



CONTACT



VOLUME 20—ISSUE 18

30 NOVEMBER 2012

NSW Department of Education & Training

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Upcoming Events

3 December
Big Day Out—Stanhope Pools
P&C Meeting

5 December
Year 10 Formal

6 December
Periods 1 & 2—Presentation
Day rehearsal
Periods 3 & 4—Year 10 Gradu-
ation rehearsal

7 December
Year 10 Graduation 9-11am

10 December
Presentation Day Ceremony
11am
Period 5 Rehearsal for Service
to the School Assembly

13 December
Service to the School Assem-
bly 12 o'clock

14 December
Contact issued
Support Unit excursion

17 December
Reports issued

19 December
Students finish

SCHOOL SPECTACULAR

Last Friday evening I was fortunate enough to attend the 12th Annual Public School's Spectacular at the Sydney Entertainment Centre. The performances were magnificent and made me very proud to be a Principal at a public high school. Our students who participated in this wonderful exposé of creative energy which was aptly called "Our Time," represented our school with distinction. Congratulations to Miss Bree Mutch for their commitment to this statewide initiative and providing our talented students with the opportunity to be a part of this wonderful program.

SWIM SCHOOL

Over the past 2 weeks I have had the opportunity to go and visit our Year 7 and 8 students participating in the annual swim school programs at Blacktown pools. It is amazing to watch the team work, communication and coordination skills that this program develops in our students. Congratulations again go to Mr Barry, Mr Blench and all the PE staff on providing such a wonderful program for our students. Witnessing the development of some of our student's leadership skills, particularly the junior instructors involved in this program, is once again another measure of the success of this initiative.

SCHOOL WEBSITE

The school has continued to update information for parents on our school website. Mrs Cooper has been busy adding the 2013 school calendar, as well as the Year 9 and 10 Assessment Booklets for 2013 and the *Curriculum Handbook*, which details all the courses and subjects we offer here at QHHS. I would encourage all parents to take the time to look at the website as they prepare your child for the new school year.

WHEN YOUR TEEN'S NEW BEST FRIEND IS A BAD INFLUENCE

Best friends are a key part of adolescents' lives. But what do you do when you suspect your child's best buddy is a bad

influence? Experts discuss different approaches.

Find out more: <http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/wellbeing/behaviour/when-your-teens-new-best-friend-is-a-bad-influence>

EXPLORING CAREERS BY SUBJECT

Help your child to broaden their ideas about work and career paths. Bullseye posters have been designed to help your child assess career and training options based on 33 subjects. Each includes sample career biographies by young people. Find out more: <http://www.deewr.gov.au/Schooling/CareersandTransitions/CareerDevelopment/Resources/Pages/CareerBullseyeposters.aspx>

WORK AND STUDY ADVICE

There is a range of school staff who can help your child navigate their way through study and training options. Student support is provided by key people such as careers advisers, transition advisers, year advisers and school counsellors. Find out more: <http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/leavingschool/schoolleaveage/options/atyourservice.php>

Have a good week

Lauretta Claus, Principal

DEPUTY PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

SCHOOL UNIFORM – GETTING READY FOR NEXT YEAR

School uniform is a greatly valued component of our school culture and all students are expected to be in full school uniform every day. This is well supported by parents and teachers. At the recent Year 10 Orientation Day at Wyndham our students looked outstanding in their impeccable uniform and were fine ambassadors for our school community. Well Done Year 10.

School holidays are fast approaching however I would like to remind parents and students to be prepared. Please plan ahead if uniform items need to be purchased in preparation for the new school year. The Uniform Shop (located in the school quad) will be open during the following hours:

Wednesday 23rd, Thursday 24th, Friday 25th January 2013 from 8:00am- 1:00pm
Tuesday 29th, Wednesday 30th and Thursday 31 January 2013 from 2:00- 4:00pm
From Monday 4th February 2013 (normal school hours): Mondays 8:10- 9:30am

Correct footwear is essential for safety and satisfying WHS requirements. All students must be wearing plain black (no other colour or design on the shoe), leather upper, fully enclosed shoes.

NEW AUSTRALIAN CURRICULUM

This term the English, Maths, Science and HSIE K – 10 NSW syllabus documents have been released. These syllabus documents are the result of an extensive review and development providing greater alignment of curriculum across all Australian states and territories. The staff have commenced an extensive planning process in preparation to develop and implement innovative programs addressing the new syllabus. The official implementation timeline is as follows:

2014 - English, Maths, Science, HSIE Years 7 – 9
2015 – English, Maths, Science, HSIE Years 8 – 10

A Parents' Guide to the New NSW Syllabus K – 10 released by the Board of Studies is included in this issue of Contact.

Therese Hourigan

PARENTS' GUIDE



TO THE NEW NSW K-10 SYLLABUSES

WHAT IS THE AUSTRALIAN CURRICULUM?

The Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA), in collaboration with states and territories, has developed agreed Australian curriculum for English, Mathematics, Science and History. Each of these learning areas includes content statements that represent essential learning for all Australian students.

HOW IS AUSTRALIAN CURRICULUM BEING IMPLEMENTED IN NSW?

In NSW, the Board of Studies has worked closely with teachers and key education stakeholders to develop syllabuses that include Australian curriculum content and further detail that clarifies learning. As a result of this work, Kindergarten to Year 10 syllabuses provide direction to ensure greater consistency between NSW schools.

