

# The **LINKUP** Newsletter

Term 2

| July 2018

| Issue 28



# Principal's Message



## Principals Report Term 2 2018

**Term 2 has brought about some incredible success at Plumpton High School.**

This success has extended across the worlds of academic success in Science Technology Engineering Art and Mathematics through winning the Full STEAM Ahead competition at the Powerhouse Museum, an amazing effort by Mr Rozario and his team. Eight of our outstanding young leaders in Year 11 participated in the Women in Leadership Focus course in partnership with ABCN and American Express in the city over 3 days. In the Sporting Realm Plumpton won both the Athletics and Cross Country Zone carnivals for the second consecutive year and our boys under 14 Buckley Shield rugby leagues team qualifying for the round NSW quarterfinal round of 16 having been undefeated during the Gala Day earlier in Term 2, congratulations to Mr Lowe and his team. Forty-one of our dancers performed at a very high level in the Synergy dance festival, congratulations to Ms Leihn, Ms Jones and Ms Chandra. Our outstanding dance program is gaining an increased profile with approximately 150 students engaged in it, with five highly qualified dance teachers. The term concluding with Higher School Certificate Trial examinations over weeks 9 and 10.

### KEY DATES

#### Term 3 2018

- 24 Jul First Day of Term 3
- 31 Jul Parent Teacher Night
- 10-21 Sep Year 11 Yearly Exams
- 27 Sep Year 12 Graduation

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## Visit by Mr Murat Dizdar - Deputy Secretary, School Operations & Performance



Plumpton High School welcomed the Deputy Secretary, School Operations & Performance, Mr Murat Dizdar to our great school today. Our students and staff presented a snapshot of the innovative and creative high quality teaching and learning undertaken at Plumpton. We lived a lesson in the integrating of Language, computer science and robotics to provide students the capabilities they require to be successful global entrepreneurs and citizens. Part of lesson 1 explored our literacy strategy incorporating the Accelerated Reader program to improve capacity of students that is enabling them to access the curriculum at a higher level.



Lesson 2 surrounded the integration of Media Industry Studies and corporate partnerships in developing students for their future through the development of a comprehensive school communication strategy in partnership with The ABC. Students developing portfolios of work in

the media industry to utilise in gaining access to university. Lesson 2 also investigated the STEM world of the metal trades industry and integration of computer aided drafting/design using plasma cutters and other digital industry standard tools.

Lesson 3 investigated student and staff wellbeing, leadership and capacity building frameworks and strategies at Plumpton. This involved our School Captains, Vice-Captains, Deputy Principals and the Principal discussing our evidence-based approach.

Our students and staff express our thanks to Mr Dizdar for taking time to understand what we are doing to implement a significant cultural shift in our school that is resulting in excellent student growth and achievement as well as the developing of high quality leaders and educators.







# Principal's Message

## Innovation Nation Amplify Coaching Event

Congratulations to the 4 Plumpton Teams who submitted a grant application this term in the Innovation Nation Amplify event where they were successful in winning \$1000 for each group to fund their social enterprise businesses. The money will be put towards the next component of the competition. This competition builds entrepreneurial skills that enable students to be innovative and creative whilst developing business acumen and a social oriented mindset.



## Congratulations Virginia Mathews – Deputy Principal 30 Years of Service

During his visit, Mr Dizdar also congratulated our Deputy Principal, Mrs Virginia Mathews upon her 30 years of service with The Department of Education presenting her with a 30 Years of Service Certificate. As a school, we also congratulate Mrs Mathews upon her highly successful career and this significant milestone, recognising the exceptional teacher and leader that she is. Virginia leads significant projects in our school including our Teaching and Learning compliance process, Project Based Learning and Health and Safety. Virginia came to Plumpton High School originally as a Teacher Mentor supporting the Beginning teachers, a highly successful program that continues today with 25 beginning teachers currently participating and the role shared between two head teachers.



## Full STEAM Ahead Championship Winning Team

Plumpton finished Phase 4 of the Full STEAM (Science Technology Engineering Art and Mathematics) Ahead excursion at the Powerhouse House Museum this term. We selected 20 students for the program with eight of them chosen to take part in the next phases.

During the competition, our students had to join teams with students from different schools to work on a project. There were two winners in this competition and we are exceptionally proud to announce that Plumpton students were one of the winners.

At the Powerhouse, our students had opportunities to work with and use cutting-edge real world technology available now, such as 3D printers, Virtual Reality controllers, Thinkershield programming using Arduino, game design with Unity, etc...

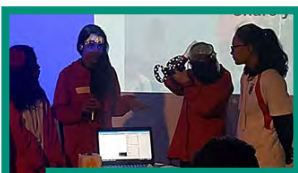
Congratulations to Mr Rozario and his team of highly committed problem solvers and thinkers. What an incredible result from our students' demonstrating the ongoing commitment of teachers and students to being courageous and challenging themselves. This also demonstrates the possibilities for students in Western Sydney and allows others to learn from their success.



This result is a testament to the hard work we have been undertaking as a school over the last 2-3 years in the Science Technology Engineering Art and Mathematics (STEAM) space. It is ensuring we are providing opportunities for our students to gain the necessary capabilities required for employment in this century.

Paula, Bryce, Jade and Katherine were in the winning group and they led and managed most of the creative design and presentational aspects. Michael, Mark, Riley and Karl also worked hard. The Plumpton teams showed high levels of motivation, enthusiasm, respect and effort with their creation and learning.

The winners visited the Technology Lab at the Commonwealth Bank in mid-June. Congratulations to these students.



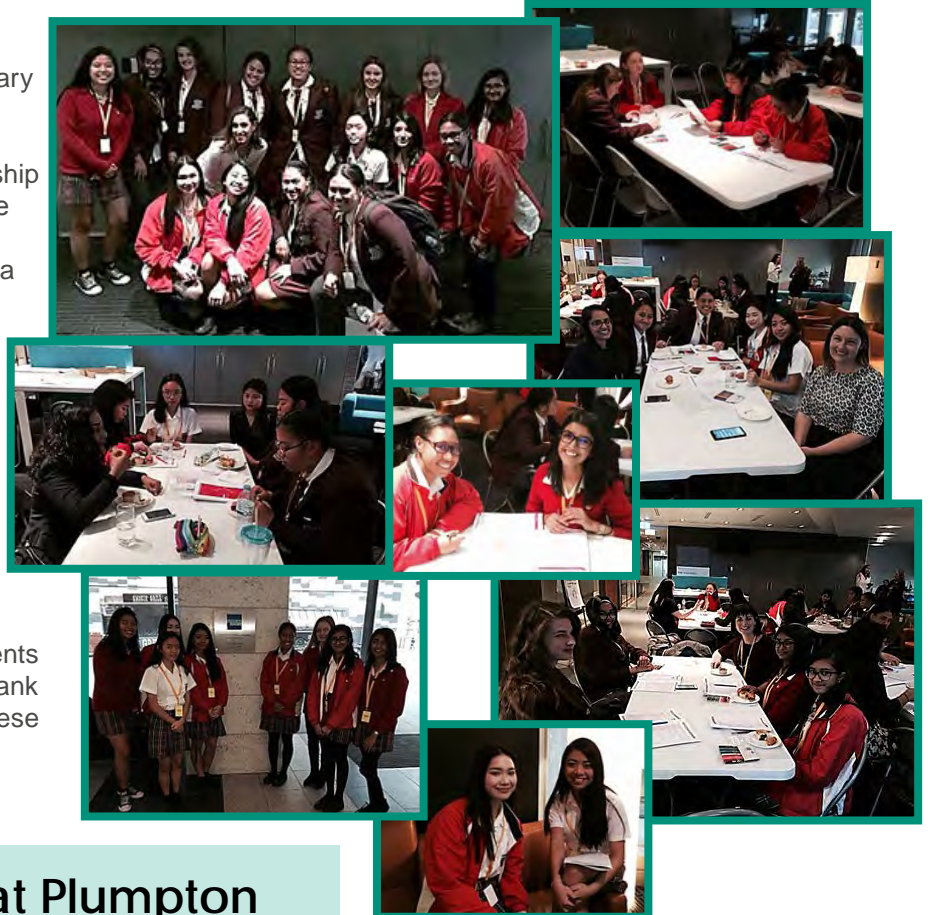


# Principal's Message



## Focus – Women in Leadership Course ABCN and American Express

As principal, it is always rewarding to see our students developing the necessary capacity to be the leaders of tomorrow. I took 8 of our Year 11 girls to the third session of one of our Women in Leadership courses 'Focus' on Friday of Week 6. We run this in partnership with ABCN and American Express with students having a course facilitator and individual mentors. They develop an understanding of what is possible and realise that they too, through hard work can gain positions in the corporate world. Our young women were exceptional and are continuing their leadership journeys with highly skilled and supportive mentors, providing guidance and advice in navigating this world. Courses such as these are continuing to open doors, networks and opportunities for our students they did not know existed previously. Thank you ABCN and American Express for these amazing opportunities.



