Principal's Report

Welcome back to all of our returning families for 2011, and a big welcome to new families who have joined the School community this year. The beginning of a new school year is always filled with anticipation and excitement and I know that this particularly applies to students experiencing the transition to high school and those joining a new school. This year we welcome approximately 170 new Year 7 students, over 60 new Year 11 students and a small number starting in each of the other years. We look forward to working with them and you, their parents over the coming months and years.

2010 Higher School Certificate Results

Our HSC class of 2010 has once again continued the outstanding improvement in HSC results seen at Newtown High School of the Performing Arts over recent years.

Congratulations to the students, teachers and families whose achievements include:

- Students of Ancient History achieved 4.5 marks greater than the state mean with 52% receiving 80 or more compared to 40% in 2009 and 38% state-wide
- With an average mark 4.7 above the state, 43% of students in Biology achieved 80 or more, compared to 31% in 2009 and 33% state-wide.
- In Dance, our students achieved results over 12 marks above state average, 43% received 90 plus (band 6) up from 31% in 2009, and 11% state-wide, and 93% in the top 2 bands compared to 85% in 2009 and 34% state-wide
- With an average score of 83 (6 over the NSW mean), 25% of Drama students achieved marks over 90 (compared to 11% state-wide) and 72% gained marks in the top 2 bands (compared to 40% state-wide).
- English Standard results were also up with 56% achieving results of 70 or more, compared with 35% in NSW
- With an average mark of 45.5/50 (up 1.5 from 2009 and 6.5 from 2008) our Extension 1 English results were exceptional with our average being 5.6 above the NSW mean and 73% in the top band compared to 67% in 2009 and 24% state-wide.
- Extension 2 English results were equally impressive with an average of 42/50, up from 2009 and 2.2 above the state average
- 76% of our Food Technology students gained marks of 70 or more compared to 56% in 2009 and 57% of the state. The average mark was 4.3 above the state and 5 up on 2009
- With an average mark 4.5 above the state, 87% of Legal Studies students achieved 70+ marks compared to 63% of the state
- With an average 2.2 above the state, General Maths continued the great improvement of 2009 with this year 8% achieving 90+ compared to 7% in 2009 and 6.5% of the state.
- 67% of our Extension 2 Maths students achieved marks in the top 2 bands, compared to 67% in 2009 and 25% in 2008.
- 50% of History Extension students received marks in the top band, up from 20% in 2009 and 23% state-wide. The average score was nearly 5 marks higher than the NSW average
- with an average score 85 (almost 5 over the state), 33% of our Music 1 students achieved a band 6 compared to 19% in 2009 and 16% state-wide. In addition, 85% of students gained marks over 80 compared to 70% in 2009 and 57% in 2008
- 86% of our Music 2 students achieved marks in the top 2 bands, compared to 82% of the state. Their average score was 85.
- Music Extension results were again outstanding with an average of 46/50 and 100% in the top band compared to 59% of the state.
- 27% of our Textiles and Design students received a mark of 90+. This compares to 13% in 2009 and 14% state-wide.
- With an average of 84, over 5 marks above the NSW average, 79% of our Visual Arts students gained marks in the top 2 bands compared to 75% in 2009 and 50% state-wide.
So, it can be argued that our 2010 Year 12 achieved some of our best ever results. This is further evidenced by the following successes:

- Britanni Peat was placed 3rd in NSW for Dance
- Alexia Chimarrides will receive a Premier's Award for gaining marks of 90+ in over 10 units.
- an incredible 63 students (representing an impressive 43% of the cohort, up from 38% in 2009) were placed on the NSW Distinguished Achievers list for receiving 90+ in at least one course.
- 27 students achieved marks of 80 or more in 10 or more units. This represents 18% of the cohort a figure that has doubled since 2007

School Certificate
Congratulations also to our Year 10 students of 2010 who also received very pleasing School Certificate results. Particular congratulations go to the following top performers:

**English literacy**: Rose Mackenzie-Peterson, Phoebe Newling, Nina Dodd, Bridget Harilaou, Sophie Hawkshaw, Jessica Paraha and Sam Vallentine

