

The Parkway



September 2015
Parkway Edition No. 07

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

We are all looking forward to the holidays after a very hectic couple of weeks that culminated in the graduation of the Year Class 12 of 2015. This was a very special time for Year 12 students, their families and friends. Year 12 now concentrate on the study opportunities as they prepare of the HSC which commences on Monday, 12 October. We had a number of HSC examination teams in the school over the last few weeks, who have been impressed with the school culture. Year 12 students are required to sign out of school once their HSC exams are over and to pay any outstanding fees. Unfortunately many students do owe a significant amount of money to the school and payment would be appreciated.

Two members of the school community, Ms Susanne Cafe, P&C Secretary and Ms Angela Queenan, Design & Technology teacher have been recognised in the Minister's and Secretary's Awards for Excellence. Ms Cafe was awarded a Public School Parent of the Year award and Ms Queenan a Minister's Award for Excellence in Teaching. Well done and congratulations to both these great supporters of Newcastle High School.

Year 11 have finished their examinations and commence their Higher School Certificate course in Term 4. Students are required to remain enrolled in their twelve units until all their HSC pattern of study has been confirmed.

The school welcomes a number of new staff to the staff during Term 4. As a result, a number of temporary staff leave us at the end of the Term 3. I would like to thank Ms Gardiner, Ms Sacelle and Ms Jones for their commitment and hard work. Mr Nick Davies commences as Head Teacher HSIE and Ms Brodee Herron starts as a science teacher from the commencement of the term.

Please read the attached sheets on School Attendance. As a school we have a great record of attendance.

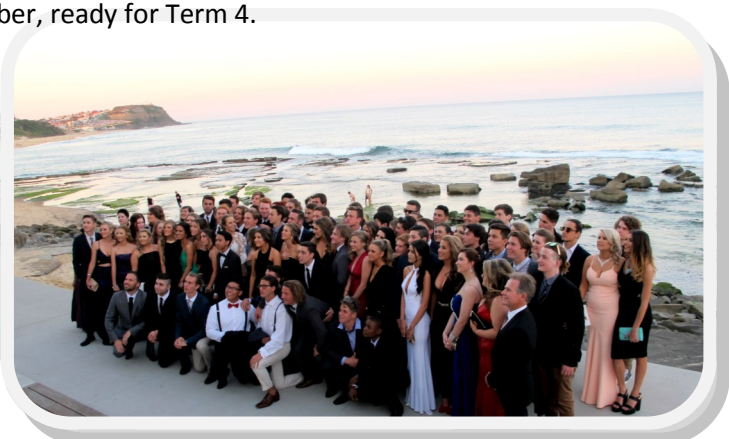
Now that the weather has warmed up the school moves into Summer uniform from Term 4. Tracksuit pants (unless NHS), tights and leggings are not part of the uniform and should **not** be worn to school. If we can get this right our uniform will be very good. In recent weeks uniform has slipped and as a community we need to make a big improvement. We are judged by how we look.

Attached is a Term 4 calendar for your information. School finishes for students on Wednesday, 16 December.

The P&C recently donated \$10,000 to the school from money raised by the canteen. Thanks to students who use the canteen and the volunteers who work to support the students.

Have a great Spring vacation and see you all on Tuesday, 6 October, ready for Term 4.

Mark Hewitt
Principal



Term 4 Important Dates

Week	Date	Event
Week 2	12 October 2015	HSC Examinations commence
Week 3	21 October 2015	Year 7 Vaccinations
	21 October 2015	Matilda the Musical
	23 October 2015	Year 5 Gala Day
Week 4	28 October 2015	Primary School Enrichment Program
Week 5	4 November 2015	HSC Examinations conclude
	6 November 2015	Year 5 Taster Lessons
Week 6	9 November 2015 - 13 November 2015	Year 8 Science online examinations
	9 November 2015	P&C Meeting
	12 November 2015	Year 11 Merit Assembly
	13 November 2015	Year 5 Taster Lessons
Week 7	18 November 2015	Morning Tea for ATSI students and families
Week 8		
Week 9	2 December 2015	Primary School Enrichment Program
	3 December 2015	Year 7 2016 Orientation Day
Week 10	8 December 2015	Presentation Evening
	10 December 2015	Year 9 & 10 Merit Assembly
	11 December 2015	Year 7 & 8 Merit Assembly
Week 11	16 December 2015	Last day of school for students



Support Update

The students in Rooms 3, 4 and 20 have had an incredibly busy year and have been involved in a variety of dynamic extra-curricula learning activities.

