

Northlakes High School Newsletter

"Opportunities for future success"



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Issue 5 Term 3 Week 5

Tuesday, August 21, 2012

From our Principal Ms Merrilyn Rowley

Term 3 has started at a huge pace! We began with a Staff Development Day which focussed on the best ways to help students with disabilities, and opportunities for staff to work together. We opened our school in Education Week for the first Northlakes Showcase. Many of our local families came to look closely at all our faculty areas and our wonderful facilities, and to celebrate the opening of our Aboriginal Bush Tucker Garden and dance pit. Year 12 have completed their Trial HSC and many are now finishing off major works and practical components of subjects, and working on studying. Students in Years 7 and 8 have gone with their parents and guardians to the University of Newcastle to see what Tertiary Education offers, and have gained valuable insight. Our Junior A.E.C.G. has been elected and begun to have an impact on Aboriginal progress at Northlakes High School. Ten of our Aboriginal students performed at the flag raising ceremony at Northlakes Public School.



Lucas Chan, Reece Dawson and Raymond Marsh performing at the Northlakes Showcase in the Bush Tucker Garden

Central Coast Public Education Awards

Three members of our school community recently received awards for their contributions to our school:

- **Mrs Colleen Carr**, who has worked for many years as a valued member of our canteen committee.
- **Ms Jodene Garside**, Year 10 Adviser and Relieving Head Teacher Welfare, who has led many programs and improvements across the school.
- **Mr Martin Shevels**, Support Unit teacher and Relieving Head Teacher Support, who has led the development of our outstanding Support Unit garden, and a wide variety of programs to improve the Life Skills of Support Unit students.



Mr Gumley's Classroom on display at the Northlakes Showcase

Outstanding Students

We have many extraordinary students. In recent weeks:

- **Reece Smith** has been selected in the NSW Combined High Schools Boys Softball Team
- **Joshua and Sean Glachan** were selected in the Regional Open Boys Touch Team, where their team won
- **Ms Christina Koteczky's** Year 11 students were commended as outstanding by our School Education Director, Ms Karen Jones, for their performance in 'Lego House'.
- **Dozens of students** have registered to support the 40-Hour Famine, under the guidance of Mr Malcolm Van Drempt. This is a significant SRC project.

PTO – Parent/Teacher Interviews -on-line booking

This Term Northlakes High School will be holding a Parent/Teacher Interview evening on Monday 3rd September from 3pm till 6pm in the hall. A letter will arrive shortly with more information. This is a wonderful opportunity for you to find out how your child is progressing in High School. This event will be held in the school hall.

Hand Break Turn

Recently Jarrod Spicer and Brodie Hancock from the Support Unit successfully completed an eight week fulltime Automotive Certificate I run by Hand Brake Turn at West Gosford. The students were taught panel beating, spray painting, mechanical skills and car detailing. They must also undertake some work experience and learn job application and interviewing skills. Brodie achieved 100% attendance record and

Jarrod Spicer won the Highest Achievement Award, as well as the **Manager's Award** which has only been awarded twice in the last four years. This course has significantly improved their employability in the automotive industry. A big congratulations to the two boys, especially as it involved long and difficult travel to and from West Gosford, starting very early in the morning. Well done!!

Positive Behaviour for Learning

In Semester 2 we are reviewing our discipline and merit policies. Part of this will be our adoption of a program called 'Positive Behaviour for Learning', which has also been practised in some of our local primary schools for some years. Staff, students and

parents will be involved in discussions as we work towards an improved system of recognising our students' achievements, and re-inforcing positive behaviours. The program will be implemented in 2013.

Does your child arrive late to school?

Please ensure your child or ward arrives at the high school by 8.10am. We usually have a morning assembly and roll check, and a wide range of information is given. Students who arrive late miss this information, and lots of opportunities. If they arrive during the period, they not only affect their own learning, but that of the rest of the class.

Mobile Phone Policy

Our policy states clearly that students are **not** to use mobile phones or I-pods in class. They are an unnecessary disruption to students' learning and distraction from tasks. Any student who uses either device in class will be asked to report to the Deputy Principal, who will secure it, and contact parents, who are asked to collect the device. The policy has had a significant positive impact and has been strongly supported by all staff and the majority of parents. Our aim is to improve classroom engagement, which most people realise.