**Mathematics**: Jennifer Pham, Sam Vallentine, Carlie Ede, Rose Mackenzie-Peterson, and Jack Garner

**Science**: Jennifer Pham, Rose Mackenzie-Peterson, Sian Raubinger, Darcy McDonnell, and Jack Stromland

**Australian History**: Edward Humphrys, Jennifer Pham, Rose Mackenzie-Peterson, Jack Stromland and Sian Raubinger

**Australian Geography**: Edward Humphrys, Rose Mackenzie-Peterson, Jennifer Pham, Carlie Ede, Rachel Challen and Jack Stromland

**Computing Skills**: Thomas Gustard, Kurtis Neeson, Sam Vallentine, Rose Mackenzie-Peterson, Jack Garner, Sian Raubinger, and Harriet Wallace-Mead

**Student Achievements**
Throughout the year I would again like to use this newsletter to celebrate student successes. Please let me know of any outstanding achievements, both inside and outside school, so that your child can be acknowledged in future newsletters.

**Staff changes**
This year a number of new staff members have joined the school community. We welcome Diana Hasche and Brenton Fletcher in English; Louis Green in Science; Phillip Podreka in Music; Sophie Favelle in TAS and Sam Byrne in PDHPE. Vic Woolley has taken over from Andrew Benson as our Support Teacher Learning Assistance, as Andrew is now working in the drama faculty.

Following the departures of Jim Sturgiss and Gavin Parker, we are currently in the process of appointing new Head Teachers of Science and Mathematics. In the meantime, Tim Sloane and Joelle Pearn are acting in these positions. Finally, as part of our involvement in a National Partnerships pilot program, we have been able to fund an additional Head Teacher position during 2011. Congratulations, therefore to Branimir Lazendic who will act in the role of Head Teacher PDHPE.

**School Plan**
During 2011 we will develop the new 2012-2014 School Plan. The first stage of this planning will take place at this month’s P&C meeting where we will review progress in the current 2009-2011 plan. I hope that many of our new parents will be able to attend the meeting in the school library at 6pm Tuesday 15 February.

Finally, I look forward to another great year where we continue to work together in achieving outstanding outcomes for our students.

Stephen Gray
Principal
Welcome back to the 2011 school year and a very special welcome to all new members of our school community this year. I hope this school will offer your child a rewarding and enjoyable educational experience.

The year has started very smoothly at Newtown High School of the Performing Arts. The students began their first day in form meetings where timetables, diaries assessment booklets and calendars and administrative forms were issued. The assessment documents define the expectations of the various courses undertaken by our students. Students must read this information carefully and prepare effectively for the tasks specified to ensure they are completed to their best by the due date. The acknowledgement form stipulating that the assessment booklets and calendars have been received and read should be signed by both student and parent and returned to the Year Advisers.

The Student Year Advisers for 2011 are:

Year 7  Mr Adrian Shipp and Ms Diane Aynsley
Year 8  Mr Jeremey Atkinson and Ms Nahida Choucair
Year 9  Ms Laura Bivona and Mr Branimir Lazendic
Year 10 Mr David Cole and Ms Jenifa Dwyer
Year 11 Mr Christopher Taylor and Ms Jane Garnsey
Year 12 Ms Ula George and Ms Deborah McGowan

Many thanks go to these teachers for the tremendous work they do with our students in this most rewarding, yet demanding of jobs.

I would again like to extend a special welcome to our Year 7 students and their parents/carers. I hope the transition to high school has been exciting and enjoyable for them. If, however there are issues your child has raised with you, there are many people in the school to contact if you require advice or support. Do not hesitate to talk with the teachers, the Year 7 Advisers, Head Teacher Welfare Nicki Wilkinson, Counsellor Anne-Marie England, or members of the senior executive. There will be an opportunity to meet with staff at the welcome BBQ for new parents held on 4th March after our 21st birthday Festival.

Year 7 students will bring home this week consent forms for vaccinations for Hepatitis B and HPV. Should you wish your child to receive the vaccinations, given by the nurses from NSW Health on 16th February, the signed consent forms must be returned by vaccination day to the Year Advisers.

The Peer Support program begins this month. Year 7 will be introduced to their Year 10 Peer Support Leaders who will assist them with the transition. They will all attend the Peer Support Camp at Vision Valley from 7th to 9th March with supervision by members of the Welfare team including executive.