## Tesla Electric Car at Plumpton with Plumpton Engineering Students



Hon. Ed Husic MP visited Plumpton High School with a representative from the Tesla company and a Tesla electric car. The 3 top students from stage 5 Engineering course learnt about the car and its array of cutting edge technologies. This was a very exciting opportunity for our students. This initiative builds upon the innovative work our school is undertaking in the engineering space, with many students studying engineering through our courses including the F1 in Schools gifted and talented international competition that is set at a second year university level. Plumpton has been successful NSW Champions on multiple occasions.



## Congratulations Adam Obaidi of Year 9

Adam Obaidi was recognised on assembly for his amazing achievement being selected by Cricket NSW in the U15s team, putting him on track to play for NSW one day!





# Principal's Message

## Plumpton High School Student, Razi Uddin Selected to Attend Prestigious UBS Finance Academy

Razi Uddin is one of 40 year 11 high school students from across NSW who has demonstrated an interest in finance and has been chosen to attend the prestigious UBS Finance Academy to be held in Sydney next week.

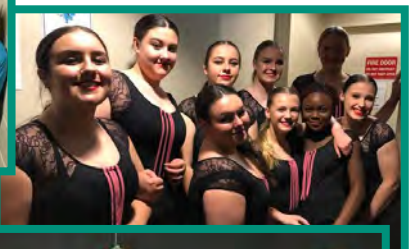


"The UBS Finance Academy is integral to UBS's commitment to nurture Australia's future talent," said Matthew Grounds, UBS Chief Executive Officer, Australasia. "We are proud that the Academy is in its 16th year. The UBS Finance Academy supplements our suite of educational programs which have provided educational guidance and assistance to more than 6,400 school students to date."

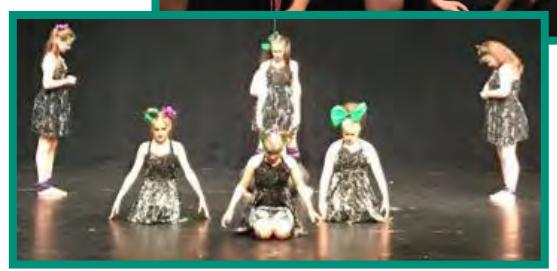
During the week long fully subsidised residential course, attendees gain a first-hand insight into financial markets the operations of a bank and the many career paths open to them, some of which they previously wouldn't know existed. Students meet key industry players as well as gain a practical and working knowledge of financial markets via workshops, 'day in the life of' presentations, mock case studies and a visit to UBS's trading floor amongst other activities.

A number of previous students have gone on to pursue a career in finance, one of which is Jessie Zhuang who attended the UBS Finance Academy in 2014 and now works at UBS. "As my exposure to the world of finance was previously limited to economics studies at school, the Academy was an eye opening experience for me" she said. "The UBS Finance Academy gave me the opportunity to broaden my horizon with respect to finance and financial markets. By providing an introduction to various markets, concepts, and sectors including that of M&A, Fixed Income and Equities Research, this helped me shape my future career and study aspirations. Additionally, the leadership and public speaking content in the Academy helped me to develop the skills and confidence to pursue a challenging career in this highly dynamic industry."

## Outstanding Plumpton High School Dance Program



Congratulations to our students who recently qualified for and participated in the Synergy Dance Festival where they were able to display their skill and talent. As mentioned earlier Plumpton has an outstanding and well-recognised dance program that enables students to reach the highest level of dance possible in NSW. Students can enter the program from Year 5 through the gifted and talented dance program and study and perform dance to the HSC in Year 12. Currently approximately 150 students are enrolled in dance at Plumpton with 5 highly qualified dance teachers led by the Head Teacher of The Creative and Performing Arts Faculty, Ms Claire Leihn who is an experienced HSC examiner and marker and Ms Ashley Jones, a lead choreographer for the Schools Spectacular







# Principal's Message

## Outstanding Community Service Craig Black of Year 7



In today's society, we often hear the term "hero" applied to a sports person or a movie star. The Hawkesbury Police Area Command would like to introduce you to a real hero, 12 year old Craig Black. For the second year in a row, Craig has conducted his own community drive to support the visit by Windsor Police to Westmead Children's Hospital.

This year, Craig has presented to Windsor Police an incredible 1660 tubs of Play-Doh to be part of the donation to the children at the hospital. One thousand, six hundred and sixty tubs of Play -Doh! Craig has arranged his own fund raising and gaining support from Nelly's Warriors in St Clair, his teachers from Plumpton High and from the Toongabbie Hotel.

Craig delivered the Play-Doh to Windsor Police Station and his contribution was warmly welcomed by the Commander, Detective Superintendent Jim Stewart. Mr Stewart said, "It is young people like Craig that are the future of our community. We are very humbled that he has gotten behind our drive to support the children at Westmead Children's Hospital and thank him very much for his contribution."

The drive this year, with the support of heroes like Craig Black, promises to be the best ever.

## NSW Quarter Finalists Plumpton High School Buckley Shield Rugby League Team

As mentioned earlier, our U14 Buckley Shield Rugby League team have qualified for the NSW Quarter Finals having been undefeated during the Gala Day held earlier this term. Plumpton will now host a country school in the next round. Congratulations to Mr Lowe and the following students: Andrew Peleti, Anthony Tulua, BJ Ruapuna, Brayden Turnbull, Brian Levi, Elijah Carless, Ethan Rushworth, Henry Neemia, Isaac Baltazar, Jago Crofts, Jaimee Buie, Jesse Esera, Johradan Leaia, Jorde Enosa, Lupeni Latu, Marbam Wichmann, Mason Baker, Rapture Tafemaalii, Rhys Avia, Sam Perez Mato, Samuel Reid and Usman Ahmed.



## Supporting your children's mental health during the holidays

I have included essential reading 'Supporting your young person during the holidays' for all parents and carers. Please take the time to read and act on the recommendations included in the Headspace School Support document, as it will help you as parents and carers to support your children to stay in a healthy headspace in school holidays. There are also contact details contained in the document that may also be of assistance in times of need.





# Supporting your young person during the holidays



## Holidays can take students away from friends and their usual school supports.

Changes to routine can cause some young people to feel stressed, isolated and alone. Parent support is very important at this time.

Below is some information to help you support young people to stay in a healthy headspace in school holidays. There is also some information that may help you to identify when your young person might need some extra support and where to go for help.

There are a number of ways you can support your young person's mental health and wellbeing in the holidays:

### 1. Encourage them to stay connected

Social relationships are important to your young person's general wellbeing.

It is okay if they take time out for themselves at times, but encourage them to keep in contact with friends over the holidays. Friends can provide both play and support, and spending time with friends is also important for keeping and building on existing friendships.

If your young person is not feeling up to going out, even a phone call, email, text message or Facebook message can help them to feel connected to friends and family.

### 2. Encourage them to stay involved

Encourage involvement with volunteer work, hobbies, clubs or committees, or sports – these can help young people feel connected to their wider community. Participate with them when you can.

Involve them in decisions and give them responsibility at home (e.g. deciding what to eat for dinner and helping to prepare it).

