Welcome back to all of our returning families for 2012, 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.

2011 Higher School Certificate Results
Our HSC class of 2011 has once again continued the outstanding improvement in HSC results seen at Newtown High School of the Performing Arts over recent years. Our 2010 cohort set the bar very high, and I am delighted that those achievements have been bettered by last year's Year 12. Congratulations to the students, teachers and families whose achievements include:

- Students of Ancient History achieved an amazing average of 82.3%, 9.4 marks greater than the state mean with 10 students receiving band 6 (over 90 marks) which is 3 times the state rate, and 70% receiving 80 or more compared to 52% in 2010, 40% in 2009 and 37% state-wide
- With an average mark 3.4 above the state, 37% of students in Biology achieved 80 or more, compared to 31% in 2009.
- 50% of our Chemistry students received marks of 80 or more, compared to 19% in 2010 and 40% state-wide
- In Dance, our students achieved results 10.6 marks above state average, 34% received 90 plus (band 6) and 84% in the top 2 bands compared to 40% state-wide
- with an average score of 82 (4.5 over the NSW mean), 21% of Drama students achieved marks over 90 (compared to 11% state-wide) and 66% gained marks in the top 2 bands (43% state-wide).
- Economics results were 3.5 over the state mean with 63% achieving results of 80 or more, compared with 43% in NSW
- With an average mark of 40.5/50 our Extension 1 English results saw 96% of students in the top 2 bands compared to 84% state-wide
- 50% of our Geography students gained marks of 80 or more compared to 33% in 2010 and 38% of the state. The average mark of 81 was 6.2 above the state and 6 up on 2010
- with an average mark 3.4 above the state, 54% of Legal Studies students achieved 80+ marks compared to 38% of the state
- with an average 5.2 above the state, General Maths continued the great improvement of recent years with this year 38% achieving 80+ compared to26% in 2010 and 24% of the state.
- our 2 unit Maths results, with a mean of 74.9 were up 6 marks on 2010 with almost 50% of students achieving marks in the top 2 bands.
- with a mean of 80.4, up an incredible 15 marks from 2010, 91% of our Extension 1 Maths students achieved marks in the top 2 bands, compared to 50% in 2010 and 84% state-wide.
- In Extension 2 Maths, 75% of students achieved results in the top 2 bands, up from 67% in 2010 and 2009, and 25% in 2008
- 48% of Modern History students received marks over 80, up from 41% in 2010 and 45% state-wide.
- with an average score of 87.7 (almost 8 over the state), 55% of our Music 1 students achieved a band 6 compared to 33% in 2010, 19% in 2009 and 15% state-wide.
our Music 2 results were equally outstanding with an average of 87.1, 42% of students gained marks of 90 or more, compared to 24% in 2010 and 33% state-wide, with 89% receiving a mark over 80.

Music Extension results were again outstanding with an average of 46/50 and 69% in the top band compared to 60% of the state.

with an average of 75%, our PDHPE results were much improved over recent years, with a 6 mark increase from 2010 and 34% of students in the top 2 bands compared to 19% last year.

The Physics mean of 77.3% was up from 73 in 2010 and 2.4 marks above state average. 50% of students received a mark of 80 or more, compared to 36% last year and 36% state-wide.

Textiles and Design students achieved stunning results. With an average mark of 86.2, an amazing 11.6 above state average and up from 75 in 2010, 100% of students received a mark of 80+. This compares to 36% in 2010 and 39% state-wide.

with an average of 84.4 (over 6 marks above the NSW average, 82% of our Visual Arts students gained marks in the top 2 bands compared to 79% in 2010 and 48% state-wide.

So, it can be argued that our 2011 Year 12 HSC results are among our greatest. This is further evidence by the following successes:

- Holly Doyle was placed 3rd in NSW for Dance
- Hannah Miyashita was placed 17th in PDHPE
- 2 students will receive a Premier's Award for gaining marks of 90+ in over 10 units. These outstanding students are Alycia Debnam-Carey and Georgia Munro-Cook
- a record 82 students (up from 63 in 2010 and 2009) representing 50% of the cohort (up from 38% in 2010) were placed on the NSW Distinguished Achievers list for receiving 90+ in at least one course.
- an incredible 45 students achieved marks of 80 or more in 10 or more units. This represents 28% of the cohort up from 18% in 2010 and has grown by over 3 times since 2007

The class of 2011 have left their mark on the school in many ways, including their gift to the school (pictured left). This wonderful mural was commissioned and designed by members of the Year 12 Prefect body in collaboration with artist and parent Rodney Monk.

School Certificate
Congratulations also to our Year 10 students of 2011 who also received very pleasing School Certificate results. Particular congratulations go to the following top performers:

English literacy: Tiarani Dixon, Alicia Kelly, Riley Nolan, Georgia Melville, Lara Delaney and Jaime Di Laudo
Mathematics: Hayden Sip, Zeke Collins, Alex Jasprizza, Thomas Killingly, Fabian Caley and Michela Castagnone
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.