WHEN WILL THE NEW SYLLABUSES INCORPORATING AUSTRALIAN CURRICULUM BE TAUGHT IN NSW?

Year	K-6	Years 7-10
2013	All schools in NSW will continue to teach the current syllabuses.	
2014	All schools will teach the new English syllabus. The teaching of the new Mathematics, and Science and Technology syllabuses is optional.	For Years 7 and 9, all schools will teach the new English, Mathematics, Science and History syllabuses.
2015	All schools will teach the new Mathematics and Science and Technology syllabuses. The teaching of the new History syllabus is optional.	For Years 8 and 10, all schools will teach the new English, Mathematics, Science and History syllabuses.
2016	All schools will teach the new History syllabus.	

WHAT WILL MY CHILD LEARN AT SCHOOL?

The new syllabuses build on the strength of the existing NSW curriculum. Many features of the new K–10 English, Mathematics, Science (incorporating Science and Technology K–6) and History syllabuses are retained. Literacy and

numeracy remain important areas of focus in K–6, where essential foundation skills are developed.

The syllabuses identify the knowledge, understanding, skills, values and attitudes that students are expected to develop in each learning area. They are designed to provide flexibility for teachers to develop their teaching and learning programs to meet the needs of their students.

K–6

English

- Students develop their language skills through activities involving speaking and listening, reading and writing, and viewing and representing.
- They learn about language and literature through working with a wide range of print, spoken, visual, media, multimedia and digital texts.
- They interpret and express their views on what they hear, see and read.
- They create written and digital texts, and deliver formal and informal presentations.
- For the first time, there will be a requirement that students experience a range of texts including Australian works, multiculturalism, Aboriginality and Australian identity, and Asian perspectives.
- There is an increased emphasis on grammar and the teaching of quality literature.

Mathematics

- Students develop their mathematical knowledge, skills and understanding through a range of learning experiences across:
 - number and algebra, eg whole numbers and fractions and decimals
 - measurement and geometry, eg length, area and time
 - statistics and probability, eg data and chance.
- They develop their problem-solving skills, and mathematical reasoning and communication.
- Students in Stage 3 develop a deeper understanding in statistics and probability.

Science and Technology

- Students develop their skills in using processes of Working Scientifically and Working Technologically to answer interesting questions and develop creative solutions to important 21st century problems.
- They develop their curiosity and understanding about the Natural Environment and the Made Environment through learning about the Physical World, Earth and Space, the Living World, the Material World, Built Environments, Information and Products.
- Students learn about the influence and relevance of science and technology in their lives now and in the future.

History

- Students investigate their personal, family and community history.
- They develop understanding of Australia's Indigenous and colonial history and how Australia became a nation.
- Students learn about:
 - historical concepts such as viewing an historical event from a different point of view
 - historical skills, such as using historical sources for an investigation.

YEARS 7–10

English

- Students build on and refine their language skills through activities involving speaking and listening, reading and viewing, and writing and representing.
- They learn about language and literature through working with a wide range of print, spoken, visual, media, multimedia and digital texts.
- They interpret and express their views on what they hear, see and read.
- They create written and digital texts, and deliver formal and informal presentations.
- Students study a wider range of texts that give them experience of quality literature, Australian works, multiculturalism, Aboriginality and Australian identity, and Asian perspectives.

Mathematics

- Students develop their mathematical knowledge, skills and understanding through a range of learning experiences across:
 - number and algebra, eg financial mathematics, ratios and rates, and equations
 - measurement and geometry, eg angle relationships, trigonometry and Pythagoras' theorem
 - statistics and probability, eg data collection and representation.
- They develop their problem-solving skills, and mathematical reasoning and communication.
- Students develop a deeper understanding of statistics and probability.

Science

- Students develop their skills in science inquiry through hands-on practical experiences, including student research projects.
- They further develop their understanding about how evidence-based scientific knowledge explains the Physical World, Earth and Space, the Living World and the Chemical World.
- Students learn more about the importance of the contribution and influence of science in their own lives and in finding solutions to personal, social and global issues.

History

- Students gain a broad understanding of world and Australian history from ancient to modern times through the teaching of historical overviews.
- They gain a deeper knowledge of history through the study of depth studies such as Ancient India, the Ottoman Empire and Japan under the Shoguns.
- Students learn about 20th century Australian history through the Australians at War and Rights and Freedoms depth studies.
- They experience an inquiry-based approach to learning, developing key historical skills in research, source analysis and communication.

In addition to subject-based content, all syllabuses address important contemporary themes and general capabilities as students prepare to live and work successfully in the 21st century. These include Australian curriculum cross-curriculum priorities and general capabilities and other learning across the curriculum areas identified by the Board of Studies.

Cross-curriculum priorities	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories and cultures Asia and Australia's engagement with Asia Sustainability
General capabilities	Critical and creative thinking Ethical understanding Information and communication technology capability Intercultural understanding Literacy Numeracy Personal and social capability
Other learning across the curriculum areas	Civics and citizenship Difference and diversity Work and enterprise

WHERE CAN I FIND MORE INFORMATION?

Parents page on the Board of Studies website: <http://www.boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au/parents>

Board of Studies NSW syllabuses website: <http://syllabuses.bos.nsw.edu.au>

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