Help them to identify and set realistic goals. Setting and achieving realistic goals can be incredibly motivating and can help build self-confidence.

### 3. Encourage physical activity

Physical activity is important for everyone's health and wellbeing. If your young person is feeling down or finding things are difficult, physical activity may be the last thing they feel like doing. But even small activities, like walking around the block, can help relieve stress and frustration, provide a good distraction from worrying thoughts, improve concentration and improve mood.

If your young person is struggling to get active, find a physical activity that you both enjoy and can do together (e.g. swimming, playing sports with friends or cycling) and make a plan to do it regularly.

### 4. Encourage a regular routine

Getting a good night's sleep helps young people to feel energised, focused and motivated.

Adolescence is a time when a number of changes to the "body clock" impact on sleeping patterns and young people are more likely to have problems with sleep. Developing a sleeping routine can help. Encourage your young person to

wake up around the same time each day, get out of bed when they wake up, and go to bed around the same time each night.

Avoiding caffeine after lunchtime, having a quiet, dark and uncluttered bedroom and shutting down electronic devices before bed can also help them to get a good night's sleep.

### 5. Encourage healthy eating habits

Eating well doesn't only reduce the risk of physical health problems, like heart disease and diabetes, but it can also help with sleeping patterns, energy levels, mood, and general health and wellbeing.

A good balanced diet with less junk food/ lots of sugars and more vegies, fruit, whole grains and plenty of water will ensure your young person has all of the vitamins and minerals to help their body and brain function well.

### 6. Encourage play!

Devoting time to just having fun can help to recharge your young person's battery, revitalise their social networks and reduce stress and anxiety.



# Supporting your young person during the holidays



## Tips to help you support your young person

- 1 **Recognise** their distress or concerning behaviour
- 2 **Ask** them about it (e.g. "I've noticed you seem to be sad a lot at the moment.")
- 3 **Acknowledge** their feelings (e.g. "That seems like a really hard place to be in/I can understand why you are upset about that.")
- 4 **Get appropriate support** and encourage healthy coping strategies (e.g. "Do you need some help to handle this?")
- 5 **Check in** a short time afterwards to see how they are going



## Signs that may suggest that your young person is struggling

It is normal for young people to have ups and downs. However changes in mood, levels of participation and thinking patterns which persist for more than a couple of weeks may indicate that your young person needs extra support.

Changes in mood include:

- Being irritable or angry with friends or family for no apparent reason
- Feeling tense, restless, stressed or worried
- Crying for no apparent reason, feeling sad or down for long periods of time

Changes in activity include:

- Not enjoying or not wanting to be involved in things they would normally enjoy
- Being involved in risky behaviour they would normally avoid
- Unusual sleeping or eating habits

Changes in thinking include:

- Having a lot of negative thoughts
- Expressing distorted thoughts about themselves and the world (e.g. everything seeming bad and pointless).

If you believe that your young person is at risk of harm you should seek professional support from your GP, mental health service or emergency department.

## Support service options

- **headspace** centres provide support, information and advice to young people aged 12 to 25 – [headspace.org.au](http://headspace.org.au)
- **eheadspace** provides online counselling and telephone support to young people aged 12 to 25 – [eheadspace.org.au](http://eheadspace.org.au) 1800 650 890
- **Kids Helpline** is a 24-hour telephone and online counselling service for young people aged 5 to 25 – [kidshelpline.com.au](http://kidshelpline.com.au) 1800 55 1800
- **Lifeline** is a 24-hour telephone counselling service – [lifeline.org.au](http://lifeline.org.au) 13 11 14
- **Parentline** 1300 301 300
- **ReachOut.com** for information about well-being.

For more information on suicide or support and assistance visit [headspace.org.au/schoolsupport](http://headspace.org.au/schoolsupport) or [headspace.org.au](http://headspace.org.au)

Please refer to the **headspace** School Support *Suicide Postvention Toolkit – A Guide for Secondary Schools* for further guidance.



# Deputy Principal's

# Message

**As we finish Term 2, we find ourselves asking the question, 'Where has the time gone?'** The end of Term 2 sees us move into the second Semester of the year. That's right we are half way! Looking back, it has been a very busy year for our students and staff. We are very proud of the programs and opportunities we provide to our students, staff and the community.

To provide you with a snapshot, some of the great events for Term 2 include:

- School and Zone Athletics and Cross Country Carnivals
- NAPLAN assessment for years 7, 9 and 10
- Year 7 Camp
- Duke of Edinburgh Adventurous Journey Hike
- Work placement for Hospitality, Business Services and Retail
- Year 10 and Year 8 Subject information evenings for 2019
- Year 12 Trial Examinations
- PACE Aboriginal Education Conference
- Twilight Professional Learning for Staff on Wellbeing and Inclusivity
- Pulse Choir Rehearsals
- TAFE outreach program
- Australian Indigenous Mentoring Experience (AIME) excursions
- Citi Group Pathways excursions, Mentoring and Volunteering Days
- Elevate Year 11 and 12 Study Sessions
- Sorry Day Assembly and Whole School Lessons
- ABC excursions and Mentoring
- Synergy Dance Performances
- Bring it On Dance Performance
- Australian Business and Community Network (ABCN) FOCUS Girls Leadership Excursions
- PATHE University Campus Tour
- Year 11 PDHPE First Aid Training
- Numerous Sporting Competitions including
  - o Girls Touch Footy
  - o Buckley Shield Rugby League
  - o Bill Turner Cup - Soccer
  - o Open Boys Touch Football
  - o Touch Football Gala Days
  - o Oz Tag Regionals
  - o Knock Out Volleyball
  - o Knockout Netball
  - o Schools Cup Netball Gala Day
  - o Schools Cup Volleyball Gala Day
  - o NSW European Handball Championships
  - o Panther Trophy Girls Rugby League
  - o Competitive Sports Afternoons

All of these in 10 weeks! I want to thank all of the students and our amazing staff for a wonderful Term. I also want to congratulate all those students who engaged in the extra curricular activities we offer. If you currently are not taking advantage of these opportunities, please come and see me to find out what we have for you!

We can go into the holidays knowing that we have worked hard for the first half of the year, and return refreshed and ready to start again on Tuesday 24th July.

As Semester 2 begins, remember we all need to ensure we are working towards **BEING THE BEST WE CAN BE!** This ensures we are achieving our best results and we can be proud of our effort.

Kelly Lawson  
Deputy Principal.

## BEING THE BEST WE CAN BE Can I answer YES to these questions?



- Am I in the right place?
- Am I doing the right thing?
- Am I being fair?
- Am I being helpful?
- Am I being kind?



## Synergy Dance Festival – Stage 5 Dance Class



The Stage 5 Dance class successfully auditioned their dance work 'Seasons' for the Synergy Dance Festival that was held at the Evans Theatre, Penrith Panthers in June. The work explored the 4 seasons Autumn, Winter, Spring, Summer. The students followed the compositional process to create their collaborative work, focusing on building their skills in choreography, dance technique and performance quality. The students travelled to Penrith for a technical rehearsal on June 7 and then stayed until 10pm where they performed to a sold out crowd! The students then returned on the 14 June to perform in the schools matinee performance.

### Testimonials from students.

*"I enjoy doing Synergy Dance because it makes me challenge my bodies limits. Dancing in these performances helps me to build friendship with my peers as well."*

*"The thing I most enjoyed about Synergy Dance Festival was performing! It was a great vibe and experience and it was fun to create the dance."*

*"I enjoyed being backstage because I got to watch the other performers before us and the excitement and rush it gave me was amazing! I loved the whole experience of performing, it was very fun!"*

*"I liked how we all got ready together. Everyone helped each other out with hair and make up and it made us better friends".*

*"Trying something new is a weird, yet surprisingly rewarding experience".*

*"It was rewarding and a perfect opportunity to bond with people in our dance class".*

*"I liked the 'togetherness' that our class had when we performed at Synergy. We got to have dinner together as a whole class and it felt really special."*



# learning & support



**Nationally Consistent  
Collection of Data**  
School Students with Disability



### 2018 NCCD Reporting

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

This term the Da Vinci Centre have completed the data collection for our NCCD report. The nationally consistent approach to data collection provides all Australian schools, education authorities and the community with a clear picture of the number of students receiving adjustments because of disability in schools, and the adjustments they are provided to enable them to participate in education on the same basis as other students.