An example of these achievements over the summer break is that of Year 10 student George Bokaris. George was selected as the “Kids’ Editor” for the January edition of Burke’s Backyard magazine. George put together a two page spread on Natural Wonders being responsible for the text and photos. In the process, George won $500 for our school library. Our congratulations and thanks go to George.

Swimming Carnival

Earlier this week, we held a very successful school swimming carnival at Drummoyne pool. Fortunately, the weather was fine and we saw many outstanding swims as well as a lot of fun for all involved. What was very pleasing was the increased attendance patterns for all years, particularly our senior students. Well done to all involved.

Staff changes
This year a number of new staff members have joined the school community. We welcome Michelle Leotta in English; Voula Georgelos in Science; Neil Kirkby in LOTE; and Claire Conroy in Visual Arts. We also welcome back to TAS, Amelia Berner and Cliff Atkin and Alison McKellar to Dance.
Staff changes
This year a number of new staff members have joined the school community. We welcome Michelle Leotta in English; Voula Georgelos in Science; Neil Kirkby in LOTE; and Claire Conroy in Visual Arts. We also welcome back to TAS, Amelia Berner and Cliff Atkin and Alison McKellar to Dance.

Congratulations to Nicki Wilkinson who late last year secured a well-deserved promotion to Deputy Principal at Dulwich High School of Visual Arts and Design, we are therefore currently in the process of appointing a new Head Teacher Welfare. In the meantime, Laura Bivona is acting in this position. Finally, as part of our involvement in a National Partnerships transition program, we have been able to continue to fund additional Head Teacher positions during 2012. Chris Taylor, Branimir Lazendic and Nilaufar Rajwar continue as Head Teachers Teaching and Learning, PDHPE and Administration respectively.

School Plan
During 2011 we developed our new 2012-2014 School Plan. The plan is now in its final draft and can be found on our website. There will be an opportunity for questions, comments or suggestions at next week’s P&C meeting.

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 2012 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 student and parent and returned to the Year Advisers.

The Student Year Advisers for 2012 are:

Year 7  Ms Diane Aynsley and Mr Victor Woolley  
Year 8  Mr Adrian Shipp and Mr Zeljko Janusic  
Year 9  Mr Jeremey Atkinson and Mr Chris Miller  
Year 10 Ms Nahida Choucair and Ms Laura Bivona  
Year 11 Mr David Cole and Ms Jenifa Dwyer  
Year 12 Ms Jane Garnsey and Mr Christopher Taylor  

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, Acting Head Teacher Welfare Laura Bivona, Counsellor Anne-Mari England and Deputy Principals, Betty Romeo or myself. There will be an opportunity to meet with staff at the welcome BBQ for new parents held on 9th March after our World Earth 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 13th February, the signed consent forms must be returned by vaccination day to the Year Advisers or the nurses.

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 5th to 7th 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 13th until 15th February, the program will be delivered to Year 11 at a three day camp at Stanwell Tops Conference Centre. The program has been designed to include a range of activities, including workshops, guest speakers, group activities and traditional outdoor camp activities. Crossroads is co-ordinated by Year Advisers, David Cole and Jenifa Dwyer. 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 2012. Any requests for changes to courses or electives studied by Years 8, 9, 11 for 2012 should be made in writing by February 24th. 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. Should there be several uniform breaches without an explanation, a letter will be sent home to clarify the circumstances. The school has a uniform pool and is able to assist with providing items of uniform.

If your child is late to school, a note explaining the lateness is advisable.

Our school is using a system for processing latecomers to assist with a speedy entry into class. Students may use the slower method of swipe cards to enter class, or in addition to the 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 only.

The World Earth Festival will be held on 9th 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 8, 10 or 12, please do not hesitate to call.

Peter Shields
Deputy Principal
Welcome to the 2012 school year. I hope you all had a relaxing break and are looking forward to another busy and exiting year at Newtown High School of the Performing Arts. I would like to offer a very warm welcome to our new parents and students who have joined the Newtown community for the first time in 2012.

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 2012 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 and Procedures for Illness/Misadventure are outlined in the Year 11 and 12 booklets. The school has a very clear policy in relation to assessment and it is important that all senior students and their parents familiarise themselves with the procedures 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 the policy I would encourage students and parents to contact me for further clarification. We also have implemented a consistent assessment policy for Years 7-9 and Year 10 have important procedures also outlined in their assessment booklets.

