FROM THE YEAR ADVISERS

Year 11/12

Welcome to the final stretch of high school! Congratulations to all our new Year 12 students on successfully completing the Preliminary course and particularly to those students who made great improvement in their results over the past three terms. The positive attitude required to lift results indicates strength of character which will be invaluable in the coming year. Congratulations also to the students who achieved excellent progress reports in the recent assessments:

Andrew Chan, Leon Fung, Krishanth Nadarajah, Vinay Halasagi, Martin Hu, Richard Kong, Nikhil Krishnan, Jason Lay-Kennedy, Charles Leu, Julian Li, Treves Li, David Ma, Rohan Rathod, Isaiah Rhee, Darren Shen, Gavin Tam, Nathan Teoh, Brindhan Tharmarajah, Jailu Xu, Adrian Yiu, Jason Yue, Zhi Nicholase Zeng, Eric Zhu-Liang

Year 11 teachers consistently advise students to concentrate on four main areas for success in the HSC:

1. Participation in class to test out and consolidate ideas
2. A consistent home study program of at least three hours per night to revise and to generate teacher feedback
3. Effective exam preparation throughout the year and not just the night before and
4. Effective exam technique tailored to correct time management appropriate for each subject and question type.

Summary of Calendar Events in Term 4, 2011

| Week 6 | 14-18 Nov | Year 8&9 Yearly Exams |
|        |          | Year 10 Work Experience |
|        | Tue 15 Nov | P&C Meeting (AGM) 7:30pm |
|        | Wed 16 Nov | Auxiliary Meeting (AGM) 9:30am |
| Week 7 | Mon 21 Nov | Year 10 Peer Support Training and Driver Education |
|        |          | School Council Meeting (AGM) 6pm |
|        | Tue 22 Nov | Year 8 ESSA Online Test |
|        | 23 & 24 Nov | Enrolment Day for Year 7 2012 |
|        | Fri 25 Nov | High Resolves Year 9 |
| Week 8 | 28 Nov-2 Dec | Year 10 Camp |
|        | Tues 29 Nov | Year 9 Coed Day |
| Week 9 | Mon 5 Dec | Orientation Day |
|        | Tues 6 Dec | “John Treloar” Gym Dedication |
|        | Wed 7 Dec | Music Concert - Hall 10am |
|        | 8 & 9 Dec | Year 12 Study Camp |
| Week 10 | Mon 12 Dec | Student Leadership Conference |
|         | Tues 13 Dec | International Day |
|         | Wed 14 Dec | Presentation Day |
|         | Thu 15 Dec | Class of 2011 Morning tea 11:00am |
|         | Fri 16 Dec | Last day of term for students |

Summary of Calendar Events in Term 1, 2012

| Week 1 | Fri 27 Jan | Staff Development Day (no students) |
| Week 2 | Mon 30 Jan | Year 11&12 return 8:50am |
|        |          | Year 7 commences 11:30am |
|        | Tues 31 Jan | Year 8, 9 & 10 return 8:50am |
| Week 11 | Thu 5 April | Last day of term |
Study groups are also recommended as an effective way to offer support and share the knowledge of the whole cohort. These collaborative skills will be stimulated and developed more fully in Week 9 at the Year 12 Study Camp.

Another valuable strategy recommended by our counsellors for adjusting to the demands of the HSC is the “Managing HSC Stress Program” conducted by the University of Technology Sydney. Their next program starts on 14 February 2012 and details can be collected from the Library.

Assessment tasks will begin in most subjects in Week 7 with the first HSC Assessment block in early March, 2012. Information regarding HSC Assessment Schedule and Policy can be found in the two documents distributed recently to all Year 12 at the Year meeting. All students should ensure they have a copy of these.

Please don’t hesitate to contact me with any concerns regarding your son’s progress and welfare. Good luck!

Joy Henderson - Relieving Year Adviser

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**Year 10**

Term 4 is here and this is going to be an intense one for Year 10. In the second week students were treated to three days of final exams. Nothing like a Mathematics Extension paper to get the blood pumping! On the 7 November the School Certificate tests commenced. The following week on 14 November many will receive their first taste of “real” work. For five days the students will be placed out in the workforce to learn what earning a wage is all about.

Week 7 brings a combination of Peer Support for the Year 8s and Driver Education, coordinated by Ms Willima. A core group of peer support leaders will be selected to participate later in the term.

The camp this year has been thoughtfully planned to provide the young men with engaging challenges and high adventure. This is an event not to be missed. The students have been reminded to pack carefully and bring all the items on the supplied list. The location is set on a beautiful part of the Shoalhaven River, west of Nowra. Wildlife in the form of wallabies, wombats and the occasional goanna can be found.

In the previous Falcon Bulletin report I mentioned a large number of sporting awards. This time I have several academic ones to announce.

