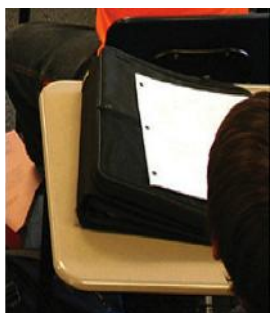


2010 Annual School Report Newtown High School of Performing Arts

NSW Public Schools – Leading the way



Messages

Principal's message

Newtown High School of the Performing Arts is a dynamic, caring and creative school established in 1990.

NHSPA specialises in the performing and creative arts and is committed to excellence in student education by providing a challenging curriculum that enhances the talents of its students. The school's comprehensive programs strive to instill discipline and self-esteem, and to encourage creativity, enabling students to develop to their fullest potential and to excel in their chosen endeavours. This report reflects the consolidated energies and efforts of the staff, students and the parent body.

Each year in Term 2 the school auditions students from all over NSW in music, dance and drama for intakes in Years 7 and 11. The school continues to enjoy an international and national reputation for excellence in the performing arts.

The school enhances student motivation and achievement through learning support and welfare structures and programs, and by establishing close working relationships within the community.

I certify that the information in this report is the result of a rigorous school self-evaluation process and is a balanced and genuine account of the school's achievements and areas for development.

Stephen Gray

P & C message

Newtown High School of the Performing Arts Parents and Citizens Association plays a significant role at the school providing an active community of support for students and teachers. The contribution of parents is essential to students' learning and enjoyment of their high school years.

2010 was a tremendous year of commitment and involvement by various members of the P&C committee and the wider NHSPA parent community. During the year there were 30

occasions where a roster of 3 or more parents was involved with Front of House refreshments at Showcase, auditions and orientations, a significant contribution by families to the school's workings.

Another indicator of commitment was the P&C's Voluntary Fundraising Contribution which, in its second year, raised \$21,574. These funds enabled the purchase of a sound-mixing desk for the Studio Theatre and the inauguration of Master Classes in each of the Performing and Visual Arts faculties as well as in Tech Company with the aim of providing external professional input for the benefit of students and teachers.

The P&C Performing and Visual Arts Committee was integral to the development of the Master Class idea and continues to be an essential support to the Music, Drama, Dance and Visual Arts faculties as well as to the Technical Company.

This Committee was also instrumental in devising and co-ordinating on behalf of the P&C a pilot scheme for Guest Company Directors in 2010 for the drama co-curricular program. Students of drama teaching from University of Western Sydney were selected to direct drama companies, freeing up teaching staff for more strategic tasks. The P&C hopes to extend this program into other faculties at the school and in partnership with other universities.

The extensive co-curricular program at NHSPA requires enormous leadership, direction and time, mostly out of hours from the Performing Arts heads of department, other teachers, Technical Company and Design Company, as well as the students in companies and ensembles. The P&C Performing and Visual Arts Committee has developed in recent years into a key support group for the success of the program.

Other highlights in 2010 included:

The establishment of another sub-committee, the Faculty Support committee to co-ordinate the P&C's assistance of the English, Maths, Science, HSIE, PDH/PE, Languages, and TAS faculties

The holding of a second World Earth Festival in March 2010, followed by the Welcome BBQ for new families - these events were effective

opportunities to build the school community, with the Festival raising awareness of sustainability and diversity through performance, food and presentations

The completion by the Environment Committee of the Basket Ball court refurbishment via a Communities NSW (Sport and Recreation) matching grant

The completion, also by the Environment Committee, of the Water & Energy Saving Project funded by a grant from NSW Dept of Environment, Climate Change and Water - the Project has reduced mains water usage by a third, saving the school \$10,000 in the first year; the Committee will continue the program by next focussing on power usage

The completion of the renovation (using 2009 Voluntary Fundraising Contributions) of the stage area of the Studio Theatre, including the fitting of new drapes, a new stage floor, and safety improvements for catwalk access. This supplemented the new seating financed by the Federal Government's Building the Education Revolution funds

The use of a Volunteers Grant of \$4000, with general items of practical use being purchased (eg. BBQ, shade structures, folding tables, chairs, wheelbarrow, ladders etc).

Monthly P&C meetings are held during school terms as well as various sub-committee meetings, and regular meetings between the P&C Executive and the School Executive. The NHSPA P&C looks forward to another active and successful year in 2011.

Darren Mitchell, P&C President

Student representative's message

In the past year, Newtown's SRC has continued to work productively to represent the student body and to diligently implement projects within the School Community. Successful endeavours included running a Christmas candy-cane drive to raise funds for both the SRC and St. Vincent De Paul. Additionally, the Student Representative Council ran a gelato stall at Newtown's World Earth Festival, which raised funds for Oxfam

Another SRC project was the World's Greatest Shave, which raised over \$5000 for patients with leukaemia. The SRC looks to repeat the event next year with additional shavers.

The SRC constantly seeks new projects to be undertaken in 2011 and is an active medium for the students of Newtown to communicate their ideas and concerns to further benefit the wellbeing of students, teachers and our community.

Jacob Hkeik

SRC President

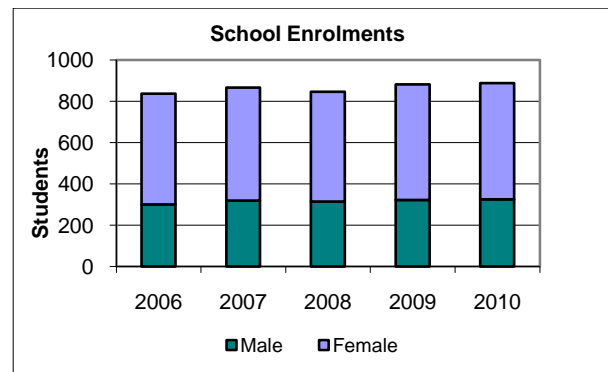
School context

Student information

It is a requirement that the reporting of information for all students must be consistent with privacy and personal information policies.

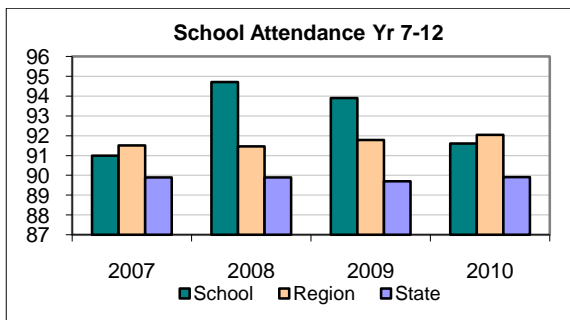
Student enrolment profile

The school has a total enrolment of 914. Each year auditions take place for Years 7 and 11 resulting in enrolments from across the state. The school also enrolls students from the designated local area.



Student attendance profile

A concentrated effort on improving student engagement as well as targeted attendance policies has maintained attendances rates above state average across all years of the school.

