

Sunday, 19 September 2010

100-YEAR-OLD SCHOOL SET FOR EXCITING MARITIME FUTURE

LeFevre High School – which is celebrating its centenary today – will be transformed into the State’s first Maritime High School through \$540,000 in funding allocated in Thursday’s State Budget.

Education Minister Jay Weatherill will outline the program to establish the specialist maritime school during the centenary activities at the school.

“Today’s celebration marks LeFevre’s place among the oldest high schools in Adelaide,” Mr Weatherill said.

“It is also a chance to look forward to its exciting future as the State’s first specialist maritime school.”

Mr Weatherill said the State Government will spend \$540,000 over four years at LeFevre to create opportunities for young people to learn skills for careers in maritime and defence industries.

The funding will go towards cutting-edge technology and specialist training for teachers.

“LeFevre is the hub of the Western Adelaide Trade School for the Future and under this transformation will have a new focus on maritime and defence-related industry skills and careers,” Mr Weatherill said.

“The Government will work closely with the school to build on its already strong links with these industries.

“There will be a program involving Maritime Mentors from the defence and maritime industries established to work with the school on providing first-hand knowledge of careers in these industries.”

Mr Weatherill said South Australia would require a large workforce to support its defence industry.

“We want to ensure young people have opportunities not only to get jobs, but to build long-term careers in areas as diverse as engineering, high-tech electronics, computer systems and ship-building trades,” he said.

“Projects like the Maritime High School will help encourage young people to strive for these career opportunities of the future.”

Students will be able to start some of the courses from next year.