

Year 5 at the University of Wollongong

On Thursday 4 November, Year 5 students travelled to Wollongong to participate in the **University of Wollongong Illawarra Coal Science Fair**. The Science Fair provides the opportunity for students to showcase the results of their independent science research projects with students from schools across the Illawarra, Southern Highlands and South Coast areas.

In addition to their entry in the Science Fair, a number of Gib Gate students chose to complete detailed portfolios of work to enter into the **2015 Science Teachers' Association of NSW (STANSW) Young Scientist Award** earlier this year. The Award Presentation Ceremony was held at the University on the evening of Thursday 4 November. Winning equal first prize in the Scientific Investigations Years 3-6 Section were: Ankitha Avvari and Zoe Moutsopoulos for *Soggy Socks* and Maya Basson and Emma Hassett for *Protective Polystyrene*.

Academic Rigour You Can See

In an article entitled *Carol Dweck Revisits the 'Growth Mindset'* (September 22, 2015 edition of Education Week), the author known best for her publication *Mindset: The New Psychology of Success, 2006*, has recently sought to clarify what she hoped educators would take from her research. In short, her 2006 thesis was that students who believe their intelligence can be developed (a growth mindset) outperformed those who believe their intelligence is fixed (a fixed mindset) and when children learn through a structured programme that they can increase their abilities, through effort – focused on the right processes – they do better.

The recent paper is a cautionary statement about how her initial research has at times been misinterpreted: *A growth mindset is not just about effort....Certainly effort is key for students' achievement but it's not the only thing. Students need to try new strategies and seek input from others when they are 'stuck'. They need this repertoire of approaches – not just sheer effort – to learn and improve...*

'Doing school well' for secondary students requires the resilience and commitment to welcome critique as essential feedback on learning – academic rigour – which grows when students are guided by parents and teachers to accept responsibility for their improvement and their moments of disappointment.

Consider the guidance for students of all abilities, when studies feel difficult at a particular time (as they should):

The point isn't to 'get it all' straight away. The point is to grow understanding...

What will you try next? What did you learn? (...when that went wrong...) What a great opportunity to think again...



Science Teachers' Association of NSW (STANSW) Young Scientist Award (2015) 1st placegetters:

Left: Zoe Moutsopoulos, Ankitha Avvari

Right: Emma Hassett, Maya Basson



Acknowledgement to:

- Andrea Conomos (Year 9) who has won a place to compete in the **Australian Junior Athletics Championships** Tuesday 8-Sunday 13 March 2016 at the Western Australian Athletics Stadium, Mt Claremont, Perth;
- Year 8 finalists at the recent **F1 In-Schools State Championships** at the University of Newcastle – see details in this Newsletter;
- Year 5 students, Ankitha Avvari, Zoe Moutsopoulos, Maya Basson and Emma Hassett, placed equal first in the Scientific Investigations Years 3-6 Section of the **2015 Science Teachers' Association of NSW (STANSW) Young Scientist Award**, prepared by their class teacher Mrs Lynn Venish;
- The five Year 12 Visual Arts students, Georgina Campbell (Photography), Zella Casey Brown (Printing), Phoebe Crowe (Painting), Giorgi Jardine (Painting) and Camilla Munro (Printmaking) whose HSC major artworks have been nominated by the marking centre for possible inclusion in the **2016 ArtExpress**;
- Ellie Arnott (Year 10), who was invited to act in an official capacity to open the **Southern Highlands Arts Festival**;
- Emily Ives and Arabella McKenzie (Year 10) on their selection to the **Illawarra U18 Rugby 7s** team which competed in the **NSW Rugby Youth Girls 7s Championship**;
- The 2015 **Year 11 Mock Trial** team for their cleverly staged 'mock Mock Trial' for the School, to promote the activity to Year 10 and to express gratitude to their coach and manager, Mr Chris Jowett and Ms Judy Bradley;

Past Student News – Frensham:

- **Skye McGregor** (1999) pictured at her recent graduation ceremony when she was awarded the degree of Doctor of Philosophy by the Faculty of Medicine at the University of NSW. Her thesis examined health research capacity building in low and middle income countries, with a particular focus on HIV research. Skye undertook her doctoral studies at the Kirby Institute and now has a new position there, coordinating national HIV surveillance in Australia which involves liaising with state and territory health departments, collating data on diagnoses, analysing trends in notifications and conducting related research.
- **Emma Campbell** (2009) spent her Gap Year in France undertaking study (in French) for the Baccalauréat de Science at two high schools, the Lycée Boissy d'Anglas and the Lycée Métiers du Dauphiné. In 2014, she completed a Bachelor of Psychology with First Class Honours at the University of Sydney, carrying out research in the area of Social Psychology. Her thesis investigated the effectiveness of various methods for improving the support of different ethnocultural groups for Aboriginal Tertiary Affirmative Action Programs. This year she commenced a two year Master of Teaching (School Counselling) degree, which combines her interest in adolescent mental health, teaching methods and the French Language (her secondary teaching area).