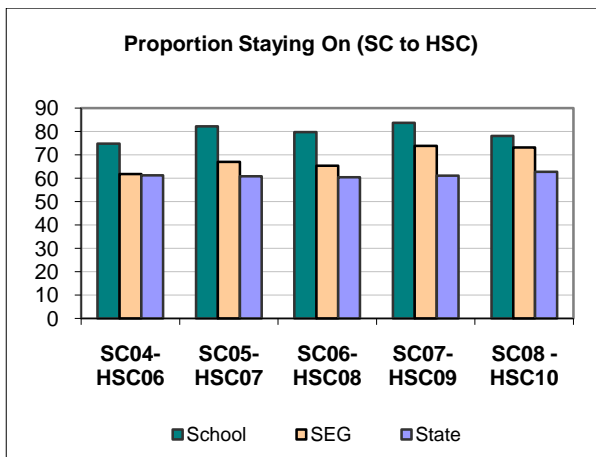


Management of non-attendance

The school holds weekly welfare meetings where Year Advisers and the Home School Liaison Officer discuss student non-attendance and develop intervention plans.

Retention to Year 12

The retention rate from Year 10 to Year 12 continues to be well above that of the state and Sydney region.



Post-school destinations

The 2010 HSC featured 151 students with units attempted ranging from 2 to 12 units.

Survey results revealed that 103 eligible students applied for UAC places in 2010, with 81 students receiving offers (80% success rate).

The most popular post school destinations were University, TAFE and Private Provider courses in a diversity of areas which reflect the variety of aspirations within a performing arts high school cohort. Four students chose further study overseas, in the U.K and U.S.A.

The most popular areas of study included Arts, Business and Commerce, Dramatic Art/Theatre and Media, Visual Arts (including design, screen

and sound), Dance, Education, International Studies, Music and Sciences.

Students chose to study at a variety of tertiary institutions including ANU, UNSW, The University of Sydney, Macquarie University, UNE, UWS, Wollongong University, CSU Bathurst, Australian Catholic University, Australian College of Theatre and Television, University of Newcastle, UTS, TAFENSW, COFA, Brent Street Dance Studios, ED-5 International, Basair Aviation and Whitehouse Design.

Popular TAFE/Private College courses included Music industry Business, Design, Fashion, Hospitality, Stage & Lighting, and Information Technology.

Approximately 20% of the surveyed cohort indicated they were pursuing full or part-time employment, often with an option of overseas travel.

Year 12 students undertaking vocational or trade training

In 2010 5% of Year 12 students were enrolled in vocational or trade training.

Year 12 students attaining HSC or equivalent vocational educational qualification

All Year 12 students successfully completed the HSC or equivalent vocational educational qualification in 2009.

Staff information

It is a requirement that the reporting of information for all staff must be consistent with privacy and personal information policies

Staff establishment

Position	Number
Principal	1
Deputy Principal(s)	2
Head Teachers	10
Classroom Teachers	48.9
Support Teacher Learning Assistance	0.2
Teacher Librarian	1
Teacher of ESL	0
Counsellor	0.5
School Administrative & Support Staff	11.4
Total	75

Teacher qualifications

All teaching staff meet the professional requirements for teaching in NSW public schools.

Qualifications	% of staff
Degree or Diploma	80
Postgraduate	20

Financial summary

This summary covers funds for operating costs and does not involve expenditure areas such as permanent salaries, building and major maintenance.

Date of financial summary:	30/11/2010
Income	\$
Balance brought forward	558 809.43
Global funds	541 900.21
Tied funds	241 129.35
School & community sources	897 657.71
Interest	36 957.34
Trust receipts	605 552.12
Canteen	0.00
Total income	2 882 006.16
Expenditure	
Teaching & learning	
Key learning areas	336 263.22
Excursions	154 899.46
Extracurricular dissections	215 649.33
Library	20 023.65
Training & development	220.00
Tied funds	308 853.46
Casual relief teachers	75 869.30
Administration & office	316 213.47
School-operated canteen	0.00
Utilities	125 934.63
Maintenance	80 590.75
Trust accounts	594 648.39
Capital programs	98 500.57
Total expenditure	2 327 666.23
Balance carried forward	554 339.93

School performance 2010

Achievements

Arts

A major feature again in 2010 was the school's two showcase seasons. These were highly successful; companies and ensemble groups

performed at the school and at the Seymour Centre. These performances incorporated the skills, expertise and collaboration of students, community members and staff.

Another highlight from 2010 was the Sydney Region Expanding Horizons China tour. Our school was represented by over 100 students and 9 teachers from across a number of faculties.

Achievements in Drama

Over 180 students in twenty drama companies performed as part of the year's two showcase seasons. A diverse range of theatrical styles was presented including Shakespearean drama, site-specific theatre, puppetry, the realism of "The Laramie Project" and "Blackrock" and the farce of Tom Stoppard and Michael Frayn.

Student showcase directors in 2010 were Bridget Harilaou, Sophie Hawkshaw, Megan Mapp and Claude Armiger.

NHSPA graduates also returned to direct drama companies. These were Stephen Sharpe, Tess Hutson, Stephen Manston, Will Eastley, Felix Palmer, Jemima Nobis and Renate Rienmuller.

A major ongoing initiative instigated in 2010 was our collaboration with the University of Western Sydney where students, as part of their graduate course, were given the opportunity to undertake directorships of drama showcase companies. Three such companies were formed in 2010. Our thanks to Mary Mooney for her support for this project.

A major highlight was the season of 'Bugs! The Musical', an original work and the largest production mounted at NHSPA to date. With over ninety students in the cast, band and crew, it was a successful collaboration between the Drama, Music, Dance and TAS faculties.

Our Theatresports team continued recent success and were runners up in the School Theatresports Cup. The team members were Sophie Hawkshaw, Georgina Adamson, Alex Zotti, Alexandra Rigby and Remi Slade-Cafferal.

There were eighteen OnStage nominations in 2010: three group performances and four

individual performances. These students were Kirk Beattie, Matthew Diplock, Daniel Ghisalberty, Thomas Sheridan, Jordan van Bentum, Jack Mitchell (nominated for both GP and IP), Gideon Heller-Wagner, Charlotte Huggart, Georgia Hopkins, Mara Knezevic, Max Allen, Jemimah Townsend, Elenja Harris (both GP and IP), Rebecca Vulic, Elena Picciolo-Robinson and Julia Patey.

With the generosity of the P&C, the Drama faculty established voice masterclasses in 2010 run by NIDA graduate Leigh Pyman.

Achievements in Dance

Eighteen students attended the National High Schools Dance Festival in Miami, Florida with Georgette Sofatzis being offered scholarships to study at tertiary dance institutions in America. Georgette has been accepted into The Alvin Ailey School and is currently auditioning for Juilliard, New York.

Georgia Bray, Bree Masters and Dominic Steele performed at the Sydney Region Official Opening of the School Year at the City Recital Hall.

Over fifty dance students participated in the 2010 Schools Spectacular in various segments including the Schools Spectacular Classical Ballet Company.

Three Dance companies, three Classical Ballet companies and five Dance ensembles represented the school at the Sydney Region Dance Festival, as well as the State Dance Festival.

Dance students participated in the Showcase performances in both semesters. Every Dance and Classical Ballet class performed in the 2010 Class-work Showcase concert.

"Off Broadway" and the end of year "Dance Showcase" were performed at the Everest Theatre, Seymour Centre.

The Intermediate Classical Ballet Company performed for Presentation Day at the York Theatre, Seymour Centre.

Twenty-seven Year 12 students were nominated by markers as presenting exemplary works in the HSC Dance examination. Many of these

students were nominated in more than one syllabus component.

The Technical Company was involved in all Showcase Concerts, Presentation Day, auditions, Formal Assemblies, HSC Drama, Elysium Concert, NSW Public Schools' Dance Company performance and the Sydney Region Opening of the School Year. The venues they worked in were Studio Theatre, St Georges Hall, the Everest and York Theatres at the Seymour Centre, the Sydney Opera House and the City Recital Hall, Angel Place.

