

The **LINKUP** Newsletter

Term 3 | October 2018 | Issue 29



Principal's Message



Congratulations to the Graduating Class of 2018

It is essential to recognise and celebrate 13 years or 936,000 minutes of formal learning accomplishment by our Year 12 students, wish them well for their impending HSC examinations and for their successful future. I want to leave them with some thoughts as they go off to the world beyond school on a new journey to continue pursuing of their dreams and goals.

So you made it! – Congratulations! Well nearly anyway, the fine print says you have some examinations to complete in early Term 4. And you look sensational tonight, where together, we celebrate your success and that of your peers!

It's a time of incredible change: The Disruption Revolution. Like the Information and Industrial Revolutions before it, everything from technology to politics and industry to society is being radically disrupted beyond our imaginations, fundamentally changing the ways we live and work far faster than ever before.

Old certainties are being pushed aside by new uncertainties. Ideas and issues that once seemed science fictional may now become potential realities in only a few years.

Autonomous vehicles. The rise of artificial intelligence. Interplanetary colonies. Therapeutic gaming that changes behaviours and addresses cognitive disorders.

And with them, unprecedented challenges. Climate change. Automated manufacturing. Mass extinctions.

The prospect that almost half of the university degrees studied today and between one fifth and half of all occupations could be obsolete within the next decade.

Education is powerful, but some of the most powerful things your time at school would have provided you won't be found in a Science textbook or between the well worn pages of an English work-book.

Your education has given you the capacity to succeed in the Disruption Revolution with a voice and a presence – whether that's through the way you use words, lead others, the way you create and innovate, use technology, the way you play sport or perform – or maybe it's something else.

At Plumpton High School, you've developed the capacity to:

- Continue to seek out and embrace challenges
- Persist in the face of setbacks and accommodate ambiguity that exists in the Disruption Revolution
- Revel in finding solutions to complex problems individually and collaboratively, developing and understanding concepts and be the leaders of tomorrow
- Learn from doing with rigour and hard work, to think deeply and logically, obtain and evaluate evidence in a disciplined way, accept and act on feedback, be resourceful and adaptable, to communicate ideas and to make sense of your own world.
- Be inspired by personal success and the success of your peers and others
- Develop quality professional and personal relationships that are essential for life success.

KEY DATES

Term 4 2018

15 Oct	First Day of Term 4
18-Oct to 9-Nov	HSC Exams
29-Oct to 9-Nov	Year 8 VALID Test
12-21 Nov	Year 7-10 Yearly Exams
28 Nov	Year 12 Formal
10 Dec	Charter Signing
17 Dec	Presentation Day
19 Dec	Last Day of School

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Principal's Message



Some of this is evidenced by the significant accomplishments you will receive recognition for this evening that are among the highest received by any student in a NSW High School, Public or Private, selective or non-selective - Such as The Ministers Award for Excellence, National Mathematics Olympiad Distinctions, Silver Duke of Edinburgh Awards, NSW Government Youth Advisory Council, Blacktown City Youth Ambassador, Fundraising for multiple international and national Charities, ABCN Scholarship holder, Rostrum Voice of Youth Regional winners, state and national sporting recognition, student leadership development and the list goes on.

Ultimately, you can learn anything and accomplish anything with excellence when you are determined, courageous and collaborative. Revelling in this challenge has made difficulties disappear, obstacles vanish, solutions become evident and understood, and you have ensured; in the words of Charles Kettering **“High achievement always takes place in the framework of high expectation.”**

Congratulations to Jessica Szakacs awarded 2018 Ministers Award for Excellence

Jessica Szakacs awarded 2018 Ministers Award for Excellence. Congratulations to Jessica, School Vice-Captain of Plumpton High School who has continued to display a level of excellence in all her endeavours. As school principal, I have observed her growth and development into a strong, positive, caring young woman with exceptional leadership qualities including high levels of emotional intelligence.

Jessica has not only excelled in leadership within the school she was also nominated, and was the successful Blacktown City Youth Ambassador for 2017. Following this, she was one of twelve chosen from 900 young people across NSW to be part of the NSW Government's Youth Advisory Council for 2018, where she represents the 2.4 million Children and young people.

In all of her roles, Jessica has contributed to leading and being engaged in community service, charity work and change to improve circumstances for the community. She is currently completing her Silver Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme credential through Plumpton High Schools program and has been a member of the Scout movement.