The information that approved authorities must give to the Department includes, in relation to each student with a disability:

- the student's year of schooling
- the student's category of disability (physical, cognitive, sensory or social/emotional)
- the student's level of adjustment (support provided within quality differentiated teaching practice, supplementary, substantial or extensive adjustment).

The information will not explicitly identify individual students.

From 2018, the Commonwealth's student with disability funding loading for schools is based on the national data collection and in turn this helps us here at school to support each and every student in being the best they can be. If you would like any additional information regarding the NCCD please feel free to contact the Da Vinci Centre.



**Jumping right into the deep end and learning on the job is never an easy thing to do.** When I started my position of EAL/D teacher and International student coordinator at Plumpton High in May, I was filled with excitement, but also nervousness. Thankfully, watching the students gaining confidence little by little with their language skills has given me renewed determination. Though looking after all our EAL/D students' language needs is still a daunting task, I'm resolved to rise to the challenge. Looking forward to seeing even greater progress in Term 3!

- Mr Quoc Huynh  
*English as an Additional Language/Dialect*

**It's that time of year again. Allowing Year 11 English Studies students to contemplate the cities of the world with the intention of showing how a bit of travel can enrich and broaden one's perspective.** If watching these 'wanna be' travellers contemplate the beauty of getting a room with breakfast included, as well as the pricing issues of flying business class is not entertaining enough, this year the added focus of setting up a holiday for someone else has encouraged the natural spruiking talents of several students to shine. Students have enjoyed researching and planning the perfect trip for Alessandra, the young woman whose travel dreams are yet to come true.

- Mr Mittwollen  
*11 English Studies*

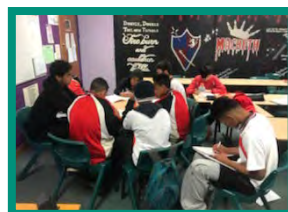
**Year 11 has been delving into the world of crime by listening to the highly acclaimed podcast, Serial.** This podcast explores the case of Adnan Syed, a 17 year old who is allegedly wrongly accused of the murder of his ex-girlfriend Hae Min Lee. After analysing the podcast, year 11 generated their own theories about whether they found Adnan guilty or innocent of the crime. For their assessment task, they enthusiastically adapted to their role as forensic journalists to investigate evidence that would support their theory. By doing this, they were able to question the reliability of sources and the effect of technology on the way that audiences are positioned in texts. After their investigations, year 11 were required to create their own podcast to showcase their research journey. It was definitely an eye opening experience for year 11. They were able to realise the power of language for persuasion. Well done year 11!

- Ms Irene Ramos  
*Year 11 Standard English*

"Imagine there's no countries  
It isn't hard to do  
Nothing to kill or die for  
And no religion too  
Imagine all the people living life in peace, you"  
- John Lennon

**Year 11 Advanced have spent the term speculating: what if people weren't judged by the colour of their skin?** What if people weren't restricted by their post codes? What if men and women were able to access the same opportunities without the many hurdles that women face? Students have been examining Margaret Atwood's, *The Handmaid's Tale* and the film *V for Vendetta*, texts that are set in dystopian futures as a result of mankind's shortcomings and poor decision making. They have reflected on the way both book and film have investigated big issues such as totalitarianism, fundamentalist theocracy and women's rights and related it back to their own experiences and contexts. There have been some big debates and a lot of questioning about whether or not reality is often stranger (and more unbearable!) than fiction. And the ever-present question: will there ever be room for a utopian, Lennon-like society?

- Priyanka Bromhead  
*11 Advanced English*



**Year 9 are having an absolute blast exploring crime fiction and diving into the world crime and punishment.** Students are investigating a variety of

cases and discussing the issues affecting sentencing. They are looking at jurisdictions in Australia and the dynamics of the judicial system. For their assessments, students are investigating precedents relevant to the cases they've chosen and writing arguments and preparing 700 word Final Statements. 9 Beetson English enjoyed speaking to Ms Humphreys who took time out of her busy work as a barrister to speak to students. She shared her knowledge about court processes and how to effectively defend, prosecute and judge cases in the Australian justice system. Students were attentive and respectful whilst asking questions and listening to responses via teleconference interview. Our students were a credit to the school and Ms Humpherys stated that she was delighted to speak to such an enthusiastic and interested group of students. Well done, 9 Beetson.



- Jodie Doran  
*Year 9 English*



## Innovation Nation - Plumpton High wins 4 out of 10 grants available to support students in bringing their innovative social enterprise ideas to fruition!



Innovation Nation is an initiative from the Foundation for Young Australians (FYA) that provides opportunities for young Australians to define and address social, economic and environmental challenges facing their communities through innovative solutions. 94 Plumpton High School students from Commerce and Business Studies classes attended a whole day workshop at the beginning of term 2 that enabled them to learn entrepreneurial skills such as critical and creative thinking. Students have been working on developing their ideas in order

to submit to the FYA for consideration of a \$1000 grant and the opportunity to access coaching sessions with experienced business leaders to create social impact in their communities. Each of the 4 groups, comprising of 15 students, have won a \$1000 grant, reflecting the calibre of the innovative, social entrepreneurship ideas proposed by the teams. These students will work with their mentors to see their proposals come to life and make a positive change within the community of Plumpton.

The successful students were invited to attend a coaching day at the Citi offices in Sydney, where they had the opportunity to work alongside Citi business coaches and mentors, which will assist in facilitating the implementation of their social enterprises. This was a very insightful day, which launches the next phase of the program, as the business coaches attend Plumpton High School to support the students in making their ideas a reality.

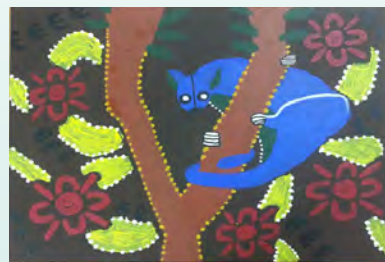
## Year 12 Society and Culture Study Day

On Friday 2nd June, year 12 Society and Culture went to the Wesley Mission Centre on Pitt St with their teacher, Miss Romeo, for a HSC study day. The students attended 3 lectures, each one based on their areas of study; Social and Cultural Continuity and Change; Popular Culture and Belief Systems and Ideologies. The students found the day useful and informative as they were presented with information from experienced HSC markers.

## Year 12 Aboriginal Studies Major Projects

The Year 12 Aboriginal Studies class recently submitted their HSC Major Projects which involves A Proposal, Process Log and Presentation Medium. The students were each required to conduct community-based fieldwork through engaging with Community Consultation with a member of the Aboriginal Community. Through this partnership they were able to design a project which reflected the perspectives, experiences and knowledge of Aboriginal Australians. Both Karlene Rex and Taryn Beatty (AEOs) played a major role in these projects by working extremely hard to connect our students with members of the Aboriginal Community so they could share their cultural knowledge. Students then investigated their topic, conducted their own research and created their own product for their Presentation Medium. There were a diverse range of final Presentation Mediums including:

- Traditional Aboriginal Cook Guide
- Animal book for primary school students
- Number book for Kindergarten students
- Artwork reflecting traditional Aboriginal art styles, meanings, symbols and stories
- Presentation on the Stolen Generations
- Presentation on the influence of the Bangara Dance Group



This is the first HSC Aboriginal Studies cohort to undergo the Major Project in a long time at Plumpton High School and they have embraced the challenge and the opportunity to deepen their understanding of Aboriginal cultures while applying their knowledge and ethical research and methodological practices.



## Australian Mathematics Competition (AMC)

On Thursday 9th of August this year, our school will enter the Australian Mathematics Competition (AMC) which is an internationally recognised competition. A prestigious Australian Mathematics medal is awarded to students with outstanding results. All students will receive a certificate with a detailed summary of their responses.