Student Achieves National Award

Stacey Miller completed her HSC at Northlakes High School in 2011 and was Dux of the School with an ATAR of 91. She is currently studying Nursing at Newcastle University, Ourimbah Campus. She has been recognised by the Honourable Peter Garrett, A.M.M.P., The Minister for School Education, Early Childhood and Youth who awarded her an Australian Vocational Student Prize for 2011. This recognises her for completing her secondary education to such a high standard while completing her Vocational Education. She is an outstanding representative of our school community and the calibre of our students. We are very proud of her.

Ms Merrilyn Rowley- Principal

English Report

Term 3 has been an extremely busy one so far in the English faculty. We welcome Ms Eryn Williams to the staffroom and look forward to working with her.

Year 12 students have just completed the last of their HSC Trial Examinations which was a very busy and

stressful time for all students. Well done to all of our students, as well as our volunteer readers and writers from Year 10 and Year 11, who displayed a mature attitude towards the examinations and were very supportive throughout the last two weeks.

It is Assessment time again for most students in Years 7-11 so students should be busy either studying, or working on tasks at the moment. Next week we move onto our next units of study in Years 7-10. These are as follows:

Year 7- Poetry

Year 8- Picture Books

Year 9- Film Study

Year 10- Advertising

Year 11 Study Skills

Year 11 students recently participated in a "Study Skills" day where they attended various speaking sessions and workshops to assist them with gaining their personal best in the HSC, as well as other areas of senior schooling. All students were highly involved in the activities and were respectful to our invited speakers. The day was a big success and we thank all of the teachers who were involved and took their time to organise and prepare workshops for the students.

Debating

Early Term 3, Miss Smith and Mrs Reay took both the Year 7 and Year 8 Debating Teams to Sydney University to watch the State Finals for Seniors in the NSW Premier's Debating Challenge. It was an extremely close debate between Sydney Boys High School and Manly Secondary College with the Sydney Boys winning the championship for the 17th year running.

This was an excellent experience for our junior debaters as they were able to see debating presented at a high level, with topics relevant to the world at the moment. They were also able to get an insight in to each of their speaking roles and how they are presented at a State Level. All of the students were extremely well behaved on the day and represented our school with pride.



Miss Smith with Rhianna Howlett, Tara Wallace, Dylan Matwijow, Susie Taylor- Monzer, Lachlan Lees, Paris Dollimore and Nicholas McAuley at the Debating Championships.



Rhianna Howlett, Susy Taylor- Monzer, Dylan Matwijow, Tara Wallace, Lachlan Lees, Nicholas McAuley and Paris Dollimore at Sydney University

The Year 8 Debating team competed against Morisset High School in Week 4 and after an extremely close debate, with the adjudicator requesting extra time came in at second. The team are still in the challenge and are set to compete against Gorokan High School within the next few weeks. The Year 7 team is also competing against Morisset High School in Week 5 and we wish them the best of luck in the second round of the challenge.



Jesse Sekova- Smith, Dylan Matwijow, Susy Taylor- Monzer, Rhianna Howlett and Bethany Francis before their round against Morisset High School students

Both teams also participated in a mentoring session with the Year 8 students “buddying” up with students from the Year 7 team to prepare them for their upcoming debate and assist with speaking roles and other elements of debating. This was a successful afternoon with all students learning how to extend their speaking times and brainstorm as a team with their topic.



Mrs Reay and the debating students in a mentoring session

Newcastle Herald

7GQ have completed their articles and spread “North Talk” for the Newcastle Herald’s School Newspaper Competition. This was published in last week’s Herald with a range of stories and photographs written and compiled by our 7GQ students who have been working extremely hard with Mrs Reay and Ms Campbell over the past few weeks to meet the deadline. There are still copies available from school if anyone would like take one home.

Writing Club

Word Slings the creative writing group is running every Tuesday Week B at Recess one in Mr Boake’s room (D3). This a group for aspiring writers to share ideas, stories and receive feedback from one another. This is a highly supportive environment and the English Faculty encourages anyone with an interest in creative writing of any sort to come along to the sessions. There are also a range of writing competitions available for our students to enter at the moment with various prizes to win.