Academically Jessica attained Dux of her grade for years 7, 9, 10 and 11, with this academic achievement along with other accomplishments leading to her gaining an ABCN scholarship (1 of 21 students across Australia).

With reference to sport, Jessica has always competed at school, Zone and Regional level, but has excelled in competitive roller skating performing at a NSW level.

This outstanding accomplishment has come through hard work, passion, commitment, courage and a determination to attain excellence, but also a drive to improve life chances for others. Jessica's success is also a credit to all the staff at Plumpton who have supported Jessica in her journey and this is essential to recognise.





Principal's Message

Congratulations 2019 - School Captain and Prefect Induction Ceremony

I would like to congratulate the incoming School Captains, Vice-Captains and Prefects for their great achievement in putting themselves forward to lead and serve the community of Plumpton High School.

School Captains:

*Miranda Morgan
Jemima Neemia*

School Vice-Captains:

*Taliah Hunter
Xavior Savesi*

School Prefects:

Angel Alvarado, Elysse Amigo, Prenika Chandra, Abdal Chughtai, Isabella Coleman, Stuart Crawford, Sarah Flores, Dylan Gill, Christal Hipolito, Daniel Jarrett, Ruta Kelemete, Ivi Marsters, Deborah Mataafa, Reza Mirian, Irfaan Mohammed, Ahmed Muhammad, Emily Potloka, Rikansha Ram, Ronak Ram, Briana Ruapuna, Vanessa Salindeho, Giselle Sialeipata, Chloe Thorley, Razi Uddin and Musa Yankuba



When you're faced with the decision to step outside your comfort zone, which will you choose: courage or comfort?

Your answer depends on your relationship with fear. Overcoming such an intense emotion isn't easy, but you can change the narrative by stepping out from behind your fear and taking some powerful, calculated risks as this new leadership team have done.

I am sure our new leadership team will be able to rise to the challenge before them with courage, clear focus, passion and determination. They are an enthusiastic and vibrant team of students who I see further developing over the next 12 months.

They will have significantly important work to maintain the current teams of Unity, Charity, Diversity and Sustainability and establish teams to support the implementation of the new Merit System, House Spirit and Primary to Secondary Transitional Leadership teams.

Can the school please join me in congratulating the 2019 Student Executive Council leadership team as they commence their school leadership journey in the continuing building of a successful Plumpton High School where all students become the best they can be.



Principal's Message



Adam Obaidi - Sydney West Open Boys CHS Cricket



Congratulations to Adam Obaidi of year 9 who has been selected to represent Sydney West at the Open Boys Combined High School Cricket Championships, held in Armidale during week 5 Term 4. This carnival is a selection tournament for the NSW CHS team.

Thank You Outgoing 2018 Student Executive Council Leadership Team

Our 2018 Leadership team have been outstanding role models to their peers throughout the school and have set a very high standard for those following them. Their mature approach and their ability to work well in a team has seen them work towards establishing greater school spirit through implementing a variety of projects/initiatives and have provided a platform from which our future leaders may build. Thank you for your valued contribution and mature approach to your role.



Congratulations Isabella Crocker & Nicholas Maui - Entrepreneurs Unearthed Program Top 20 Across NSW



Bella and Nicholas were selected to participate in the next stage of the Entrepreneurs Unearthed program! Their idea was one of the top 20 across NSW, which is even more significant when you consider that they are competing with Year 11 and Year 12 students as well! Their idea was one of the outstanding entries from students across New South Wales and was recognised by the judges for the way it articulated an innovative response to an everyday and real world problem.



Bella and Nicholas attended two days of mentoring/boot camp, which took place during August.

Entrepreneurs Unearthed is running for the second time by ABCN, proudly supported by member companies, Ernst & Young and Commonwealth Bank of Australia. The Boot Camp enabled students to gain hands-on workplace experience in entrepreneurship and be mentored by some of the best in the field from Ernst & Young and Commonwealth Bank of Australia. Bella and Nicholas met other students, were challenged at the Boot Camp and inspired by some amazing guest speakers.

Principal's Message



Schools Industry Partnership Annual Awards 2018



Congratulations to Jessica Szakacs Year 12 – Hospitality Operations

Jessica displayed an exceptional work ethic in all aspects of the Hospitality course. She has dedicated her own time to demonstrate her competence on many occasions. Her work place supervisors were very impressed with Jessica's attention to detail and drive in the Hospitality area. She gained employment from her work placement experience.