Students have not only immersed themselves in all facets of school life, but have broadened their knowledge and skills through community-based excursions.

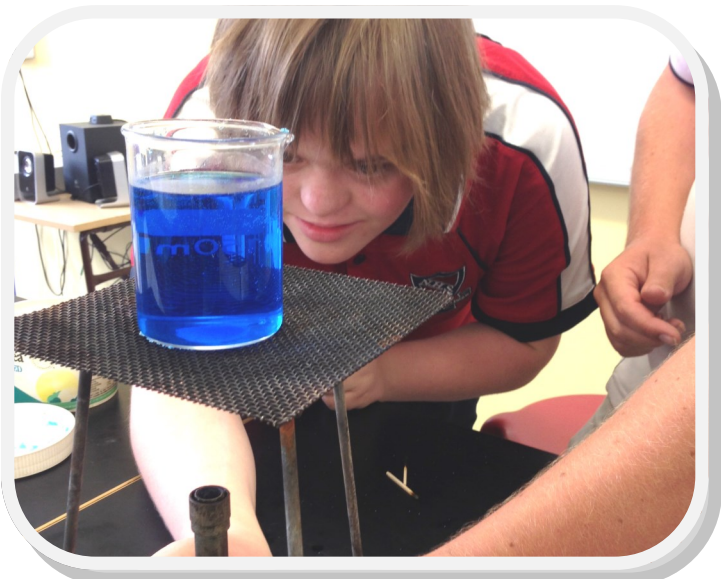
Students participate in weekly Community Access Programs where they are able to hone their travel training, money handling and shopping skills. Other activities include completing the ANZAC Walk, catching a ferry to Stockton and travelling to Kotara and Charlestown.

Last term students in all three Support classes visited the Apple Store to create posters and movie trailers for their unit of work "Mysteries". This led to students in Room 4 writing, directing and editing a movie that was shown at the IOTAS Film Festival – where Sophie and Tim came away with Best Actress and Best Actor Awards.

Selected students were also invited to Newcastle Art Gallery to create an artwork based on Brett McMahon's works and attended *The 26 Storey Treehouse* at the Civic Theatre.

Students from Rooms 3, 4 and 20 also competed at the State Boccia Championships and at the IOTAS Athletics Carnival. During Term 3 students from Room 3 were lucky enough to go sailing in Newcastle Harbour and Room 4 students will sail in Sydney Harbour in November.

The continued success of such varied activities for our students is only possible through the efforts of our flexible, forward thinking teachers and support staff and through continued support from our parents, carers and the community. If 2015 is anything to go by, 2016 should be a very exciting year!



Support Update

State Boccia Titles

Congratulations to the Newcastle High School Boccia Team who recently competed gallantly in Sydney. Captained by Siobhan, Sam, Sophie, Andrew and Garry the team won three of their four games – exceeding last year’s results. With such impressive skills and determination, 2016 could just be the year to take out the title. A big thank you to our dedicated helpers on the day.

Khym Harris

Relieving Head Teacher Special Education



Swans Shield U/15 AFL Team does Newcastle High School Proud!



Newcastle High’s U/15 boys AFL team again showed enormous courage and grit during their Round 5 competition match in the state-wide Swans Shield completion against Narooma High. On the 13th of August the Newcastle High team and a number of supporters took the long journey to Hollymount Oval at Bulli to take on the South Coast champions, Narooma High.