Achievements in Music

The World Earth Festival held in early March was a great opportunity to see our students performing in a variety of bands of different genres.

"Bugs the Musical" involved many singers and instrumentalists. The original songs were composed by Tim Ailwood (HT Drama) and arranged by Emlyn Lewis-Jones (Music). Students, including a pit orchestra and a choir of 25 played an integral role in bringing the music to life.

The Opening of the School Year was staged in the City Recital Hall. Our orchestra and choir featured in the main item "Expanding Horizons," and the choir, dancers and soloists (Chiara Morvillo, Dion Condack) performed in an item called "Grace," an arrangement of extracts from the film "As It Is In Heaven."

The Concert Band and Symphonic Wind Ensemble won silver awards at the NSW High School Band Championships held at the John Clancy Auditorium at the University of NSW.

The Guitar Ensemble, our newest ensemble and mentored by ex-student Zane Banks, performed in our Showcase season.

The Guitar Quartet led by Year 11 student Jesse Flowers performed at an RPA Event, The Seymour Centre and in our Showcase season.

Joshua Meader (Yr 7) and Joshua Sukkar (Yr 11) were selected as soloists for the Opera House Concerts.

The Symphonic Wind Ensemble, String Ensemble and Junior Jazz Ensemble were

selected to perform individual items in the Opera House Concerts.

The orchestra, choir and percussion ensemble played an integral role in the Sydney Region China Tour.

Four students were nominated for HSC Encore-Natasha Hoerberigs, Chiara Morvillo, Katie Moyle and Susan Luu.

Callum Sandercock, Susan Luu, Kelsi Boyden, Dion Condack, and Natasha Hoerberigs were featured artists in the Schools Spectacular.

The two Year 9 Showcase Elective Musicals, devised by students and directed by Emlyn Lewis-Jones, were a great success in our Showcase seasons of performance.

Solo night in Term 4 featured the work of Year 11 and Year 7 music students.

HSC concerts in the studio theatre and St Georges Hall featured the outstanding work of our Year 12 students.

The Elysium Concert featured the compositions and performances of Year 11 students preparing for Extension Music.

Achievements in Visual Arts

Darcy Morgan and Abigail Franklin successfully completed the National Art School Intensive Studio Practice Course with outstanding results. This 60-hour program is designed to enhance and extend students' technical and conceptual knowledge and skills through intensive studio practice. Their final artmaking was exhibited at the National Art School.

Artworks from Claire Kwun,, Bronte Raubinger and Joanna Wang were selected to represent the City of Sydney as part of the Nagoya Art Exchange. Their works were exhibited at the Nagoya City Museum with student artworks from Los Angeles, Mexico City, Nanjing, Torino and Nagoya.

Angus Barbary entered his film 'Change' in the Senior Fiction Section of the Robin Anderson Film Awards screened at the Dendy, Circular Quay.

Rebecca Saffir's short story 'The Dusty Snowglobe' has been rewritten for the Film Company screenplay, titled 'Snow'.

Sport

Achievements in sport in 2010 continued to improve from 2009. Student attendance at school carnivals continued to significantly increase.

This is a reflection of the continuing improvements in the profile of sport at the school as well as the improvement in student involvement in a wide variety of events made available to them at the school.

NHSPA continues to have a large number of student representatives at Bligh Zone, Sydney East Region and NSW CHS championships where many of our athletes achieve exceptional success.

Our school continues to display prominently on the Bligh Zone list of age champions at the swimming, cross country and athletics carnivals. The Zone Age Champions for the Cross Country, Swimming and Athletics carnivals were as follows:

Cross Country

13 years boys - Timmy Cox

15 years boys - Leon Curtis

16 years boys - Yann Pearson

14 years girls - Zoe Gawecki

Swimming

13 years boys - Rory Hocknell

15 years boys - Declan Dwyer

14 years girls - Amy Johnson

Athletics

13 years boys - Oskar Wesley-Smith

15 years boys - Leon Curtis

16 years boys - Danyon Boyd

12 years girls - Gemma Buckland

15 years girl - Bree Masters

NHSPA figured prominently in the overall schools results for each Bligh Zone carnival. We were placed 2nd overall at the Cross Country carnival, 1st at the Athletics Carnival, 1st in the 12-15 boys age division at the Swimming Carnival, 2nd in the 16-17+ boys age

division at the swimming carnival and 3rd in the 12-15 girls age division at the swimming carnival.

NHSPA was involved in the annual NSW Futsal Regional Schools Championships where we entered 4 teams.

Year 7 and 8 were both involved in the annual Bligh Zone Gala Days. The sports students were involved in included:

Basketball

Soccer

Cricket

Oz-Tag

European Handball

Softball

Volleyball

Ultimate Frisbee

Netball

2010 was a successful year for NHSPA athletes and we look forward to continuing this success into 2011.

Other

Student engagement was enriched with the running of annual events including Year 7 Ancient History Day, Year 8 Medieval Day, the Year 10 Geography coastal management fieldtrip to Cronulla, Legal Studies Mock Trial competition and law courts visits as well as senior student attendance at a range of HSIE HSC lecture days.

In June 2010, seven Year 12 students attended the annual Young Global Achievers Conference in New York, where they had the opportunity to participate in the UN General Assembly, working with and representing different national embassies. Five of these students had the honour of joining the Global Young Leaders Distinguished Alumni.

A group of students in Year 9 also participated in the Premier's Veteran's Oral History project, through which they gained practical experience at developing an oral history using latest technology. Students will be able to use these skills and technology to contribute to the

archives of the State Library of NSW, through recording and submitting oral histories of Australian war veterans.

Students across all years continued to show great interest in debating and public speaking, and teams and individuals were entered in various competitions.

The team from Years 7 and 8 met with great success and became zone champions.

Year 9 students Jamie Di Laudo and Tiriani Dixon were selected to MC and officiate at the NSW final of the Legacy Junior Public Speaking Competition.

Our students participated in International Competitions and Assessments for Schools in Mathematics; we received 2 High Distinctions, 14 distinctions, 69 Credits.

Our GAT students were the regional junior champions in the Secondary Chess Competition as well as the regional champions of the Tournament of Minds Competition in the Language/Literature challenge.

Academic

In the National Assessment Program, the results across the Years 7 and 9 literacy and numeracy assessments are reported on a scale from Band 1 to Band 10.

The achievement scale represents increasing levels of skills and understandings demonstrated in these assessments.

