Dear Parents/ Carers,

Welcome to the Year 9 - 10 Humanities and Social Sciences program for 2017. In term 2 the students will complete a six week unit on Civics and Citizenship. Students will begin the unit with an overview of where laws originated and how they have evolved over the last 3000 years. This will then lead students into the depth of the program where they will focus on the following key points that cover our democratic rights.

- The role of political parties, and independent representatives in Australia's system of government, including the formation of governments.

- How citizens' choices are shaped at election time (e.g. public debate, media, opinion polls, advertising, interest groups, political party campaigns).

- How social media is used to influence people's understanding of issues.

- The key features of Australia's court system and the role of a particular court (e.g. a supreme court, a magistrates' court, the Family Court of Australia) and the types of cases different courts hear.

- How courts apply and interpret the law, resolve disputes, and make law through judgments (e.g. the role of precedents).

- The key principles of Australia's justice system, including equality before the law, independent judiciary, and right of appeal

- The factors that can undermine the application of the principles of justice (e.g. bribery, coercion of witnesses, trial by media, court delays

The students will complete a formal assessment every fortnight on the information they have learnt, this will hopefully encourage them to achieve to their potential.

The details of this unit are available on the Western Australian Curriculum website at
http://k10outline.scsa.wa.edu.au

Yours sincerely

Neil Robertson
HASS Coordinator

Wednesday, 10 May 2017