



Congratulations

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Welcome back to 2024. I'd like to extend a warm welcome to all of our families, both new and returning, as we embark on another exciting year of learning and growth together. In particular, we extend a heartfelt welcome to the Year Seven cohort, consisting of 178 students, who have seamlessly settled into our school community and are already making remarkable contributions. Our Partner Primary Schools have done an amazing job and they have prepared these students very well for the rigours of secondary schooling.

Additionally, we extend a special welcome to the many new families who have recently joined our school community, including those who have relocated to the beautiful Central Coast. We also extend a warm welcome to parents and carers who have chosen to entrust their children's education to us after attending independent schools. Your confidence in our school is truly appreciated, and we are committed to providing the best possible educational experience for your children.

Last week, we had the pleasure of celebrating our Evening of Excellence, a wonderful occasion where we recognised the academic achievements of our students and applauded their hard work throughout 2023. It was a night filled with pride and joy as we acknowledged the dedication and commitment of our students. A special congratulations goes to Jackson Adair for being awarded the Dux of the School, achieving an impressive academic record of 97. The award was presented by our 2022 Dux, Elise Georgeson, adding to the significance of the moment. It was truly a memorable evening, where we had the opportunity to recognise the outstanding results achieved by many of our students.

In 2023, our school achieved excellent results across various assessments, showcasing the dedication and commitment of our students and staff. Notably, in terms of the High School Certificate, we celebrated our best-ever results, with 71.91% of students achieving placement in the top three bands. It is also noteworthy that no student fell into the lowest Band One, and we successfully reduced the number of students in Band Two by a further 50%. Additionally, in NAPLAN assessments, we have made significant strides, moving from Delivering to Excelling, the highest achievement possible within a five-year period. These remarkable academic outcomes are a testament to the hard work and perseverance of both our staff and students.

Furthermore, I would also like to acknowledge that these wonderful achievements are not possible without the unwavering support and collaboration of our school community, particularly the parents and carers. Your partnership with us in nurturing and guiding our students towards their fullest potential is invaluable. Together, we strive to create an environment where every student can thrive and succeed. We are deeply grateful for your continued support and dedication to the success of our school.

The demand for enrolment at our school has soared in recent years. In 2024, we are proud to welcome a total of 1019 students, a testament to the trust and confidence placed in us by families in the local area. However, this increased demand has presented challenges, as our capacity to accommodate students from outside our designated zone has become extremely limited. Despite these challenges, we remain committed to our mission to provide a well-rounded education for every student.

Over the past 12 months, our school has undergone significant structural improvements aimed at providing our students with the best possible learning environment. These upgrades included a comprehensive network upgrade covering the entire school, ensuring seamless connectivity for both students and staff. Additionally, the installation of covered walkways enhances safety and comfort, especially during inclement weather. Furthermore, the creation of a new pick-up and drop-off zone for the Support Unit prioritises safety and equity for all members of our school community. In the next week the completion of renovations to our school library, valued at over \$1.2 million will be unveiled. This underscores our commitment to providing modern innovative facilities conducive to learning. We are dedicated to ensuring that our students have access to the best resources and infrastructure to support their academic journey and overall growth.

As we approach the final year before fully transitioning to our new school uniform, I kindly request your support in embracing this change. The adoption of the new uniform was the result of an extensive and collaborative process, involving input from parents, carers, students, staff, and the wider community. The new uniform reflects the modern image and values of our school, and it is essential that we all rally behind this transition. To facilitate this change smoothly, I urge you to support Workwear Express, our contracted uniform provider. By honouring our contractual agreement with Workwear Express, we ensure consistency and quality in our school uniforms. Additionally, it is important to note that the school has invested significant resources in copyrighting the school logo to safeguard against unauthorised alterations to the uniform which have happened regularly throughout the school's history. Finally, your support of Workwear Express indirectly benefits our school financially. Through our agreement with Workwear Express, funds are contributed to the Parents and Citizens (P&C) association, which is then reinvested into various school initiatives and resources for the benefit of all students.

Your cooperation in adhering to the designated school uniform supplier and respecting the integrity of our uniform policy is greatly appreciated. Together, we can uphold the professionalism and identity of our school community.

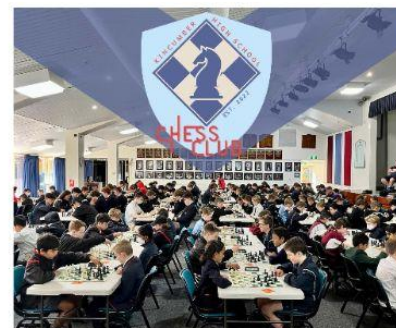
This year, our school is placing a significant emphasis on improving attendance rates among our students. This initiative aligns with efforts across New South Wales, spanning all school sectors, aimed at raising attendance rates to above 90%. Achieving a 90% attendance rate means attending school for nine out of every ten days in a fortnight—a crucial factor in ensuring students fully engage with their learning. Consistent attendance improves student outcomes, increases career options, and helps students build relationships and confidence.

To encourage and reward regular attendance, we have planned various positive incentives, including certificates and barbecues for students who consistently attend school. Additionally, thanks to the generous donation from our Parents and Citizens (P&C) association, we will be awarding one set of AirPods to a lucky student drawn during each term's final assembly. As a grand incentive, a final prize awaits in Term Four—a brand-new iPhone—awarded to one student who maintains above 90% attendance throughout the year.

It's important to recognise that attendance plays a vital role in student success, as it is directly linked to academic outcomes. Numerous research papers highlight the substantial positive impact that regular school attendance has on final results. This year a Year Advisor, Head Teacher or member of the Senior Executive will be contacting home to offer support to families where attendance has fallen below 90%. By prioritizing attendance, we aim to create a supportive environment where students can thrive academically and reach their full potential.

As we embark on the journey of 2024, I am looking forward to the opportunities and achievements that lie ahead. Your continued support and dedication are invaluable as we work together to create a vibrant and enriching learning environment for all our students.