I would like to extend another special welcome to our new Year 11 students and their parents/carers. Year 11 have settled well and are already two weeks into their Preliminary courses. This month, Year 11 will complete the mandatory Crossroads program. From 16th until 18th February, the program will be delivered to Year 11 at a three day camp at Sydney Sports and Recreation Academy, Narrabeen. Later, on 3rd March the final program will be delivered in a special form meeting by a guest speaker, Paul Dillon. Crossroads is coordinated by Year Advisers, Christopher Taylor and Jane Garnsey. These are the people to contact if you require advice or support for your child. Supervision of this event will be by members of staff including executive.
There have been some students requesting changes to their course pattern of study for 2011. Any requests for changes to courses or electives studied by Years 8, 9, 11 for 2011 should be made in writing by February 18th. There will be no further changes after this date unless circumstances are deemed exceptional. This will ensure students have plenty of class time to meet outcomes and perform to their potential.

As you are aware we are a uniform school. All students must be wearing our school uniform which can be purchased from the Uniform Shop in F-block on Thursdays from 8.30am. I look forward to your support to ensure students arrive at school in uniform with the appropriate footwear; black enclosed leather shoes. If there is an occasion when your child is out of uniform, please provide a note explaining the circumstance and they will be granted a uniform pass without breach. If a student does not have an explanatory note, they must obtain a uniform pass from the office. Three uniform breaches in one term will result in the student being placed on a restitution period on Thursday afternoon.

If your child is late to school, a note explaining the lateness is advisable. Three unexplained absences in a term will result in a restitution period on a Thursday afternoon.

The school is proposing a new system for processing latecomers to assist with a speedier entry into class. Currently, students use swipe cards to enter class. Instead of a swipe card, parents/carers will be offered the option for their child to use biometric technology. This involves twelve point measurements taken of a digit from either hand. Entry into class will involve using these biometric measurements from the digit in order to recognise the student. Parents who may conscientiously object to this technology may choose to have their child continue to use the swipe card. More details of this proposal will be discussed at the P&C meeting and more information about this proposal will be given later this month.

Our school is 21 this year and we are celebrating this important milestone throughout the year. The 21st birthday festival will be held on 4th March from 1pm. Parents and carers are invited to attend the celebration. Tickets must be pre-purchased as there will be none sold on the day. I look forward to seeing you there.

Finally, if you have any concerns about your child’s welfare, particularly for Years 7, 9 and 11, please do not hesitate to call.

Peter Shields
Deputy Principal
Welcome to the 2011 school year. I hope you all had a relaxing break and are looking forward to another busy and exciting year at Newtown High School of the Performing Arts. I would like to offer a very warm welcome to our new parents, students and teachers who have joined the Newtown community for the first time in 2011.

All students were issued with the Assessment Booklets and Assessment Calendars on their first day back at school. These documents outline the nature of all assessment tasks scheduled over the year, along with the dates when each task will be held. Students were also issued with their 2011 school diary. Can I encourage all students and parents to familiarise themselves with these documents and start entering important dates into their student diaries. It is important to start the new academic year organised and prepared and it is hoped that these documents will assist students plan for key assessment tasks. These documents have also been uploaded on the school’s website to ensure that all members of our community can access these important documents and dates.

The Senior Assessment Policy, procedures for Illness/Misadventure as well as the Board of Studies N award process is also outlined in the Year 11 and 12 booklets. The school has a very clear policy in relation to assessment and has sought to refine the process when students are issued with official Board of Studies course warning letters. It is important that all senior students and their parents familiarise themselves with the procedures and the changes in place. All students in the senior school have been informed about these procedures during their first Year meetings, however if there are any further questions regarding these procedures; I encourage students and parents to contact me for further clarification. The school also has a consistent junior assessment policy for Years 7-9, while Year 10 have important procedures also outlined in their assessment booklets.

The performing arts calendar has commenced with the semester one company and ensemble auditions. I would like to encourage all our students to embrace the opportunities that are available as part of our co-curricula program and participate. For Year 7 and 11 auditioned students starting this year, I would particularly like to encourage you to audition and participate in all aspects of school life. My only advice at this stage is to engage with this vibrant performing and academic community. Do not allow the next few years pass by without taking advantage of what opportunities this unique school provides.

The Swimming Carnival will be held on Monday 21st February at Drummoyne Swimming Centre. All students have been informed of their House groupings for 2011 and House meetings were held to communicate key information to students. This is a compulsory school event and we are anticipating a beautiful day for the carnival. In the event of extreme wet weather and electrical activity on the day please check the school website after 7:30am where it will be posted if the carnival is going ahead or not. If parents are unable to access the Internet from home, please call the school from 7:30am for confirmation. I would like to thank our sport organiser Mrs Laura Bivona, who has made all the necessary arrangements to ensure our carnival is a successful and enjoyable day.