In blustery conditions Newcastle High had the task of kicking into the wind during the first quarter. Quick early goals by the accurate and skilful Narooma High team saw Newcastle on the back foot. With a determined effort in the midfield

from Clarence Playford, James Mehan, and Felix Pritchard and the added starch of Jaiden Harrison in defence, the Newcastle High forward line was able to gain more possession of the football. Jack Johnson-Holmes and Isaac McGrady began to create problems for the Narooma High defence and Newcastle High clawed their way back into the match.

An arm wrestle for mid field dominance ensued during the second and third quarters resulting in the scores being locked up at three quarter time. A big wrap must be given to Ollie Nash who competed to his very best all day in ruck contests around the ground against Narooma’s state representative ruckmen Jai Reed. With Newcastle looking like having the advantage of the breeze in the last quarter the team and their enthusiastic supporters had growing confidence.

With the ball up for the last quarter the wind unexpectedly dropped and with that Newcastle’s advantage was lost. Despite gallant efforts to attack the ball and chase any Narooma opponents, the skill of the more experienced Narooma team resulted in a four goal loss to Newcastle High. The final score: Narooma 9.5.61 to Newcastle High 5.3.33.

All the boys who have played during the Swans Shields are to be congratulated for the passion they have shown and the fantastic spirit in which they have played each game. Their efforts have seen Newcastle High go the furthest that we have ever been in recent times in AFL making it to the last 16 public schools in the state.

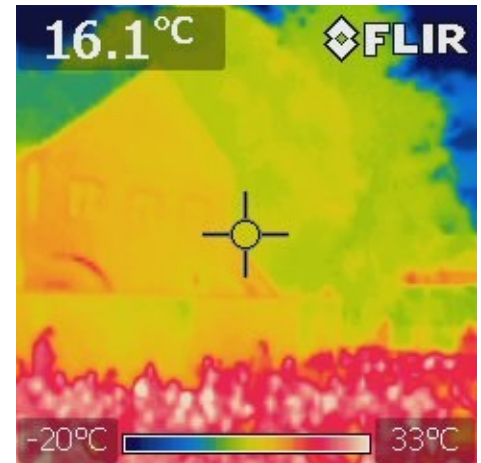
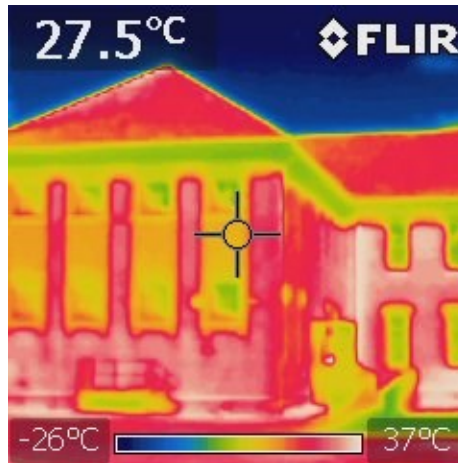
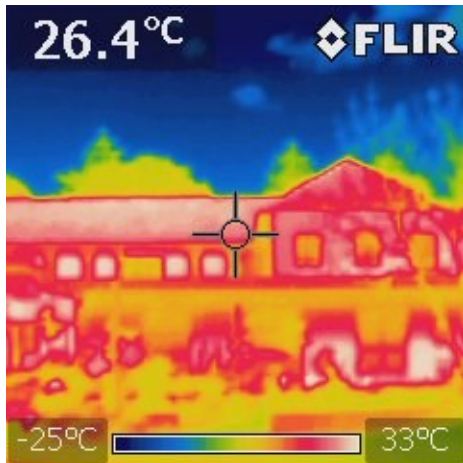
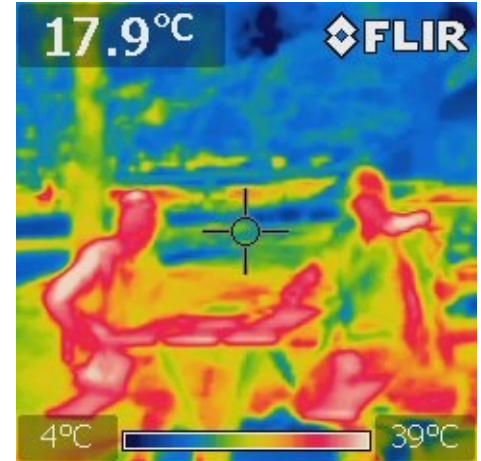
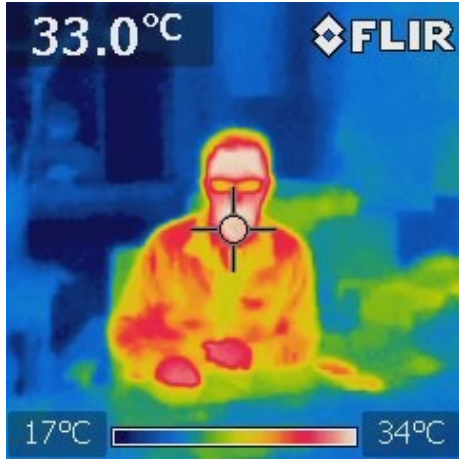
Andrew Doherty
Coach