Brent Walker
Principal



Sense of Belonging at Kincumber High School



Developing a sense of belonging in our students is still one of the most powerful protective factors for mental health we can give them. Creating these connections gives young people a sense that there are others just like them who share their interests and passions. It is great when these bonds are formed with immediate peers and perhaps even greater when students find out that they share an interest with someone from another group, perhaps another gender, another year group or even a teacher. To foster a strong sense of belonging at Kincumber High School in 2024, a variety of interest based clubs are on offer:

- **Recreational Fishing Club** (est. 2014 - @khs_rfc) - (see Mr Riley or Mr Goucher)
- **Chess Club** - (see Miss McDonogh in the Library)
- **Science Fiction Association** - (Tuesdays & Thursday Bk1 - F24 - see Mrs Sadler in HSIE)
- **Representative Sporting teams** - (various opportunities throughout the year - see Mr Bradshaw and posters in the PE staffroom windows)
- **Ag Farm** - from Term 2, Tuesdays and Fridays at Break 2 only - (see Mr Morris in Science / Ag)
- **Mindful Mondays** - Wellbeing Hub every Monday at Break 1 - (see Ms Regal or Miss Douglass)
- **Music Rehearsals at break times in the Music Block** - (see Mr Harris in Music)
- **Girls Bootcamp - Wednesday afternoons 2:45-3:45pm** - (see Ms O'Reilly in SSU)
- **Auslan Classes** - Thursdays at Break 2 in F10 - (see Ms O'Reilly in SSU)
- **Languages Club** - (see Ms Nader - Languages / English staffroom)
- **Clean 4 Shore** - opportunities each term (see Ms Lawler - HT Teaching and Learning)
- **Debating Club** - (see Ms McDonogh in the Library)
- **Amnesty International Club** - Social Justice Awareness - (see Ms Hayden in English)
- **Craft Club** - (see Ms Hayden in English)
- **Sister Circle** - (see Mrs Martin in English)

These specific interest groups are in addition to the variety of sporting teams, musical groups and artistic pursuits that students are able to get involved with outside of their regular timetabled lessons. I thank the many teachers who give up their free time to offer these opportunities and who help to make Kincumber High School such a welcoming, safe environment for our kids.

Mr Matt Riley

- Deputy Principal



DEPUTY PRINCIPAL - YEARS 7, 9, 11

The start of 2024 has been positive for both our students and teachers.

As this is our first Newsletter since the HSC results of 2023, it would be remiss of me to not mention the outstanding results achieved by the Class of 2023. By many metrics it was one of our finest ever HSC performance years. 22 students made it to the high achievers list (students attaining a course mark over 90) and 71.91% of students achieved results in the Top 3 Bands, our best ever result. Congratulations Year 12 (2023), you were a fabulous cohort to work with and many thanks also goes to your family supports, Year Advisor Mr Bradshaw and our teachers at Kincumber High School.

Our new Year 7 cohort has made a remarkably positive start. There is a clear eagerness to learn and a quick adaptation to the routines of high school life. Feedback from all faculties highlights their engagement and curiosity. This sets a very promising tone for their future at Kincumber High School. I look forward to getting to know all our Year 7s more throughout the term. The Year 7 Camp is also just around the corner!

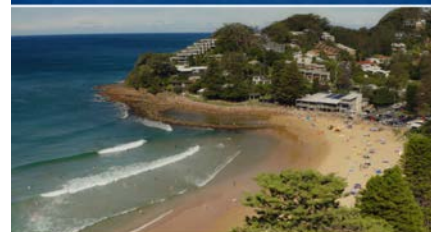
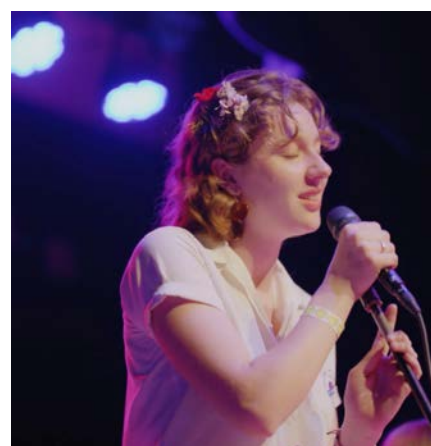
Year 9 students are settling into the year with a newfound independence, as they navigate through a broader curriculum. The enthusiasm for elective subjects is high, and the positive feedback from both students and staff underscores the value of our diverse academic offerings. A particular highlight for me has been seeing our Enrichment Maths students delve into the creative side of Mathematics – with their designing of intricate fractals and geometric designs.

For Year 11, the step up to senior learning has been met with maturity and focus. Adapting to the increased demands of the HSC curriculum is no small feat, yet our students are rising to the challenge admirably. Alongside academic rigour, they're enjoying the perks of senior status, including increased access to school facilities (e.g. senior courtyard), and wearing their distinctive senior jackets, which will no doubt become a more common sight as the weather cools. Their role as school leaders (alongside Year 12) is already evident, setting a strong example for their younger peers.

On a broader note, the overall adherence to our school uniform policy has been impressive this year. The consistent presentation of our students not only reflects well on the school but also contributes to a sense of unity and identity among students. It's a simple yet effective way to start each day on the right foot, reinforcing a shared commitment to our school values.

Here's to another successful year ahead at Kincumber High School.

Brent Waters,
Deputy Principal
Kincumber High School



ASSESSMENT SCHEDULE,
POLICY & PROCEDURES
YEAR 11 | 2024

ATTENDANCE MATTERS



Win an iPhone with greater than 90% for the year!

Win AirPods with greater than 90% for the term!



What a great start to the year with regards to attendance! This is again a major focus for 2024, with our focus to increase the number of students with greater than 90% attendance for the year.

A massive thank you once again to the P&C for their ongoing support in proving prizes for our Attendance Prize Draws. These happen each term, where all students with attendance greater than 90% have a chance to win AirPods. For students with greater than 90% attendance for the year, they go into the draw to win an iPhone!!

Attendance greater than 90%	
Year 7	
Year 8	
Year 9	

Congratulations to Year 7 who have set the bar high with the greatest number of students having already over 90% attendance for the year! Special mention to Years 8 and 9 for taking out 2nd and 3rd place.

We will be sending home an attendance summary email very soon so parents and carers can be kept up to date with how their child is tracking with attendance.

