

Secondary entry #3: Rutherford Technology High School

RUTHERFORD TECHNOLOGY HIGH SCHOOL THE RUTHERFORD PROTOCOL



CONNECT: Tiffany Wilde, Breeana Smoothy and Keelan Tranter with their devices.

Picture: Brayden Bice

Bring your own device into the class

By **BRAYDEN BICE, EMILY JOHNSON, KEELAN TRANTER** and **NICHOLAS BATES**

SCHOOLS in the Hunter are discussing the idea of students bringing their own electronic devices (BYOD) to school to aide in their learning.

Rutherford Technology High School, where there are already a significant number of computers, is no exception.

The Department of Education has been looking into BYOD for some time and has asked the school to liaise with staff and members of the community because they understand that not everyone has a device or can afford one, said Kylie Fabri, relieving deputy principal.

Such devices are not designed to replace other forms of learning but rather augment teaching and learning and bring the classroom in the 21st century.

Issues such as privacy and passwords will need to be managed by students and it is hoped that the BYOD program will also reduce any damage to machinery, as students have ownership of the device and therefore will take better care of it.

Students will be able to connect to the internet via the school's Wi-Fi network and research information but will not be permitted to access social media or download games.

Principal Michael Whiting has asked Ms Fabri to conduct further research before its introduction.

Vowing to stop bullies

By **EMILY CALDWELL** and **BROCK TAYLOR**

ON March 21, as part of Anti-Bullying Day, Rutherford Technology High School took a stand against bullying.

At least 99 per cent of the school stood up in an assembly and declared their commitment to end bullying. While standing, the students were asked to recite a pledge, and upon leaving were given a wristband that read, "Bullying, No Way! Take a Stand Together." Many students have been wearing the wristbands for some time now.

Andrew O'Callaghan, the school's anti-bullying co-ordinator, described bullying as: "an abusive power, the aim of which is to hurt someone in any way possible".

Mr O'Callaghan went on to say that bullying "does not just take the physical form, but it can impact victims mentally and emotionally. As well, the increasing usage of social media has led to cyberbullying."

Bullying can occur at any time, anywhere: during class, at lunch-time or recess, on the weekend, weekend sport and on the internet.

Because of the internet, rumours and bullying can spread like wild-fire and reach a huge amount of people in a small amount of time.

Bullying can affect students' education, home life, school social life and in the worst cases can even



STAND: Rutherford Technology High students have pledged to tackle bullying.

Picture: Emily Caldwell

sadly lead to suicide. Kids, if bullied enough, can start to believe what is said about them, and can form the view that no one could understand and that no one will listen to them.

Many people believe that bullies target certain people, however as explained by Mr O'Callaghan, "a bully will most often target people

who they believe won't fight back or make a big deal about it... and the most common reason a bully will act this way is that they could be failing at school, boredom, or they might be showing off to friends".

Students are advised that if they experience bullying to report it to a teacher or other adult, or just walk

away. As simple as this sounds, the worst thing someone can do is just sit and feel worthless.

"You're not worthless - no one deserves to be bullied," Mr O'Callaghan said.

If you or someone you know is looking for someone to talk to, try calling the Kids Helpline on 1800 55 1800.



CHANGING: Students and staff will need to negotiate significant construction over the next two years.

Picture: Tiffany Wilde

School to get \$20-million facelift

By **SARA McBRIDE, STEPHANIE AKERS, BREEANA SMOOTHY** and **TIFFANY WILDE**

FROM 2014 to 2016, Rutherford Technology High School will experience their first upgrade since the school was established in 1985. The cost will be \$20 million and has taken two years of planning.

The upgrade includes 19 new classrooms, more car parking, science labs, a lift and much more.

"This is our first major work ever," said principal Michael Whiting.

Some of the facilities will have an impact on the local community, including an upgraded oval and school hall. "This upgrade will give our school a better image."

The school was originally built for 500 students but that

has tripled in 30 years.

Students may get two to three days off while machinery is brought on site, as it would be unsafe to have student movement around the campus.

Despite the disruptions, students are looking forward to the finished product.

"The opportunity to work in a new and well-designed environment is very exciting," said student Hayden Regan.



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