The school community implemented a new Behaviour Management Policy in 2010 which was developed based on the restorative model and seeks to ensure that students take responsibility for their own behaviour and seek to repair the damage or hurt that their actions may have generated. In 2011 the school reviewed the policy and has made some small amendments to the procedures for lateness, truancy and uniform breaches. All new students were issued with a copy of the behaviour management policy during their first Year meeting and the changes to the process have been clearly explained to all students. A copy of this updated policy has been placed on the school website to allow parents to read through it and become familiar with the policy, in particular, the new procedures for lateness, truancy and uniform.

The performing arts calendar has commenced with the semester one co-curricula company and ensemble auditions. The audition dates and times have been communicated to the students and have been placed on the school website. 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 Years 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 was held on Monday 6th February at Drummoyne Swimming Centre. We had a successful and enjoyable day, again we had record numbers of students in attendance and the level of participation in all races was fantastic. I was also delighted to witness the teachers successfully taste victory in the staff versus student race. I would like to thank our new sport organiser Mr Sam Byrne and Mrs Laura Bivona, who were responsible for making all the necessary arrangements to ensure that our carnival was another successful whole school event.

The Year 11 Crossroads Camp is soon approaching in Week 4 and will be held at the “The Tops” Conference Centre, Stanwell Tops from Monday 13th February to Wednesday 15th 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 our new Year 11 students into this Year group. I would like to thank the Year 11 Year Advisor Mr
Cole for his organisation of this wonderful opportunity and to all the staff who have volunteered their time to attend the camp over the three days. I will also be attending the camp for its duration and am looking forward to getting to know our new students and engaging with the Crossroads content with the students.

Following the Crossroads Camp in Week 7 will be the Year 7 Peer Support Camp. This camp will run over three days from Monday 5\textsuperscript{th} March to Wednesday 7\textsuperscript{th} 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 Bivona, Mr Atkinson and the Year 7 Year Advisors Ms Aynsley and Mr Woolley 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.

The USA Dance Tour is soon approaching, departing Sydney on February 26\textsuperscript{th} and returning on March 16\textsuperscript{th}. I am looking forward to attending the tour this year for the first time and can’t wait to experience the amazing opportunities provided for the students over the three weeks. I would like to thank Mr Gray, the Dance faculty, in particular Ms Scanlan, for all the time and effort they have invested to date ensuring that this opportunity is made possible for our students. I look forward to reporting back to the community in my next correspondence some of the highlights from the tour.

I will be the Deputy in charge of Years 7, 9 and 11 this year and will be working closely with the Year Advisors and Assistant Year Advisors 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 2012 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.

______________________________

Betty Romeo
Deputy Principal

**Year 7 - Our First Week**

Welcome to all our Year 7 students and families this year. We have had a fantastic start to the year! For many it was a tiring week getting used to the huge distances they have to walk around the school, carrying heavy bags and dealing with travel; despite all of this, Year 7 have settled well.

On Monday we enjoyed a great day at the Swimming Carnival. The weather was perfect and Year 7 did us proud with their enthusiasm and participation.

Next week we have Year 7 vaccinations on Monday 13 February. Students have been issued with the relevant documentation. Surprisingly, Year 7 were not particularly thrilled when I announced the date!

We are looking forward to the school camp in week 7 for the opportunity to strengthen friendships and make new ones. More details will follow shortly regarding the camp.

Once again welcome to Newtown and please don’t hesitate to contact myself or Mr Woolley if you have any concerns.

Regards,
Diane Aynsley (Year 7 Advisor)
Hello everyone and welcome to 2012. We hope new families are settling in well to Term 1. The P&C has a busy term lined up with the following dates for your diary:

The first **P&C Meeting** for the year is at 6pm Tuesday Feb 14th 2012 in the **Library**. As always, we would love to see as many parents attending as possible.

The **AGM** will be held on Tuesday March 13th 2012.

**NHSPA Earth Festival Friday 9th March 2012 1pm - 3:30 pm**
Each year we hold a special event at the school to bring together the whole school community. On Friday 9th March you are invited to the NHSPA Earth Festival where we blend our performing arts talents with that of environmental awareness and sustainability.

All are invited to attend from 1pm - 3:30pm. There will be a BBQ, gelato, fresh fruit juice, environmental and multicultural stalls, an assortment of other food and novelty stalls and of course a full afternoon of performance entertainment.

Please **pre purchase entry tickets ($5)** from the school office **prior to the day**.

**NB:** Entry tickets will not be available for sale Friday 9th March due to security and logistical issues.

$1 Tokens will be available for sale on the day for exchange of items from the various stalls.

*The P&C needs parent/carer volunteers to help out on the day.*

We need your help with the following:

1. Sell $1 tokens at recess (from 9:30am) and during the event
2. Help setup BBQ and prepare fruit for juicing from 10:30am
3. Assist with cooking on the BBQ from 12 noon
4. Assist in serving on the BBQ and drinks stalls from 12:30pm
5. Help pack up after the event from 3:30pm
6. Collect and deliver ice to the school by 12noon
7. Provide Technical support to Chris Miller (performance coordinator)

If you can help, please contact Donna Huggart donna_huggart@hotmail.com or call 0411 631 755. **This event will only be a success with the support of the full community.**

**Welcome BBQ for Parents and families** new to NHSPA in 2012 will follow the Earth Festival. Come, bring your kids and meet other parents new to the school and find out more about the activities of the P&C.