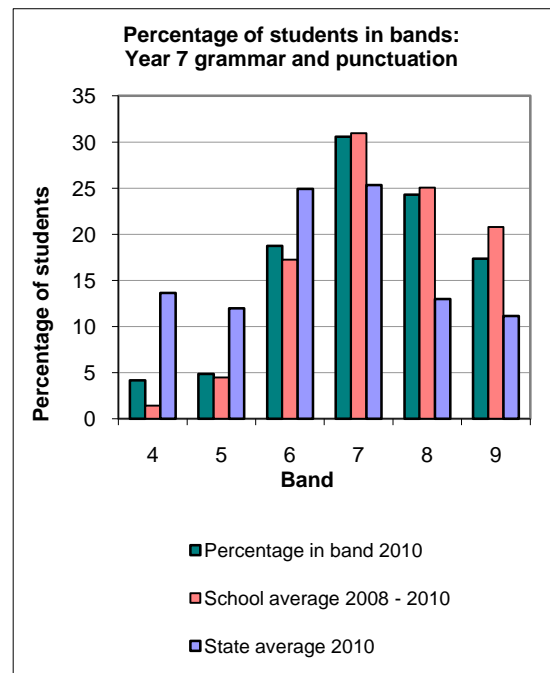
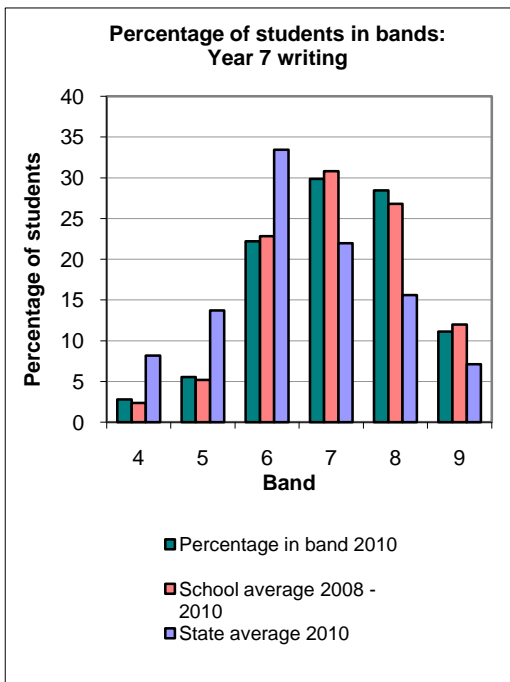
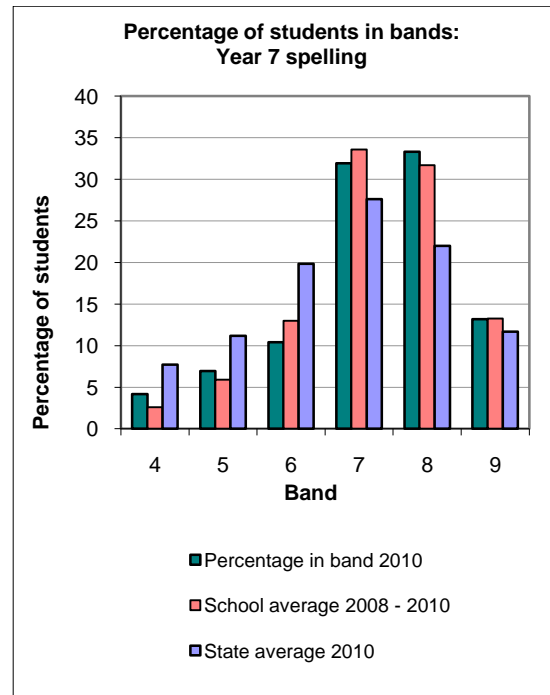
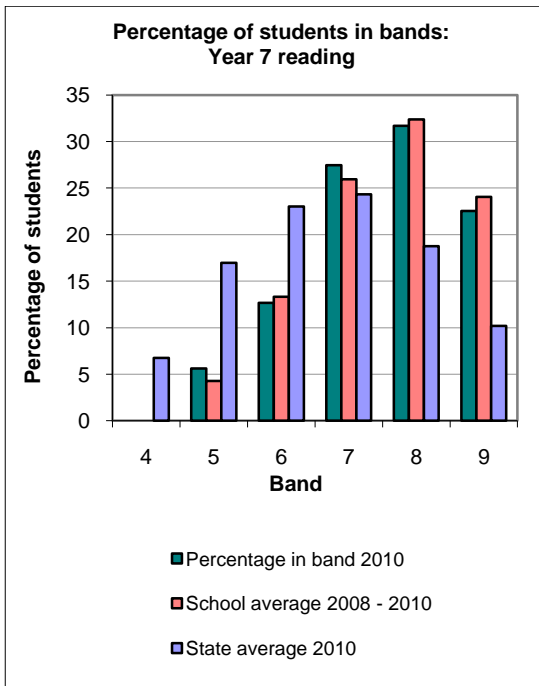
Yr 7: from Band 4 (lowest) to Band 9 (highest for Year 7)

Yr 9: from Band 5 (lowest) to Band 10 (highest for Year 9)

In the School Certificate the performance of students is reported in performance bands ranging from Performance Band 1 (lowest) to Performance Band 6 (highest).

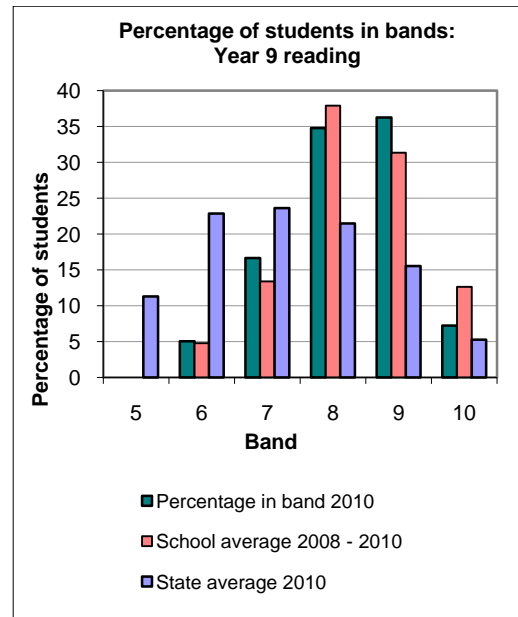
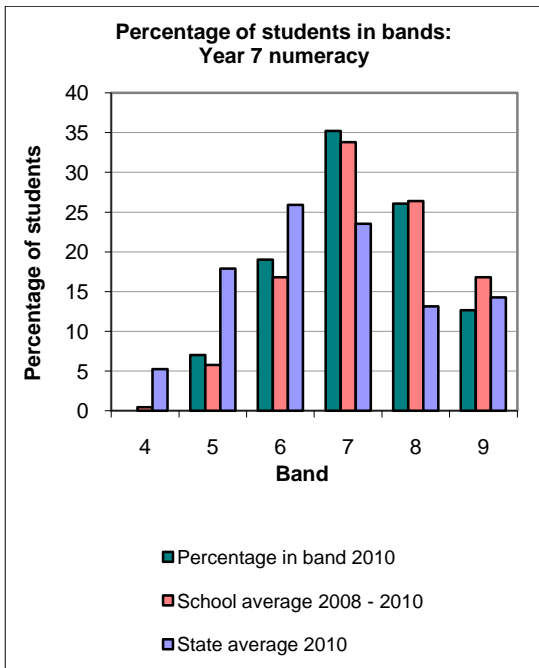
Literacy – NAPLAN Year 7

Students achieved overall results well above state average in all aspects of literacy tested.



