



May, 2018

Dear Students and Parent/Guardian,

Plastic pollution is a serious problem in world. In Queensland alone, over 900 million single-use plastic shopping bags are used every year and of which up to 16 million end up as litter, and affecting the environment and human health. Plastic pollutes water ways, endanger marine and other wildlife which can ingest them or get entangled in them. The impacts are far reaching, for example, almost 90 % of all seabird species in Australia have been found to have ingested plastic debris. Microplastics also find their way into marine animals such as fish that we eat, bottled water we drink which can also affect our health.

Last year the Queensland State Government passed its Waste reduction and Recycling Amendment Bill, which will lead to the single use plastic shopping bags to be stopped from Sunday 1 July 2018, and later in the year the container refund scheme introduced to encourage people to recycle some other types of plastic products. The success of both these initiatives will rely on people changing their behavior to reduce their use of single use and reduce, reuse, recycle other plastic products.

Changing human behavior is not easy, but the Junior Leaders of The Gap State High School believe they can be catalyst of change in the local community. They will establish a junior chapter of the *Boomerang Bags The Gap and Surrounds (BBTGS)*, called Junior Boomerang Bags- The Gap and Surrounds, BBTGS-J, at The Gap State High School. Together they will work on reducing plastic waste within our community and aim to raise awareness of the harmful effects plastic has on our local ecosystem and the Earth as a whole. The group will make boomerang bags from donated and recycled fabric to sell locally in order to raise awareness and reduce the use of plastic bags.

Working bees will be held in N4 on the last Sunday of each month, from 2.00 to 5.00 pm. No experience necessary.

Students wishing to participate in any of the working bees are required to have their parents/guardians sign the attached permission form and return to Miss Handley or bring it with them to the working bee.

Yours sincerely,

Melissa Handley
Growth HOD – Year 9 and 10

Anne McLauchlan
Principal



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Boomerang Bags Working Bee

Completed permission forms need to be returned to Miss Handley or brought to the working bee.

I, _____ (parent/guardian name), give permission for my son/daughter _____ (student name) to attend the Boomerang Bags working bee.

Please be aware that the teacher's duty of care begins when the student arrives on campus and ceases after the conclusion of the working bee. Parents are responsible for transporting students to and from the school.

Please be aware that students will be using sewing machines, scissors and other sewing materials under the guidance of adults.

A staff member from the school will be present at all working bees.

I have provided the school with all relevant details of my child's medical or physical needs on enrolment. Any special or new medical conditions should be advised in writing to the nominated teacher on the permission form.

I **do/do not** (please circle one) give permission for my child to be photographed while partaking in the working bee and subsequent images to be used to promote the project within the school and wider community through publication in the school newsletter, school website/Facebook group and local paper.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____