Allan Chen received a medal for the outstanding achievement of 1st place in the State in the ICAS Mathematics Competition. Tim Huang and Leslie Lay-Kennedy received Prize Certificates in the Australian Mathematics Competition (AMC) and also High Distinctions in the prestigious UNSW Annual Mathematics Competition. Albert Zhou, Allen Chen and Mehul Gajwani received Credits in this same competition.

These students also did really well in the US-based National Latin Exam. Albert Zhou won a Gold award (he was among the top 5% or so of the entrants) and Mehul Gajwani, Lancelot Chen and Glenn Clothier won Silver awards.

Noah Stammbach has won first prize ($2000 for the school, $500 for himself plus $200 of art supplies) in the Concept Radical Art Competition at the University of Melbourne with his artwork entitled “Targeted”.

International Day has been organised for Tuesday 13 December (Week 10). This is where the many diverse backgrounds represented at the school are able to display their traditional style of food (and dress). So, all aspiring cooks, expect a call from me later in the term. Any student wishing to form part of the organising committee, for this very important event, can see me any time.

My advice to the Year 10 student body is to stay focussed and exercise your self-organisational skills.

Best of luck for the School Certificate exams.

Peter Stidston - Year Adviser

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**Year 9**

The year has flown by and Year 9 continues to impress with their enthusiasm and positive attitude. The Year 9 High Resolves team has worked efficiently and effectively in developing their School Action Project which aims to change students’ perspectives about Healthy Living. The Healthy Lifestyle week will occur in Week 7 this term and the boys have created many exciting initiatives including walking to school, a healthy cook-off and a dodgeball competition (which will put students against the athletic might of the teachers). I look forward to seeing this terrific week! All members of the team need to be commended for their hard work and ability to work cooperatively.

Before the High Resolves week, Year 9 will sit their yearly examinations. It’s important that the boys
study and thoroughly revise all their work they have done this year to achieve results reflective of their high capabilities. If they are struggling to manage their time, please encourage them to see me or their teachers to assist them. Full school summer uniform must be worn in examinations. I wish them well in their examinations and I know I will see great results in their reports.

Congratulations must go to William Ko who performed outstandingly in the National Robocup championship where he came (a close) second in the Rescue division. This is great news for William and I’m sure he’ll continue his robotics prowess in the future.

Finally, this year’s camp was a great success. The view was amazing out on Jervis Bay and the boys were excellent in meeting the new challenges of “real” camping including cooking on trangias, setting up their own tents and activities such as snorkelling and mountain biking. The attending teachers were very impressed with the grade and I hope the boys look forward to next year’s expedition.

Keep up the great work Year 9!

Kate Richards - Year Adviser

From the Mailbag:

Dear Ms Hughes,

I recently accompanied our senior Robotics team to Hobart to compete in the National Robocup Competition. One of your students, William Ko travelled with us and entered the Rescue competition. William is to be commended on his excellent skill, commitment and sportsmanship.

He had built and programmed a robot that consistently met the increasingly demanding challenges of the competition and was acknowledged with applause by the crowd after many successful rescues. After out performing competition throughout the day William’s robot had some trouble in the final and in a shock loss he came second in the National Comp for the Rescue division. He was naturally disappointed but showed great sportsmanship. His robot design and programming was fittingly further recognised with him being awarded Best Rescue of the competition.

It was a pleasure having William as part of our group.

Matthew Dopierala
Head Teacher TAS
Fort Street High School

Year 8

As the end of the year draws closer, it is my privilege to undertake the role of Year 8 adviser and see first-hand the achievements that have made this term such a success, in particular the enormous number of Year 8 boys who have received Bronze (30 merit points) and Silver (60 merit points) awards this year. It is an absolute joy for me to be able to celebrate such great accomplishments, which are especially outstanding from junior students. Many of the boys are so close to also reaching these awards, so please continue to show your Falcon Pride and be acknowledged for this.

A major highlight of this term was seeing Year 8 participate in the High Resolves Global Citizenship program which aims to develop students to become effective citizens and leaders. The entire year group displayed maturity, higher order thinking, and a positive attitude to look beyond their own lives and apply principles of fairness to global unjust situations. The boys proved that they are now more equipped with the confidence and skills necessary to tackle the challenges of the 21st century both individually and as a year group. The way in which they conducted themselves and worked collaboratively has made both the school and myself proud. I hope that the boys can use these skills to assist each other in the upcoming yearly exams and gain results that reflect their limitless abilities.

Overall this year the boys of Year 8 have shown vast improvements in all aspects of school life including uniform, arriving at school on time, team work and classwork. I encourage the boys to continue these efforts into Year 9 and aspire to achieve new personal bests.

Tania Linnertson – Relieving Year Adviser

Year 7

Wow, the year is almost over. Term 4 brought with it many new experiences for our boys including a recent ‘Snake Tails’ incursion where the boys got up close to some interesting reptiles. The following day the boys faced their other major fear – vaccinations.