Congratulations to Kashfa Nooram Year 12 – Retail Services

Kashfa has been a great role model in Retail Services where she has demonstrated an exceptional understanding of the course. Kashfa received outstanding feedback from her work placement supervisor where she worked efficiently and completed all tasks to a high level. Kashfa was also commended on her presentation and punctuality.



Congratulations to Gabriel Fogarty-Franconi Year 11 – Hospitality Operations

Gabriel undertook his work placement with St Elizabeth's Nursing Home. Gabriel impressed the staff with his attention to detail, willingness to undertake tasks, his skills and abilities.



Congratulations to Brielle Ellis Year 12 – Business Services

Brielle has been an outstanding leader in Business Services, where she has demonstrated strong communication and work place skills. Brielle received exceptional feedback from her work placement supervisor for her strong initiative and commitment. Brielle has successfully integrated these experiences back into her classroom practice.



Congratulations to Corey Fraser Year 12 – Automotive Mechanic

Corey performed exceptionally and was constantly praised by the technician he was paired with for the week. He was hands on and seemed thoroughly engaged in what he was doing. His attendance and punctuality was perfect. Corey was a pleasure to have here for the week and we are more than happy to help where we can in the future.

Congratulations to Isabella Crocker and Muai Nicolas - Entrepreneurs Unearthed Finals

Congratulations to Isabella Crocker and Muai Nicolas for their outstanding presentation at the Entrepreneurs Unearthed Finals! They presented their entrepreneurial business concept 'Food Crafters' in front of an esteemed business panel and 40 audience members at Ernst and Young's prestigious city office. Through partnership with the Australian Business and Community Network (ABCN), Commonwealth Bank and Ernst and Young, the students were mentored to develop a pitch in order to 'sell' their entrepreneurial idea.



Their business concept was community minded as they plan to provide cooking classes to children to enable them to access healthy food and help out their families at dinner time. Isabella and Muai responded articulately and thoughtfully to challenging questions posed by the panel. The panel included a General Manager from the Commonwealth Bank, CEO of ABCN and a Director from Ernst and Young. Isabella and Muai hope to continue to develop their entrepreneurial idea and see their business come to fruition.



Society & Culture Major Works

This term was a significant milestone for our Year 12 Society and Culture class as they finally completed and submitted their major works, commonly known as their Personal Interest Projects (PIPs). The students submitted a 7000 word report on a topic of their choice that related to Society and Culture. Some topics included what it meant to be masculine in Western society, the impact of anxiety amongst teens and just how far has Australia gone in losing their sporting culture. To celebrate this event, students presented their discoveries and challenges of this process alongside the Year 12 Aboriginal Studies students at the HSIE HSC information afternoon on Thursday 6th September to the Year 11 students about to embark on the journey of completing their major work in 2019.



Community Links Day



Year 10 HSIE students had the opportunity to conduct fieldwork in their local community during Plumpton's first Community Links Day on Friday the 24th of August.

Students worked in teams to collect data both physically (along Hyatts Road) and virtually (as part of a series of activities set up the GWS). The purpose was to ensure that students could interact with and record essential community observations to inform them about the type of community they live in. They worked with maps, video tutorials and area grids to build their understanding of how to apply their geographical skills to the real world.

HSC Enrichment Day

On Friday 31st August, four Society and Culture students journeyed to WSU Liverpool Campus with Miss Romeo to take part in a HSC study day. The day consisted of 3 lectures presented by scholars of the university relating to Depth Studies and the Core Unit studied in Society and Culture. At the end of the day, the four students chose to sit a HSC style exam which could offer them early entrance if successful. Good luck to these 4 students, we look forward to hearing all about the end result.



Nan Tien Temple



On Friday 24th August, the Year 12 Society and Culture students attended the Nan Tien Temple in Berkley as part of their Depth Study, Belief Systems and Ideologies. The students enjoyed meditation, Tai Chi, learnt about the relevance of Buddhist history and enjoyed a vegetarian lunch. We ended the day by taking a walk up the hill to the Bell of Gratitude where each student had the opportunity to ring the bell and state something they were truly grateful for. This was a great way to end the unit of work and teach students the importance of mindfulness as they enter their HSC exams.

Support unit

Jackman Unit Aboriginal Workshop

The entire Jackman unit were lucky enough to participate in a workshop run by Taryn Beatty, one of PHS's fantastic AEO's. The teachers and Taryn planned a whole period around teaching the students about different Aboriginal cultural practices and how to be respectful of them. Both the Year 7 classes have been studying Aboriginal plant use, while the Year 8 class has been learning about cultural sensitivity.

