This term kicks off the first showcase semester of the year and with it comes an array of the various performing arts our school provides: Drama, Dance and Music. These incredible companies and ensembles have been performed in the Studio Theatre between week 4 and week 8 and has never failed to entertain it’s audiences. Showcase allows the students of Newtown to display their artistic talents in a professional environment. As usual it has been a great success with many nights having been sold out.
I still remember my first Up In Lights dance lesson, even after all this time. The smell of dance floating around me (Deodorant, with a hint of Hairspray), I remember the leotards and P.E. uniforms and most of all, I remember feeling my heart stop as I realised that I was perhaps the only person in the class who didn’t dance. But I never needed to worry because in Up In Lights it doesn’t matter what level you are in singing, dancing or acting, the course is about developing basic skills in all three areas, essentially becoming a bit of a ‘triple threat’.

Now when I signed up to Up In Lights, I had thought it would be a simple showcase elective with, mostly drama and singing with a little dance on the side. I could not have been more wrong! Up In Lights is a combination of intense dance, drama and music. It has been developed to not only give students a unique insight into the formal audition process which is a big part of the entertainment industry, but to help show pupils what being a ‘triple threat’ entails.

While I had anticipated the dance classes to be hard and strenuous, I had not expected to learn so much from them. I not only learned valuable stretches and exercises, I also learned what doing dance in musical theatre involves.

The drama too, was a bit surprising in that I had expected our class to choose a musical and learn a script but although we did use a script, the scenes were mostly put together by our class from parts of the musical we had decided were most important in the telling of the story.

The singing portion of Up In Lights was, unsurprisingly, my favourite part but not just because singing is what I do. I thoroughly enjoyed the singing because we all pitched in different vocal exercises and had a lot of fun mucking around with different songs from the musical to see what we could do with them.

All in all, my Up In Lights experience was pretty fantastic. I got a relatively big part in the musical which was loads of fun and I got a chance to see what the formal audition process is actually like in the performing arts industry. I sang, I acted and, well, I even danced without injuring anyone. Up In Lights might not have always seemed like a good choice but now that I’m nearing the end of the course I can see that it was definitely an awesome thing to choose and I wish the best of luck to next semesters Up In Lights students.

Don’t worry, if I managed to do it then anybody can.

Written by Bella Greenlees

Only at Newtown!

This section is dedicated to the unique moments that only members of the Newtown community could achieve.

Here are the winners:

To the Year 10 Peer Support Leaders who broke into song at the year 7 camp. This was a great way to show our new students the school culture and spirit.

To the Year 12 girls who arrived at the Dalai Lama talk with their hair in curls and wrapped up. Preparing themselves for that nights showcase performance.

Finally, to the best talent quest performance ever seen at Newtown! Well done teachers!

If you hear any achievements from anyone around the school, please come and see me.

Mr Shipp
Over the period of 12 days, 42 students took part in the 'expanding horizons china tour'. The school took 5 music ensembles, 2 dance pieces and a drama company. We went to the capital city of Beijing then Zhengzhou, Shoaling, Luoyang and finally Xian. We performed at schools across these locations including our sister school in Zhengzhou. Every school we went to we were treated with the utmost respect and were welcomed with gifts, they were very enthusiastic and it was great to see some of the traditional Chinese music and dance featured in their performance. We were given separate tours around the schools, we discovered they had quite good resources including one school that had robots! As well as performing we got to see the fantastic sites of China, including the Great Wall, The Forbidden City, The Summer Palace, The Longman Grottos and The Terracotta Warriors.

It was a great to see all the sights and see the rich history China endures. One of the great things we got to do was bargaining at fleet markets. It was great fun to get so much stuff for so little money, we had such a great time and our suitcases came back so much heavier than when we left. Another great part of tour was that we got to experience the traditional food of China, full of its exotic flavours and wondrous creations eating became some what of a show not just a part of our day. One of the best food we had was when we travelled to a traditional village of Houtouung, where we had lunch in a household, the food was so delicious and you could tell it was home cooked full of the love for food. We also fined on a duck banquet in Beijing, which was so delicious you could eat it forever. But one of the best nights of the tour was when we went to see a traditional Chinese music & dance show, not only was the show amazing but we were fed a dumpling banquet and whatever meat was inside, the dumpling was shaped as so. Throughout the china tour I personally made some great friends over the years of 9-12, it was great to feel like a giant year group almost. The tour was fantastic, a great cultural exchange of music, dance and drama as well as the amazing chance to experience one of the worlds most wonderful cultures.

Written by Gabriel Burke
BOY MEETS GIRLS

Showcase at Newtown only happens once every two terms and too be honest I feel pretty honoured to be a part of it. I was in the drama play ‘Boy Meets Girl’ it was based on love from the age of four too the age of seventeen or eighteen. In my company was Katia, Jarrah, Maggie, Gabe, Kayley, Cole, Liberty, Maya, Emma, Rose, Matilda, Stella and our directors Hannah and Yazmine. It was a mix of year eights and nines and although our directors were year 11 students I think they did the job just as well as a drama teacher would have, if not better. Being in Drama Company does improve you as an actor because you are being put on the spot and being told what to do. I really enjoyed it because I got to meet other people in year 9 and socialise with them whilst being with my closer friends in year 8.