It is almost that time of the year when the boys will be receiving their second and final report card for Year 7. I have been keenly following the boys progress since the first semester. I am confident the boys will maintain their successful start to the year.
In sporting news, a few of our boys participated in this year’s first derby of the Falcon Futsal Competition. Cameron Raspass, Connell Murphy, Harvey McGeorge and Lloyd Morrison enjoyed a tight win over their Year 8 counterparts. Both teams look likely to meet each other in the grand final. Our principal Ms Hughes was most proud of our boys for their fighting spirit and technique. The boys are also enjoying their newly extended Thursday lunchtime by participating and watching our 2012 Crawford Shield team in training.

As the year comes to a close, I have really enjoyed the bonds that the boys have formed with one another and myself. It’s most pleasing to walk around the playground and be greeted by a “Hello Mr Williams!” and smiles from ear to ear. The boys are fully entrenched in all things NSB and I can’t wait to continue with them in 2012.

*Chay Williams - Year Adviser*

**Debating Report**

Debating workshops and competitions have been continuing this semester with students distinguishing themselves in a variety of competitions. Recently North Sydney Boys High competed against North Sydney Girls High in the Regional Quarter finals of the Premier’s Debating Challenge with the topic “Celebrities should not be involved in politics”. It was a close debate and even though the boys did not win, they demonstrated knowledge, determination and maturity.

We are looking forward to Week 9 when our traditional debating day against North Sydney Girls High will take place. All students will have an opportunity to debate and win certificates and prizes. Students also need to start thinking if they would like to participate next year in the new and invigorated Debating Program. There will be meetings at the end of the year to inform students of all the wonderful debating opportunities offered in 2012.

*Annika Fretze - Coordinator*

**Duke of Edinburgh**

The Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme at the school is back to running at full strength after a period of rebuilding. We have a new location in the school in B block with improved office space and storage, which has allowed us to centralise our equipment and invest in new camping equipment for adventurous journeys.

We have also sorted out the backlog of award approvals and are now fully on line with the new web based record system. This year a number of participants have received their Bronze Awards. The new system has been a major change in the running of the scheme and will make the Award Scheme easier and more interactive for the participants as well as ensuring uniform standards Australia wide.

One direct benefit of the web based record for the school is that we will be able to increase the number of participants entering the scheme in Year 9 from twenty to thirty and be more flexible with numbers in the senior years.

This year we have run four adventurous journeys at Bronze level and look forward to the journeys for next year. All notices are placed on the school intranet which is available to both students and parents. One of the goals for next year is to encourage greater parent involvement which has been difficult to achieve over the last few years due to the changes taking place in the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme.

It is very rewarding to see the number of participants going through the award. To complete the award takes time and commitment and due to our limited resources we have to outsource the adventurous journey component in the Silver and Gold Awards. All participants at the school are expected to work through the award system starting at Bronze which gives them achievable goals and an holistic experience.

It is hoped that we will be able to grow the award system at the school over the next few years and offer the opportunity to more students in the future.

*Warwick Havyatt - Coordinator*

**Music**

**Ensembles Concert**

Your last chance to hear many of our Music Ensembles this year!!

Most of our music ensembles will be presenting a concert on Wednesday 7 December at 10:00am. All parents and friends are welcome to attend this free concert which will also have an appreciative audience of 130 Year 6 Neutral Bay Primary School students. The concert will run for approximately 70 minutes.
**Pinchgut Opera Prize for Music Performance**

Pinchgut Opera has offered a unique opportunity to our music students. This November/December Pinchgut Opera will present the rarely performed, beautiful Vivaldi opera “Griselda” in the City Recital Hall Angel Place. The company is offering the school three tickets to this opera as prizes for excellence in music to be presented at our Presentation Day on Wednesday 14 December. A member of Pinchgut Opera will also talk to the students about this wonderful music and how an opera is put together.

If any of the school community would like to attend this Australian premier of Vivaldi’s last opera from the height of his career, please ring 02 8256 2222 or book on line at www.cityrecitalhall.com.au. Pinchgut Opera is also willing to arrange group discount for parents or students. Please contact Anna on 02 9389 8117. “Griselda” is performed on Wed 30 Nov at 7.30pm, Sat 3 Dec at 7.30pm, Sunday 4 Dec at 5pm and Mon 5 Dec at 7.30pm.

**Northern Sydney Regional Choir 2012**

Applications are now open for students to participate in the Northern Sydney Regional Choir 2012. Students in Years 5-12 attending government schools in the Northern Sydney Region are encouraged to apply. The choir encourages, nurtures and inspires talented vocalists by providing high quality training and performance opportunities. The choir consists of soprano, alto, tenor and bass voices. There are regional choirs in many regions across NSW, which provide opportunities for state wide repertoire selection and performances.

Auditions will take place late November and early December at Beecroft Public School and Killarney Heights High School. Further information is available on the CAPA noticeboard (top floor J Block).