Science Faculty

It has been a big year for the Science Faculty at Newcastle High School. There have been many events and opportunities for students to experience and enjoy science. A sample of these are outlined below.

NHS Thermal images – A Science Week perspective

Can you work out where, who or what each photo below is?



Science and Engineering Challenge – Year 10

Ms Lidden took thirty Year 10 students to compete in the Science and Engineering Challenge. Whilst not winning the event, our students impressed the judges with their ingenuity and teamwork. Students were then selected to be instructors in the primary challenge event held on Wednesday, 9 September.



Solar Collector – CSIRO Newcastle

Mr Rule took a group of senior Physics student to the CSIRO Newcastle facility. Students were able tour the facility, talk to the scientists and examine the photo collector array. The techniques developed and refined in Newcastle may point the way to affordable solar electricity generation in Australia.

Science Faculty

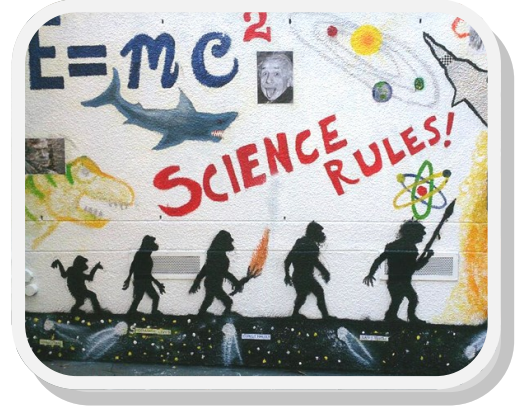
Aurecon Bridge Building Challenge

Mr Doherty mentored three Year 9 students in the design and construction of a bridge with strict equipment limitations for the international Aurecon bridge building challenge. The team went to Sydney Art Gallery and competed against schools from across the State. The bridge held 11.2 kg before cracking under the strain, placing them in the middle of the field.



Cows Create Careers

Ms Longobardi coordinated the Cows Create Careers program in 2015. Year 8 students cared for two calves, feeding, cleaning and monitoring their development over a two week period. Students also researched the dairy industry and prepared a portfolio of work to be evaluated at Tocal Agricultural College. This year, Newcastle High won the title of best school for the third time in a row. Congratulations to the students and thanks to Ms Longobardi for her organisation.



Linked Program Mural

The "Linked" boys' program is aimed at engaging students and providing opportunities for the group to contribute positively to the school and community. As part of this process and guided by Mr Villari, the boys designed and painted a Science mural at the entryway into the department. They have done a great job!