Days missed = years lost

A day here and there doesn't seem like much, but...

When your child misses just...

they miss weeks per year

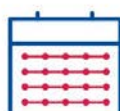
and years over their school life

1 day per fortnight



=

4 weeks



=

Over **1** year missed

SCIENCE REPORT

We have had an exciting start to 2024 up in the Science Faculty. Year 7 have embraced the challenges of attaining their Bunsen Burner Licenses and working safely in the laboratory to obtain accurate and reliable measurements. Meanwhile, our Year 8 cohort is currently undertaking one of two topics - the first has really "sparked" their interest as they learn about electricity, while the other is simply "elementary" as they focus on materials, their properties and separation. At the same time, the super scientists in Year 9 have embraced understanding the origins of the universe while Year 10 look more closely at their family trees and DNA.

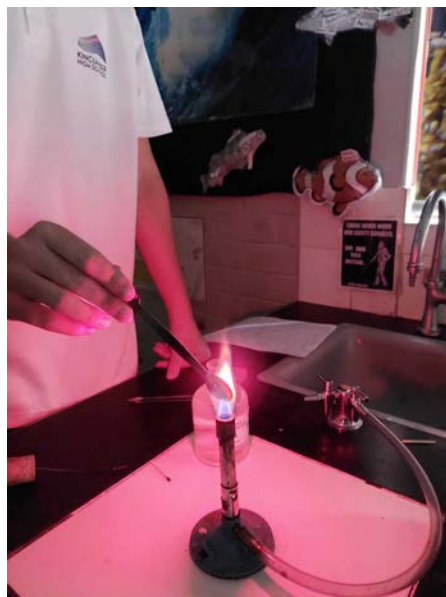
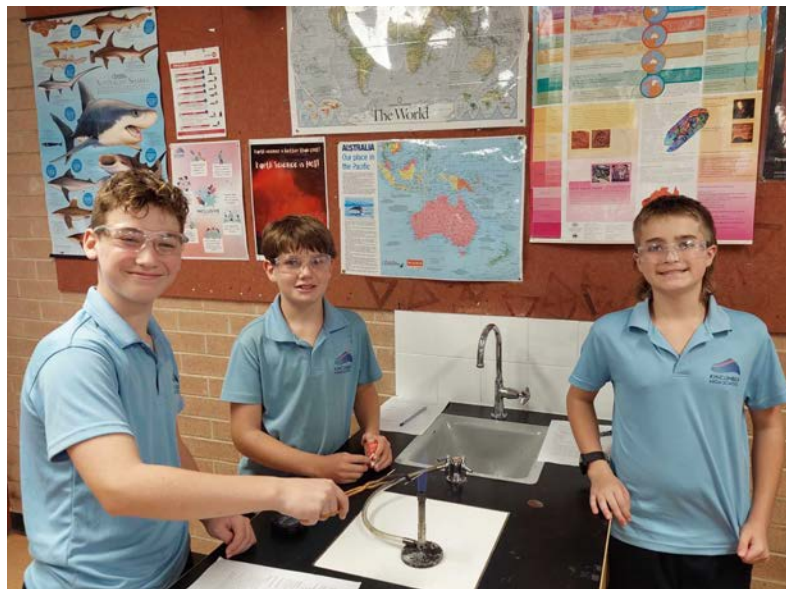
We have also been incredibly impressed by our senior students during their recent excursions. Our Earth and Environmental Science students certainly don't take their education for 'granite'.

Last Thursday, they had a 'gneiss' day down at the Australian Museum where they examined the displays. Among them was a brand new exhibit - a fossil originally found at the Kincumber Quarry! Named *Arenaerpeton supinatus*, it is an extinct amphibian that lived before and during the time of the dinosaurs. Not only is the skull still attached to the rest of the skeleton, but it also contains rare impressions of the animal's skin.

And of course, there's no 'DNAing' the Year 12 Biology students' love for genetics! Here are some highlights from their excursion to Macquarie Uni last week where they utilised genetic technologies to extract DNA from animal tissue.



SCIENCE REPORT



ENGLISH REPORT

English classes have begun in full force across the year groups as we aim to instill a love of reading and writing within every student. Year 7 has begun the year with the exploration of a variety of texts as they explore 'Powerful Youth Voices'. Within this unit students will learn the importance of a variety of language devices as they begin to assert their own voice within their pieces of creative writing. Year 8 have begun studying different representations of the 'Hero's Journey' in a variety of texts, exploring the classic structure that highlights a protagonist's journey. Year 9 are enjoying learning about 'Speculative Fiction' and are studying such texts as Cinder, The Maze Runner, The Hunger Games, Divergent and Wall-E. Within years 7 to 9 students are also partaking in independent literacy lessons designed to help students in their reading, writing and comprehension skills. With Naplan coming up on March 13th, 14th and 15th for year 7 and 9, this is a good way for students to hone their skills for this nationwide test.

Year 10 are currently examining their area of study on 'Identity' exploring such texts as *Tomorrow When the War Began*, *Simon versus the Homosapians*, *Divergent*, *the Hate u Give* and *Lord of the Flies*, and are beginning preparations for their half yearly exam early next term.

Year 11 students have been introduced to senior study through the unit 'Reading to Write' for both the Advanced and Standard course. Within English Studies students are working on the unit of English and the World of Education, Careers and Community.

Year 12 Advanced English students are enjoying their study of Module B, Critical Study of Text with *Artist of the Floating World* by Kazuro Ishiguro. Standard classes are learning about Close Study of Literature through the film *The Truman Show* and English Studies students are embracing the unit *English and the Experience of Travel* as they gain a deeper understanding of meaning and literacy development through a variety of travel related activities and texts. Finally, we wish to congratulate our 2023 HSC students on their solid results within their English course. A special shout out to Georgia Cameron and Charlotte Brown who shined with their Extension English HSC results.

Students are encouraged to read every night if possible. The English faculty are encouraging this at school within each lesson and it would be wonderful to see it continue at home if possible. As Margaret Fuller said "Today a reader, tomorrow a leader".