Students in the Da Vinci Mathematics classes from Years 7 to 10 are required to sit for the AMC as one of the requirements for being selected in the Da Vinci class. However, all students in Years 7 to 12 are strongly encouraged to take part in this competition. We recommend the AMC as an opportunity to encourage our students in the study of Mathematics and building their portfolio.

- HT Mathematics



# pdhpe

## Opens Rugby League

The Plumpton High School opens rugby league team recently completed in the Schoolboy Trophy / University Shield tournaments. Due to our school not having the numbers to compete in 2017, the boys were extra keen and enthusiastic to participate in this year's tournament. After holding a number of training sessions, it was clear that this team had a lot of potential and the day couldn't arrive soon enough for the boys. Our first game was against Cambridge Park and despite dominating for the majority of the match, a loss of concentration towards the end of each half resulted in the opposition scoring a couple of easy tries. Lucky Ryan Johnson's accurate goal kicking proved to be the difference and Plumpton were able to get away with a 12-8 win.

Our second game against Rooty Hill was extremely frustrating. Due to the short duration of matches, possession was paramount. However, the boys felt they had to score from every play and repeatedly dropped the ball or made errors in the play. This resulted in the team being unable to complete a set throughout the whole game. Despite this lack of possession, the boys put up a great fight in defence and were finally able to score a try, however, it was too late and they went down 8-4.

Our final pool game was against Wyndham B and the boys were eager to make amends after their poor performance in the last game. They also knew they had to win significantly if they were to have any chance of making the finals. We scored off the first set and starved the opposition of possession. The mountain of possession resulted in a 24-0 win and the boys were through to the finals.

The weather was extremely warm for this time of year and fatigue was now becoming an issue. It was announced that we were to play Wyndham A, who got off to an impressive start with an early try. Plumpton tried extremely hard to contain their opposition, however, a lack of discipline resulted in a player being sent off and our team being made to play one player short. This left us exposed in the middle and the opposition soon capitalised. Despite this, our boys never gave up and were rewarded with a try. Although we lost the semi final, the boys did enough to qualify for the next round of the University Shield.

The next round was held in week 4, term 2. After some changes to the draw, we were set to play Wyndham College. Unfortunately, we were short a couple of players and unable to field our strongest team. Despite this, our boys played with heart and put their all into the game. However, the opposition were far too strong and we were convincingly beaten. Well done boys on a wonderful performance and congratulations on qualifying to the regional level.

**Team list** - Alomax Siitia, Xavior Savesi, John Mataafa, TJ Taulia, Kolia Neemia, Ryan Johnson, Jade George, Kaine Ryan, Grant Cunningham-Jackson, Steven Martin, Matthew Jegede, Travis Swift, Ben Clarke, Jerome Finau, Matt Hupton, Ben Nelson, JJ Chadwick, Tabuka Guda, Raymond Hupton, Ivi Marsters (trainer), Lotomau Koro (trainer).



## Rugby League - Buckley Shield U14s Competition

Plumpton High School entered an U14s boys Rugby League team in the Buckley Shield competition this year. The district gala day was held on 9th May at Whalan Reserve, where we competed against four other teams in our pool, for an opportunity to progress to the regional finals. Our first game against Glenmore Park HS got off to a shaky start, with the boys playing together in competition for the first time, making a number of handling errors. However, they were able to put together some clean sets at the end, resulting in a converted try in the final minute of the game, to come out victorious 10-8.



The boys had found their rhythm, as they dominated the next two games, totally outclassing their opponents and holding them to one try each as their defence began to click. The boys defeated St Clair HS 34-4 and then beat Glenwood HS 24-6, putting on an attacking masterclass. This earned them a spot in the final game of the day against the other undefeated team, Erskine Park HS.

The nerves were evident, as the boys conceded a soft opening try to trail 6-0 after an error in fielding the kick-off. However, to the boys' credit, they willed themselves back into the game and were rock solid in defence. This allowed them to earn some possession in good field position, allowing them to go on the attack. The boys were able to score the equaliser just before half-time, sending them to the break at 6-6. Their impressive efforts continued after the break, as the game became a real grind as both teams muscled up in defence. Eventually something had to give, fortunately it was the Erskine Park defence, as the Plumpton boys scored a try in the final minute to seal a well-deserved victory, 10-6.

Courtesy of their undefeated gala day, our boys qualified as the second seed for the regional knockout finals. Our quarter final game was against Doonside Technology HS, where again the boys showed some signs of having not played together for a few weeks, as they made several handling errors in the opening half. However, they were able to clean up their act and their completion rate, powering them home to a 14-4 victory. This sent us through to the semi finals against Arthur Phillip HS, a very tough opponent.

The nerves were once again evident, as they boys missed the kick-off and Arthur Phillip scored immediately, significantly denting our confidence. This continued, as Arthur Phillip scored back-to-back tries, dominating the first half to lead us 20-6 at the break, leaving us a huge mountain to climb. Although to the boys credit, the belief was back, and they came out strong in the second half. After settling into the rhythm and completing their sets, we were able to score back-to-back tries with 10 minutes remaining, putting us back into the contest down 20-18. Despite our best efforts, unfortunately we conceded a late try in the corner, putting us down 24-18 with two minutes remaining.

Although hope was not lost as Arthur Phillip missed the sideline conversion, meaning we were still alive, with one set to score. The boys played out of their skin and fought exceptionally hard, diving over to score in the final 15 seconds of the game. We were lining up the conversion, down 24-22. The siren had sounded. It all came down to this kick. Thankfully, it was struck perfectly and sailed over the black dot, sending the game into golden point extra time, 24-24.

We lost the toss and were required to kick-off; however, due to an excellent strategic play, we retrieved the short kick-off to get possession. Our boys fought and played with all their might, getting close to the try line as they were setting up for a shot at field goal. Yet a brilliant short-side scoot from dummy half caught the defence napping and we scored the match winning try, 28-24. The celebrations were amazing, as the boys recognised their outstanding achievement.

As a result, our team now progresses through to the CHS State Knockout Competition, as a Sydney West representative in the final 16 schools across NSW. Our next game will be against Griffith HS, who will be travelling 7 hours to escape the cold Southern weather and enjoy the somewhat warmer conditions here at Plumpton. The winner will progress through to the State Quarter Finals. Once again, a massive congratulations to all of the boys who have been a part of our squad, it has been a huge effort and all the boys should be extremely proud of themselves.

- Mr Lowe



## Panthers Trophy Girls Rugby League

On the 5th of June, Plumpton High School under 14's girls recently competed in the Panthers Trophy Competition held at Whalan Reserve, Whalan. Prior to the competition, the girls eagerly participated in numerous training sessions that involved contact, defence/attack drills and fitness testing. The girls were scheduled to play four games in Pool B against: Rooty Hill, Chiefly-Shalvey, Glenmore Park and Jamison High School. Our first game was against Rooty Hill and despite our great start and dominating on-field territory, their nerves got the best of them and unfortunately lost as a result, 12-4, with a few break-away tries from Rooty Hill that highlighted our struggle in defence and lack of communication.

Our second game was against Chiefly College Shalvey and before the start of the game, the team chat was all about encouraging one another defensively and trusting the inside player. The beginning of the match, the girls dominated in possession with really strong carries by Sylvana Siitia and laeli Atilio as they made numerous lines break and carried the ball over the advantage line which allowed the girls to be in Chiefly College Shalvey's territory for majority of the possession. This led to a rush in defence for Chiefly College Shalvey and the girls capitalised with a few tries out wide from Ime Neemia, Chloe Green, Sylvana Siitia and Essence Phillips with the final result, 16-4. The result boosted the girls' confidence levels heading into game 3.