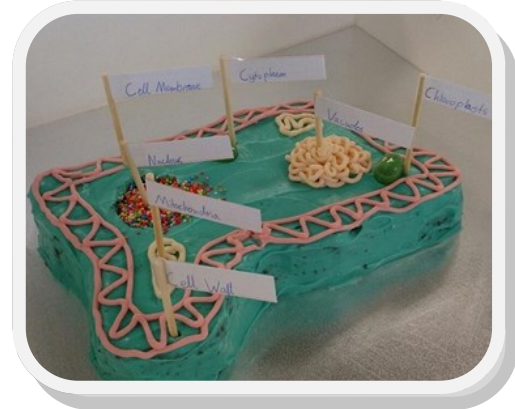


Year 10 Bar Beach Adventure

Year 10 Science students studying evolution went to Bar Beach to examine rock strata, coal and fossil deposits. Students examined some of our local coastal geological formations and found petrified wood and other interesting rocks.

Cells, more cells and still more cells

Year 7 has been working on cell models and have come up with interesting ways to represent and present information on cell structures. Some of them have tasted quite nice!



Fantastic Chemistry

Senior Chemistry classes have visited Newcastle TAFE and Orica, using specialist chemical analysis equipment and investigating a modern industrial chemical plant.

Museum of Human Disease

Year 12 Biology and interested junior students went to the Museum of Human Disease at the University of New South Wales. Students investigated the symptoms, causes and consequences of human disease and made connections with their HSC course work.



STELR Resources

A generous donation by an anonymous supporter of Newcastle High School provided access to a set of resources that allow students to investigate and develop an appreciation of renewable energy. Year 8 and 9 students have used these resources in Terms 2 and 3 this year. Ms Lidden has been trained in the use

Science Faculty

Hunter Wetlands Excursion

Senior Science and Biology students in Year 11 visited the Hunter Wetland to perform ecological studies as part of their preliminary course studies.

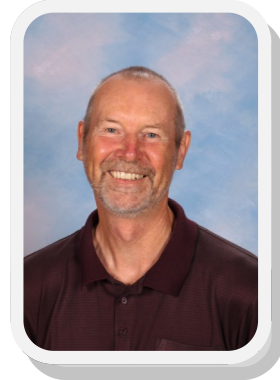
Farewell Mr Gotzy

Long serving and fantastic teacher Mr Gotzy retired at the end of Term 2. He has been a great member of the Science Faculty and is missed by staff and students alike!

Farewell Ms Jones

Ms Jones has worked at Newcastle High School in the Science and Maths faculties for the last two and a half years. She has a great connection with the student cohort and has led the school's SRC well in the last year. She is commencing block work at Merewether High School in Term 4. We wish her well.

Sean Bromfield
Head Teacher Science



The Uniform Shop

Uniforms for 2016

All students requiring any new uniforms for 2016 are required to either visit the shop during opening hours or make an appointment for a uniform fitting during Term 4, 2015.

Families can purchase or lay-by uniforms at the time of fitting. The uniform shop will be open in January 2016 for lay-by collection and size exchanges (if required).

Please make your Term 4 uniform fitting appointment as soon as possible.

1. Go to www.alintaapparel.com.au and register to make a booking.
2. Email The Uniform Shop: newcastlehs@alinta.com.au (the shop manager will either call or return your email to arrange a suitable time)



Ronald McDonald House Project

With sponsorship from Newcastle Rotary Club, Hospitality students are able to prepare and serve an evening meal once a term on the Ronald McDonald House premises and cater for corporate events at the House. The students and Hospitality teachers, Ms Hines and Ms Maddalena, and Head Teacher Ms Munro have worked hard to make this program a great success. Over a number of years the NHS Music teachers Mr Gill and Mr Lewis and their students entertained the patients and their parents with very professional performances. Congratulations to all involved! The music students also enjoy the experience and gain an understanding of some of the issues that the children and parents at Ronald McDonald House are dealing with.

RSA, RCG & Barista Courses

Hamilton TAFE is running RSA, RCG and Barista courses, as they have done in previous years for HSC students from September until November. Flyers with the contact information and costs have been given out to Year 12 students. Flyers are available at the Cottage.