*All families welcome.*

BBQ and soft drinks will be available.

**DATE:** Friday 9th March 2012  
**TIME:** 5.00-7.00pm  
**PLACE:** Studio Theatre, NHSPA  
**COST** $5.00 each person for a sausage on a roll and a drink.
**Bookings are ESSENTIAL** and ** Helpers are needed** for this event, (cooking serving and ticket collecting) so if you are available or attending please **Contact Deborah Charlton**:  deborahcharlton@y7mail.com  Mob 0452 079 486

**NHSPA School Website** - follow the link below

http://web1.newtown-h.schools.nsw.edu.au/
The school website has a calendar and also links for the P&C, contacts, minutes etc

**Parent Email Network (Google Groups)**
We encourage all parents to subscribe to our parent email network. This is a great way to receive information from the P&C and stay in touch with other parents (including getting questions answered and sharing information). To subscribe send a blank email to:

nhspa+subscribe@googlegroups.com
There is a google groups fact sheet on the P&C page of the school website

**NHSPA Parents Contact Message Board** Follow this link for posting requests and ads for second hand uniform, instruments and equipment etc.

http://nhspasecondhand.proboards.com/index.cgi?

**Drama Department**

The Drama staff welcomes back students for 2012 and extends greetings to new students in Years 7 and 11.

Auditions for Drama Showcase companies are underway and we wish all those who try out the best of luck. We envision there will be 9 companies this semester to perform in the Showcase season. Please remember that for all those students who have not successfully auditioned this semester, further auditions are held at the beginning of Term 3 for the season two Showcase. Students should not hesitate to seek feedback from relevant auditioners.

2012 will see a major production using the considerable talents of students and staff from Dance, Drama and Music. Watch this space!

from the Drama Department.

Dear Parents/Carers.

NHSPA subscribes to a Careers News Services which provides access to careers related events as they occur during the year. Please take advantage of this service and keep abreast of all that is happening in careers.

To view the news pages on the website:
Login with either: “student”, “parent”, “ca” or “other”
Password: outlook

Go to [http://www.mhscareers.com/NewsNSWACT.html](http://www.mhscareers.com/NewsNSWACT.html) to see the news.
Go to [http://www.mhscareers.com/Calendar.html](http://www.mhscareers.com/Calendar.html) to see upcoming events.
Go to [www.privatecollegesaustralia.com](http://www.privatecollegesaustralia.com) to see the lists of private colleges.
Facebook: [http://www.facebook.com/pages/My-High-School-Careers/143448159011540](http://www.facebook.com/pages/My-High-School-Careers/143448159011540)
A warm welcome to all our students.

Textbooks

As you are aware, textbooks are a vital tool in all mathematics classes and quite an expensive school resource. I would like to thank all the students and parents who have returned their 2011 textbooks and encourage the return of the few remaining books. Each student is in the process of being issued with a textbook. Most of our current books also come with a CD containing an electronic version of the book as well as some additional resources. These are available for the students to borrow. If you are interested in using these resources a permission note is available from the Mathematics Staffroom.

MATHS SUPPORT WORKSHOPS are still being held in 2012, every Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons for any student having difficulties with completing homework and who would like some help catching up with work 4. Help is also available from 7.45am every morning with any Maths difficulties or if you need some quiet space to complete your Maths work. We look forward to seeing you there. Please see the Maths staff for further information.

MATHLETICS

Mathletics is an online mathematics learning resource, which provides students with tutorials, practice questions, quizzes and other resources. The content covered in Mathletics includes the entire NSW Mathematics Syllabus up to and including the HSC Mathematics Advanced course. The license purchased allows access for all students both at school and at home. Mathletics passwords will be issued throughout this week to every student of Mathematics.

SCIENTIFIC CALCULATORS

It is compulsory for every student, studying mathematics at Newtown High School of the Performing Arts, to have his or her own scientific calculator IN EVERY Maths lesson. Scientific calculators are a necessary tool in the teaching and learning of mathematics. Casio fx-82AU calculators may be purchased through the school’s uniform shop which is open every Thursday from 8.30am to 1.30pm.

GRAPHICS CALCULATORS FOR OUR SENIOR GENERAL MATHS STUDENTS

We strongly encourage our students to use a graphics calculator during their senior years. This gives them a considerable advantage during their HSC exams. In 2012, the P&C has kindly given the Maths department a class set of Graphics calculators which can be lent to students. Students will be required to sign a contract and to give a deposit towards the loan of the graphics calculator. Please see your Maths teacher for more details.

