Managing our Administrative Information - Introducing TASS.web

Every successful organisation relies on the timely delivery of good administrative information. This is particularly true of schools. To ensure that needed information flows throughout and beyond the school to where it is required an effective information management system is essential.

For the past fifteen years the college has used a software product called Denbigh to manage and deliver our administrative information. However, this year we have decided to expand and upgrade the capacity to manage our administrative functions by introducing TASS.web – The Alpha School System.

TASS.web is a comprehensive, web-based administration package that was developed in Australia specifically for the education market. It is a fully integrated system that shares core student information across the key functional areas.

We have started the process of migrating our school administrative information over to the TASS system and will implement the complete system in stages, with all functions being operational on TASS by Term 2 2016.

Why are we keen to introduce such an extensive change? The answer lies in the enhanced capability of the new system to manage administrative operations in more powerful ways and to better meet the information needs of the college and our community into the future.

The key benefits of the TASS.web system

- Both client and financial information are able to be intermeshed, managed and delivered using the one system, instead of the three independent systems we currently employ.
- A wider variety of users can access and benefit from school information: teachers, support staff, students and parents.
- Information relevant to the needs of each type of user is made accessible from one login-protected portal: the Teacher Kiosk, the Student Café or the Parent Lounge. The portals are designed to be one-stop information hubs.
- The system is accessible from any communication device with a web browser.

For staff, the Teacher Lounge offers quick access to essential daily information and all the relevant administrative functions from roll marking to writing academic reports.

For students, the Student Cafe provides a daily organiser where they can view their timetable, calendar, diary, daily notices and excursion information. TASS offers students a suite of tools to assist them to become more informed and better organised.

For parents, the Parent Lounge offers access to the student timetable, calendar, diary, notices, task results and academic reports, as well as the ability to pay school accounts and book parent-teacher-student interviews. Parents can be better informed about the daily routine of their students and more involved in their academic progress.

We are very excited at the prospect of being able to broaden and enhance our administrative services and to more effectively serve the information needs of the BDC community. Teachers and support staff will start their TASS.web training in Term 3 2015, with the aim of staff adopting the new system during Term 4. Students and parents will be able to use TASS.web in Semester 1 2016.