Left: Students in years 7 to 9 are working on these Literacy booklets in class for dedicated Literacy lessons

Right: Students in 9B working on chapter questions from James Dashner's *The Maze Runner*



Left: Yr 11 English Studies students working On English & the World of Education, Careers and Community.

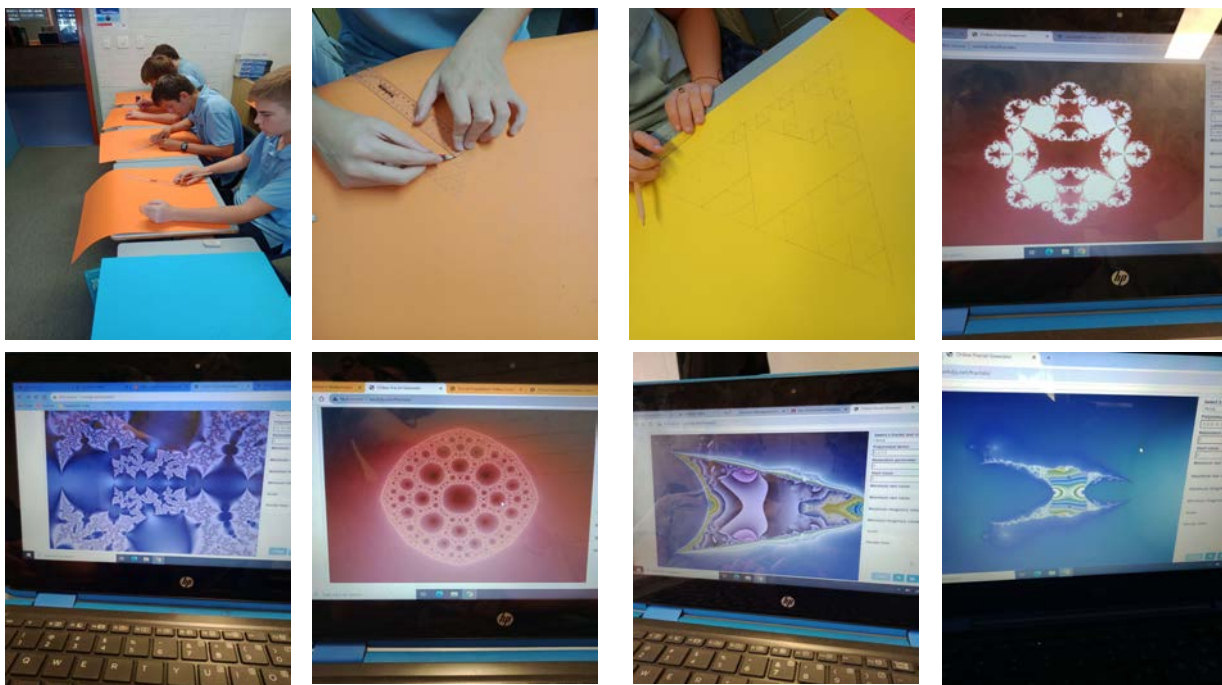
Right: Mr Koletti's Year 8 English working On the Hero's Journey in *Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief*



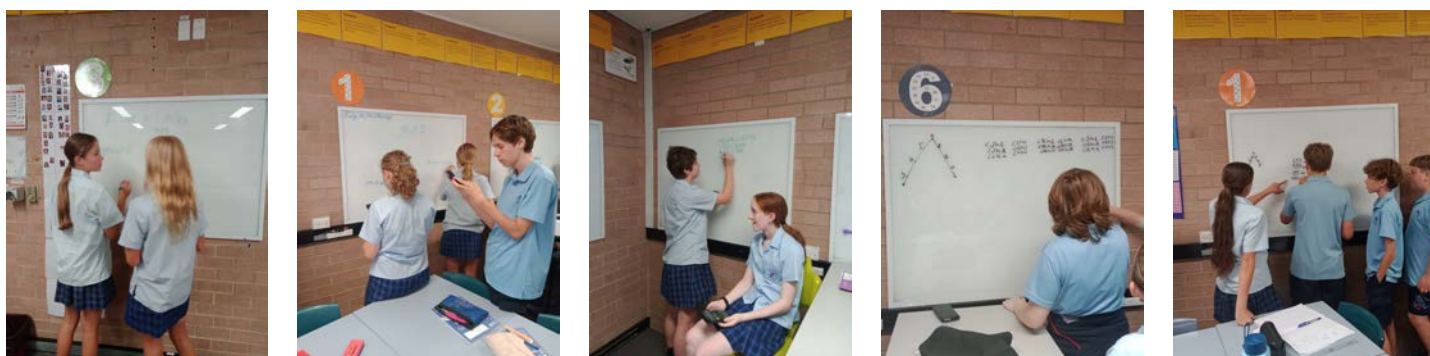
Mathematics Report

We've had a great start to 2024, welcoming Mr Tom Crick to the Mathematics Staff. I'm pleased to reassure parents that all of our maths teachers are fully qualified and experienced in teaching Mathematics.

Mrs Cardy has taken on the challenge of teaching our Year 9 Enrichment elective this year, and is enjoying the first topic of Fractals...students have created some excellent fractal designs using technology and are currently working hard on their first assessment task where they create a Sierpinski Triangle Fractal with five iterations. As you can see, some students are creating some careful and accurate designs.



Mr Moore's Year 8 class and Mrs Woodley's Year 7 class have enjoyed using the big glass boards for group work and problem solving. It's terrific to see the collaboration and the thorough breaking down of problems happening.



A reminder that extra maths help is available after school on Wednesdays. No cost, just bring along anything you want help with. It runs from 2:30-3:15 in F23.

We will be doing a calculator check for all classes very soon. Please ensure your student has a calculator and a maths book for every lesson. Calculators can be purchased at the front office for \$33, just bring your receipt to maths to get the calculator.

TAS REPORT



We start 2024 with a number of new staff in TAS. We would like to welcome Ms Candice Whitcher and Mrs. Melinda Holmes to Kincumber High School. Both bring with them a wealth of knowledge in Stage 4 Technology Mandatory, Stage 5 Food Technology, Stage 6 Food Technology and Stage 6 VET-Hospitality. If you are up in TAS, please say a friendly "Hello" and make them feel welcome!