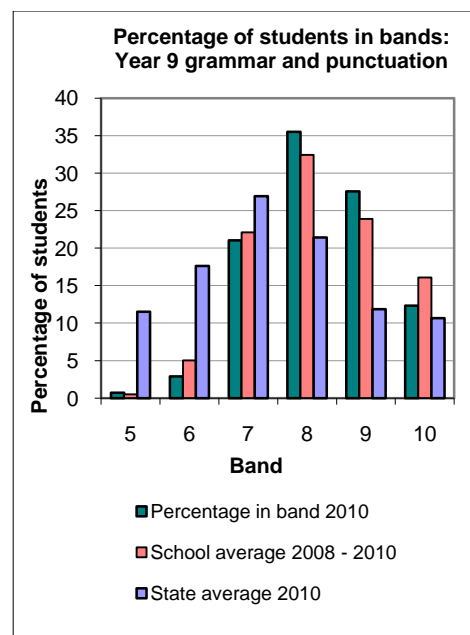
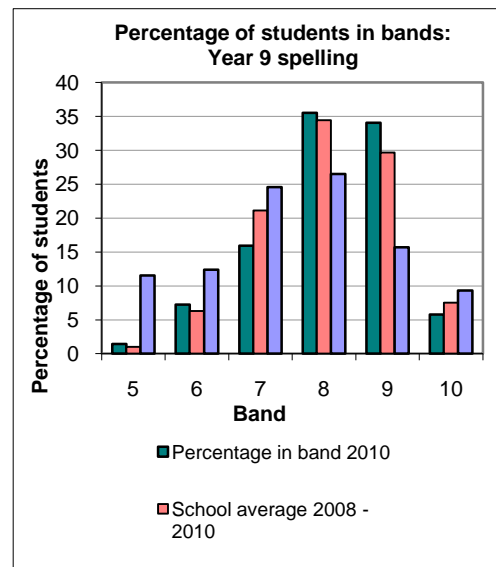
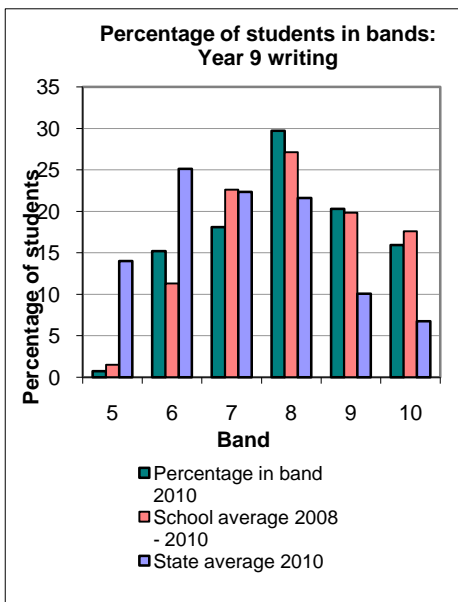
Numeracy – NAPLAN Year 7

Students again achieved overall numeracy results above state average.



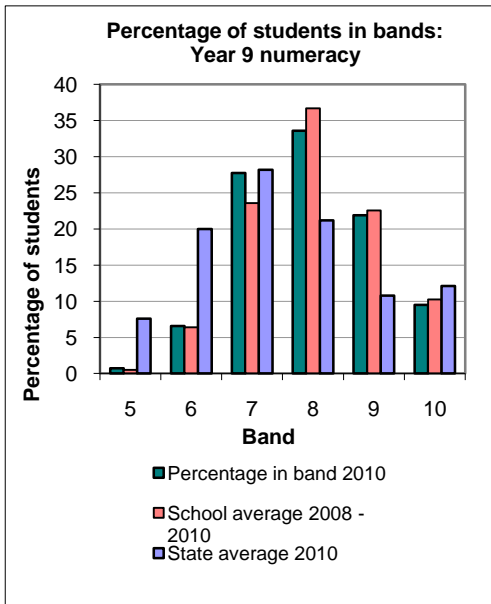
Literacy – NAPLAN Year 9

Students achieved outstanding overall results in all areas tested. While, the graphs below indicate that the school's literacy results are significantly above state averages, it is apparent from both Year 9 and Year 7 data that a more targeted approach to spelling may be required.



Numeracy – NAPLAN Year 9

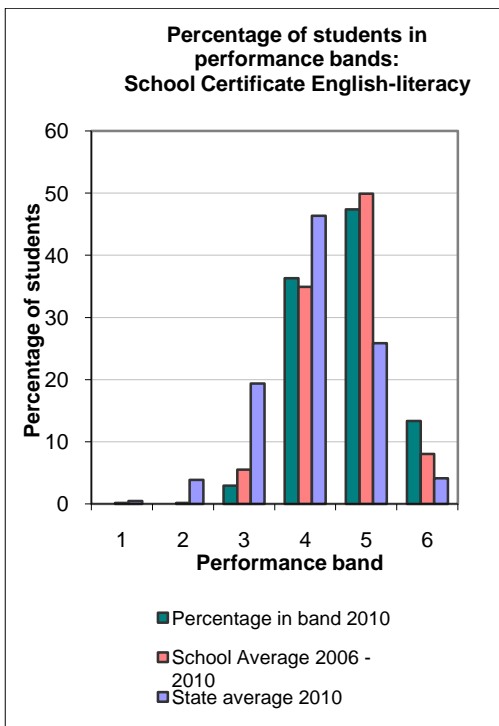
Students again achieved overall numeracy results above state average.



School Certificate

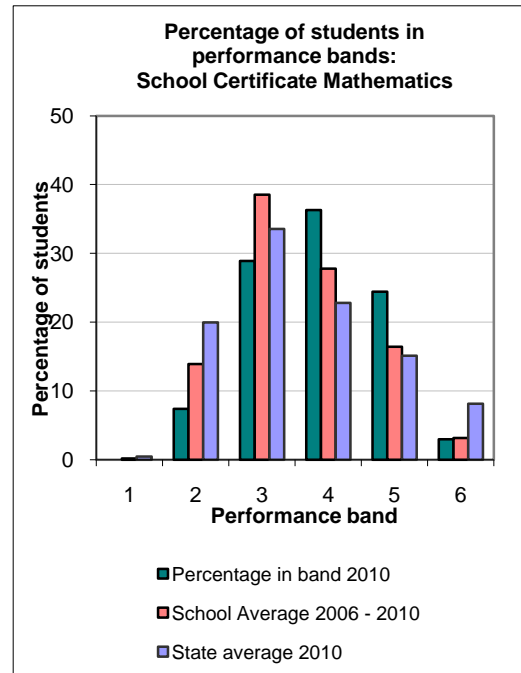
English Literacy

Results in 2010 improved upon the strong performance of recent years with 13% of students achieving in the top band and 61% in the top 2 bands compared to 30% state-wide.



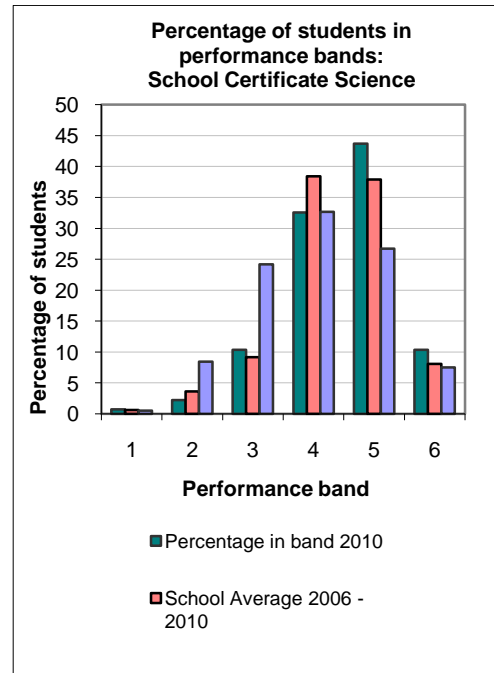
Mathematics

The upward trend identified in recent years continued in 2010 with an increasing percentage of students in the top two bands combined.