The Year 11 Crossroads Camp is soon approaching and will held from Wednesday 16th February to Friday 18th February. The program being delivered throughout the camp is mandatory for all Year 11 students in NSW; however the opportunity to go out on camp is also designed to support the transition of the new Year 11 students into this cohort. I would like to thank the Year 11 Year Adviser Mr Taylor and his assistant Mrs Garnsey for their organisation of this wonderful opportunity and to all the staff who have volunteered their time to attend the camp. Mr Shields will also be attending the camp for its duration and I know he is looking forward to getting to know the new students and engaging with the Crossroads content with the students.
Following soon after the Crossroads Camp in Week 7 the **Year 7 Peer Support Camp** will be held. This camp will run over three days from Monday 7th March to Wednesday 9th March and is designed to further support the students' transition into high school. Each year this is a highly successful camp which meets all of its intended outcomes and the students always thoroughly enjoy their experience. Thank you to Mrs Wilkinson and the Year 7 Year Advisers Mr Shipp and Ms Aynsley for all their work to date in supporting the students with their transition into high school and for organising the camp. I am looking forward to another successful peer support camp and I thank all the teachers who have again volunteered to attend the camp over the three days.

Many parents are aware of the Federal governments’ commitment to the **Digital Education Revolution** (DER) in particular, the **Laptops for Learning** (L4L) rollout to Year 9 students that has been in place for two years now and is expected to continue in 2011. To prepare for the laptop rollout for our current Year 9 students a meeting was held in the first week back at school to distribute the information package to students. Part of this package includes the **Laptop User Charter** that needs to be carefully read and signed by students and parents and returned to Mr Rogers (TSO) by Friday 11th February. The student laptops are ready for distribution once all students return their signed Laptop User Charters. It is anticipated that students will be issued with their laptops by the end of the month. There are very clear expectations that the Department of Education and Training (DET) and the school has regarding the use and care of the student laptops and all this information is included in the information package issued to students.

I will be the **Deputy in charge of Years 8, 10 and 12** this year and will be working closely with the Year Advisers and Assistant Year Advisers for each of these cohorts. If there are any queries or welfare concerns relating to these Year groups please do not hesitate to contact me at school. Again, I welcome you all back to the 2011 school year and am looking forward to working with the school community to ensure that this year at Newtown High School of the performing Arts is again, a highly creative and academic one.

**Blue Mountains International Hotel Management School**

**Open Day Saturday 19 February 2011**

- This is an opportunity to speak with faculty and students to find out what life on campus is really like
- Take a tour of the school, giving you a behind the scenes look into what a student can expect
- Take part in a short talk on our Bachelor Degree program
- Speak with the experts to find out how students can take their first step into one of the world’s most exciting and fast growing industries - hospitality management

**Saturday 19 February 2011**

10am - 3pm

1 Chambers Road, Leura NSW

Register now via email:

jay.poria@hotelschool.com.au

or phone 1800 257 360
Welcome to all the new parents and carers, and welcome back to those already part of this vibrant school community.

1st P&C Meeting in 2011 – Tuesday 15th Feb 6pm in the Library
Normally P&C meetings are held the 2nd Tuesday of the month but due to the later commencement of Term 1 we will move the first meeting of the year to the 3rd Tuesday to give everyone a little extra time to settle in.

21st Birthday Festival – Friday 4th March 1pm - 3:30pm
This year we celebrate the school’s 21st Anniversary. Celebrations will kick off with the 21st Birthday Festival on Friday 4th March. This is a whole of school event organised by the students, staff and parents. All are invited to attend from 1pm. There will be a BBQ, gelato, environmental and multicultural stalls, an assortment of other stalls and of course a full afternoon of performance entertainment.

The P&C needs parent/carer volunteers to help out on the day. We need people to help set up in the morning, assist in serving on stalls/BBQ, help pack up after the event etc. If you can help, please contact Edi Condack econdack@iinet.net.au or call her on 0407 244 126. This event will only be a success with the support of the full community.

Please purchase entry tickets ($5 each) from the school office prior to the day. NO ENTRY TICKETS will be sold on the day for school security reasons. $1 tokens for the purchase of food, drink etc from stalls will be sold on the day from a central location.

