

Section 1:

#1: Opening paragraph (As a student)

Strengths: Your opening shows excellent politeness and respect by addressing the Principal properly and acknowledging the school's strengths. You've also clearly stated your request early on, which helps the reader understand your purpose immediately.

Lack of specific supporting detail → Whilst you mention "academic excellence and student wellbeing," your writing would be stronger if you connected these values directly to your request. For instance, you could explain how extended rest supports the school's commitment to wellbeing. Your current approach mentions the school's values but doesn't show how your request aligns with them in a meaningful way.

Exemplar: "As a proud student of St Francis Xavier, I truly appreciate the school's dedication to student wellbeing. An extended holiday would directly support this value by allowing students the rest needed to maintain mental and physical health throughout the demanding term ahead."

#2: Main reasoning paragraph (As a student)

Strengths: You've included the perspective of "many students," which shows you're not just speaking for yourself. Your writing also mentions specific benefits like rest, family time, and improved focus.

Vague evidence and shallow reasoning → Your paragraph relies on general statements like "better rest" and "more refreshed return" without explaining why these matter or how they connect to school success. Phrases such as "this small adjustment could have a significant positive impact" don't provide concrete reasoning about what makes this impact significant. Your writing needs deeper exploration of the connection between rest and academic performance, perhaps referencing how tired students struggle to concentrate or retain information.

Exemplar: "Research shows that well-rested students demonstrate improved concentration and information retention. After an intensive term, an additional day or two would allow students to recover fully, reducing stress-related absences and enabling everyone to participate more actively in their learning when term resumes."

#3: Opening and context (As a son)*Strengths:* Your informal tone is appropriate for addressing your father, and you've effectively introduced the topic by acknowledging it's something "on a lot of students' minds," which shows it's a shared concern rather than just your personal wish.

Insufficient development of the problem → Whilst you mention that "everyone's been running on low energy," your writing doesn't paint a clear picture of why this term has been particularly exhausting. The phrase "how full and intense the term has been" is quite vague. Your writing would benefit from one or two specific examples of what made this term challenging—perhaps mentioning assessments, events, or the pace of learning—to help your father understand the genuine need rather than just a desire for more holiday.

Exemplar: "With how demanding this term has been—between major assessments, the athletics carnival, and our musical production—many of us have been running on very low energy. Students are finding it difficult to stay focused during lessons, and some are even feeling unwell from exhaustion."

■ Your piece demonstrates good awareness of audience by creating two versions with different tones—formal for the Principal and casual for your father. However, both versions would benefit from deeper, more substantive reasoning. Currently, your arguments remain at the surface level, stating that extra rest would be helpful without thoroughly exploring why or providing compelling evidence. To strengthen your writing, develop each point further by explaining the reasoning behind your claims. For instance, instead of simply saying students would return "more refreshed," explain what happens when students are exhausted versus well-rested, and how this affects their learning. Additionally, consider including a specific benefit for the school or decision-maker, not just students—perhaps mentioning how refreshed students create a more positive classroom environment or how this gesture would strengthen school spirit. Also, your conclusions in both letters are quite passive, expressing trust in the decision-maker's wisdom but not reinforcing your strongest argument. Try ending with a confident restatement of your key point to leave a lasting impression. Finally, the paragraph about teachers in your second letter feels like an afterthought; if you're going to mention them, integrate this point more fully by explaining how teacher wellbeing directly impacts student learning.

Score: 42/50

Section 2:

As a student

Dear Principal,

I hope this message finds you well.

As a proud student of St Francis Xavier, I truly appreciate the school's dedication to both academic excellence and student wellbeing. With that in mind, I'd like to kindly request your consideration in extending the upcoming school holiday by an additional day or two. **#1**

Many students have shared that this brief extension would allow for better rest, time with family, and a more refreshed return [return, which would] ultimately [enhance] enhancing focus and productivity once school resumes. We believe this small adjustment could have a significant positive impact on overall student morale and performance. **#2**

We trust in your wisdom to weigh what's best for the school community, and we appreciate your time and thoughtful consideration.

Warm regards,

Jacob Bu

5 Green

As a son

Hi Dad,

I hope you're doing well today. I wanted to talk to you about something that's been on a lot of students' minds lately. With how full and intense the term has been, many of us were wondering if it might be possible to extend the upcoming school holiday by a day or two. **#3**

It feels like everyone's been running on low energy these past few weeks, and a little more time off could really help us rest, reset, and come back to school in a better headspace. Even teachers might appreciate the extra breather to prepare and recharge.

Of course, I know there's a lot to consider [consider,] and that the final decision rests on what's best for the whole school. But I thought it was worth bringing up, not just as your kid, but as a student who really cares about the school community.

Thanks for taking the time to think it over.

Love,

Your child,

Jacob