The lesson began with a 'treasure' hunt around the school looking for Aboriginal symbols. When a symbol was found, the students brought it to Taryn who explained it's meaning, and what cultural practice or lesson is associated with it. For example, when students found the boomerang symbol wedged high in a tree, Taryn explained how there are different boomerangs for different purposes. It was great hearing some of the students then sharing their own experiences of using or seeing boomerangs.

The hunt finished in the yarn circle out the front of the school, which is where all symbols were combined together. Taryn then encouraged the students to work out what the whole story was. They decided that the story was about a father and son who went out hunting with a boomerang and spear, found a kangaroo, then brought it back to the campfire to share with their family.

Students then had a great time learning the kangaroo dance either participating by dancing, clapping, or even using Taryn's clapping sticks – Ibanez was a big hit with his enthusiastic performance, and Hayley made an excellent kangaroo. Some of the classes then went back to their rooms and spent the rest of the day reflecting on what they'd learnt and how they could encourage other people to be respectful of these cultural practices.

Jackman Red wrote a practice blog entry (as that's part of their assessment for this term) aimed at tourists visiting Australia. They gave suggestions about things that tourists could do to make sure they were respecting these practices, with ideas around getting involved, respecting elders, listening, and most importantly not judging. We are lucky to have a school community so willing to share their knowledge and time in all different areas, as this workshop showed how much our students love to learn through hands-on activities.



U16s Rugby League - Captain's Cup

The Plumpton High School U16s rugby league team entered the Captain's Cup nine-a-side tournament held at Whalan Reserve on 21/8/18. For some of these boys, it was their first opportunity to represent the school in rugby league this year so enthusiasm levels were extremely high. The boys were committed to training each week from the start of this term and were fortunate enough to have Gregg Watts on board as coach.

Our first game was against Glenmore Park who unfortunately forfeited which resulted in a long delay before our second game against Cambridge Park. This contributed to the boys being a little lethargic and distracted and some errors found their way into our game. Despite outstanding defence, the boys were unable to recover from the poor start and lost by a narrow margin.

In the third scheduled game, we were to play Colyton. The boys were super keen on improving on their last performance and it showed. Strong defence combined with some skilful attack resulted in a dominant performance and a convincing win. Our last game was against Chifley Dunheved. The Plumpton boys put in another great performance to finish the day with 3 wins and 1 loss, however, the loss prevented them from qualifying for the semi-finals as only teams who finished top of their pool would progress. Congratulations to all the boys on their effort and commitment. Bring on 2019!

Team list - Matt Hupton, Travis Swift, Troy Marsters, Ethan Duggan, Josh Barlow, DJ Tafeamaalii, Te Moanaroa Huatahi, Jackson McGrath, Joseph Tili, JJ Chadwick, Ngawi Graham, Rhys Newton, Connor Hews, Solomone Tauataina, Zachary Connell, Gregg Watts (coach), Ivi Marsters (trainer), Alomax Siitia (trainer).



Mathematics

Mathematics Gifted and Talented Day

On the 6th of August, four talented Year 8 Da Vinci students represented our school in Mathematics Gifted and Talented Day at The Ponds High School. Amy Nguyen, Shaibah Hussain, Ayush Sharma and Maxene Pineda had an opportunity to challenge groups from seven other schools.

The day was divided into three major activities and the students had a fantastic day showcasing their many talents in problem solving and design. The students worked extremely well as a group and represented themselves with uttermost professionalism. It was a good opportunity for the students to get involved in solving higher order thinking (HOT) questions and working as a team.

Even though they could not secure the first or second placing, they were very close behind in the overall scores. The students performed well and lead in some of the activities. They were recognised for their team-work. Great Job!



Mathematics

Trigonometry Project

This Project was created by Mrs. Prasad for her Year 10 5.3 Pathway Class. The project was an interesting project-based learning, groupwork and real-world application of Trigonometry. Students went outside and measured, heights, lengths and angles to apply it to solve problems given to them in their groups. Most of the mathematics lessons are run using the idea of creating a project. A project is completed for a topic and students are assessed as they go.