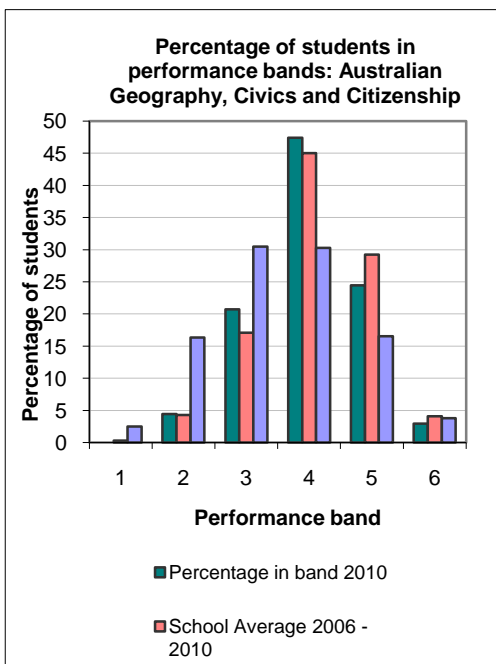
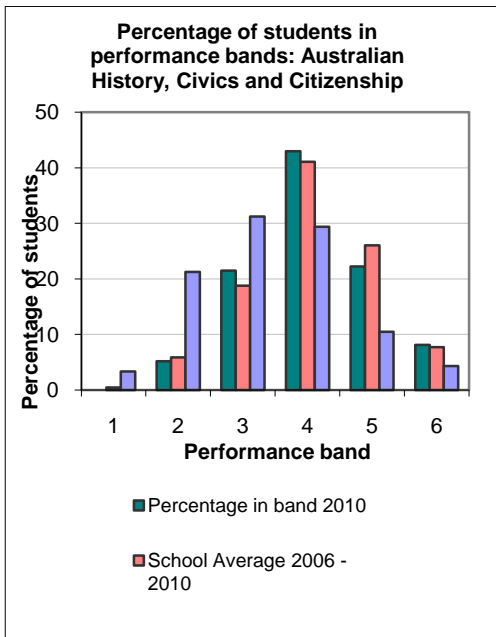
Science

Outstanding improvement continued in 2010 with 54% of students achieving in the top two bands compared to 34% state-wide.



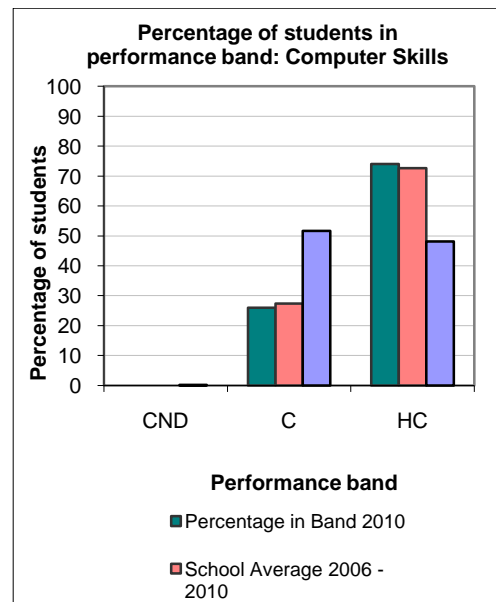
Australian Geography, History, Civics and Citizenship

The number of students achieving at the highest level was again well above that of the state.



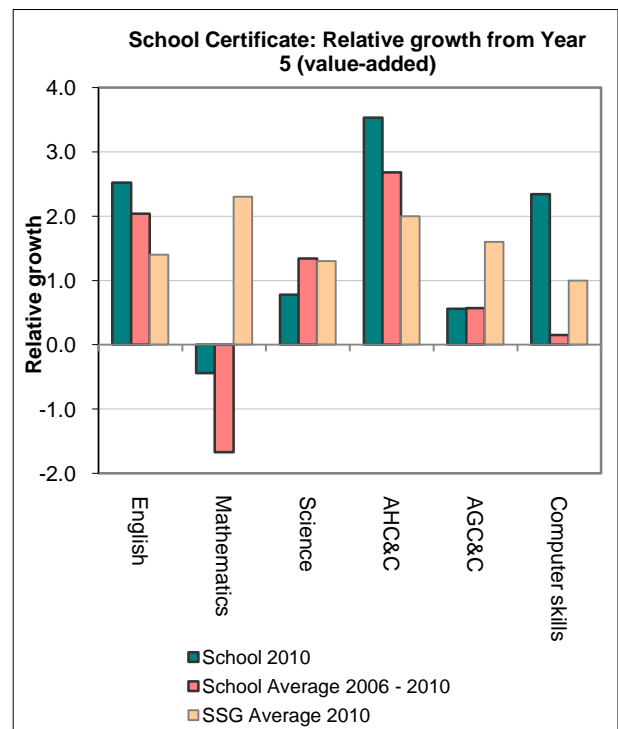
Computer Skills

Students achieved pleasing results with 74% placed in the highly competent category compared to 48% state-wide



School Certificate relative performance comparison to Year 5 (value-adding)

In value added terms our students' performance showed very pleasing improvement in English, Mathematics, Australian History, and Computing Skills when compared to the school average over recent years.



Higher School Certificate

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

Our achievements included:

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. Nicole Barker was selected to exhibit her Textile Project in the 2010 Textstyle Exhibition.

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.

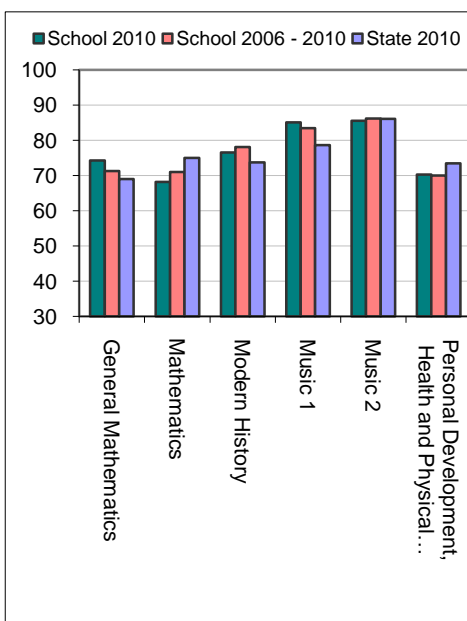
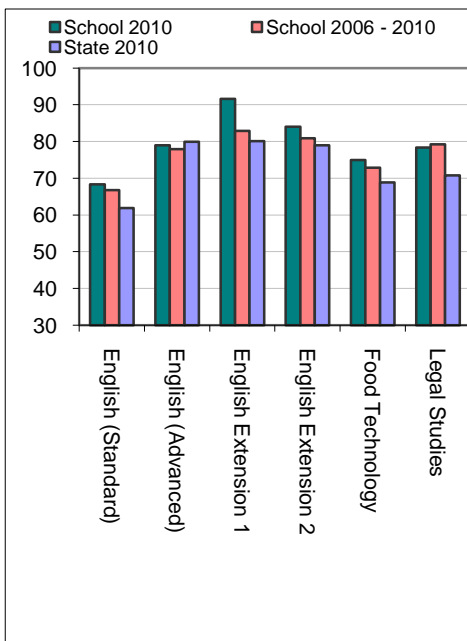
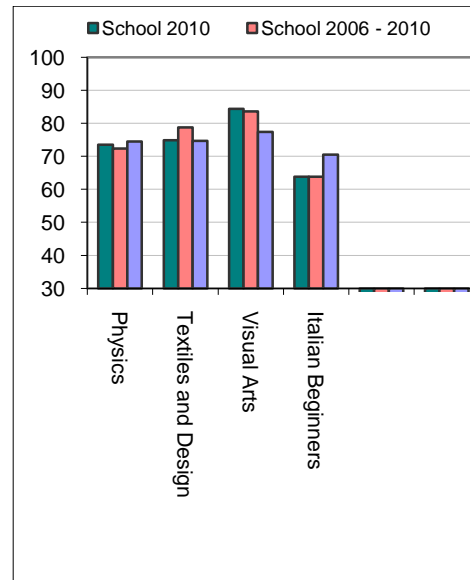
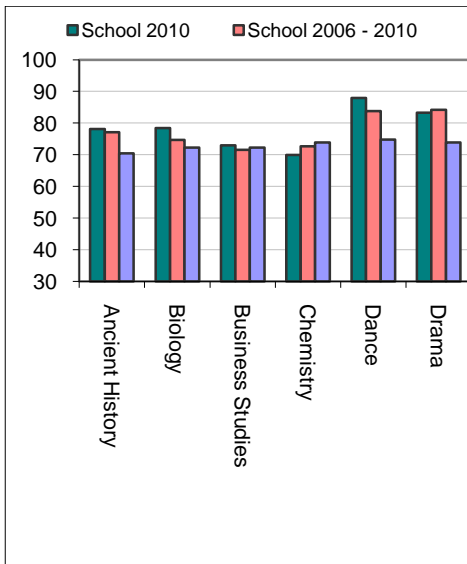
So, it can be argued that our 2010 Year 12 achieved some of our best ever results. This is further evidence by the following successes:

