



TODAY'S ANNOUNCEMENT BY ADRIAN PICCOLI, MINISTER FOR EDUCATION

Dear Parents, Carers and Students

Today the NSW Government has announced a master plan to develop and provide enhanced public education provision for the Sydney south-west growth corridor and Western Sydney. The Glenfield precinct will have an upgraded fully selective high school, upgraded schools for specific purposes for students with additional learning needs, and a new primary school to service a rapidly growing area of Sydney. In addition a new state-of-the-art agricultural high school will be constructed in collaboration with Western Sydney University at Hawkesbury on the Western Sydney University Hawkesbury campus. The new agricultural high school with boarding facilities will have immediately accessible and integrated university links to progress agricultural and STEM learning innovation.

It is appropriate that the name 'Hurlstone' follows the agricultural school to its new site at Hawkesbury since the compelling and important historical link of the school's original purpose was to serve higher educational pursuits of study at Hawkesbury Agricultural College. Hurlstone Agricultural High School was established in 1907 at Summer Hill. The school's purpose was 'to prepare students for farm pursuits and for admission to Hawkesbury Agricultural College'. In 1926 the school moved to the current site at Glenfield.

What does this mean for all current students at the school?

There will be no change for your children or to those students enrolling in 2016. The school will retain the title Hurlstone Agricultural High School until the graduation of all students who have enrolled under that title. Current boarders and incoming Year 7 boarders in 2016 will be able to continue to board and study at Glenfield, as the existing site will continue to cater for boarders until 2022. From 2017 however boarders will only be accepted from non-metropolitan settings.

Hurlstone Agricultural High School Hawkesbury will enroll its first cohorts into Year 7 and 11 in 2020. It will be fully operational from 2024. On the opening of the Hawkesbury site boarding students at Glenfield will be provided the option of transferring to Hawkesbury or continuing their education at Glenfield.

The existing high school at Glenfield is a critical component of the NSW Department of Education's vision for education in South Western Sydney. The school at Glenfield will remain fully academically selective and a new name will be determined following widespread community consultation.

NSW DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

The legacy of Hurlstone Agricultural High School

The immense legacy of Hurlstone Agricultural High School is essentially being transplanted to a site where its original students in fact were encouraged to further study. By moving the school to Hawkesbury and Western Sydney University's Hawkesbury Campus, we are respecting the school's original ethos and purpose – the cultivation of excellence in agriculture and related sciences. The traditions of the school, along with improved agricultural learning and innovation infrastructure at the new site, will honour the past and embrace a better future in learning and innovation.

The Department will undertake extensive consultation with parents and the alumni communities to ensure the heritage aspects of the school are maintained through the process of moving the school. This will include respectful consideration of the memorial forest, historical artifacts and rituals of the school.

The Department of Education recognises the immense educational potential of this announcement and will work closely with the parents and community of Hurlstone Agricultural High School to support you during this transition.

Further information about this advice and a copy of the press release will be uploaded to the Hurlstone Agricultural High School website. The Department will also provide regular updates to the staff, P&C and alumni through the website and meetings regarding future developments and changes.

Yours sincerely



Nick Magriplis
Acting Director Public Schools NSW – Liverpool Network
18 November 2015