We have hit the ground running with our elective classes in the workshops. We have all started the year by completing safety tests and ensuring all students understand the expectations of working in a workshop. Year 9 Timber have turned their skills to constructing a toolbox. Both classes are honing their measuring, marking and practical skills to produce a quality project! While this will take the duration of the term to complete, it is great to see so many enthusiastic students in their electives.



Year 11 Industrial Technology - Timber students have started construction of their first project using machinery as opposed to hand tools in Year 10. They have started by selecting their own timber, and laminating it to make a large panel for their small cabinet. Students have already finalised all sizes to ensure all components can be cut from the panel of timber. Next comes the critical stage of cutting using the drop saw. This stage is when we will really know how accurate the maths is, or the projects will slowly become smaller! It is great to see an ever increasing number of girls in the Timber classes.

It is great to have our Support Unit classes back in the metal workshop this year. With Mr Doyle in charge, they are designing and constructing a BBQ Spatula. Students in the S4 class have already cut the metal for the spatula and started to shape them. We all agree at the completion of the project, these are going to be fantastic gift for someone special at home!



CAPA REPORT

Welcome back to another school year at KHS on behalf of the CAPA staff.

This year, Mrs Carol McGilvery continues in her dual role of Head Teacher CAPA and Quality Teaching Advisor in the HSC Strategy Professional Learning Team. Mrs McGilvery was selected to contribute to the Team due to her outstanding leadership in and teaching of HSC Visual Arts. This role sees her developing resources for our local, regional and remote Visual Arts teachers to assist teachers in supporting students statewide. Mr David Krix also continues as Head Teacher CAPA. We are pleased to have Ms Margie Doyle again in her capacity as a temporary Visual Arts teacher. Welcome back also to Ms Hamilton and Ms McNaught on our Visual Arts Staff, Mr Conrad Harris and Mr Alan Blue in the Music faculty, Ms McRae in Dance and Ms Johnston in Drama.



Bailey Schultz outstanding HSC performance examination result earned him selection as part of the HSC Encore performances as a drummer. ENCORE is a program of outstanding performances and compositions by students from schools across NSW.



Dylan Beresford-Brown was pre selected for Onstage, representing the best Drama Individual Projects across NSW.

Chelsea Stewart's HSC Visual Arts Body of Work was selected for ArtExpress and for the newly curated additional ArtExpress exhibition at Penrith Regional Gallery, opening in March this year.

Congratulations to all and to their hard working teachers



CAPA REPORT Newcastle University Next Gen Student Art Exhibition

Newcastle University Next Gen Student Art Exhibition, 2024



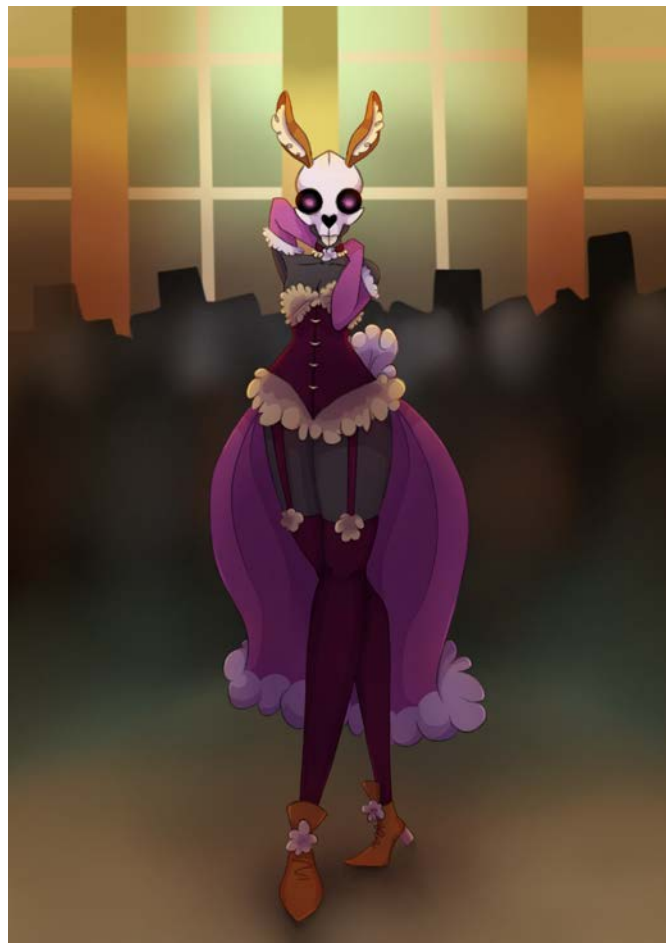
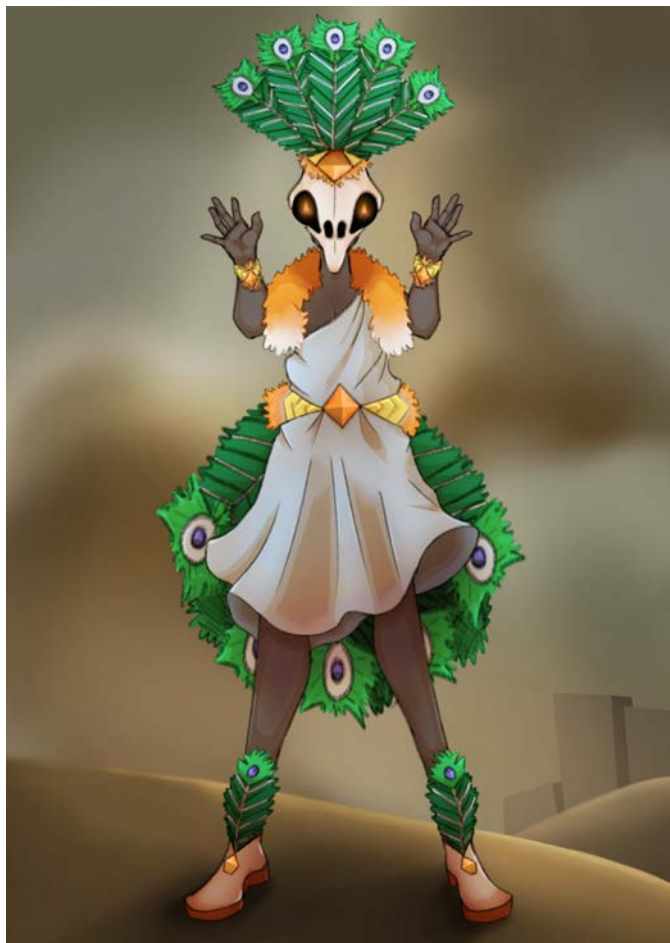
Jade Hackshall and Ms McGilvery attended the opening of Newcastle University's Next Gen HSC Student Art Exhibition at Ourimbah campus. Jade's large 2023 HSC Body of Work is one of two drawings she completed with the group title "Perfectly Misaligned". This work was created using charcoal on paper.