Year 12 Mentors

The English faculty would also like to thank Mrs Jan Curren for arranging the mentor morning tea earlier this term. Miss Smith, Ms Legge, Ms Norris and Mrs Reay are all mentors to Year 12 students this year and the morning tea was an excellent way to get together with the students and discuss last minute tips and techniques before they sat for their HSC Trial examinations.

Teachers and Year 12 students at the Mentor Morning Tea



Mrs Reay and Jordan Bertucci



Kelsey Jensen, Mr Bryant and Maddison Dunlop



Ms Legge and Sharni Davis

Miss Miranda Smith- English Faculty

Mathematics Report

This term is flying by already – Year 12 have finished their trials and they now only have a few weeks of school to go. A reminder that through National Partnerships funds, access has been given to all students for mathsonline.com.au for the remainder of the year. Every student has a username and password, and many classes have tasks set from this site as homework and / or assessment pieces. Year 12 can use it to help with their study for their HSC, and juniors can help improve their understanding of concepts. Any student who does not know their password should ask their teacher or come and see Mrs Woodley in the maths staffroom.

This is the first year that Northlakes High has run a numeracy competition with our three partner primary schools using edmodo with Year 6 students. Many of the students (and some teachers) have worked hard on improving their numeracy skills throughout Term 2 by answering quizzes and challenge questions. Blue Haven Public won the trophy for their Term 2 effort, and will retain the trophy until the start of Term 4.

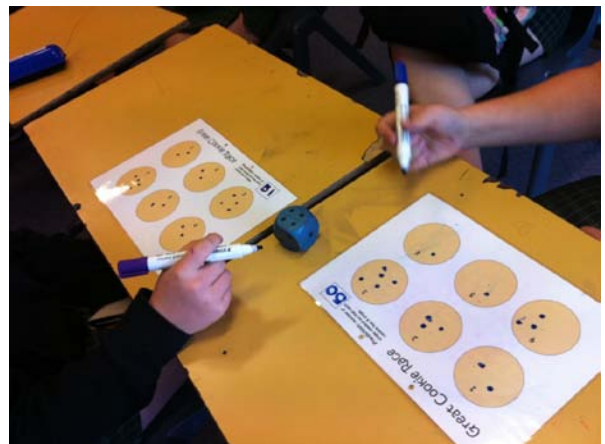


Staff and students from Budgewoi Public School



Students from Blue Haven Public School and Deputy Principal Mr Duane Hutchinson with the winning Trophy

Year 8 students have been very busy learning how to solve equations, and have been enjoying various games in probability. The photo below shows students playing 'the Great Cookie Race', a game on experimental vs theoretical probability.



Remember that all of Year 7 and Year 8 students have moodle homework which contributes to their final assessment for this year. By now, all students should be up to the sets for Term 3.

Positive postcards have been sent out to a number of students to celebrate their application to their studies. Well done to **Teghan Williams, Cristian Berrios, Jayden Bunker, Kim Virtue and Stephenie Harris**, who have all been nominated by their teachers for recognition.

Mathematics Faculty

Science Report

We would like to congratulate the team that Mrs Fulwood took up to Newcastle for the Science and Engineering Challenge for placing second. Mrs Fulwood stated that the day was a total success and the people that were running the challenge were very impressed with the students' motivation and behaviour. Well done to these students.

Education week was a success with many parents of current and future students visiting the Science laboratories. They witnessed some fine acts of chemistry from our head teacher Mr Fleming.

Agriculture news

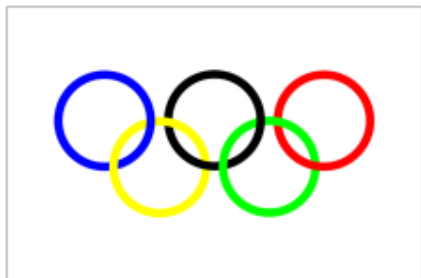
The farm is a hive of activity at the moment and we have recently purchased new tools, including a new plucking machine that will be used dress meat chickens and a new incubator. We also have also have twelve new isabrowns for laying eggs and also two new piglets. We are all preparing for the cattle show that is on the 20th August on the coast.