Emma has been involved in the Sydney University Wind Orchestra (and has been their Publicity Officer for the past three years), the Sydney University French Society and Psyche (the Sydney University Psych Society).



Julie A Gillick
Head of Frensham
Head of Winifred West Schools

Parent / Community News

Frensham Advisory Committee 2015		Gib Gate Advisory Committee 2015	
Mrs Caroline Begg	r-cbegg@bigpond.net.au	Mrs Rachel Arnott (Chair)	Rkarnott1@gmail.com
Mrs Pip Crichton	picrichton@bigpond.com	Mrs Caroline Atra	caroline.atra@me.com
Mrs Helen Gooden	jwhgooden@bigpond.com	Dr Guy Bashford	guy.bashford@sesiahs.health.nsw.gov.au
Mrs Katrina Graves	graves@jkg.net.au	Mrs Holly de Manincor	hollydemanincor@hotmail.com
Mr John Hayes	hayes.it@bigpond.com	Mr Gil Downes	gil.downes@neerim.net.au
Mrs Sam Hickson (Sec)	jshickson@bigpond.com	Mrs Sarah Lewis (Sec)	sarahlew@me.com
Mr Gavin Martin	gavin.martin@ap.jll.com	Mrs Corina Nesci	corina.nesci@yahoo.com
Mrs Judy Newton	judy.newton5@bigpond.com	Mrs Helen Pernice	dandhpernice@bigpond.com
Mr Sam Paradise	sam.paradice@morgans.com.au	Mrs Zoe Suttie (Chair of FOGG)	zoesuttie@gmail.com
Mr John Penton (Chair)	jbenton@tpg.com.au		
Mrs Tina Scales	t.scales@bigpond.com		
Mrs Melody Talbot	melody@talbotnet.com		
TERM DATES 2015 ~ Gib Gate & Frensham			
Term 4 Gib Gate: Tuesday 6 October-Friday 4 December 3pm		<u>Frensham</u> : Tuesday 6 October-Sunday 6 December 12.30pm (departure is after the Carol Service)	
TERM DATES 2016 - Gib Gate and Frensham			
Term 1 <u>Gib Gate & Frensham:</u> Friday 29 January – Thursday 7 April , 3.00pm departure (Frensham <u>New Student Induction Thursday 28 January</u> All boarders return evening of Thursday 28 January) <u>Easter:</u> Departure is from 3.00pm Wednesday 23 March Classes recommence Tuesday 29 March		Term 3 <u>Gib Gate & Frensham:</u> Tuesday 19 July-Thursday 22 September 3.00pm (All Boarders return on the evening of Monday 18 July) <u>Frensham</u> (Year 12 Dinner with Parents and Staff is evening of Thursday 22 September)	
Term 2 <u>Gib Gate & Frensham:</u> Wednesday 27 April -Thursday 23 June, 3.00pm (All Boarders return on the evening of Tuesday 26 April) (Year 10 Work Experience ends Friday 24 June) Queen's Birthday Long Weekend: Monday 13 June ; Frensham departs 3.00pm Friday 10 June		Term 4 <u>Gib Gate:</u> Monday 10 October-Friday 9 December 3.00pm <u>Frensham:</u> Monday 10 October -Sunday 11 December from 12noon (after 11am Carol Service) (All Boarders return on the evening of Sunday 9 October)	
2016 PARENT WEEKENDS – Confirmed dates for attendance of all students Years 7-12			
Term 1 Year 7 Saturday 27 February-Sunday 28 February Frensham Open Day ~ Saturday 27 February Year 10 Saturday 12-Sunday 13 March		Term 3 Year 11 Saturday 6-Sunday 7 August [Year 10 Saturday 6 August - Year 10 planning for Senior Studies (with parents on Saturday)] Year 9 Saturday 27-Sunday 28 August	
Term 2 Year 8 Saturday 14-Sunday 15 May Year 12 Saturday 4-Sunday 5 June WWS Birthday - Friday 3 June Frensham's 103 rd Birthday - Sunday 5 June			

Ranier Uniform Shop

UNIFORMS FOR 2016

It is recommended that students starting in 2016 come in early to organise their uniforms. Fittings may be arranged during the remaining weeks of this term. **All fittings are by appointment.**

Mondays and Thursdays 12noon-5.00pm [Last trading day for 2015 – Thursday 3 December]

Additional Trading Days – January 2016 - 12noon-5.00pm

[by appointment only]

Wednesday 20, Thursday 21, Friday 22 January

Wednesday 27 January

Regular trading days [as noted above] will resume from **Thursday 28 January 2016**

Shop Manager: Mrs Michelle Wynn

To order goods, please call the Shop: (02) 4860 2136 [BH]