Brittany Peat was placed 3rd in NSW for Dance

Alexia Chimarrides received a Premier's Award for gaining marks of 90+ in over 10 units.

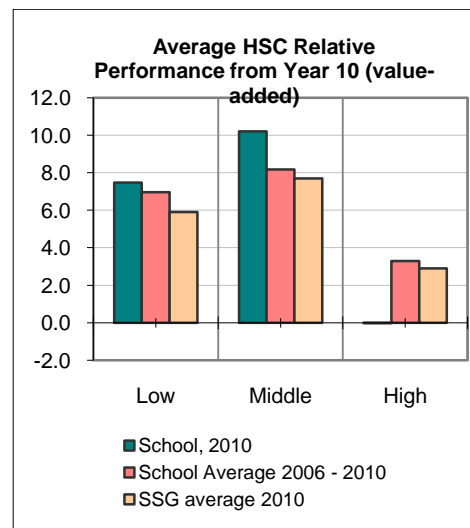
An incredible 63 students (representing an impressive 43% of the cohort, up from 38% in 2009) were placed on the NSW Distinguished Achievers list for receiving 90+ in at least one course.

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.



Higher School Certificate relative performance comparison to School Certificate (value-adding)

The graph below indicates outstanding improvement in performance in the low and middle groupings. It should be noted that value added state-wide, by definition is zero, and that the school's improvement is above that achieved by the like school group in these 2 categories. The value added comparison in the high category was, while at NSW average, lower than that experienced in recent years. Future trends will be monitored closely.



Minimum standards

The Commonwealth Government sets minimum standards for reading, writing, grammar and punctuation, spelling and numeracy for years 7 and 9.

The performance of the students in our school in the National Assessment Program - Literacy and Numeracy is compared to these minimum standards. The percentages of our students achieving at or above these standards are reported below.

Percentage of Year 7 students in our school achieving at or above the minimum standard in 2010

Percentage of Year 7 students achieving at or above minimum standard	
Reading	100.0
Writing	97.2
Spelling	95.8
Punctuation and grammar	95.8
Numeracy	100.0

Percentage of Year 9 students in our school achieving at or above the minimum standard in 2010

Percentage of Year 9 students achieving at or above minimum standard	
Reading	100.0
Writing	99.3
Spelling	98.6
Punctuation and grammar	99.3
Numeracy	99.3

Significant programs and initiatives

Aboriginal education

An Aboriginal perspective is taught in an integrated way across KLAs. This enables staff and students to develop knowledge and understanding of and respect for Aboriginal Australia as highlighted in the Aboriginal education policy.

At our annual Graduation and Presentation Day ceremonies, the "welcome to country" was presented and performed by our Aboriginal students.

Our Aboriginal students were invited to participate in the AIME project. AIME uses a unique style of structured education-based mentoring to link university students in a one-on-one relationship with Indigenous high school students. Our Aboriginal students have developed positive relationships through this mentoring program and it is hoped that the

schools association with AIME will continue in 2011

Simone Armstrong of Year 9 was awarded a Sydney Region "Deadly Kids" award for outstanding achievement.

A number of students represented the school as participants in the Aboriginal Debate held at State Parliament.

Multicultural education

Multicultural perspectives are a compulsory component of all teaching programs. This is evidenced in many curricula and co-curricula programs including the choice of repertoire for all performing and creative arts faculties and texts set for study in English.

In 2010, our second "World Earth Festival" was held. This whole school event was designed, in part, to celebrate multiculturalism in Australia.

Respect and responsibility

As a public school respect and responsibility are embedded in all we do. In 2010 this was evident through programs such as:

- Students, staff and parents continued the development of our Environmental Committee and promoted recycling, the greening of the school and the concept of global citizenship.
- Year 9 students were trained in Peer Support, from this training 40 students (our largest group ever) were selected to become Peer Support leaders working with Year 7 2011.
- The school provides opportunities for students to become members of over 40 performing arts ensembles and companies. Each of which promote the values of team work, tolerance and cooperation.

Environmental Awareness

The school hosted its second annual World Earth Day festival, with the theme 'Simple Steps to Sustainability'. The festival featured various sustainability and multicultural stalls and workshops, along with high quality drama and music performances.

As part of our World Earth Festival, The 'Simple Steps to Sustainability' competition was held. This aimed to promote ecological sustainability, and encouraged students to develop and create practical educational resources.

In 2010 the school participated in DET's 'Climate Clever Energy Savers' program which is part of NSW government schools energy efficiency program. Students were challenged to create practical proposals for energy and greenhouse gas reduction, with the best project ideas in each region gaining funding. All six proposals submitted by NHSPA environmental committee students gained funding. A total of \$4500 was won through various grants that included timer switches on zip hot water heaters, energy saving songs, energy saving signs and digital hot water timers that switch the hot water tanks off over the weekend and school holidays.

'Clean Up Day', an initiative of the NHSPA Environmental Committee was held as a part of Planet Ark's 'Breathe Easy Day' and 'Clean up your School Day'.

Connected learning

All teaching and learning programs were audited and explicit ICT strategies were embedded across all KLA in Years 7-10.

As part of the National DER program all learning spaces have access to the digital wireless network supporting the implementation of ICT strategies as well as the ongoing rollout of laptops to Year 9 students and teachers.

The school, with the support of the P&C facilitated the purchase of additional technology resources such as SmartBoards, Data Projectors and Data Loggers.

The school made a successful submission to acquire funding to create a DER Coordinator who provided support to staff in the development of best practice in integrating ICT into the classroom.