Cooking with Maths??
The chef instructs his apprentice: You take two thirds of water, one third of cream, one third of broth..."
The apprentice: But that makes four thirds already!"
Well - just take a larger pot!"
The Science Team warmly welcomes all to a new school year, especially those that have joined the school in 2012. We trust that this year will bring with it challenges and experiences to assist students in seeing the impact on science on their daily lives. We also welcome Voula Georgelos who has joined the faculty this year bringing with her skills and experiences that will complement the great work that is already being done.

We would also like to acknowledge the outstanding results of students both in the school certificate and HSC in 2011. These results are to be commended and continue to show how capable students at NHSPA are at excelling in all areas.

This term students in Year 7 will develop their scientific skills through the context of managing and using our most precious of resources, water. They will look at methods of producing clean drinking water through a variety of separation techniques.

Year 8 will be understanding the secret life of plants as well as delve into renewable and non-renewable methods of energy production through the topic Green Energy.

Our Year 9 students will be looking at a unit that helps them understand human impact on the environment in our search for energy and electricity production and use. They will evaluate the use of energy in the school and their own home and come up with recommendations to reduce environmental impact as well as understand the design of electrical circuits for different purposes.

Year 10 students will be looking at methods of communication both within the body, through the nervous and endocrine systems as well as forms of communication using the electromagnetic spectrum, such as radio or mobile phones. They will also study a topic involving various types of chemical reactions seen in our daily lives and explain how they occur.

We welcome our year 11 students to the Stage 6 Science courses. With large numbers of students choosing one or more science it is encouraging to see that students understand how being scientifically literate can assist them in evaluating information or broaden career paths available to them.

To excel in these courses it is important students show discipline in their studies, regularly revising and catching up any work missed if they are absent for any reason. Please ask your teachers for advice or assistance should you find yourself having difficulty with content or feeling behind.

Year 12 students we also stress that in order to achieve well with manageable stress they should develop regular study and revision schedules and continually go back through earlier work in order to help it reach their long term memory. This will reduce the need for ‘last minute cramming’ and be more fulfilling in the long run. Many students also find it beneficial to revise content or practice questions in small focussed groups in order to build on each other’s strengths.

We wish all students and parents a wonderful year and look forward to assisting you in any way we can in making your studies of Science enjoyable and rewarding.

Brett Stone
Head Teacher Science on behalf of the Science Team
English Matters

A warm welcome to everyone for the 2012 school year and a special greeting to all the students and families experiencing our fabulous school for the first time. We trust your years at Newtown will be rewarding and memorable.

The English staff was both sad and happy to lose Ms Wilkinson from our staffroom late last year. Sad because we lost a valued colleague who contributed greatly to English teaching at this school for many years but happy because she received a Deputy’s job and hence a promotion.

Nicki Wilkinson was a more than significant contributor to this school and her loss will be felt by many. Best wishes Nicki for your new role. Newtown’s loss is your new school’s gain.

On the other hand we welcome back Ms Leotta who has rejoined us this year as has Ms Martyn and Ms Hasche. All three teachers know our school and our students well and I know they will add much to the English faculty. We welcome them to our school.

Congratulations to all students in Year 10 2011 and Year 12 2011 on their fine School Certificate and Higher School Certificate results. We were very pleased with the results in all courses and particularly happy for the students who scored in the higher bands. Of course the challenge now is for this year’s HSC cohort to do even better. The English faculty recently spent some time discussing the 2011 results and planning some strategies to improve them. We hope that this time next year we can boast about that improvement.

By now all students have settled into their English classes and regular work patterns should be in place. Please remember if any aspect of your child’s English requires an explanation, we are merely a phone call away and more than willing to assist.

Students studying Extension Two English should register for a Study Day with the English Teachers Association on Sunday 11th March at Beverley Hills Girls HS. This is always a valuable day for students studying this challenging course. Google ETANSW and simply follow the links.

Finally, if you locate any of our texts at home that have not been returned from 2011, we would greatly appreciate their return.

Best wishes to all students for a successful and happy 2012.

Michael Fischer
Head Teacher English

Library Webpage

Hi All,

I invite you to check out the Library webpage on the school site.

Perhaps you can suggest ways that would make it even more fabulous.

I would like to include bibliographies for subject areas, assignments, etc.

Most importantly I would like staff to refer students, especially those who struggle, to our page for the really useful links to research, study, writing and exam skills.

From the Library
Visual Arts Department

It’s always a pleasure for the Visual Art Staff to welcome the eager, excited faces of Year 7 students into our art-rooms/studios.

Many art-students maintain that same enthusiasm and often these are our Band 6 HSC students. In 2011 there were 24% receiving 90 - 100% for their External HSC art score.