University of Newcastle Friends on Campus Seminars

Students in Years 11 & 12 recently participated in this event conducted by students and staff from the university. Students participating gained an insight into university life, study skills and information about courses. Working in small groups students are able to ask questions in an informal setting. Feedback from students suggested that the program was useful inspiring and informative.

Chris Alexander
Careers Adviser



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Sport Report

OzTag

On Wednesday, 5 August we had seventy-six boys and girls from Years 7-10 play in an OzTag Gala day against other Hunter Region Schools. Competitions were run in Year 7/8 or Year 9/10 divisions for both boys and girls.

Ms Harris, Ms Steedman, Ms Miller and Mr Doherty coached the teams and said it was a very successful and enjoyable day for the students. Their “Most Valuable Players” of the day were Luke Dwyer, Dixon Stanyer, Matt Hedges, Mikayla van Daal, Regina Kamanda, Joanne Costigan and Abbie Gray. Two of the teams made the semi-finals with four other teams narrowly missing out on a semi-final berth. Well done to all involved.

Basketball

Our under 15 Boys Team had a convincing Round 1 win against Whitebridge High 48-18. Mr Oprea commented that the boys played very well and were always in control of the game. All the players showed great sportsmanship and represented the school in a positive manner. The top scoring players were Matthew Campbell (12 points) and Oliver Nash (10 points).

Unfortunately in Round 2, Toronto proved too strong and defeated us 36-24. Mr Oprea’s “Players to Mention” were Oliver Nash, Oscar Cooper Johnson and Aiden Holliday.

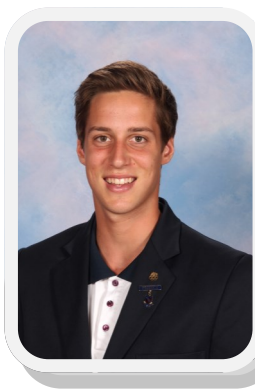
City Zone Football (Soccer) Gala Day

Mr Main and Ms Jones accompanied a boys team and a girls team to a City Zone Football (Soccer) Gala Day in early September. The girls played five games to qualify for the semi-finals with a different girl being awarded “Players-Player” for each game. Congratulations to Caitlin Flanagan, Joely Anderson, Nicole Raine, Jess Foreman and Hayley Moore.

The boys also had a great day and represented NHS well. They played four games to qualify for the semi-final. Mr Main’s “Players-Player” for the day went to Ryley Jackson and Lewis Stewart with his “Coache’s Choice” award going to Aiden Smith for defence. Well done boys.

Athletics

Six students were featured in the last *Parkway*, acknowledging their achievements in qualifying to attend the NSW CHS Athletics carnival in Sydney in early September. Our 16 years girls relay team of Abbie Gray, Regina Kamanda, Olivia Crosbie and Isabella Cosentino ran a good race but unfortunately could not match the “speedsters” from the other schools. Thanks to Isabella who, at very late notice, replaced an injured Maddie Bailey. Well done girls, to get to this level is a great achievement.



Special congratulations to Jarrod Sansom who after a 4th place in 2014 17+ years 400m Hurdles at the NSW CHS Carnival, sprinted to a silver medal in the same event this year, being only 0.06 of a second behind first place. A great effort from Jarrod!

As a result Jarrod has qualified to attend the Australian Youth Championships in Perth in March 2016.

Jarrod has been a great competitor and wonderful ambassador for Newcastle High School over the past six years. This is a very fitting way for him to end his school sporting career.

Congratulations Jarrod.

Mr Wagner / Mrs Blatchford
Interschool Sports Organisers

Student Support

I have had the privilege of getting to know thirty-eight students in small groups we have run this term. Our school has some wonderful partnerships with services and volunteers from our community who devote their time to developing the skills of our young people. Thank you to the Samaritans workers who come in to run our Year 8 groups. Thanks also to Year 11 student, Isabella Sofianos, who has given up her study period to be a mentor to the junior students in the Year 7 girls' Connect Group.

