perform tricks which, were others to attempt them, would lead to serious trouble. This is precisely the point. If others tried to imitate Laurie, I shudder to think what might happen. Laurie must be conscious of his important role as a leader in encouraging others to operate within their limits.

On another matter, it has since been drawn to my attention by one of the senior teachers that Laurie has been dyeing his hair blue. I wonder if there is some reason for this. He has not received permission from anyone here. There were some hijinks at the school swimming sports on Friday and we do turn a blind eye to some larrikin tendencies in regard to the displaying of house colours, especially in relation to support for the relay teams. It is now Tuesday, however, and Laurie's hair is still a very vivid blue. In fact, his appearance is rather peculiar. At his age, of course, they think this sort of thing is clever, but unless he actually wants to look like a rainbow I suggest he present himself more in line with regulations 4-12 in the school handbook.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Louden Clearmessage". The signature is written in dark ink and has a fluid, somewhat stylized appearance.

Louden Clearmessage
Deputy Head
St Expensives



Dear Parent or Guardian,

I regret that some slight concerns have emerged in relation to aspects of Book Club. Many of you will be aware of this important initiative, begun in response to declining levels of literacy and very well supported by the English staff. A reading programme has been worked out, featuring works designed to stimulate young minds and to encourage an interest in ideas. Despite the best efforts of organisers, however, Book Club is often regarded as just an excuse to fool around, a problem which the facing image demonstrates very clearly.

Many of these students have obviously not read the book. There is inattention. There is chatter. There is complete disregard for the nature and purpose of the exercise. No benefit can accrue from this programme unless students seize the opportunity presented to them. This is not a time for immaturity, for lack of interest, or for wasting everyone's time.

These students are not just letting the programme and the school down; they're letting their teachers down, their parents down and their friends down. But more importantly, they are letting themselves down.

I expect some improvement over time but so far this is a disappointing response.

Starling, second from the left, bottom row, come and see me afterwards.

Iva Krapp-Daley

Iva Krapp-Daley
Co-ordinator
Book Club



The Secretary
The Wodda Packer-Galahs Institute
Wodda 3082

Dear Madam,

As you know, we have quite a number of your charges in the school. The association with your boarding establishment is one we value greatly and, as you know, some of our best students have come to us from a Packer-Galahs background.

Unfortunately, I write to outline some worrying developments in the school, which we think may perhaps originate in the home.

We have seen evidence for some time of collusion during tests conducted in the school, particularly in the maths and sciences area. Answers are often identical and even errors are sometimes replicated faithfully over entire classes. It is very difficult for us to assess the individual students properly in this atmosphere, and our claim to inculcate a strong sense of responsibility and self-sufficiency is consequently in some jeopardy.

I wonder if I could prevail on you to have a word with the students at your earliest convenience, and impress upon them the need to think for themselves, to finish their own work, and to compete against one another. This is the basis of our education system and, indeed, of our entire society.

Security cameras recently picked up the image attached, of one of our better female students talking to a male student during an algebra test. The boy, pictured right, who has hitherto proven rather a slow learner with an attitude problem, nevertheless appears to have topped the state in trigonometry, an honour he shares with the girl (left). This result, while gratifying, is of some concern given that collaboration is clearly at epidemic levels.

Yrs



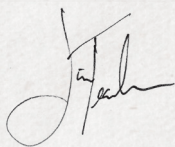
Sue Pervisor
Curriculum Planning
St Expensives



Dear Mr and Mrs Kiddner,

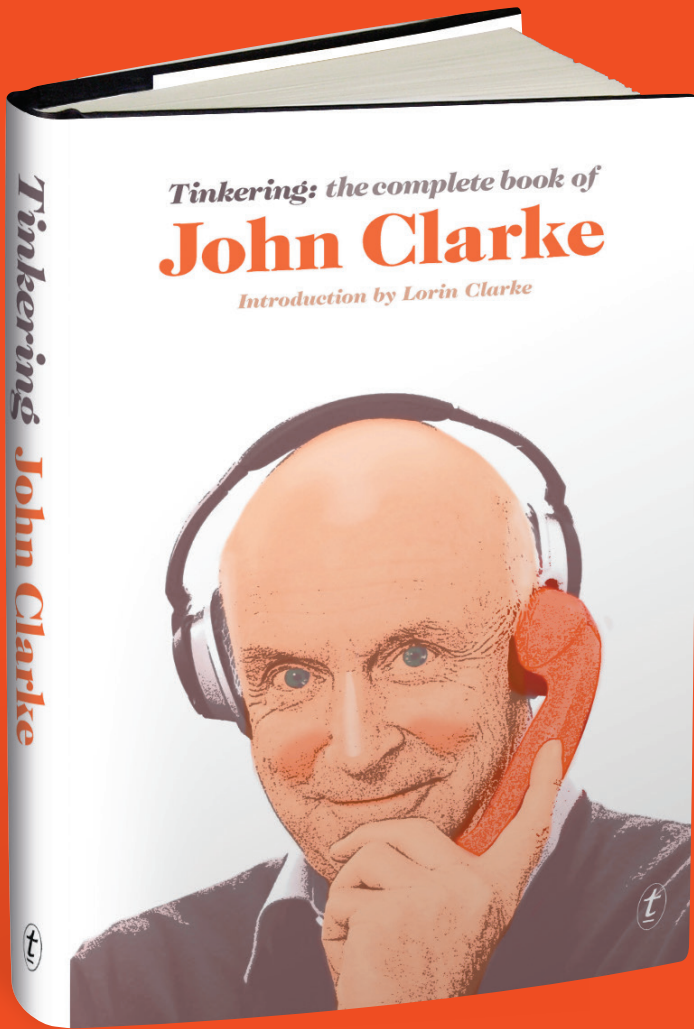
As you may be aware, some gym equipment has gone missing in recent weeks from the storeroom at the rear of the pavilion. One of your sons was seen attempting to break into the storeroom, and I'm afraid that when questioned about what he was doing (he was supposed to be at orchestra practice) he said he was looking for ants. Why he would come up with such a pathetic explanation for his behaviour is not obvious to us. I've spoken to other staff members and no one reported any project involving a need for ants. When asked why he thought there might be ants under the storeroom, your boy said, 'I could smell them.'

You may care to discuss this with us. The pilfering of school equipment is a very serious matter indeed and the ants story, which your young bloke seems to be sticking to, is little short of ludicrous.



Jim Teacher
Head of Phys Ed.
St Expensives





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