Jade was successful in gaining early entry into the Bachelor of 3D Arts degree course at Enmore Design Centre.



Harrison Hirst's HSC Body of Work film "Relinquishing to my Successor" was also selected for exhibition. This is an emotional film that delves into ideas of loss, connection, expression and the place of the individual within a grander society. Congratulations, Harrison

Newcastle University Next Gen Student Art Exhibition, 2024



Jenaya Archer. 2023 HSC Body of Work.
Digital prints. From her series Seven Deadly Sins. Left: "Pride". Right "Lust"

Bodhi Cameron-Hayes HSC Visual Arts Body of Work was a series of 4 beautifully rendered hand drawn digital images. Bodhi's works look great at Ourimbah campus



CAPA REPORT

Gosford Regional Gallery

Selected by Gosford Regional Gallery for the Central Vision exhibition of student work.



Above: Analeise Edmunds. Year 11 Ceramics 2023



Kiana Triegaardt. "Parrot Study"
Charcoal on Plywood.



Indiana Morrison "Cassowary" Ceramics

Congratulations also to Sophia Hodgson, Mika Orgias and Maia Elton, all of whom had their artworks chosen by Gosford Regional Gallery.

CAPA REPORT

Gosford Regional Gallery

Selected by Gosford Regional gallery for the Central Vision exhibition of student work.



Milka Orgias. HSC Visual Arts Body of Work. A collection of work titled "Cradled Fragility"

Alana Jordan. 2023 HSC Body of Work, "Transgenesis". Ceramics.

Alana's works explored the idea of introducing a gene from one organism into the genome of another organism. Alana is now pursuing her science interest in a related degree course.



Congratulations also to Sophia Hodgson and Maia Elton, all of whom had their artworks chosen by Gosford Regional Gallery.

CAPA REPORT

Gosford Regional Gallery

Selected by Gosford Regional gallery for the Central Vision exhibition of student work.



Sophia Hodgson's self portrait diptych on circular board. Sophia created these beautiful works in Year 10 as part of her Visual Arts Major Project. We do this unit as a way to prepare students for senior Visual Arts, especially to gain an appreciation of the rigour and independence required for a successful completion of the HSC Body of Work.



Maia Elton's intricate, small scale ceramic form was selected by Gosford Regional Gallery.

Upcoming Excursions

- March 11th: Year 11 Visual Arts to Artexpress and Louise Bourgeois. Travel by train. Meet at Gosford station by 7:40am. Cost \$7.30
- March 22nd. Year 10 Photography to Cockatoo Island. Travel by train and ferry. Meet Gosford Station 7:15am

SSU REPORT



S1 travelled by public bus to the Gosford Regional Gallery to contribute to a 3D wall installation about native plants of Australia.



PDHPE REPORT

2024 is off to a strong start for the PDHPE Faculty. Year 7 have settled in well, building rapport with their classmates through team building activities, and tapping into changes and challenges in their theory lessons. Year 8 have seen out the end of Summer with Cricket and Pickleball, Year 9 have brushed up on their Netball and Basketball skills, and Year 10 have participated in a variety of striking games. Moving through Term 1, we will see all year groups enter into skill practice for Cross Country and Athletics.

This Thursday, we look forward to kicking off our carnivals for 2024, with the annual swimming carnival.

On Monday 26th February, 8 of our Year 10 PASS students were invited to help out with the Kincumber Public School Swimming Carnival. Our students assisted staff on the day with carnival formalities before engaging with novelty events throughout the afternoon. They encouraged the younger students throughout the day, whilst displaying a range of leadership skills- closely tying in with their current Sports Coaching Unit.



This Wednesday, we were impressed with our Open Girls Volleyball team, who defeated TLSC - The Entrance in round one of the CHS Knockout competition. They will now move into round two against Northern Beaches Secondary College.



Now reminded that to CHS pay about sports attention team announcements games.



LANGUAGES

Year 7 Japanese



Welcome to another fun filled year of Languages. This year has started with a smooth transition for our year 7 classes who have embraced their learning of Japanese customs and greetings as part of their first unit of work. Within our Aisatsu unit students are learning how to say hello, ask someone's name, introduce themselves, say where they live and their age. The biggest hurdle to overcome is confidence in speaking and so we encourage students to practice speaking at home as this helps in this area. Students have a speaking assessment and written postcard assessment due at the beginning of week 7 and Ms. Hayden is also running extra lessons in break 1 on Wednesdays for any student that may need further assistance with their first assessment task in Japanese. Students are reminded that the task is designed to be enjoyable and engaging with core content, so we look forward to some creative postcards and confident speakers.



Year 9 French



Year 9 elective French are enjoying the basics of the French language as they begin learning the French alphabet and numbers. They are learning to speak introductory phrases and learning about the intricacies of this wonderful country and culture.



Year 10 Japanese

Year 10 elective Japanese are busily investigating traditional Japanese milestones like the 7,5,3 festival. They are learning particles of Japanese speech and becoming more confident in their speaking and writing.

Year 11 French



Students are enjoying their study of French as a second language in senior school. The best response as to the progress of the course is from the students themselves. Mia in year 11 commented

"I am enjoying year 11 French because I get to learn a new language while also having fun! Ms Nader helps us to understand the language and teaches us very well. We get to learn useful words and phrases and it is a language that we will be able to speak nearly anywhere in the world. It's such a fun class & interesting language to learn."