Welcome BBQ for new families – Friday 4th March 5-7pm
In the evening, following the 21st Birthday Festival, we invite new parents, carers and students to join together for a BBQ outside the Studio Theatre. Cost: Family $25, Adult $10, Child $5. Tickets available at the BBQ. For catering purposes, please RSVP to Edi Condack econdack@iinet.net.au

Helpers are needed for this event! If you can help and would like to make new families feel welcome at the school, contact Edi Condack econdack@iinet.net.au

P&C AGM – Tuesday 8th March 6pm
For many P&C executive members and helpers, 2011 will see their children depart NHSPA. Therefore we are inviting other interested parents to take the opportunity to get a closer look at how this amazing school ticks, contribute to the school community and enhance your own NHSPA experience. The AGM is when executive positions will be filled. If you would like to know more then please contact Donna Huggart (P&C Vice President) on 0411 631 755 or donna_huggart@hotmail.com

Subscribe to Google Groups
Subscribe to our parent email network by sending an email to: nhspa+subscribe@googlegroups.com
There is a google groups fact sheet on the P&C page of the school website or for other queries please contact Edi Condack (econdack@iinet.net.au).
Performing & Visual Arts Sub Committee (PVAsC) Meeting – Thursday 17th March 6.30pm – 8.00pm, Studio Theatre

PVAsC, as a branch of the P&C, supports the work of the Performing and Visual Arts staff and students at NHSPA. During 2010 we had the pleasure of spending money to improve the Performing Arts facilities at the school, specifically the Studio Theatre. We were also involved in setting up a project by which the school’s film-making facilities will be improved.

But, most significant of all in 2010 was PVAsC’s part in the creation of Master Classes in the Performing and Visual Arts and for Technical Company. These Master Classes, as well as honing specific student skills, have also opened the doors of the school to professional Performing and Visual Arts practitioners whose knowledge, experience and contacts have already been of great benefit to our students.

So, if you are a new or continuing parent interested in supporting the Performing and Visual Arts in the school please come along. We welcome everyone, but are very interested in getting some more Arts professionals to join us.

YOU’RE INVITED TO
NEWTOWN HIGH SCHOOL OF THE PERFORMING ARTS

21ST BIRTHDAY PARTY!!

WHEN: Friday 4th March 2011
WHERE: Our school
TIME: 1pm - 3.30pm

The school will celebrate 21 wonderful years of education with an afternoon of music, drama, dance, stalls and lots and lots of food.

HOW MUCH? No charge for students but parents will need to purchase a ticket for just $5 from the school front office.

THIS PROMISES TO BE AN AFTERNOON OF CELEBRATION AND FUN ...

NO TICKETS WILL BE SOLD ON THE DAY
From The Head Teacher Welfare

Welfare:
The Year 7 Peer Support Camp will be held at Vision Valley, Arcadia from Monday 7th March to Wednesday 9th March (week 7). We encourage all Year 7 students to attend, as this camp effectively begins the Peer Support program that assists the students with their transition into high school. Students will work in groups with their Year 10 Peer Support leaders and get to know a wider range of people and make new friends. The various activities that they will participate in will encourage them to rise to challenges, learn how to be more resilient, work in teams and just have fun. Some of the activities include mountain biking, giant swing, canoeing, raft building, archery, swimming, waterslide and horse-riding. The night-time activities include an animal show/presentation and trivia/talent quest. The cost of the camp is $310, which covers transport, accommodation, meals, activities. For Year 7 students, the cost of the camp is included in school fees, but Year 10 students are required to pay for the camp by no later than the start of March (week 6) at the school office. Booklets with information and permission slips will be issued to all students this week and notes should be returned to the box at the front office as soon as possible, along with any special meal requirements. All students attending the camp are to meet in front of the school (near office) by 8.30am on Monday 7th March.

Learning Support:
We would like to warmly welcome Mr Woolley to the position of Support Teacher Learning Assistance (STLA). Angeline Kurman and Matt Meagher will continue in the positions of Numeracy and Literacy teacher’s aides.

The Disability Provisions Program (previously special examination provisions) has been enhanced for the 2011 HSC examinations and School Certificate tests. The program has been renamed to better reflect its purpose: providing access to external examinations for students with a permanent or temporary disability. For 2011, all applications for disability provisions must be submitted and processed electronically. Applications close at the end of term 1, but we are calling for students who wish to apply to see myself or Mr Woolley before the end of this week (3). The Board of Studies processes requests in order of receipt, so students and the school will benefit from early application and approval of disability provisions.