Progress on 2010 targets

Target 1

To Decrease the level of partial truancy by 4%

Our achievements include:

The introduction of a new partial truancy tracking system

Increased communication between school and home regarding partial truancy with 252 letters sent to parents in semester 1 and 383 in semester 2

The introduction of a trial restitution program for partial truancy

Note: because the new tracking system has improved the identification of partial truancy, this target will be repeated in 2011 when comparisons can be better made

Target 2

To improve value added relative growth from Year 5 in all School Certificate tests

Our achievements include:

Our 2010 School Certificate value added relative growth improved in all courses except Science. This evaluation was made by comparing the 2010 growth figures with our average growth figures 2006-2010. The largest improvement occurred in Computing Skills, History and Mathematics.

A review of Stage 5 teaching and learning programs has ensured that explicit GAT, ICT, literacy and numeracy strategies are incorporated

Target 3

To increase retention (across stages) in performing arts curricula and co curricula programs

Our achievements include:

The success of Bugs- The Musical in terms of student and community participation and support

105 students attended the Expanding Horizons China tour

Year 9 Showcase electives were successfully implemented with an additional 4 group performances added to our Showcase season

Key evaluations

It is a requirement for all NSW public schools to conduct at least two annual evaluations - one related to educational and management practice and the other related to curriculum. In 2010 our school carried out evaluations of
Enter text here

Educational and management practice

Student Engagement through Mentoring and Goal Setting

Background

The school's newly formed Student Engagement Team undertook a Quality of School Life Survey in 2009. This identified a significant decline in student motivation in the middle years of high school, particularly in Year 9.

The 2010 Executive Conference focused on strategies to address this decline.

The term 2 School Development Day featured Professor Andrew Martin who presented research findings and strategies designed to address student motivation and engagement. A highlighted feature of this approach was the idea of enhancing student motivation through the concept of "personal best".

The school then developed a mentoring program, delivered by the Student Welfare Team, where students discussed their semester 1 progress (as identified in their school report), and developed an explicit plan to meet a negotiated personal best goal.

These goals and plans were documented and students were encouraged to consistently review their progress over the semester.

At the conclusion of semester 2, students met again with their mentor to evaluate the success of their plan in meeting their explicit goal.

Findings and conclusions

Students reported that they found the process significant, that they focused on the goal throughout the semester and that they found the approach of identifying 5 strategies beneficial.

Teachers involved in the program reported that the vast majority of students were positively

engaged with the process and could recall their personal best goal and honestly reflected on their commitment to their strategies.

Almost all students identified some success in achieving their personal best, with 85% of students successfully meeting their goal.

Future directions

Following the success of the program, it will continue in 2011 with possible expansion into Year 10.

Curriculum

Year 9 Showcase Electives

Background

The Principal requested an external evaluation of the Showcase Elective Program as part of the school's self-evaluation process for 2010. The external evaluation was initiated to seek independent advice on the outcomes of the Showcase Elective program offered to students in Year 9 for the first time.

The external evaluation team comprised the School Education Director, Inner City Network Schools, The Principals of Tempe High School, Alexandria Park Community School and Dulwich Hill High School of Visual Arts and Design.

The evaluation process consisted of:

- a detailed briefing with the Principal, Newtown High School of Performing Arts on the school context, the rationale for implementing the Showcase Electives and the content and organisation of the program;
- an analysis of school documentation on the program;
- discussions with teachers delivering the program;
- a number of focus groups with Year 9 students participating in the program; and
- discussions with the school's executive.

The evaluation team observed 8 lessons, interviewed 8 staff delivering the program, held focus groups with 42 students and reviewed and analysed school documentation

Findings and conclusions

Specifically the evaluation team found that:

- the students clearly demonstrated strong engagement and focus;
- the curriculum design provided relevant content with a high level of significance for students;
- the majority of faculties were involved in the delivery of the program;
- staff delivering the program were very enthusiastic about the program and valued the opportunity to teach in the program;
- staff delivered rigorous and relevant programs;
- the students liked the smaller group approach and the opportunity to participate in what they called different programs; and
- the students were able to readily discuss the impact of the program in a mature and forthright manner providing clear insights into the benefits of the program and areas for future development.

Future directions

The Showcase Elective Program is viewed as outstanding by students and staff. The Program is meeting its intended outcomes and should continue into 2011.

In 2011 additional options will be offered in areas such as *Glee*, *Commedia Dell'arte*, Puppetry and Tap

Parent, student, and teacher satisfaction

In 2010 the school sought the opinions of parents, students and teachers about the school. This occurred through the surveys distributed for the student engagement review process, a student survey regarding best-teaching practice and an external review of the Showcase elective program.

Overall, parents, teachers and students were very satisfied and supportive of the school

seeking to review trends in student engagement. The survey results revealed that students were very connected with the school and largely engaged with the teaching and learning process. At the same time areas for growth and improvement were identified and strategies to address these areas will be developed by the student engagement team in 2011.

Professional learning

In 2010 teacher professional learning continued to be a major focus of the school. Staff surveys and School Development Day evaluations indicated priorities for professional learning activities and these priorities were then addressed.

In 2010:

- A range of opportunities were offered to all staff in relation to professional learning workshops and activities throughout the year. The targeted priority areas were literacy and numeracy, student engagement and motivation, and ICT
- The Professional Learning team continued to organise School Development Days. Topic areas covered were NAPLAN analysis, research into student achievement, and best teaching practice
- The staff induction program again included a performing arts orientation day. All new scheme teachers attended regular meetings and successfully completed their accreditation portfolios.
- Conferences were held for the executive and welfare teams

School development 2009 – 2011

Targets for 2011

Target 1

To Decrease the level of partial truancy by 4% from 635 instances to 610.

Strategies to achieve this target include:

- Review the success of the restitution period as a strategy for reducing partial truancy
- Expand the Year 9 showcase elective courses to enhance engagement and connectedness to the school
- Implement strategies recommended by the Student Engagement Team to enhance student engagement across the school.
- Extend and develop the concept of mentoring students in relation to achieving their "personal best" goals

Our success will be measured by:

- An analysis and examination of the numbers of students attending restitution for partial truancy.
- The implementation of strategies devised by the student engagement team across the school
- An analysis of data relating to notifications of partial truancy

Target 2

To increase HSC value added data, in the high achieving category, to meet or exceed the growth levels of our "Like School Group". (from 0.0 in 2010 to 2.9 in 2011)

Strategies to achieve this target include:

- Faculty based review and analysis of 2010 HSC results through the use of tools such as SMART, BOS Component reports, and student results and trends
- The development and monitoring of faculty plans containing explicit targets and strategies to address key identified issues
- Incorporate the monitoring into the school's TARS and EARS processes
- Embed the concept of "personal best" goal setting into our existing curriculum advisers program, mentoring and After School Study Centre

- Identify, through School Certificate and Year 11 results, our potential high achieving students and devise a negotiated plan for academic success

Our success will be measured by:

- Analysis of the 2011 HSC results in particular the identified high achieving students
- Student feedback regarding the support of the school's programs and their success in achieving personal best goals

About this report

In preparing this report, the self-evaluation committee has gathered information from evaluations conducted during the year and analysed other information about the school's practices and student learning outcomes. The self-evaluation committee and school planning committee have determined targets for the school's future development.

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Parents can find out more information about Annual School Reports, how to interpret information in the reports and have the opportunity to provide feedback about these reports at:

<http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/asr>