We started off just doing little exercises and getting to know everybody in the company. Then we got our script, we met up every Sunday (I know it sounds bad, but honestly it isn’t that bad) and we had to know a certain part of the script off by heart every time. At 1:00 we would all have a break to go out and have lunch, you had to be back at a certain time. It took a while for me to learn my lines but after I did it was great. By the time showcase had arrived we had learnt all our lines and were pretty much ready for it. Performing on stage was very nerve-wracking and a bit scary but overall the performance was great! It does take a lot of commitment and dedication but in the end it’s worth it.

Raj Patoor–Brah
Bill Gates, a name all too familiar - and a man that really doesn’t need an introduction - was in Australia for less than 24 hours on the 28th May. For the limited time that we was in the country, he managed to visit two capital cities, meet with some of Australia’s most powerful leaders and speak at the National Press Club. As exciting as this all sounds, his highlight obviously would have been answering questions from the year 11 Mock Trial Team, during a special one-on-one Q&A special, aired on the ABC.

Gates is renowned for creating and expanding Microsoft into the multi-billion corporation it is today, but perhaps to a lesser extent, he is also known for his philanthropic work and humanitarian aspirations. The audience for the show included students, the general public and even the likes of Barry O’Farrell, Jillian Skinner, David Gonski and Ian Frazer (whose research led to the development of the HPV vaccine against cervical cancer).

Being held at UNSW, it was only a short bus ride down from school, where we eagerly departed, excited with the prospect of not only seeing Bill Gates (or Tony Jones for some...) but the possibility of asking him a question - and we were not disappointed. Three students from NHSPA were lucky enough to be chosen to ask Mr Gates a question - Zack Solomon, Amy Kimball and myself (the most amount of questions asked by a school). Our questions ranged from Australia’s foreign aid, to America’s healthcare system and whether Mr Gate’s ‘perspective,’ had been warped due to his wealth.

Other questions also touched on the issues of capitalism, the Pope, multinational corporations and their tax habits and the attitude towards philanthropy within Australia (in comparison to the US). All fascinating topics, with equally as intelligent and honest answers.

For anyone wanting to see the show, just youtube “A Q&A Audience With Bill Gates.”

Mock Trial Team: Will Bartolo, Jack Bromfield, Remy Danoy, Orson Heidrich, Amy Kimball, Charlotte Regan, Nick Bradbury and honourary member, Zack Solomon.

Written by Charlotte Regan
At 7:10 I wake up to the crisp, morning air of the shire, or Oatley to be more specific. A tear rolls down my tender cheek as I realise I have to trek it all the way to Newtown on the train and also as I realise I live in the shire. I walk past the many rich geriatrics and private school children as I pump tunes and stroll through the streets on my way to the station. It’s all aboard and before I know it I’m at the lovely establishment Newtown High School of the Performing Arts. I meet up with my homies, the coolest and most respected gang in the school, the garbage gang. We exchange many secret and complicated ancient handshakes passed down through the garbage generations and head off to class. After an hour and a bit of intense learning I’m out to recess. I make my way to the safe haven of the bins, where many a garbage great has gone down. It’s a surprise every day as to what we will do. Thrown mandarin peels? Talk about fictional situations that will never happen? Dance battles? Whatever we do, it comes to an end as the bell rings and we head back to the hell of the classrooms. Its lunch time and we again sit by the bins, ignoring the jealous men and many admiring women that desperately want to join the gang. Some of us take a quick trip to the canteen to grab a delicious beverage, or maybe a tasty snack and its off to last period. I glance at the clock, 3:10, the time for freedom. The seas of children part as I exit the school and hop aboard the train back to the confines of the shire, where I spend the rest of my afternoon eating, playing Mario kart, listening to music and staring at my butt in a mirror. I crawl into bed at the end of a long day content with my achievements and dream of world peace, a functional society and a world where the garbage gang reigns.
On Wednesday the 17th of June a selection of students were chosen along with Mr Shipp, Mr Woolley and Mr Mayerhoffer to attend an educational conference with his Holiness the Dalai Lama. The aim of it was to inform the variety of age groups about the qualities and characteristics of how to influence your children on being a good person.

100 young up and coming leaders/representatives were invited to come on stage and interact with the Dalai Lama Himself through their one question prepared. The age groups of these students varied.

A range of speakers were involved within the conference who all specialized in various academic fields. They engaged in a non prepared interview in which they discussed many controversial topics relating to the overall theme of the day: Young Minds.

In conclusion this was a very enjoyable and successful event for the students who attended, who surely gained valuable life lessons.

Interview with student Alexi Cassis

Overall what did you think?

It was a really touching experience and I learnt a little bit about myself while I was there. I was inspired and humbled. Although at times I could not understand what his holiness was saying.

What was your prior knowledge of the Dalai Lama?

My knowledge was that he has worked for the Freedom of the people of Tibet and he is internationally recognized as a symbol of peace. Also that his faith is Buddhism.

Did you gain any knowledge from the experience?

The Dalai Lama has a very heavy accent and he loves astronomy and his celebrity status is in my opinion overrated.

If you had the opportunity like those young leaders to ask a question to His Holiness what would it be?

What is the biggest issue facing the world today in your opinion?

Did you agree with everything that was said in the conference?

I didn’t agree with everything that was said in the panel, also I found it difficult to hear his Holiness at times.
Special Thanks:

BELLA GREENLESS
ALEXI CASSIS
GABRIEL BURKE
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OLIVER CLARKE
LUCY PAVELA

SPECIAL THANKS TO THE SRC

PRODUCED BY
SOPHIE WILDE AND AUDREY MITCHELL

If you have any submissions please place them in the NEWSTOWN box inside the front office.

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If you would like to be apart of the NEWSTOWN committee please come to F5 at Wednesday lunchtimes