Ms Wilkinson

PD/H/PE

Our annual School Swimming Carnival is upon us again. It will be held again at Drummoyne Pool on Monday 21st of February. Attendance is compulsory for all students who must wear their PE sports uniform to and from the venue. (Students who have been unable to obtain their PE uniforms due to the late shipment will be exempted). As always, there will be buses available which will leave the school at 8:30am sharp and return students at 3pm.

We are also asking for a gold coin donation at the door for all recent Australian Disasters. We are looking forward to a great day and a great year.

Branimir Lazendic
Relieving Head Teacher
PD/H/PE
ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

Welcome Back

A warm welcome to 2011 from the English Faculty. A special welcome to all students and families new to this school. We hope your association with Newtown High School of the Performing Arts is a rich and rewarding one.

We also welcome some new members of staff for this year. Mr Brenton Fletcher has joined us as has Ms Dianna Hasche who is job sharing with Ms Butterworth in the place of Ms Ellis who is on leave for 12 months. We also welcome back Ms Bobbie Gledhill following her recent leave during Term 4, 2010.

Busy Students

Our students have really hit the ground running in the first few weeks of the school year and in the oppressive weather conditions, we congratulate them on the sensible manner in which they have gone about their work.

Year 12 Advanced English classes recently had the opportunity to view their set film for Module A, *Blade Runner*, on the big screen in the nicely airconditioned Studio Theatre.

A wonderful way to view this challenging sci-fi classic on a hot Thursday afternoon.

Later this term classes will attend Bell Shakespeare’s production of *Hamlet*.

English Extension 2 students are gearing up for their Viva Voce assessment task and all of those students will have sat their first assessment task for Extension One (*After the Bomb*) by the time you read this.

Extension 2 students will soon have the opportunity to hear from and work with Dr Felicity Plunkett who recently won the prestigious Thomas Shapcott poetry prize. She will speak to them about their Major Works and their particular mediums.

Year 12 Standard students will shortly hear from acclaimed author Marelle Day who is coming in to chat about her prescribed text *The Life and Crimes of Harry Lavender*.

All other English classes are well and truly into their work and a reminder about the importance of formal assessment tasks. Students will always receive two weeks written notice about these and failure to submit work on time or attend an in-class task, without following correct procedures, could result in a loss of marks.

Should you have any questions about any of these issues, please feel free to call me at school on 9519.1544 (x155) and I will be delighted to chat to you.

Thank you for your expected support throughout 2011.

Michael Fischer
Head Teacher English
Welcome back to school from the Dance Dept.

Congratulations to our 2010 HSC Dance students who all received outstanding results in their Dance HSC and in particular, Brittanni Peat who received third in the state in Dance. Brittanni, along with 4 other dance students from Newtown, will be performing some of their HSC works at Callback from the 9th-12th February at the Seymour Centre.

This year we welcome back Leisa Munns as head of Dance and Louise Roumanos from maternity leave while we wish Alison McKellar all the best for the upcoming birth of her second baby.

The Sydney Region’s ‘Opening of the School Year’ will be held at Angel Place on Thursday the 17th February where Tanya Grigoriadis, Bree Masters and Hannah Seymour will perform ‘Ave Maria’ accompanied by singers and musicians from NHSPA music dept. All Sydney Region school principals are invited to attend this performance so we wish our dancers the best of luck at this prestigious event.

In week 3 we commence our annual Dance Company & Ensemble auditions followed by our Classical Ballet Company auditions in week 4. Please find audition dates following:

**Dance Company/Ensembles Auditions:**

Week 3:
- Mon 7th Feb Yr 8 & 9 3.30-5.30pm
- Tues 8th Feb Yr 7 3.30-5.30pm
- Wed 9th Feb Yr 9-12 3.30-5.30pm
- Thu 10th Feb Callback 3.00-6.00pm

**Ballet Company Auditions:**

Week 4:
- Tues 15th Feb Yr 9-12 3.30-5.30pm
- Fri 18th Feb Yr 7 & 8 3.30-5.30pm

All students would have received information sheets regarding the audition dates and times along with information regarding Ballet Sport and Ballet Masterclasses.