RMF Report - Term 3 - 2018

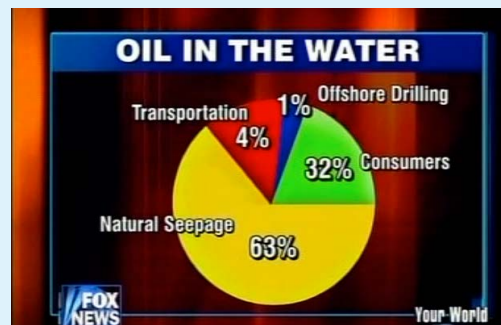
Plumpton High School continues to incorporate Reframing Mathematics Futures(RMF) activities (Scaffolding Numeracy and Mathematical Reasoning) in Years 7 to 10. Apart from a day dedicated to RMF activities, every other lesson is structured to include basic numeracy as well as reasoning tasks to develop and enhance mathematical skills in the students. These activities provide opportunities for students to find what they are struggling with. Students work at their pace with the help of their class colleagues to build on their understanding. The checkpoints leading to assessment projects are based mainly on Mathematical Reasoning leading to higher order thinking that is required to link the mathematical concepts to everyday Mathematics. A sample of a task is attached below.

EXAMPLE:

Don't Get Mislead by Media

All the graphs below are misleading.

- A) Explain the misleading aspect of each graph and why you think the graph was shown to the public as it is.
- B) Draw what the graphs 1 and 2 should have looked like.



Year 12 Industrial Technology Timber

Recently the major projects for Year 12 Industrial Technology Timber were marked for their HSC. The project is worth 40% of their HSC mark and the Portfolio (containing their research, planning and record of construction) is worth 20%.

The boys in the class worked very hard to complete their projects and these are the results of their efforts.



Year 11 Industrial Technology Timber

Throughout the preliminary Industrial Technology course students have been busy developing and honing their wood working skills in order to tackle the rigours of a HSC Major Project. Their skill development culminated in the production of contemporary bedside tables which incorporated the use of a range of materials and processes, all produced to a high standard.

Term 4 represents the commencement of the HSC course and as such students will commence the process of designing and producing their HSC Major Project. We look forward to seeing what this group of students comes up with.

NEW TECHNOLOGY DELIVERY

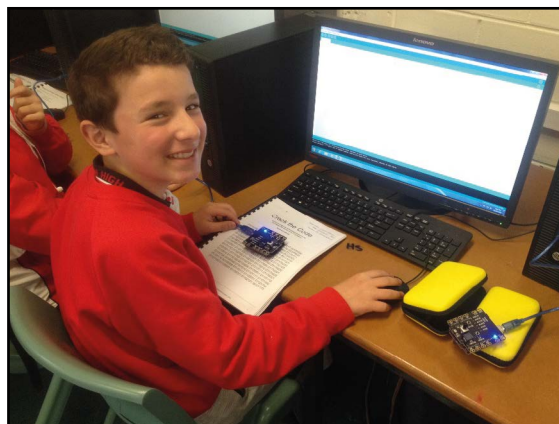
The TAS Faculty has just taken delivery of a new piece of advanced technology to assist in the teaching of STEM and modern design and production techniques. Watch this space to learn more about how this technology will be integrated into teaching and learning activities across all stages.



Year 8 Technology (Mandatory) PBL

Students in Year 8 Atlantis have been learning about coding and in particular, the coding of Arduino boards using the general text based Arduino code. Whilst its early days, students already appreciate the need for accuracy in their coding and the challenges of computational thinking in designing coded solutions.

Student learning will culminate in the development of an alarm system utilising the Arduino boards and software.



CAPA



Science Week

Science Week was celebrated in Week 4 of this term. We would like to congratulate Mr Kelly for organising such successful event. The National Science Week is Australia's annual celebration of science and technology. Over one million people participate in science events across the nation.

This year, the theme is **Game Changers and Change Makers**. Students participated in the following activities:

- Making slime from laundry bag, PVA and psyllium husk.
- DNA extraction using strawberries
- Science Quiz
- The Big Science Show

Fifty students from Plumpton High school went to the Australian Museum to celebrate Science Week in the City.



Making slime



Mr Domingo discussing the environmental impact of the use of plastics

Super Science Show in the city



Participating in 'Fact or Fiction Game Show'



Monitor cognitive functioning using brain electrodes



Learning how to code and program



Trying Virtual reality goggles

A day at the museum...



Year 8 VALID Test

VALID (Validation of Assessment for Learning and Individual Development) provides online end-of-stage assessments for the science key learning area. The assessments assist schools to monitor student achievement and inform planning, programming and assessment practice.