We aim to provide students with 6 very fast years of fun learning experiences where students develop both the verbal and written skills to analyse and decode artworks, enhancing their understanding of their own identity and the world, while unleashing their artistic creative imaginations, through exposure to an extensive range of media and art-practices.

The following students Hannah Cook-Edwards, Billy Dahleburg, Kira Godoroja-Prieckaerts, Thomas Puttick and Maxwell Tilse’s HSC artworks were nominated for Art Express. Hannah’s, Tom’s and Max’s artworks will be exhibited in various city and regional galleries including the Art Gallery of New South Wales.

It is equally a pleasure to welcome back our Year 8 -12 art-students.

All students have been very impressed with the art-kits which include a Visual Arts Process Diary [VAPD] and art-materials.

The art-materials are mainly for students to use at home and for specific class-projects as directed; students are not required to carry these materials to each art-lesson.

All art-students are required to have a range of lead pencils at every lesson throughout the year; we encourage parents/carers to supervise their children’s organisation of required materials and home-learning, and regular reading/checking of home-work diaries.

HSC art-students are now preparing for the second of their four assessment tasks and their art-making [their Body of Work - BOW] should now be fully conceived and half complete.

It was great to see Megan Evans’ sensational knitted 2011HSC artworks appropriately exhibited at King Street establishment ‘Coffee and a Yarn’.

Billie Rose Pritchard is a graduate of NHSPA. In 2010 she was awarded from 40 finalists, the Marrickville Contemporary Art Prize. As the winner of MCAP she then proceeded to hold a solo-show at The Vanishing Point Gallery in 2011. Billie’s exhibition included a range of media and was very well received and reviewed. Keep up the good work Billie!

We’re always keen to hear how our graduate students are developing their creativity; please advise us if you hear some news.

We would appreciate students bringing throughout the year, plastic containers and old towels for the art-studios.

Pleasance Ingle will not be working each Thursday during 2012 and Catherine Hunt’s [now Hannan] replacement during maternity leave [with Baby Mary], Claire Conroy is not available on all 2012 Week A Wednesdays.

We look forward to another very creative, productive year in the Visual Arts Faculty.

Jacquie Boon
Head Teacher - Visual Arts
**NHSPA Earth Festival**

It’s that special time again where our unique community at NHSPA blends its performing arts talents with that of environmental awareness and sustainability. Our annual festival will be held on Friday 9/March 2012 from 1-3:30pm, followed by the new parents BBQ at 5pm.

All students, parents and carers are invited to join us for this special event. Please pre-purchase entry tickets from the front office for $5, they will not be available for sale on the day. There will be various food, drink, environmental and novelty stalls at the festival. $1 tokens will be sold on the day for purchases from the stalls. There will be many performances on the day so it’s another great opportunity to enjoy the wonderful talents of our students.

Any help with the day would be very much appreciated so if you are interested in helping out please contact Donna Huggart (P&C - donna_huggart@hotmail.com) or Mr Branimir Lazendic (Teacher - 9519 1544) to discuss.

We hope to have another great festival and look forward to seeing you there.

______________________________

**PDHPE**

The PDHPE faculty wishes a very warm welcome back to all our existing students and a warm welcome to our new Year 7 students of 2012.

All students should be aware that PE uniform is an essential requirement in all practical lessons and that involves a hat, shirt, shorts/track pants and running shoes. Our new students will be given additional time to buy their new uniform so in the meantime, they can bring a comfortable t-shirt and shorts for their PE lessons.

We look forward to another great year ahead.

Branimir Lazendic  
Acting Head Teacher

______________________________

**HSIE Department**

HSIE students will be undertaking a range of class time local excursions throughout this year. For many of our courses including History, Geography, Business Studies, Economics and Legal Studies, there are a range of suitable locations within easy walking distance to conduct primary research activities. This provides an ideal opportunity to take classes out on brief trips to study some of the course content in action. Examples might include geographical site studies at Sydney Park, historical studies of various sites such as war memorials, or business/economic studies of the commercial activities along King Street. Students will be given a generic excursion note for parents to sign to cover these activities during the year - we greatly appreciate your support.

As usual the school will be running a range of other curriculum related activities including the Mock Trial for Year 11 Legal Studies students, Ancient and Medieval Days for Years 7 and 8 students, as well as the Year 10 Geography Cronulla fieldwork excursions, the first of which will be held in Week 5 of Term 1.

We look forward to another industrious and successful year.

R. Mules  
Head Teacher
Welfare

We have a very busy beginning to 2012 in the Welfare department beginning with the **Year 11 Crossroads Camp from Monday 13th to Wednesday 15th February**. The Crossroads program is a compulsory component of the senior curriculum and being delivered in a camp setting gives our students the opportunity to complete the program as well as establish new friendships.