Relationships Girls Year 8

This group of young ladies has spent time this term practising strategies for communicating, learning about ways to respond to conflict and having some amazing and deep discussions about how to have healthy relationships. I have really enjoyed seeing our girls listening to one another's ideas and opinions with respect. We also heard stories from the girls about how they are already implementing strategies they have learned with friends and family – they have shown real growth and understanding of themselves and one another. I am really proud of these girls and their progress this term.

Drum Beat Boys Year 8

Our boys learned their way around the African Djembe drum for Drum Beat this term. This group enabled these young gentlemen the opportunity to discuss skills required for team work and working in harmony whilst playing some great rhythms together. Each week the boys practised their listening, self-regulation and harnessed their creativity. The boys have shown leadership, confidence and persistence – and their drumming sounds pretty fantastic. They will perform for some staff and students before the end of term to show off their new found skills.

Strength Boys Year 7

A group of our young gentlemen from Year 7 have been participating in discussions and activities focusing on their ability to show resilience in times of change and challenge, understanding that they have significance and reflecting on people in their lives whom they look up to as role models. The boys have spoken about living with conviction and purpose. They shared causes & values they are passionate about, and debated what it looks like to demonstrate courage. These boys have lots of energy and many stories to share and have been very keen to engage with our volunteer leaders. Thanks for a wonderful term boys.

Connect Girls Year 7

A small group of girls has been meeting each week to journal and focus on gratitude, learn about changing patterns of thinking, and talk about and practise different ways to respond to conflict. These girls have been delightful and insightful. Each week the girls started by reflecting on people and things for which they were thankful. They practised problem-solving in friendship scenarios. These girls have shown real maturity in their ability to think and explore new ways to communicate and process emotions. Thanks for all your great discussions this term girls!

Amy King
Student Support



Spring Holiday School

**SMALL GROUPS,
LIMITED SPACES!
CONTACT US NOW TO
SECURE YOUR PLACE.**

Pre-HSC Workshops

Year 12 students, taught by experienced Senior Teachers/HSC Markers
28 Sep - 1 Oct 2015

English - Senior Approach to English Workshop
Area of Study Paper 1 - Discovery, Modules (Advanced & Standard)

Maths, Biology, Physics, Chemistry, English
Practice Exams & Feedback Sessions

Senior Writing Workshop

Year 10 - 12 students, taught by Dr Rob Reil
28 Sep - 1 Oct, 10am - 12.30pm each day

Creative Writing Workshop

Year 9 - 11 students, taught by Dr Rob Reil and Jason Newell
29 - 30 Sep, 1.30 - 3.30pm

Writing For Future Experts

Year 5 - 8 students, taught by Jason Newell
29 Sep - 1 Oct, 10am - 12 noon

Individual and small group holiday lessons in Maths, Sciences and English can be arranged by contacting our office.
Tutoring during terms also available.



40 years of helping Newcastle students succeed

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NEWCASTLE HIGH SCHOOL

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website: www.newcastle-h.schools.nsw.edu.au
Parkway Edition No. 07: September 2015

Compulsory School Attendance

Information for parents

Education for your child is important and regular attendance at school is essential for your child to achieve their educational best and increase their career and life options. NSW public schools work in partnership with parents to encourage and support regular attendance of children and young people. When your child attends school every day, learning becomes easier and your child will build and maintain friendships with other children.

What are my legal responsibilities?

Education in New South Wales is compulsory for all children between the ages of six years and below the minimum school leaving age. The *Education Act 1990* requires that parents ensure their children of compulsory school age are enrolled at, and regularly attend school, or, are registered with the Board of Studies, Teaching and Educational Standards for homeschooling.

Once enrolled, children are required to attend school each day it is open for students.

The importance of arriving on time

Arriving at school and class on time:

- Ensures that students do not miss out on important learning activities scheduled early in the day
- Helps students learn the importance of punctuality and routine
- Gives students time to greet their friends before class
- Reduces classroom disruption

Lateness is recorded as a partial absence and must be explained by parents.