Our third game was against Glenmore Park and due to a few back to back games, the fatigue levels were starting to kick in and some girls were carrying niggling injuries that halted their pre-game preparation. As the siren kicked off game 3, we carried possession for the first half, with a line break and run away try from Ime Neemia. However, the miscommunication in defence then led to a few costly errors that allowed Glenmore Park to capitalise with a try. The captain, Sylvana Siitia, rounded the girls and quickly discussed the importance of rushing up together in defence so there would be no holes in our defensive line. It took a while for the girls to slowly adapt to the fast-paced nature of Glenmore Park and struggled to rush back in defence, allowing Glenmore to score another try. However, the girls did not give up and a few impressive runs by Katarina Jones-Talo allowed the girls to set up their attacking structure and execute their play. The girls then took the ball out wide allowing Victoria Lelena to cut through the defensive line of Glenmore Park and score another try, levelling the match, 8-8.

The girls were scheduled to play their fourth game against Jamison High School, however due to the rain, all games were called off for the remainder of the day.

Overall, there were a few girls on the team that had never played rugby league before and a few girls from Netball, Soccer and Touch Footy backgrounds that volunteered to participate showing their courage and eagerness to try new things. Well done girls on a wonderful and successful performance.

**Team List:** Ekko Egenton Wallace, Sylvana Siitia, Toaga Levi, Kayleen Phillips, Taliya McDonald, Ime Neemia, laeli Atilio, Victoria Lelena, Chloe Green, Ivy Neilson, Kerra Sita, Katarina Jones-Talo, Essence Phillips

**Trainers:** Tamika Rex and Tahlia Hunter

**Coaches:** Matthew Baxter and Stella Tuilaselase

Plumpton High School Under 14s girls pictured with NSW State of Origin and Australian Jillaroo, Corban McGregor



## ANSTO Nuclear energy facility visit



Mrs Maharaj and Mrs Khin took their Chemistry and Physics classes to ANSTO facility at Lucas Heights. Students were given the chance to tour the facility at ANSTO. They had an in depth look into the world of nuclear science and the work ANSTO does in the areas of health, the environment and delivering solutions for industry.



## Biotechnology program in partnership with AMGEN University of Sydney

Students in year 10 continued their investigation of recombinant DNA using the equipment and technologies from University of Sydney.



The equipment and technologies provided on loan to Plumpton High School had the total value of \$32,000. This partnership with Amgen and University of

Sydney provide hands-on opportunity to learn about the value, benefits, and possibilities of science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM)-related careers.



## Camden Park Environmental Education Centre

Mr Streatfeild and the year 11 Agriculture class went to visit the agricultural facilities at Camden Park to conduct their Farm Case Study. During their time there the students interacted with the animals, resources and technology used in producing dairy products. Students were all able to gain firsthand experience in the industry, which will help support them in their future coursework.



## Agriculture and Primary Vet Industries





## Science Faculty

We would like to wish Ms Angeli the best of luck as she taken on a teaching position at a new school. She has been a member of the Science faculty for 2 years. She taught Stage 4/5 science, Agriculture and Forensic Science.

We would to say thank you to Mr Chandra for filling in for Ms Angeli and we welcome Mr Duic to the faculty in term 3.

This term, the Science Faculty has been involved in many activities that support student learning in and out of the classroom.



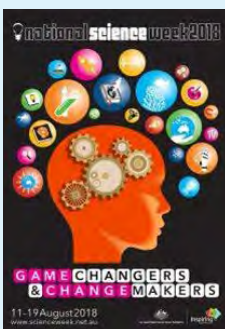
### Term 3 Units

7	8	9	10
<b>Cosmetic Chemistry</b>	<b>Terraforming Mars</b>	<b>Tesla</b>	<b>Climate Change</b>
We live in an overly-commercialised world where consumers are constantly bombarded with marketing campaigns that harass people to buy products. Our only form of defence is to arm ourselves with knowledge. Students will use their understanding of chemistry and persuasive language to produce and market more consumer conscious cosmetic products	This unit explores the concept of terraforming Mars as an alternative habitat/home for the human race. Students will examine the difference between Mars and Earth in terms of its structure and its ability to sustain life. Students will be given the task to Terraform Mars by drawing parallels between the two planets and putting forward an argument for or against terraforming Mars.	In this unit, students will explore the work of Tesla how the values and the needs of contemporary society can influence the focus of scientific research in the area of increasing efficiency of the use of electricity by individuals and society. Students will also analyse different viewpoints and choices that need to be considered in making decisions about the use of non-renewable energy sources.	In this unit, students will explore the most controversial scientific issues affecting society today – climate change, global warming, pollution, population explosion. They will examine claims, in relation to these issues and their impact on the atmosphere, hydrosphere, lithosphere and biosphere. Students are encouraged to take a stand/side with current issue and voice their understanding and beliefs provided they can back it up with scientific evidence.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### SCIENCE WEEK

The school theme for National Science Week in 2018 is **Game Changers and Change Makers**. This could refer to individuals, teams, technologies or ideas. This year's event celebrates the following scientific milestones:



- 200th anniversary of the publication of Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein* (genetic engineering, biotechnologies, prosthetics, bionics, genetic modification, brain enhancement and ethics);
- 40th anniversary of the birth of the first IVF baby (genetic engineering, biotechnology, nanotechnology);
- International Year of the Reef (coral reefs and the scientists who study them).

Plumpton High School will celebrate science week in **week 4, Term 3**.

**Mr Kelly** is organising this event. If you would like to help in organising this event, please speak to Mr Kelly.

### SCIENCE OLYMPIAD

The Australian Science Olympiads are a national extension program for top performing secondary science students that culminate in the International Science Olympiads.

The program is a rewarding opportunity for high achieving year 10 and 11 students to extend themselves way beyond school science through challenging exams, stimulating residential programs and international competitions.

This exam will take place on Monday, 6th August 2018. It is open to all year 11 students enrolled in Biology, Chemistry and Physics. For more information, please contact Ms Karan



## TESLA visits PHS



The TAS department was lucky recently to have a visit from Hon. Ed Husic Federal Member for Chifley and a representative from the Tesla company. They bought with them a Tesla Electric car and Mr Shakespeare, Mr

Attard and the top 3 students from Stage 5 Industrial Technology - Engineering had the opportunity to inspect the car.

We learnt about the advanced technologies in the vehicle including its electric motor, batteries and autonomous driving. The students were also able to have a ride in the car to experience how the technologies work.



## Hospitality Café

Each week students from Year 11 Hospitality drag themselves out of bed early to come to school and create an awesome breakfast and serve wonderful coffee and teas! Many of these students arrive well before 7.30am!

They have been making egg and bacon on Turkish bread, a wide variety of coffees and teas. They serve our staff in our kitchen, which is transformed into a café complete with table settings.

Teachers come to our breakfast café and with the monies raised through this we have purchased a commercial drinks fridge, take away cups, napkins and paper tablecloths. All of this equipment enables us to create a simulated work environment for students to complete their competencies.

A big thank you to the staff who support us and help make this happen! A big thank you to parents who make sure our students are on time to class.

## Computing Science

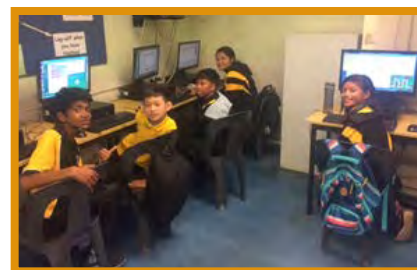


During term 2, Stage 5 IST (Information and Software Technology) went on an excursion to Western Sydney University, Parramatta.

This event was organised by Amazon.com in collaboration with the Western Sydney University. Here the students were given the opportunity to attend 'Alexa Bootcamp' program designed to help them to gain knowledge about Artificial Intelligence and Cloud computing.

Students had the opportunity to show their critical thinking skills to solve the given problem. Also, students had participated in a quiz contest involving 8 other schools which included some prestigious private and catholic schools of the Western Sydney. Our students achieved the best score in the quiz. During this program, our students learnt about the concept of the Artificial Intelligence and its significance in the future technology.

In the Computer Science GAT class, we are following the curriculum developed by Robomatter Education in collaboration with Carnegie Mellon University (USA). This program has been designed in such a manner that it focuses on bringing STEM (Science-Technology-Engineering-Math) experiences to students by leveraging the motivational effects of Computer Science and Robotics. This GAT class involves students from Stage 3, 4 and 5 classes. In the first semester, students build up their capacity in algorithm writing in order to develop the program. They used 'SandBloqs' software which was easy-to-use and had some interesting features. All students including primary school students wrote some amazing applications.



