Dear Parents and Carers

As you may be aware, our school is taking part in a pilot of the Tell Them From Me student survey. The survey will provide us with valuable feedback on what our students think about school life, how engaged they are with school and the different ways that teachers interact with them. Schools in Australia and around the world have used the Tell Them From Me survey to help them improve.

The survey is completed on-line and is run by an independent research company, The Learning Bar, which specialises in school-based surveys.

Staff in schools are not able to identify individual students from their responses. To ensure confidentiality, participating students receive a unique username and password and where fewer than five students respond to a question, the results are suppressed. The survey takes around 25 minutes to complete and is administered by the school during normal school hours.

Once the surveys are closed, reports are prepared and in most cases are available to schools within two business days.

As well as schools getting student feedback, the Department of Education and Communities, through the Centre for Education Statistics and Evaluation (CESE), has access to data from across the State and will run a research project to look at state-wide patterns of student wellbeing, engagement and effective teaching practices. The research will look at how these things impact on student outcomes, including academic performance. Individual students and schools will not be identified, and all information will be handled in accordance with the relevant privacy legislation.

This research will help schools in New South Wales to better understand how to improve student wellbeing and engagement. It will also help teachers and principals discuss what works to improve student outcomes.

In Term 3, 2013, our students participated in a first survey ‘snapshot’. Phase 2 of the pilot, a second survey ‘snapshot’, will commence on Tuesday March 25 at Bowral High School.

Participation in the survey is entirely voluntary. Your child will not take part if either you or your child do not wish to. If, during the survey, your child is uncomfortable answering any question, he/she should leave it blank and move on to the next one. Your child can stop the survey at any time.

If you do not want your child to take part in the survey, please complete the attached form and return it to your child’s school by Wednesday March 19. Forms can be returned to your child’s roll teacher.


Kim Paviour
Principal

Dr Jenny Donovan
General Manager
Bowral High School

Exceptional learning for all

If you **do not want** your child to participate in the student feedback survey, please sign this form and return it to your school **by Wednesday March 19 2014**.

I (print name) ................................................................. **DO NOT** give consent for my child/children (print name/s) .................................................................

of roll class/es .................to participate in the *Tell Them From Me*

student feedback survey.

Signed................................................................. Date.................................