Year 8 students will sit their VALID test on 29th October to 9th November. Please bring your own headphone or earphone. VALID is a mandatory test for all NSW students.

VALID test contains extended response tasks, which provide an opportunity to assess higher order thinking and deeper understanding of a scientific concept or big idea. Secondary students attempt three extended response tasks which are presented in item sets with a stimulus comprising videos, animations, graphics, audio and/or text. All items in a set are contextually linked to the stimulus.

Stage 4 PBL Mental Health Expo

Year 8 students in Science, English and PDHPE collaborated to host a Mental Health Expo held this term in the PAC.



Accelerated reading

DA VINCI LEARNING & RESOURCE CENTRE AND ACCELERATED READING NEWS

This term has been a busy time for the Library, with Book Week and the Accelerated Reading program. The Accelerated Reading program has been travelling along well, with many students discovering series of books that they enjoy reading. The most popular series are being read by the boys:

The Cherub Series by Robert Muchamore

The Rangers Apprentice Series by John Flanagan

The Weirdo series by Anh Do

Diary of a Wimpy Kid by Jeff Kinney

The Young Bond series by Charlie Higson

Bullet Catcher series by Chris Bradford

These books get returned and then borrowed straight out again. Some are so popular we needed to buy a second set to keep up with the demand. A problem we didn't mind solving.



This term we also introduced the Million Words Honour Roll, this is awarded to students who have reached 1 million words in their reading through Accelerated reader. These words are accumulated based on the books they have read and how many questions they got correct. The following students have made our Honour Roll. We have quite a few within 900,000. Which is an awesome achievement.

Sramek, Karl (Yr 8) 2,149,695

Baig, Ahmed (Yr 7) 2,042,026

Kennedy, Lauren-Maree (Yr 7) 1,896,696

Winters, Jack (Yr 7) 1,765,254

Imran, Raha (Yr 7) 1,149,408

Joseph, Moeroa (Yr 10) 1,510,056

Imran, Meerab (Yr 10) 1,112,416

BOOK WEEK August 2018

I would like to thank the Senior SEC for assisting the library to make our Book Week such a success. Competitions were run and activities to raise funds for Tara Ed towards building a library in a school in Bangladesh.

Some of the activities were:

Spelling Bees

Literary Trivia

Read like a Pirate

Find the X

Take a selfie with a Book Character

For this I would like to thank all the teachers who dressed up and got in the spirit of their Book Character.



Library lunchtimes

Games have also become very popular in the library of late:

GRABBLE



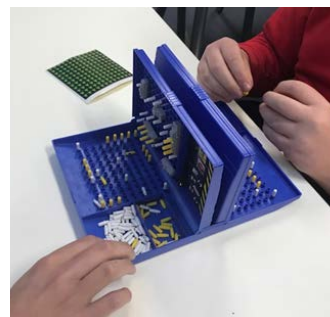
CHESS



CONNECT 4



BATTLESHIP



Fast forward

Welcome to Western Evening & University Day



It has been a busy term for the Year 9 Fast Forward students. They have attended two significant university events: The Welcome to Western Evening and the University Open Day. The Welcome to Western Evening was the first university event these students attended this year. On the eve of the 1st August these students were officially welcomed into the Fast Forward program and received their first guide books on university life as they listened to university members talk about the significance of the Fast Forward program. By the end of the month, on Wednesday 29th August, the same students were back at the Western Sydney University Kingswood Campus to experience their very first University Open Day. This saw them engage with other students from a range of schools, meet their university mentors, begin to map out their career and university interests and explore the many areas of the campus including the sports facilities and the library. Students have already started to take full advantage of their new online tutor to take their learning to the next level.

Year 11 & 12 Fast Forward Scholarship Incursion

On Thursday 23rd August, Year 11 and 12 Fast Forward students engaged with an informative workshop based around university scholarships. Plumpton High School welcomed a member from Western Sydney University to the Senior Study to inform and guide our students as to the scholarships which apply to them and also how to create and judge a quality application. Students also had the opportunity to clarify any questions as to the nature of applying for university and were met with a wealth of experience and knowledge. Since this workshop, these students have already started applying for university courses and scholarships with early enthusiasm and success.

Duke of Edinburgh

Term 3 was an exciting term for the Duke of Edinburgh program at Plumpton High School. One Year 12 student and one Year 11 student have completed their Silver Level Award while eleven Year 10 students have completed their Bronze level.