This will be closely followed by the **Year 7 Peer Support Camp at Vision Valley from Monday 5th to Wednesday 7th March**. Permission/Information packs will be distributed to students shortly and these will detail the requirements for the camp. This is an excellent opportunity for our new Year 7 students to develop a strong sense of belonging and attachment to their new high school setting, establish positive relationships with their Year 10 Peer Support leaders as well as ensuring that students have the opportunity to meet and make friends with other Year 7 students. The camp is always a fun time for all students and we look forward to sharing this time with them.

Our **2012 Pastoral Care Program** commenced on Thursday 9th February with Year 9 being involved in Pastoral Care lessons. The program has been revised for 2012 and we look forward to seeing the development of our students as mature and responsible members of our community.

There has been some confusion among some members of our school community as to the content of Pastoral Care with some believing it a faith-based program. The Pastoral Care program at NHSPA is a program developed to target key areas of concern and/or interest amongst the various year groups. The Welfare team has worked collaboratively to ensure that topics such as communication, problem solving, time management, money management, stress management, road safety, bullying and cyber-bullying just to name a few, are explicitly discussed to enable students to make informed and positive decisions. I would be more than happy to discuss the program should any parent wish to do so.

Laura Bivona
Acting Head Teacher Welfare

**PHOTO DAY**

**TUESDAY 21 FEBRUARY, 2012 FROM 9AM**

Students will be provided with envelopes for completion prior to Tuesday 21st February to order and pay for photos.

Students will be requested to hand in their envelopes to the photographer on Tuesday 21 February prior to taking their photos.

Please note - no late payments will be accepted.

Please ensure that your child is in full uniform.

Please also note that these photos will also be used for issuing students with their swipe cards.

**EARLY LEAVER’S REQUEST/ABSENCE NOTES**

The school has introduced two templates to assist Parents and Carers when their child either needs to leave school early or when their child is absent from school. Hand written notes will still be accepted. If your child is absent from school, a reason explaining the absence must be provided to the school within seven (7) days.
Healthwise
Invitation to Year 10
Interested in Careers in Health
Thursday March 8, 2012

Meet in Staff Common Room at 9.25 a.m.

Walk to venue: Kerry Packer Education Centre RPAH Camperdown

10 a.m. = Presentation/Discussion on Careers in Health

11 a.m to 12 p.m. = visit various stalls representing different Health Careers, demonstrations, collect information / seek answers.

Stalls could include:

Podiatry
Paramedical
Nursing
Emergency

12.15 p.m. Walk back to School

Student Expression of Interest

Dear Mr Bourchier
My name is ___________________ and I wish to attend the Healthwise Program at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital on March 8.

Return to GBourchier in Library by 17 February
INTRODUCING A NEW CAREERS SERVICE FOR STUDENTS & PARENTS

Dear Parents & Students
I am pleased to announce that Newtown HSPA has subscribed to a Careers News Service which will allow you to regularly access relevant Careers related information and updates. Simply follow the steps outlined below.

Cheers,
Graeme Bourchier

**STEP 1:** go to the website: [www.mhscareers.com](http://www.mhscareers.com)

**STEP 2:** click on NSW & ACT Box

**STEP 3:** login with the name student or parent and the password outlook

Keep up to date with all the important Careers news for students of all ages

### WE ALSO SUBSCRIBE TO ANOTHER SERVICE “CAREER NEWS” WHICH WILL BE PRINTED AND PLACED AROUND THE SCHOOL
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 2012. I wish to accept a place in the Coffee School Course when a booking is made.

GIVE RECEIPT TO MR BOURCHIER IN LIBRARY
TERM ONE TO-DO LIST:
- buy new shoes for Amy
- get football uniform for James
- find out more about Saver Plus!

Match your savings for school costs, dollar for dollar, up to $500. The Benevolent Society is looking for new participants in your local area.

You may be eligible if you or your partner have:

- a Health Care or Pensioner Concession Card
- a child at school or starting next year
- some regular income from work.

Contact Argyro Tikellis, your local Saver Plus Worker:
8314 9421 / 0406 384 642 or
argyrot@bensoc.org.au.

Saver Plus was developed by ANZ and the Brotherhood of St Laurence and is funded by ANZ and the Australian Government.
Dear Parents/Carers,

As the semester 1 ensembles and companies have commenced rehearsals, it is now time for you to pay the semester 1 Ensemble/Company Payment. This year the fee has been set at $80 per semester.

This fee, to be paid each semester, will be used to subsidise associated costs such as:

- Tutor fees
- Equipment upgrade and replacement
- Clerical costs
- Copyright costs
- Venue hire
- Transport
- Set and prop construction and purchase
- Technical resources
- Technical Director's fees and those of other technical industry professionals

Whereas the school will continue to meet the majority of these costs, the fees will allow us to maintain and enhance the quality of co-curricula tutelage and student performance that we have become so respected for.