Students can model and understand the complexity of the program development using SandBloqs software which is easy to use in a contextual way. In stage 6, students will learn advanced features of the programming language. Hence, if students learn the basic concept of programming now in stage 3 or 4, then in stage 6 they don't have to start learning from the scratch. This course builds the foundation for the Stage 6 Software Design and Development course.



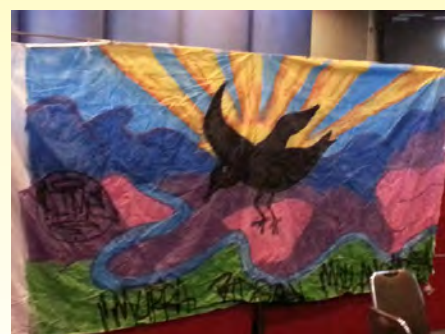
## Sorry Day



On Friday 15/5/18 Plumpton High School joined to commemorate National Sorry Day. The school met for a special assembly to listen to the experiences of our very own Karlene Rex (AEO), who shared her family's moving story and communicated the importance of supporting all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples who were affected by the Stolen Generations so society can move forward together in achieving reconciliation. Every class then engaged with a Sorry Day lesson created by the PACE (Plumpton Aboriginal Community Education) team to educate them about the importance of why Sorry Day is held and the historical past behind it. Students then created a supportive letter and a commemorative handprint to show their support which were hung up around the school.

## Australian Indigenous Mentoring Experience

On Friday 1/6/18, thirteen Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students from Years 9-12 attended the first AIME (Australian Indigenous Mentoring Experience) at Rooty Hill RSL. This was the first of a series of days which are to be held throughout the forthcoming year to both educate and celebrate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures. Students worked in a team with a variety of mentors and special guest from all walks of life, such as the military and Headspace to learn about their future pathways. They engaged in activities related to thinking about career options, their goals regarding what they want to achieve in a year and cultural pride and awareness.



## Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Conference

On Wednesday 20/06/2018 Plumpton High School hosted its second annual Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Conference for the Plumpton High School Community. This event saw invitations extended to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students, a friend from another cultural background and parents to attend the day's culturally inclusive session and community lunch. Students experienced a range of Aboriginal experts from all walks of life as they engaged in four highly-informative and culturally meaningful sessions. The day opened with insightful knowledge from two Aboriginal Elders: Uncle Greg presented the Welcome to Country an Aboriginal Elder, while Uncle Wes enriched the attendees with his rich Dreaming stories to teach life lessons and morals.

Students then attended a series of sessions throughout the day from members representing the AFL Indigenous Academy, The Australian Indigenous Mentoring Experience (AIME) and Gamarada, where students focussed on wellbeing, cultural identity and art, as well as learning about the legacy of learning about one's culture and its values.



This was the biggest conference to date and the students ended the day by presenting the guests with gifts of appreciation to show how thankful they were at having the opportunity to deepen their understanding of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture and the importance of links to culture, community and inclusivity.

## Full STEAM Ahead Program

Plumpton High School participated in the Full STEAM Ahead program this year for the third time, which was held at the Power House Museum. In previous years the program was sponsored by Microsoft but this year it was Commonwealth bank. Therefore at the end of the program the winners received an opportunity to visit the Commonwealth Bank Head office, participate in a workshop and visit the Technology lab there.



Twenty students from year eight were selected to take part in phase one, of which, eight were chosen to continue into the next rounds. Our students got opportunities to work with and use today's cutting edge technologies such as 3D printers, VR controllers, programming the ThinkerShield using Arduino, design computer game using Unity, etc. The challenge on the final day was to use these technologies to design a complete new game that can be run and played using the Virtual Reality gears. The theme of the games our kids designed were Australia Bushfire and Clean Oceans. We are really proud of our kids who not only participated in these workshops, but also won the competition.



As winners of the competition, students were able to attend the technology and Design Lab at Commonwealth Banks head office.

# fast forward

## Year 10 Fast Forward

On Thursday 31/5/18 15 Year 10 Students involved in the Fast Forward program attended Western Sydney University's Kingswood campus to engage in their on-campus university day. They joined a collective of five high schools involved in the program and got the opportunity to work with university mentors who educated them about choosing university as a career path. Students engaged in a variety of workshops as they toured the campus. These included listening to how a music class is delivered, viewing an architecture class and engaging with a multitude of technology-driven communication course options involving digital media. A career investigating session was also offered to students so they could map out their future career path in connection with their current school interests and subjects.





# accelerated reading

## Accelerated Reader Program

### Semester 1 Update



## 10 Things You Need to Know About the AR Program

1. All students in Yrs 7-10 are involved in the program in 2018.
2. Students independently read a book at their level and complete an online quiz to test their comprehension.
3. Students are encouraged to read as many books/complete as many quizzes in a year to meet their targets. Every book earns them points.
4. The ZPD stands for Zone of Proximal Development; basically it's the student's book 'level'. The higher the ZPD, the harder the book!
5. Students can expect to see an improvement in their reading and comprehension skills with just 15 minutes of reading each day.
6. Parents/carers will be sent reports outlining their child's growth and progress every Semester.
7. Students are given 15 minutes for silent reading in every English, Science and HSIE lesson at school.
8. Students are strongly encouraged to read their books at home too!
9. Students have access to their quiz results immediately and can track their own progress.
10. Questions? Contact Mrs Bailey in the Library or Ms Rojas in English.

## 5 Ways Parents/Carers Can Help Support their Child Reading at Home

1. Asking your child what are their favourite books or preferred genre to read.
2. Asking your child about their latest results in the AR program.
3. Encouraging reading in lieu of playing electronic/digital games.
4. Modelling reading to your child and discussing the books you like to read or enjoyed at school or beyond.
5. Explaining to them how reading has benefited you in your life & generally having conversations about reading and books!



The Literacy team would like to welcome Ms Rojas (English Faculty) as an Intervention Specialist for the Accelerated Reader program.

Ms Rojas will be working closely with students, helping them to set and monitor their reading goals and checking in on their progress.

## Bring It On Dance 2018

At the start of Term One, over fifty eager students attended lunch time auditions for the upcoming Bring It On Dance competition. This was led by the group's leaders who were selected for the efforts and commitment to previous years of Bring It On teams. At the conclusion of the auditions, there was just under forty students who were selected and this is where the journey begun.

Over the next six months, the students were faced with many obstacles and challenges, which at times, led to them questioning whether they could pull it all together in time; however, they continued to persevere. Forty students slowly became twenty two and the practices became every lunch and every afternoon with most finishing at 5pm. All of these students devoted a copious amount of time and dedication to the Plumpton High School team and displayed outstanding leadership and group collaboration skills.

On Saturday 23rd June, the big day finally arrived, the day the students would be given the opportunity to display what all their hard work and time had gone into. Plumpton High was placed in Heat One and was up against eleven other schools including Rooty Hill, Colyton and Arthur Phillip High Schools, with only six schools proceeding to finals. The student's nerves and excitement levels were high upon finding out that they would be second to perform.

The moment came when Plumpton High School was called to perform and the students took the stage in their starting positions. When the music came on, the students danced with passion, commitment and drive, ensuring every move was completed and performed to the best of their ability. There were lifts, partner work, crumping and multiple other sets that brought a wow factor to the choreography, which had the crowd screaming for more. At the end of the routine, the students left the stage with a large presence of adrenaline and pride and this was seen through all of their faces when they were smiling from ear to ear. Their happiness was infectious and this was seen through all the supporters that also came to support the Plumpton High team.

Whilst waiting for the results at the end of the competition, teachers from each school were called up on stage, Mr Kelly and Ms Karan went up on stage to represent our school in the dance battle. They started off with the fishing rod and hook and then broke out in their own moves, Ms Karan brought her own infusion of dance to the stage and owned the dance circle, however, Mr Kelly dominated and was requested to perform a solo act, labelled as 'Plumpton's Finest'.