For sale we have a pair of silky chickens for \$10- See Mr Pankhurst

Mrs Sue Fulwood- Science Faculty

Languages Report

Both the Indonesian and Japanese Year 7 classes have recently completed an ICT research task based on their country of study's involvement in the Olympic Games. This has been a lead into the new topic of sports (supootsu) for Japanese language students. Indonesian students have already covered sports and have been working well on the topic of "School".



Year 11 Japanese students are just completing their third major assessment task. This involves writing and speaking about what they did with a friend over the weekend. There are only a few weeks left until the final exam for Preliminary Beginners Japanese, then on to the Higher School Certificate!

Year 12 Japanese students have now completed their trial exams. Many students took full advantage of the extra lessons on Friday afternoons leading up to the trials. After school revision will continue to be

available until the end of term. Results of the trial exam have given everyone a clear indication on where we will need to focus the remaining lessons of Term 3. It is always possible to improve language skills through practice, revision and focus. Year 12 students will also be spending a lot of time chatting with each other in Japanese to prepare for the Oral exam on August 25th. All students should be using the language as often as possible with classmates both in and out of the classroom.

Mrs. Davis and Mr MacKinnon

TAS Report

One of our Teachers in the TAS faculty, Mrs Jodene Garside, received an award for her outstanding contribution to Public Education and Student Welfare. The award was presented by Karen Jones our local Secondary Education Director at Narara Valley High School on Thursday 2nd August. We are very proud of Jodene's achievement. Congratulations!

Our Stage 4 (Year 7 and Year 8) Technology classes are now winding up their current technology programs after fifteen weeks of hard work and are about to rotate to a different technology where they get to experience working in a different technological field. The rotation through the technology subjects we offer at Northlakes High helps to give our students a broad range of experiences that will assist in guiding them through the elective subjects we offer in the later stages of high school.

Year 11 VET Hospitality

One of our Year 11 Hospitality classes is about to go out for their first Work Placement and we are looking forward to this with great excitement. A special thanks to the organisations that provide this invaluable opportunity to our students and big congratulations to the students who we are very confident will do us proud out there in the hospitality industry.

You may remember that at the end of Term 2 this year our other Hospitality class completed their work placement and we received outstanding reports on their knowledge and work ethic. We are delighted to say that two of those students gained employment within the organisations in which they were placed. Well done to both of them.

So far this term we have catered for two different very important educational functions and both our

Year 11 and Year 12 Hospitality students and teachers made an excellent contribution to preparing the food and beverages on both occasions. The first function was an opportunity for our students to showcase their excellent work pieces to their parents and the second function was where we hosted "Education Week". Again parents were able to come to the school and see the wonderful facilities we now have and how well our students are progressing by utilising them. Feedback relating to the catering provided was excellent.

Year 11 VET Information Technology

In Week 7 of this term, our Information Technology students will be completing their first Work Placement. They will have a week to experience how Information Technology is progressing in a variety of establishment types. It is really interesting when they come back to school and we find out the different types of roles that they were required to fill and the different ways in which organisations operate to satisfy their clientele. We wish the best of luck to all of those students and hope they enjoy the experience and knowledge they will gain.

Year 11 VET Metals and Engineering

Work placement organisation is currently progressing for our metals and engineering students who are preparing for their work placement as well. They will go out to industry in Week 8 for a week and we will keep you updated on their experiences.

Drama Report

Year 11 Drama continues to go well as the class develops their skills in acting, writing, analysing and devising. Miss Smith and myself recently went to Sydney to see Belvoir Street Theatre's production of 'The Death of a Salesman', which was an awesome experience for the class who were well behaved and showed an excellent theatre etiquette. We've been exploring theatre history and are working towards a group devised performance before final exams.



Year 11 Drama Students- Rhiannan Brooker, Reece Lloyd, Maddy Fittler, Jedd Farmer, Sophie Powis and Alex Campbell outside the Belvoir Street Theatre

Mr Josh Stewart

Chaplaincy Report

New Support!