What if my child has to be away from school?

On occasion, your child may need to be absent from school. Justified reasons for student absences may include:

- being sick, or having an infectious disease
- having an unavoidable medical appointment
- being required to attend a recognised religious holiday
- exceptional or urgent family circumstance (e.g. attending a funeral)

Following an absence from school you must ensure that within 7 days you provide your child's school with a verbal or written explanation for the absence. However, if the school has not received an explanation from you within 2 days, the school may contact you to discuss the absence.

Principals may decline to accept an explanation that you have provided if they do not believe the absence is in the best interest of your child. In these circumstances your child's absence would be recorded as unjustified. When this happens the principal will discuss their decision with you and the reasons why.



My child won't go to school. What should I do?

You should contact the principal as soon as possible to discuss the issue and ask for help. Strategies to help improve attendance may include a referral to the school's learning and support team or linking your child with appropriate support networks. The principal may seek further support from the Home School Liaison Program to develop an Attendance Improvement Plan.

What might happen if my child continues to have unacceptable absences?

It is important to understand that the Department of Education and Communities may be required to take further action where children of compulsory school age have recurring numbers of unexplained or unjustified absences from school.

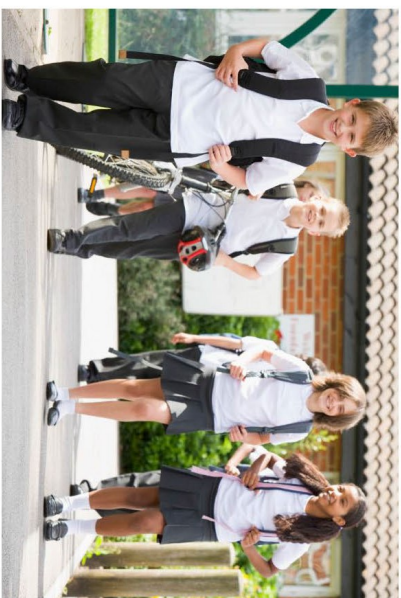
Some of the following actions may be undertaken:

- Compulsory Schooling Conferences

You may be asked, along with your child, to attend a Compulsory Schooling Conference. The conference will help to identify the supports your child may need to have in place so they attend school regularly. The school, parents and agencies will work together to develop an agreed plan (known as Undertakings) to support your child's attendance at school.

- Application to the Children's Court – Compulsory Schooling Order

If your child's attendance at school remains unsatisfactory the Department



may apply to the Children's Court for a *Compulsory Schooling Order*. The Children's Court magistrate may order a Compulsory Schooling Conference to be convened.

- Prosecution in the Local Court

School and Department staff remain committed to working in partnership with you to address the issues which are preventing your child's full participation at school. In circumstances where a breach of compulsory schooling orders occurs further action may be taken against a parent in the Local Court. The result of court action can be the imposition of a community service order or a fine.

What age can my child leave school?

All New South Wales students must complete Year 10 or its equivalent. After Year 10, and up until they reach 17 years of age, there are a range of flexible options for students to [complete their schooling](#).

Working in Partnership

The Department of Education and Communities recognises that working collaboratively with students and their families is the best way to support the regular attendance of students at school.

We look forward to working in partnership with you to support your child to fulfil their life opportunities.

If a student misses as little as 8 days in a school term, by the end of primary school they'll have missed over a year of school.

Further information regarding school attendance can be obtained from the following websites:

Policy, information and brochures:

<http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/stude>
<https://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/stude>
<https://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/stude>

The school leaving age:
<http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/leav>
<https://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/leav>
<https://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/leav>

Do you need an interpreter?

Interpreting services are available on request, including for the hearing impaired. The Telephone Interpreter Service is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week on 131 450. You will not be charged for this service.

For further advice and questions contact your educational services team

T 131 536

Learning and Engagement
Student Engagement & Interagency Partnerships

T 9244 5129

www.dec.nsw.gov.au

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