You can't get a better testimonial than that!

We look forward to a great year ahead in all language classes.

Ms. Nader & Ms Hayden





Ben Nicol
Head Teacher HSIE



HSIE REPORT

Classes have begun the year positively with Year 7 Geography starting work on 'Landscapes and Landforms', Year 8 looking at 'Medieval History', Year 9 investigating 'Making a Nation' and Year 10 Geography have commenced their studies into 'Environmental Change and Management'.

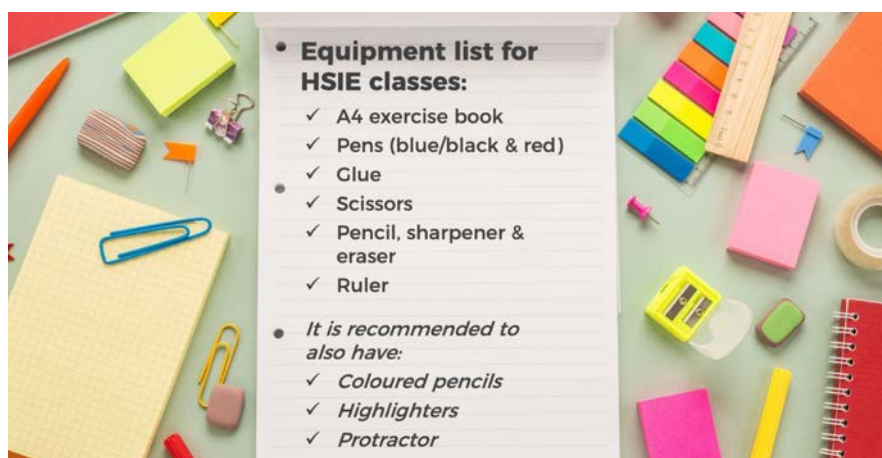
The HSIE faculty look forward to another successful year of learning at Kincumber High School. Most students have commenced in a productive and well-organised fashion. Just a reminder from us about the recommended equipment for all HSIE lessons →

Welcome back to another school year at KHS on behalf of the HSIE staff.

This year we have two changes to our staffing lineup. Firstly, we welcome back Mr Matt Hopkins who returns to us after a year away from KHS. We are thrilled that Mr Hopkins returns to us in 2024, he brings great expertise to our faculty and an asset to KHS. Secondly, I would like to welcome a new teacher to our school and to our HSIE family. In late 2023 we were fortunate to secure a central appointment of a fantastic first year teacher, Ms Jaiden Siedlecki. We are very fortunate to have Ms Siedlecki join our team. A passionate and engaging teacher, we are all very excited to be working with her this year.

If you are new to our school this year it will be important to note that we semesterise our junior HSIE curriculum in Years 7 to 10. This means that students will undertake a semester of study in History and Geography each year (two terms). These courses will be delivered by the same teacher but courses will change at the end of Term 2 with the new course commencing Term 3. See below for a summary of the semesterised courses for our 7-10 classes below.

Year	Semester 1 (Terms 1 & 2)	Semester 2 (Terms 3 & 4)
7	Geography	History
8	History	Geography
9	History	Geography
10	Geography	History



YEAR 12 BUSINESS STUDIES TARONGA ZOO OVERNIGHT EXCURSION

In Week 2, Year 12 Business Studies enjoyed the 'Zoo-Snooze' experience, which included a private evening walking tour of Taronga Zoo, followed by dinner with the elephants and multiple immersive classroom experiences with various wildlife. Our students also experienced the 'behind the scenes' of Taronga whilst investigating the main elements involved in the development and implementation of Taronga Zoo's successful marketing strategies. Thank you to Taronga Zoo, especially Lily and Kat for being wonderful hosts and providing our students with a wealth of information surrounding conservation and the business.



YEAR 12 GEOGRAPHY - CAIRNS TRIP UPDATES

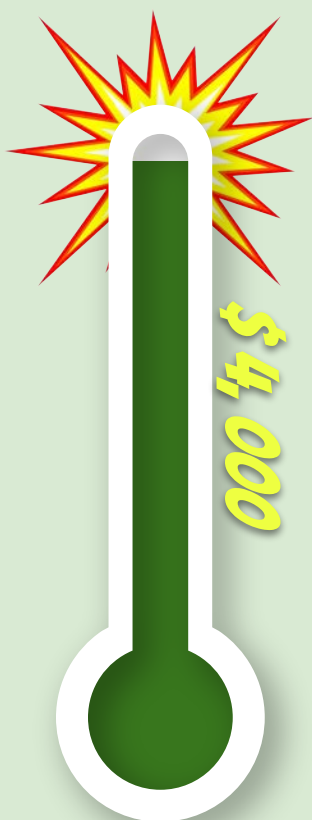
The Year 12 Geography Cairns trip is drawing nearer. Ms Crick and the students continue with their preparations this term as they prepare for departure in May.

Late last year students completed another pie drive through Thompson's Bakery, which along with BBQs and other initiatives concludes our planned fundraising events. Collectively we have raised around \$4000 to go towards the extra experiences on the trip and our bus travel to and from the airport.

Earlier this term students visited 5 Star Swim School in Kincumber in order to complete their swim test and demonstrate their swimming proficiency for the planned water-based activities on the trip. A big thanks to 5 Star Swim School for helping us out with this.