Our new chaplain, Matthew Adams, is at the school at various times during the week. He is available to help any student, parent, or staff member who needs support through a difficult time in his / her life.



The role of the chaplain is to:

Provide pastoral care to students, staff and parents through one-to-one sessions, support groups and referral to other agencies,

Assists school communities to support the spiritual, social, and emotional wellbeing of their students. This can include support and guidance about ethics, values, relationships and spirituality; the provision of pastoral care; and enhancing engagement with the broader community.

Be a positive role model within the school.

Be available to be involved in school programs, Participation in any spiritual based programs also requires parental permission and is voluntary.

Additionally, our Chaplain is accredited to deliver various group programs to develop student friendship and resilience skills. These programs are delivered at scheduled times and advertised through the school newsletter and website.

I look forward to working with you and our School to encourage and serve your children.

Matthew Adams- Chaplain

Welfare Report

The welfare team at Northlakes High School has had a busy and productive start to Term 3 2012.

There are again many programs being implemented in Term 3 to support the needs of our students such as GLOW, Plan It Youth, Reality Check, Anger Management and Drum Beat. A huge thank you to the staff and community who help run and support these valuable programs.

At Northlakes High School we say NO to bullying. Please contact the school if you have any concerns about your student and bullying. As we have a large school it is difficult for us to see who is being bullied, let us know if your child says anything or if their behaviours change at home. Our Anti Bullying team Mrs Fulwood, Miss Watts and Miss Sykes try their best to contact the students from the year group and will work with any student who is feeling bullied or anxious. Contact your students Year Advisor or Mrs Sue Fulwood in the Science Faculty.

The Northlakes High School Uniform policy encourages students to wear school uniform in order to address health and safety considerations, minimise clothing cost burdens for parents, and promote a positive school image. The uniform code is as follows:

Uniform for NHS Term 3 2012:

Junior Boys: Black shorts/ black pants, green polo shirt or green button up shirt, black jumper /jacket & black leather covered shoes

Junior Girls: Junior school skirt /black shorts/black pants, green polo shirt or green button up shirt, black jumper/jacket & black leather covered shoes.

Senior Boys:

Black shorts/black pants, white polo shirt or white button up shirt, black jumper/jacket & black leather covered shoes.

Senior Girls:

Senior school skirt/black shorts/black pants, white polo shirt or white button up shirt, black jumper /jacket & black leather covered shoes.

Each morning during roll call or period one classroom teachers will monitor uniform compliance. Students out of uniform will then be interviewed by Head Teacher Welfare and offered assistance if deemed necessary. If for any reason your child cannot wear uniform, a note with reason can be signed by parent or carer can be given to Head Teacher Welfare and a uniform pass issued.

No tights without skirts, blue jeans or coloured jumpers are to be worn to school

Attendance is recorded each day. As a parent or caregiver you are responsible for ensuring your child attends school every day, including sports days unless your child:

- has an unavoidable medical or dental appointment (preferably these should be made after school or during holidays)
- is required to attend a recognised religious holiday
- is required to attend an exceptional or urgent family circumstance (such as attending a funeral)
- is sick, or has an infectious illness.

Students need to attend school regularly to meet the course requirements of the RoSA and Higher School Certificate.

Missing school means your child misses out on vital information and maintaining learning routines. This can result in a loss of confidence and missing out on forming vital friendships.

If you are having difficulty getting your child to attend school regularly, you should contact Mrs Kennedy HT Welfare / Attendance to discuss the issue.

If your child has to be absent from school for any reason, including arriving late or leaving early, please either tell your child's teacher or the administration assistant at our school, or explain the reason by

phone, email, or written note as soon as possible, or within seven days.

REMEMBER: IT IS NOT OK TO BE AWAY!

The Welfare Team at Northlakes High School is always here for you to contact on 43 90055 with any welfare concerns about your child.

Anti bullying report

There are still some issues with Year 7 and bullying. Parents are asked to support the school in its zero tolerance to bullying and also they are asked to report any incidents to the school so we can handle it before it gets out of hand.

