



Securing Success...

ORANGE ANGLICAN GRAMMAR SCHOOL

'No Standing Zone - Molong Only'

Dear Parents,

The opening paragraph of our Student Travel Policy, emailed to all families on the 25 January 2024 reads,

'Orange Anglican Grammar School recognises that it is necessary for students and staff to travel to and from school in a safe manner. Peak travel times require procedures and expectations to be put in place to ensure the continued safety of our growing community.'

In just the 3rd operational week of OAGS for 2024 our school has responded to the Student Travel Policy by actioning the following initiatives:

- The commissioning of the school bus and a twice daily route
- The employment of a bus driver now providing daily transport to a growing following of around forty students
- Articles in the OAGS Newsletter encouraging all families *'It's a must take the bus'*
- An age appropriate briefing from the Headmaster during school assembly on the growing importance of students taking the bus
- Actioning senior student sign in and sign out to reduce peak hour traffic
- Reassigned personnel to manage the onsite traffic flow
- Requesting improvements to the publicly available buses resulting in two additional bus services to the Hippo and Panda routes to Town and Molong. Thanks go to Orange Buslines for responding quickly and restoring parent confidence in their children having access to a seat on a bus when needed.

As part of the local council's conditions of consent, we are required to know how many students enter our school and leave our school by private transportation. On Monday 19 February, installation will begin on a digital system of monitoring the number of cars and therefore students entering and leaving the school by private transport. Cameras will be installed towards the front gates near the entry to the Prep building. This digital monitoring system will assist us in fulfilling our conditions of consent required by local council and the ongoing operation noted in the policy:

'The Policy and ongoing monitoring is to be provided to parents, staff and children on a regular basis, and not fewer than monthly through the regular monthly electronic communication with parents.'

'Numbers of students travelling to school via private vehicle shall be monitored and accurate reporting provided to Orange City Council every 3 months from the operation of the development consent.'

We are hopeful that the cameras will be operational in the last week of February and will provide us with accurate data to report to both Council and OAGS parents.

As we look to further improve traffic flow we are piloting a **'No Standing Zone - Molong Only'** initiative, when exiting the front gate during peak times. Parents dropping off their children at peak times are experiencing extended waiting periods trying to exit the school site. These waiting periods could be ten minutes or more as they circumnavigate two roundabouts and the bus bay car park. Next week commencing on Monday the 19 February, all 'Standing Traffic' exiting between the first roundabout and the front gates will be required to turn left upon exiting the school gates unless **travelling directly to Molong**. That is to say, if you can't turn right then turn left without delay. There will be 'No Standing' or waiting for a right turn, unless you are going directly to Molong. While familiar to some, many parents may not know that turning left out of the school gate tends to deliver a shorter drive time back to town, delivering vehicles to the centre of town in less time than it can take to wait in line to turn right and then onto the Mitchell Highway.

The potential bottleneck created by standing traffic passes on delays that are significantly more than that of taking a left turn. Parents are asked to familiarise themselves with the left turn onto Murphy Lane, left turn onto Gorman Road and links to town or the Northern Distributor via The Escort Way by means of Jonathan Road or Valencia Drive. It is likely that the *no standing, left turn without delay* protocols will only be extended to the 20 minutes of peak hour traffic in the mornings and afternoons. A staff member will be at hand to assist traffic if standing or identify those travelling to Molong.

As we continue to manage our growth and the safety of our children, I'd like to thank you for your support of these new initiatives. As we work together to improve our school, any feedback is welcome through admin@oags.nsw.edu.au

'Don't share the wait, turn left at the gate'