Not long after this, the results were ready to be read out. We were all sitting patiently and hopeful that Plumpton High would make it through. The top five schools were announced and unfortunately we were not one of them, however, hope was not lost. There was a wildcard opportunity for one school to still make the finals and this was entirely dependent on the audience vote, so everyone was quick to pull out their phones and vote for Plumpton High. After one minute the votes were tallied and they had the school which would progress through to the finals. After a few moments of silence the school was announced. PLUMPTON HIGH SCHOOL! We made it to finals! Joy filled the room with everyone leaping out of their seats with excitement and disbelief, with some shedding a few tears. The final result showed that 40% of the crowd voted for our school, an unbelievable large amount. This opportunity would not have been given to us if the Plumpton community had not got behind the team and continued to support us through this journey, for this we are entirely grateful. We now begin this journey all over again as we head into the Bring It On Finals later on within September. Continue to watch this space!



**Team list:** Sosaia Kolope, Ciarra Kanizi, Sam Perez-mato, Arianna Constantinou, Breanna Graham, Bianca Amandi, Madyson Eid, Connor Kanizi, Rhys Avia, Gwenda Venasio, Jessica Sheean, Josephine Yankuba, Angel Mailatolua (Leader), Breanna Da Conceicao, Cheyenne Meally, Irfaan Mohammed (Leader), Jemima Neemia, Ronan Peraren Atienza (Leader), Christal Hipolito, Sarah Flores, Jazmine Faye Malaluan and Kyle Abarabar (Leader).

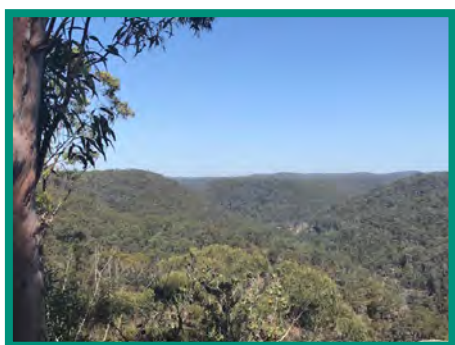


## Duke of Edinburgh Update

### Year 9

**2018 has seen the Duke of Edinburgh program expand into the PE faculty.**

Year 9 bronze students have been working throughout the semester to learn about the Duke of Edinburgh program, all the components of the program and completed a trial hike within the school grounds.



The trial hike involved students packing a hiking bag with some of the necessary items required to hike and camp with, they then mapped out a track to follow around the back oval, looking at the distances and time it would take to hike the track. Once planned they packed their bags, buddied up with a tent buddy and set off on the journey. At the completion of the journey, they set up the tent and then packed it away.

All of these experiences are better equipping our students for their up and coming practice and in the future qualifying hike within the Blue Mountains National Park.

### Year 10

**The year 10 students are very close to completing their bronze award they started in 2017.**

Three activities have been conducted to equip our students with the necessary tools to complete their award during 2018.

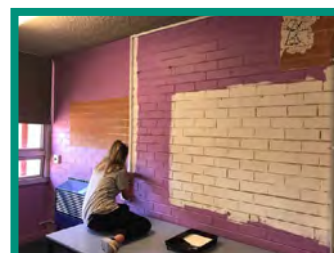
#### 1. Qualifying Hike Completion

This saw the students head back into the Blue Mountains National Park and navigate their way along the track, demonstrating their leadership, mapping, navigation and teamwork skills over the two days. The hike gave us an opportunity to view the national park from a lookout and work together to safely get everyone to the finish line.



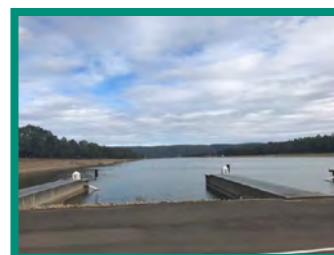
#### 2. Community Service Hours – Renovating a classroom

The opportunity to renovate a classroom presented itself during the previous school holidays for some students still requiring community service hours. The students involved themselves with great pride and enthusiasm. (Picture 3 goes with this paragraph)



#### 3. Community Service Hours – Cancer Council Fundraiser Western Sydney Marathon

Other year 10 bronze students completed community service hours by raising funds and completing the Western Sydney Marathon at Penrith Regatta Centre this term. The students were nervous and excited, however worked very well to represent Plumpton High School and support their community while raising funds for the Cancer Council. (Picture 4 goes with this paragraph)



Until next time, if you have any questions or inquires about the Duke of Edinburgh program please don't hesitate to ask questions or direct your call to the Duke of Edinburgh Coordinator Miss S. Somerville.

## IMPROVING LITERACY AND NUMERACY

### ADVICE FOR PARENTS OF YEAR 10 STUDENTS

February 2018 update

**A minimum standard of literacy and numeracy is required for your child to receive their Higher School Certificate (HSC).**



Meeting the HSC minimum standard will mean that your child has the literacy and numeracy skills that are essential for success in learning and life after school.

#### THE ONLINE TESTS

Most students will show they have met the HSC minimum standard by passing minimum standard online tests. Students master basic skills at different stages so there are **multiple opportunities** available to pass the tests, from Year 10 until a few years after Year 12.



There are three 45-minute online tests:

- ✓ a multiple choice **reading** test
- ✓ a multiple choice **numeracy** test
- ✓ a short **writing** test based on a choice between a visual or written prompt

#### 2017 NAPLAN TESTS

If your child achieved Band 8s or above in one or more of the 2017 Year 9 NAPLAN tests they are recognised as having met the HSC minimum standard in that area/s and will not need to sit the corresponding online test/s.



## TEST DATES

Students will have two opportunities a year, from Year 10 until a few years after Year 12, to pass each online test.



The online test dates (school days only) for 2018 are:

- Term 1: 19 February to 23 March 2018
- Term 2: 21 May to 22 June 2018
- Term 3: 13 August to 14 September 2018
- Term 4: 5 November to 7 December 2018

## WHAT TO EXPECT?

To help your child understand what to expect in the online tests, they are encouraged to visit [educationstandards.nesa.nsw.edu.au/HSCminimumstandard](http://educationstandards.nesa.nsw.edu.au/HSCminimumstandard) to:

- ✓ try demonstration questions to get a feel for the test format
- ✓ view sample test questions and answers online



Your child's school may also organise short practice tests.

## STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Some students with disabilities will be eligible for extra provisions for the minimum standard online tests, or an exemption from the HSC minimum standard requirement.

Students are encouraged to talk to their teachers to determine whether they are eligible for provisions. A Disability Provisions, Exemptions and Appeals policy, which contains further information, is available on the NESA website.

## MORE INFORMATION

Contact your child's school principal for more detailed information about the HSC minimum standard or visit the NESA website:

[educationstandards.nesa.nsw.edu.au/HSCminimumstandard](http://educationstandards.nesa.nsw.edu.au/HSCminimumstandard)

## STAY UP TO DATE

NSW Education Standards Authority



[educationstandards.nsw.edu.au/HSCminimumstandard](http://educationstandards.nsw.edu.au/HSCminimumstandard)



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## Supported School Transport and the National Disability Insurance Scheme

The Australian Government has released a discussion paper about 'Supported School Transport and the National Disability Insurance Scheme' on their website <https://engage.dss.gov.au>.

As the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) is rolled out across Australia, this paper asks for your feedback on how supported school transport could work under the NDIS.

This is your opportunity to have your say via a submission on how you would like to see supported school transport operate in our State. The consultation period will end on 20 July at 5:00pm.

There will be some face-to-face consultations held throughout the state; full details will be updated on their website when they are available.

For any further information about the discussion paper or submission you can email [transport@dss.gov.au](mailto:transport@dss.gov.au).



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[e] [plumptonlfdc@childrenfirst.asn.au](mailto:plumptonlfdc@childrenfirst.asn.au)

Please note: CCB/CCR will be changing to the Child Care Subsidy as of July 1, 2018.

Children First is a service of Growing Potential Ltd.

Not your nearest centre? Visit [childrenfirst.asn.au](http://childrenfirst.asn.au) for more locations.





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