- If our students do not intervene, they lend power to the bully through their silence!
- **Encourage your children to speak up and help the victim.** It is a myth that anyone can be witness to bullying behavior and say they "didn't do anything!" If they did nothing . . . they just told the bully and the victim that the behavior they saw was o.k. by them, or not a big enough deal to say anything about.

It is EXTREMELY important that our bystanders not only speak up, but that they actively help the victim:

- **Reward your children for helping the victims:** Praise them. Let them hear you telling others about how proud you were of them when they stood up for the victim.
- **Support the school if your child occasionally receives consequences for not intervening!** This is a new policy. It will help us discourage the children from being complacent. It will make a phenomenal difference in motivating the bystanders to step in and help, as well as discouraging the bully!
- Bullying back might stop the bully from bothering one or two children. But more often than not, it just enrages the bully and causes him to increase his "power" through more aggressive means, or through increased numbers.

- Bullies are good at picking children who they know can't or won't fight back.
- ***If a child bullies back***, it is *no longer a bullying problem, it is simply a fight*. The adults cannot determine or know who was at fault to begin with and your child will be punished right along with the bully. Even if they are an equal match to the bully, physically and/or emotionally, this is very discouraging to children and adds to their sense of helplessness.
- By properly reporting and not bullying back, the victims have done the bully and the entire school and neighbourhood a HUGE favour. They are true heroes and peacebuilders!
- Working together . . . We can put a stop to bullying and provide ALL the children with the best possible atmosphere for learning.

Thank you,

Mrs Fulwood- Anti Bullying Co-ordinator

P&C Meeting

We hold a P&C meeting once a term, and we would love to see as many parents/Caregivers attend as possible. It will be on **21st August at 3:30pm** and held in the Language Centre here at Northlakes High School.

Uniform shop volunteers needed!

Our uniform shop is run by volunteers, and I would like to thank Julie Hutchins, Christine Cooper, and Karen MacDougall for donating their time every week, however due to work, and family commitments we are in desperate need for some more volunteers. The uniform shop is open every Friday from 10:00am till 11:15am, so if you can help, please call the School on 43 900 555, and ask to speak to Angela Bambey.

Free oral health checks at Mingara throughout August

The University of Newcastle's free community mobile oral health service is gearing up for its next Central Coast clinic.

The service will be offered from its mobile van every Wednesday from 1 – 21 August in the Legends Carpark (near Minigolf) of the Mingara Recreation Club in Tumby Umbi.

Oral health appointments are essential and can be made by phoning 02 4349 4416.

Year 7 Report

Year 7 has been settling well into Term 3 which can often be a very hectic term. Reports were handed out in the last week of Term 2 and many students are working on improving their behaviour. There is lots of productivity in the classrooms and students are working like busy bees!! There are many assignments due in the upcoming weeks, and it is essential that these are completed by students.

Eighty Year 7 students attended the University of Newcastle in Week 2 for the MEGS excursion. All students enjoyed their day and were inspired by the many career choices that are available. Students were reminded that in 5 ½ years they will be choosing their future careers! The MEGS excursion was a great day out and was a fantastic chance to liaise with both parents and students in a relaxed and motivational environment.

7GQ are published journalists! On Tuesday 7th August students from the class were published in the Newcastle Herald, as part of the School's Newspaper Competition for 2012. All students should be congratulated on their fine work. They promoted Northlakes and the surrounding community extremely well. Any parent wishing to pick up a copy can contact me at school.

Students are reminded that there may be a number of weeks of more cold weather. Black jumpers and covered shoes are essential. Parents should be aware of the policy related to mobile phones at school. Students are not allowed to use their phones in class. They are to be turned off before entering a classroom and if students are caught using their phones in class, the phone will be immediately taken to the Deputy Principal for the remainder of the day.

Parents are reminded that they can contact me on 43900555.

Ms Erin Campbell- Year 7 Adviser

Year 8 Report

Students in Year 8 have been issued with an invitation to attend a camp in Year 9, 2013. We are booked in to visit the Illawarra region for three nights and four days in Term 3 next year. Students will be able to visit amazing natural landscape features like the Minnamurra Rainforest, Illawarra Fly Treetop, and rock platforms. They will have cultural experiences by visiting Nan Tien Temple, the Theme park at Jamberoo and the Sea Cliff Bridge walk.