Ms Crick & Mr Nicol

FUND-OMETER

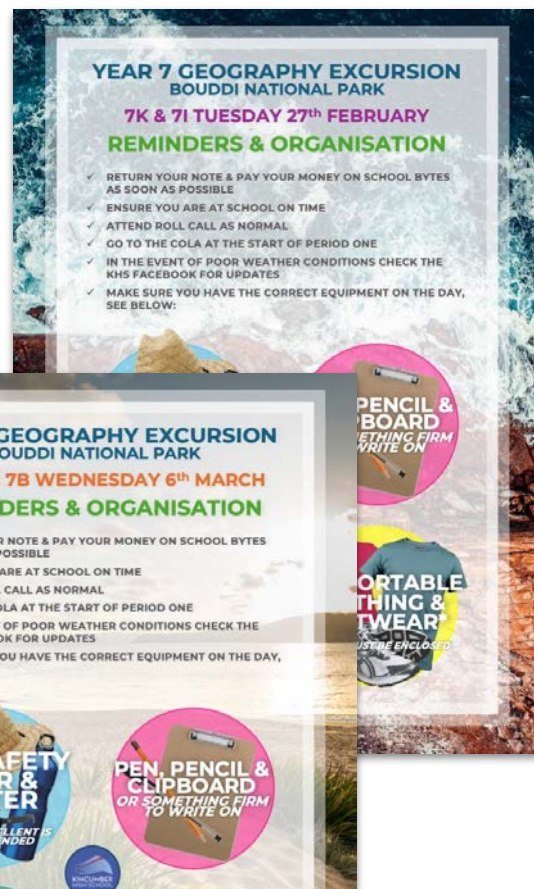


FIELDWORK EXCURSIONS

Term 1 is a busy term for the HSIE faculty with both Year 7 and Year 10 Geography undertaking their mandatory fieldwork through our excursions partnering once again with Rumbalara Environmental Education Centre. Permission notes have been issued through the School Bytes platform and payment can be made online or at the office.

Further information and reminders will be coming out in the lead up to Week 7 when the excursions take place. Keep an eye on our school social media for important updates if we have to make any changes on the day due to the weather.

As we have now moved to digital permission notes we have realised that families may miss the visual and physical reminder of upcoming excursions that the cover page of permission notes once provided. As a result we have developed some excursion reminders that can be put on the fridge at home to advise of the upcoming excursion dates, organisation for the days and equipment that students should have with them.





LIBRARY

The renovated Kincumber High School Library is set to open this March! We are excited to welcome students back to a buzzing space, filled with activities for everyone. The new-look library will contain state-of-the-art technology, sophisticated furniture and unique learning spaces. Once we are fully reopened, students are invited to come and explore the new library and partake in the range of opportunities offered within the dynamic space. From chess to podcasting, we have something for everyone. If parents, carers or students have any club or activity suggestions for the Library, please contact Miss McDonogh to discuss ideas further.

Literacy Circles involving year 10 student mentors and Year 7 students will also begin this term. Our outstanding Year 10 mentors will work closely with Miss McDonogh and Mrs Maljevac to help Year 7 students develop their literacy skills. Working in small groups, or literature circles, the students will read NAPLAN-style texts and discuss the content to determine meaning and purpose. This should be a rewarding experience for all involved.

The Premier's Reading Challenge (PRC) opened on the 26th of February. Students can now begin logging their read books via the PRC link in the Student Portal. Alternatively, students and parents can conduct an Internet search for the PRC (<https://online.det.nsw.edu.au/prc/home.html>) and log in using their student details. Students in Years 7-10 are required to read 20 books (10 must be from the PRC Booklist). The competition closes 23rd of August. A big congratulations to Jay Kelaher (Year 10), Casey Kepper (Year 11) and Sophia Milne (Year 11) for completing the PRC in 2023 and receiving their PRC Medals. These students have consistently participated in the PRC throughout their schooling years and they are to be commended for their commitment to lifelong reading and learning.

Miss McDonogh



Upcoming LIBRARY EVENTS

11
MAR

Debating Incursion Day

Students will participate in an internal KHS debating competition, with coaching, to prepare for upcoming interschool challenges.

28
MAR

Chess Tournament Incursion

A Sydney Academy of Chess coach will visit our school for the day to coach students and host an internal tournament.



Artwork by Sami Bayly

NSW Department of Education

2024 NSW Premier's Reading Challenge

Start reading now!

www.premiersreadingchallenge.nsw.edu.au

Key dates for students in K-10:

Challenge opens
Monday 26 February
Challenge closes
for student entries
Friday 23 August

ALUMNI REPORT



A new space to celebrate the achievements of our exceptional past students.

Jake Lidster, Neil Roberts, Jacob Johnston & Ayrton Gilbert (2018)

This talented crew, along with their friend Cooper, are the band Jan. They first united in high school music lessons and regularly performed for the school on Thursday assemblies. They perform at venues all over the Central Coast, most notably at Drifter's Wharf for their second birthday celebrations, and they have played in Newcastle and Wollongong. With the release of their sophisticated and successful track "A place to be alone," the boys have plans to tour throughout 2024.

Beyond their musical talents, each band member has achieved success. Neil Roberts, the 2018 Principal's Award Recipient, works with the Commonwealth Bank in cyber security. Jacob is set to finish his Software Engineering Degree at Macquarie University. Ayrton Gilbert runs his own successful carpentry business, Ayrton Gilbert Carpentry. Last but not least, Jake Lidster is set to begin his studies in Music Teaching at the University of Western Sydney, having received a NSW Department of Education scholarship to support him in this venture.

Check the guys out on social media and keep track of where the year takes them!

<https://linktr.ee/jan.band>



Jan Band - From left to right: Jacob Johnston, Ayrton Gilbert, Jake Lidster, Cooper and Neil Roberts.



Jan at Drifter's Wharf, 2nd of December, 2023.

ALUMNI REPORT



Gabi Ajala (2022)

Gabi, a former School Captain and active member of our school Leadership Team, has packed a lot into the year since she left school, and there are no plans to stop!

Gabi began studying Primary Education at the University of Newcastle at the start of 2023, but decided to put her studies on hold for a gap year to work and eventually head overseas.

She has been working as a Teacher's Aide at a local primary school, which she has found both rewarding and challenging. Gabi is set to head off to the United States in June to work at a summer camp in Pennsylvania. She will, no doubt, be able to put her school teaching skills and gymnastic coaching abilities to expert use in a summer camp setting! Gabi has also worked at GEM Gymnastics Academy for many years.

Public Education is lucky to have exceptional young teachers like Gabi and we look forward to hearing how her teaching career progresses after her adventures in 2024.



Gabi Ajala

Our former students are up to amazing things and we are keen to celebrate their achievements.

Please feel free to share your alumni stories with us at kincumber-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au

LIGHTING DESIGN & SUPPLY

AVOCA
— LIGHTING —

<https://avocalighting.com.au/>

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AND ASSOCIATES
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