All students must pay their semester 1 ensemble/company fees by Friday 23 March 2012. Non-payment may result in students being replaced as members of these ensembles/companies. As always, if for reasons of financial hardship, you are unable to pay these fees please contact me in writing as soon as possible so that we can ensure your child is not disadvantaged or embarrassed by non-payment.

To lessen the financial burden for parents, the fee of $80 will cover one or more ensemble/company within each performing arts discipline. For example, if a student is a member of 2 music ensembles, they would still pay the base $80 fee. If the same student was a member of a drama company as well as the two music ensembles, they would pay a total of $160 ($80 for music membership, $80 for drama membership).

In addition to this fee, the dance faculty will continue to apply a costume charge to members of companies and ensembles. The details of this will be provided directly from the faculty.

Please complete the Semester 1 payment sheet, attached, and have your child return it with payment to the school office by Friday 23 March 2012. If you have any questions regarding the fees please contact me at the school on 9519 1544.

I look forward to another outstanding semester of performance.

Stephen Gray
Principal
7 February 2012
Ensemble / Company Payment
Semester 1, 2012

Please complete the form below by ticking the appropriate boxes and have your child return it with payment to the school office by Friday 23 March 2012

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Faculty Ensemble/Company</th>
<th>Cost</th>
<th>Tick if Appropriate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>One or more Dance Ensemble/Company</td>
<td>$80</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One or more Drama Ensemble/Company</td>
<td>$80</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One or more Music Ensemble/Company</td>
<td>$80</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Film Company</td>
<td>$80</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Student/Payment Details

Student Name: ........................................... Year: .....................

Payment Method

√ Mastercard
 Visa Card
 Cash
 Cheque payable to NHSPA

Credit Card No. .........................................................

Cardholder’s Name: (Please Print): .................................................................

Phone No: .................................................................
Newtown High School of the Performing Arts
School Shoes

Black, Leather, Enclosed are SUPPORTIVE and PROTECTIVE

IMPORTANT NOTE TO PARENTS:

- The Department’s Occupational Health & Safety regulations requires all students to wear only black leather enclosed school shoes (ballet or slip-ons are not permitted)
- On days where students have PE, they need to bring their sports shoes in their bags and change before class
- On sport days, sports uniform and sport shoes are required

Acceptable footwear:

Please note:
The following shoes do not comply with the school’s uniform expectations.

Unacceptable footwear:
Newtown High School of the Performing Arts

**ABSENCE NOTE**

FAMILY NAME: ____________________________

FIRST NAME: ____________________________

YEAR: 7 8 9 10 11 12 (please circle)

**DATE(S) ABSENT:** FIRST DATE: ____________________________

LAST DATE: ____________________________

REASON: ____________________________

______________________________

______________________________

SIGNED (Parent/Carer): ____________________________

DATE: ___________ CONTACT NO#: ____________________________

Place this note in the box provided in the swipe room within 7 days of returning to school.

Newtown High School of the Performing Arts

**ABSENCE NOTE**

FAMILY NAME: ____________________________

FIRST NAME: ____________________________

YEAR: 7 8 9 10 11 12 (please circle)

**DATE(S) ABSENT:** FIRST DATE: ____________________________

LAST DATE: ____________________________

REASON: ____________________________

______________________________

______________________________

SIGNED (Parent/Carer): ____________________________

DATE: ___________ CONTACT NO#: ____________________________

Place this note in the box provided in the swipe room within 7 days of returning to school.
‘EARLY LEAVERS’ REQUEST

FAMILY NAME: ____________________________________________

FIRST NAME: ______________________________________________

YEAR:     7  8  9  10  11  12 (please circle)

DATE: ______________________________________________________

LEAVING SCHOOL AT: ________________________ AM / PM

RETURING TO SCHOOL AT (if applicable): ________________________ AM / PM

REASON: ___________________________________________________

SIGNED (Parent/Carer): ______________________________________

DATE: ________________ CONTACT NO#: ________________________

Present this note to the staff member in the swipe room before school to collect your temporary Early Leavers Request slip. When it is time to leave, present your Early Leavers slip to your class teacher. Before you leave the school grounds, you must collect your authorised Early Leavers Exit Pass from the front office.

FAMILY NAME: ____________________________________________

FIRST NAME: ______________________________________________

YEAR:     7  8  9  10  11  12 (please circle)

DATE: ______________________________________________________

LEAVING SCHOOL AT: ________________________ AM / PM

RETURING TO SCHOOL AT (if applicable): ________________________ AM / PM

REASON: ___________________________________________________

SIGNED (Parent/Carer): ______________________________________

DATE: ________________ CONTACT NO#: ________________________

Present this note to the staff member in the swipe room before school to collect your temporary Early Leavers Request slip. When it is time to leave, present your Early Leavers slip to your class teacher. Before you leave the school grounds, you must collect your authorised Early Leavers Exit Pass from the front office.