If you or your child has any fundraising ideas please let me know, I'm very keen to help reduce the costs of this excursion.

Please give me a call or send me an email if you would like to discuss this exciting camp adventure further. Contact details are: 4390 0555 or megan.lubinski@det.nsw.edu.au

Mrs Megan Lubinski- Year 8 Adviser

Year 10 Report

Year 10 have had a busy start to Term 3. This has included a talk from Ian West from the Board of Studies discussing the Record of Student Achievement and how it affects Year 10 students. This was an informative afternoon and very important to their studies and future choices.

Year 10 have also participated in their subject selections interview for Year 11/12, HSIE excursion and All My Own Work day. Thank you to the parents and carers who supported their students in this process and their child's future education. This was a productive week for Year 10 and they made some very informative decisions regarding their Senior high school years.

Respect, Responsibility and Personal Best are three areas we focus on at Northlakes High School. As Year 10 Adviser I would like Year 10 to focus on their uniform, being prepared for classes and their overall attitude to school. The next two terms are important for Year 10 to do their personal best in their subjects as these grades will be on their Year 11 and Year 12 certificates. Please contact me if you require any support or assistance.

I would like to thank Mrs Bissaker for relieving as Year Adviser for me over the last 18 months. The

students respect and appreciate all that she did for them. Mrs Bissaker is still involved with Year 10 as she is the 2IC Year 10 Advisor.

Please contact me if there are any concerns with Year 10 students by phone on 43 900555 or email jodene.garside@det.nsw.edu

Mrs Jodene Garside- Year 10 Adviser

Year 11 Report

As the Preliminary Year comes to an end it is incredibly important that all students are working to the best of their ability. This also includes finishing off and submitting any outstanding assessment tasks.

Preliminary exams will take place at the end of the term and the following will help students to get the best marks possible they need to complete all summary notes well before the exam and read over these frequently. Lastly, but very importantly, students need to complete past exams and practise questions.

Earlier this term, thirty seven Year 11 students were able to take part in a Study Skills day presented by 'Elevate Education' and some Northlakes High School staff. All students took positive ideas away from the day, which will help them in the coming year.

As spoken about in previous newsletters, Year 11 students have had the opportunity to purchase a senior jacket. The deposit of \$20 was paid and the remaining balance of **\$57** needs to be finalised by **7th September** so that students can receive them as soon as possible. I can't wait to see students looking fantastic in their senior jackets this year.

Mrs Lara Jephson- Year 11 Adviser

Year 12 Report

Congratulations to all Year 12 students who have now completed the last of their school based assessments, which in most subjects concluded with the completion of their Trial HSC Examinations. These trials should now become a valuable resource for students and used as a tool to show areas of strengths and weaknesses in their subject areas, consequently guiding their study program towards the HSC. Students should go through their trials with a fine tooth comb, looking for little areas to improve their exam performance such as ensuring they adequately address the BOS (Board of Studies) verb at the beginning of most questions.

Lesson time is now limited and the total number of face to face teaching hours left in each subject is less than 20! It is imperative that students utilise this time effectively i.e. attend every lesson, be in class on time and focus! Most subjects are offering extra tutoring after school and students should be making the most of this kind service for the remainder of the term. It also goes without saying that all students should currently be studying like mad each and every night of the week from now until the conclusion of the HSC. This, unfortunately is a necessary evil if students are to achieve their desired results. In the greater scheme of life, it is only for a short period of time (even though it may appear an eternity for some) and a little sacrifice now may well open the door to many more possibilities in the future.

The school formal is to be held at the conclusion of the HSC exams on Monday 12th November at Azzurro's Wharf, The Entrance. Tickets will cost approximately \$75 (depending on final numbers). Students have been asked to pay at least a \$10 deposit per ticket already (those which have not should do so immediately). As this formal is a school sanctioned event it is to be an alcohol free event, even for those over 18. Students may be breathalysed upon arrival and refused entry by security should they breach this policy.

Yours in education,

Mr Ben Bryant- Year 12 Adviser.