Ballet Sport for Yr 7 began on Friday 4th Feb last week.
Ballet Sport for Yr 9-12 begins on Tuesday 8th Feb.
Ballet Sport for Yr 8 begins on Friday 11th Feb
Ballet Masterclasses begin on Thursday 24th Feb for all students.

Prompt payment of fees for these Ballet classes is most appreciated. Students should make payments to the office and return the receipt and enrolment slip (located at the bottom of the payment sheet) to the Dance Dept on the first day of Ballet class. See the information sheet handed to the students for more details.

**DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

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<tr>
<th>Event</th>
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<th>Venue</th>
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<tr>
<td>Sydney Region Dance Festival</td>
<td>20th-24th June 2011</td>
<td>Seymour Centre</td>
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<tr>
<td>NHSPA mid-year Dance Showcase</td>
<td>25th June 2011</td>
<td>Seymour Centre</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dance Classwork Showcase</td>
<td>Wed 15th June 2011</td>
<td>Studio Theatre</td>
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Thanks and have a great term,
Dance Dept.
Welcome back to all our students and parents and, in particular, the new students in Year 11 and Year 7. We look forward to working with you in 2011.

The ceremony for The Opening of the Academic Year will be held on Thursday 17th February in the City Recital Hall at Angel Place. Our choir and orchestra will feature in the special work we took to China in 2010, “The Never Never Land”. Three Year 12 vocalists: Kaila Sercombe, Zerrin Craig-Adams and Paloma Ellis-Vega accompanied by Marcus Catsaris will also perform in a combined dance/music item, “Kyrie/Ave Maria”.

HSC 2011 results were excellent with four students receiving Encore nominations.

Auditions for the large ensembles are currently in full swing and will be completed by the end of Week 4. If students have missed an audition please get in touch with a member of the music staff.

Term 1 Music Performance events:
- Year 12C1 concert on at 6.30pm in the Studio Theatre on Thursday 17th March
- In the Swing concert Tuesday 29th March in St Georges Hall at 6.30pm. A concert featuring ensembles and soloists.

Schools Spectacular and Talent Development Project audition DVDs/video recordings are due toward the end of term one. Students wishing to nominate must check the Department of School Education Performing Arts Unit website for information.

The instrumental/Vocal Tuition Program - As part of the instrumental program at NHSPA there are opportunities for students to be tutored at the school. An information brochure is attached. If you are interested please fill out the form on the back of the brochure and return to the music faculty. All queries may be directed to Chris Miller or Gemma Thomas.

The Music Faculty
I would like to take this opportunity to welcome back all Mathematics students for 2011. We are looking forward to a productive year.

I would also like to remind students of the special nature of Mathematics as a subject. Students are required to work and practice their mathematical skills both in class and at home on a regular basis. Regular homework is necessary for students to develop confidence in their understanding of the concepts taught in class. As a guide we would expect our students in years 7 to 10 to do two hours of homework each week. This means at least 20 minutes per day. Homework includes the completion of class work, revision and study of other tasks. You can expect your child to receive homework each lesson and for this homework to be checked regularly.

We are offering support for students who are having difficulties in Mathematics on Monday afternoons immediately after school. We encourage your child to attend if they need a bit of extra help.

Textbooks
Textbooks are a vital tool in all Mathematics classes. We are currently in the process of issuing each student with a textbook. To facilitate this, could you please remind your child to return all books, covers and folders from last year and have them checked off in the Mathematics staff room.

Year 7 Accelerated program
This program is designed to allow students to work through the mathematical syllabus at a faster rate. This is achieved through a process of pre-testing in topic areas and creating personalised learning contracts. The Mathematics faculty has run this program successfully since 2009 and it must be highlighted that for students to participate in this program, they will need to demonstrate not only a fine knowledge and understanding of the mathematical content, but also a high degree of motivation. Students in the program need to be self-directed and motivated.

Mathematics Technology
The Mathematics faculty has three main ways of using technology to support learning:
Moodle
This is an online content delivery system. Students can access Moodle both at school and at home. It can be accessed by following the link below

Mathletics and Mathsonline
These are also online resources which provide students with tutorials, practice questions, quizzes and other resources. All students at NHSPA have access to both Mathletics and Mathsonline. The Mathematics faculty is currently in the process of updating user names and passwords for 2011.