These students have worked diligently throughout 2018 to finalise their adventure journeys, community service hours and reports that meet the requirements of the level completed. We are looking forward to more students completing the various levels within Term 4.

Also, in week 4 Term 3, fifteen students from within 9 Da Vinci and Beachley explored the bushland of the Blue Mountains National Park from Glenbrook to Springwood.

Then in week 8, eighteen students from 9 Wood, Bradman, Beetson, Flinders and Hollows also explored the same track to complete their practice Adventure Journey. These practice journeys saw the students challenge themselves to explore aspects of the bushland that they may not have seen before.

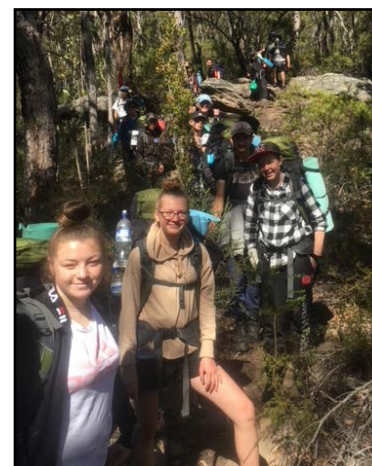


It has been a privilege to coordinate the groups through these journeys and to sign off students to receive their certificates. Thank you to all the supporting staff, parents and carers for the continual encouragement of these students through completing these levels. Bring on term 4.

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.

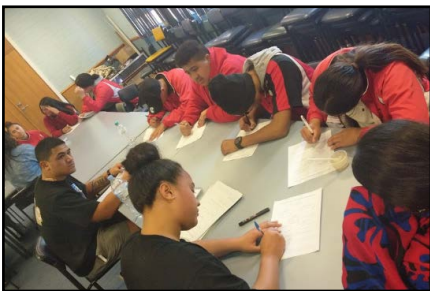


Celebrating Pasifika

The Pacific Island and Maori students of Plumpton High School have been participating in various programmes and workshops in partnership with Western Sydney University (WSU). PATHE (Pasifika Achievement of Higher Education) promotes options for Pasifika and Maori students to develop and gain new skills and new knowledge, leading to greater opportunities across life. PATHE proactively collaborates with key stakeholders in Western Sydney as a means to contribute to the vision of seeing more Pacific people engaged in creating career and vocational goals.

Culturally, Pacific youth may not converse openly with peers and parents about issues to do with school. These programs have enabled students to develop a greater insight into who their support networks are and subconsciously become more mindful of the support available and how to access these.

This year, Pasifika and Maori students in years 7-10 were introduced to the PATHE initiative through workshops and conference held at school and through the university. During this term, year 9 students attended the "Chase the Dream" conference which promoted career paths through guest speakers and workshops. Students were able to collaborate with other schools to discuss future career goals. Year 11 and 12 were also invited to the Western Sydney University for their yearly "Check it out Campus Tour" which enabled students to explore campus life and career opportunities.



To strengthen pathways between the University and Plumpton High School, we have recently implemented the Mentoring Program which targets Pasifika and Maori students in year 10. Students will be participating in various activities that develops their personal identities, leadership skills, personal skills and reinforces the importance of education.

Gifted and Talented

Gifted & Talented Engineering Studies

For the past three terms, four teams of students from both Plumpton High School and Plumpton Public school have been working to prepare for the F1 in Schools Competition. This has required them to design and manufacture a balsa wood car using industry standard Computer Aided Design software in addition to CNC manufacturing techniques. Each student within the team has a responsibility to deliver a different component of the car and its documentation giving students an experience of real world design practice.

With the cars and documentation now complete, the students will compete at the regional finals on the 19th of September at Mt Druitt TAFE. If the students are successful at the regional level they will progress onto the state level of the competition.



IMPROVING LITERACY AND NUMERACY

ADVICE FOR PARENTS OF YEAR 10 STUDENTS

February 2018 update

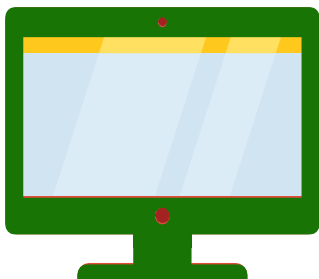
A minimum standard of literacy and numeracy is required for your child to receive their Higher School Certificate (HSC).



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 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

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