Numeracy Support
The numeracy support program will run again in 2011. We appreciate that students at NHSPA are often very busy with major time commitments in various areas of the performing arts. This means that some students can fall behind in their Maths work and sometimes struggle to get back on track. The Numeracy Support program is designed to provide advice, assistance and informal tutoring for students in need during times such as the showcase season. Please feel free to contact the Mathematics faculty of your child needs a bit of extra help.

Joelle Pearn
Acting Head Teacher Mathematics
COFFEE SCHOOL

Barista Course Level 1=Years 9,10,11

- SITHFAB012A Certificate
- Coffee machine operation
- Foaming silky milk correctly
- How to make each coffee on the menu
- Using & setting the coffee grinder
- Cleaning and maintenance of equipment
- Accredited Barista Certificate
- Free DVD: The Complete Barista Guide
- Job Referral

Location
Shop 3/107 Quay Street Haymarket (Opposite Central Station)

Time
9.30am to 12.30pm (suggested start time)

What to do?
1. Pay $70 to Front Office
2. Give receipt and following Acceptance Note to Mr Bourchier
3. Once we have 15 students signed up Mr Bourchier will book a class

Acceptance Note
My name is ____________________________ and I have paid $70 to the NHSPA office for the Coffee School Barista Course in Term 1 2011. I wish to accept a place in the Coffee School Course when a booking is made.

GIVE RECEIPT TO MR BOURCHIER IN LIBRARY
Subscription has continued into 2011 for the extremely valuable Careers News Service which is available for all NHSPA parents and students.

To access this service simply follow these steps:

**Step 1:** Go to [www.mhscareers.com](http://www.mhscareers.com)

**Step 2:** Login with either “student”, “parent” or “other”

**Step 3:** Use the password **health**

Service provides news on a whole range of career related topics, including:

- Employment
- Scholarships
- Colleges
- Universities
- Conferences
- Apprenticeships
- Traineeships
- TAFEs
- Current Events
- Workshops

*Mr Bourchier (Careers Adviser) will publish a limited number of Weekly Careers Newsletters to distribute in the school but it is advisable for parents and students to access the news online on a regular basis.*
**Enrolment form/Expression of interest**
(Please fill out and return to Music Department)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of student</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Year/Roll</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Name of parent</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contact Number</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Instrument in which you would like tuition (please tick)**

- Violin
- Viola
- Cello
- Double Bass
- Flute
- Oboe
- Clarinet
- Bassoon
- Saxophone
- Trumpet
- French horn
- Trombone
- Tuba
- Percussion
- Drumkit
- Piano
- Guitar
- Vocals

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Please note:
Whilst the ITP attempts to cater for all of these instruments, this depends on both availability of qualified tutors and level of student interest.
ABOUT PRIVATE MUSIC LESSONS

Instrumental/vocal tuition is given in each week for a minimum of 30 minutes.

The lessons are generally rotated so that you miss a different class each week, minimizing class disruption.

It is the student's responsibility to catch up on any missed class work by talking with their class teacher and/or fellow students regarding class work and homework.

Notification to class Teacher

Students will excuse themselves from class and go directly to the lesson. Upon return to class the student must go via the swipe room in the front office and obtain a 'music lesson' pass which must be presented to their teacher.

Lesson fees

Whilst there is no set rate, lessons are generally $30 per half hour to be paid in full at the beginning of each term.

Commitment

Having private music lessons is a serious commitment and requires an undertaking to the following:

- Attend weekly lessons
- Regularly practice
- Pay lesson fees in full at the start of each term
- Catch up on missed class work due to music lessons
- Tutors must be notified if for any reason you miss a lesson, including circumstances such as assessments or excursions
- A minimum of 24 hours notice of cancellation is required or lesson

HIRING AN INSTRUMENT

The school has limited instruments for hire for an annual fee.

As well as this there are several suppliers that we suggest:

Sax and Woodwind 95574588
Sydney String Centre 99048051

Whilst there are many other suppliers for hire and purchase, please talk with a music teacher in regards suitability of the instrument prior to purchasing.

Repairers

Steve Giordano 95719086
MD Instrument Repair 97241200

If school instruments need repair then this should be done through the music department.
AUDITION FOR BUFFY: ONCE MORE WITH FEELING Musical

This musical will take place at the “new theatre” on king street Newtown. All proceeds go to autism Australia. The musical will happen after the HSC. This is not a payed event it is a charity event.

To organize an audition

CONTACT: Kyle Stephens either through facebook or email

Kyle-isbadwolf@hotmail.com