Shop Hours: Mondays and Thursdays: 12.00pm-5pm

or email: frensham@ranier.com.au

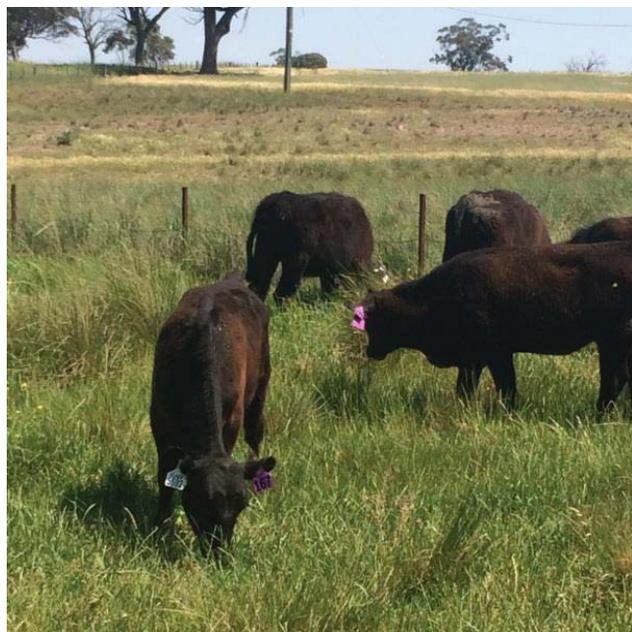
WWS FOUNDATION News

WINIFRED WEST SCHOOLS FOUNDATION

Cattle Herd Project



WWS Foundation Cattle Herd Project



With many thanks to our generous Donors and Host farmers, the Cattle Herd will reach its 2015 target of 150 head of cattle.

The cattle are spread throughout New South Wales in 24 different locations, from the north in Glen Innes, to the south in Holbrook and to the west in Hay.

With strong cattle prices, the return on investment that the Foundation has been able to achieve via the Cattle Herd makes this project a key part of Foundation's fundraising activities.

With another ambitious target in 2016 – to increase the herd to 250, Foundation is again looking for more Donors and Hosts.

Left: More members of the Cattle Herd enjoying good feed on the Alker family property at Merriwa.

Eclectica

WWS Foundation ART SHOW

WWS Foundation Art Show – Eclectica 2016

A note for your diary: **Saturday 5-Sunday 6 November 2016**
(Official Opening~ Friday 4 November 2016)

For more information on WWS Foundation, please contact: Michele Scamps, +61 2 4860 2000 – foundation@wws.nsw.edu.au

From Ms Robson, Head of Gib Gate

University of Wollongong Illawarra Coal Science Fair (...continued from Newsletter Cover article)

The following investigations were 'on display', with the student scientists who designed them:

- *Fertiliser Fiasco*: If aquatic plants and animals are dying, could fertilisers be contributing towards this problem? Matilda Arnott, Hannah Hiscocks, Charlotte Papendieck and Matilda Walker;
- *Super Surface Sprays*: Which anti-bacterial spray works best? Georgina Brown, Lucy Daly, Lulu Duck and Lucy Pernice;
- *Protective Polystyrene*: Does polystyrene really keep temperatures consistent and if so, how does this happen? Maya Basson, Emma Hassett, Amelia Hescott and Alexander Mazurkiewicz;
- *Dodgy Diaper*: Which brand of baby nappy absorbs the most water? Phoebe Wedderburn and Mia Greig;
- *Soggy Socks*: If your socks or clothes get wet, which kind of fabric will dry the quickest? Ankitha Avvari, Sienna Fuller, Zoe Moutsopoulos and Hamilton Taylor;
- *Better Bottles*: Which bottle helps keep the temperature of liquids the most constant for the longest? Holly Horsfall, Paris Ow-Yang and Olivia Vertzayias;
- *Harness the Heat*: Does orientation of a structure affect temperature? Georgia Day, Grace Cox, Charlotte Little and Eliza Hewson;
- *Coke Zero – Teeth Zero*: What factors in Coca Cola drinks contribute towards tooth decay? Alexandra Cavanagh, Chloe Garcia and Lily Veleba

According to Year 5 *Gib Gate Reporters*, Sienna Fuller and Alexander Mazurkiewicz, some of the best things about the day were: taking photographs of all the student work in the hall using the iPads, reading the displays of other students' display boards and attending a presentation by Australian Engineer, Warwick Holmes, entitled: *The European Space Agency's Rosetta mission to Comet 67P* in which he explained his part in the mission.

Senior Musical Production, *Jungle*

Parents are thanked for their support of Years 3-6 who performed last week in this year's annual Musical Production. With Year 6 in lead roles, singing and acting were superbly executed and costumes were spectacular. Mrs Anne Graham and the staff worked as a team to ensure that students felt confident in their parts and this was clearly visible during both performances. Thank you also to parents who assisted with the production and in the making of the colourful costumes.

Involving all students from Preschool to Year 6 and synthesising the students' work in Music, Dance and Drama, is a core component of the Gib Gate experience and Mrs Graham, Mrs Lomax and the entire Gib Gate staff work collaboratively and supportively of each other and the students.

Gib Gate Reports – Learning Highlights

I have included a few extracts below from a range of younger and older students' Semester Two Learning Highlights, capturing the sense of achievement students were pleased to share:

Pre-Kindergarten

- *I like learning Japanese numbers and making origami cats.*
- *I loved making the recycled artwork that we took on our excursion to the Recycling Centre.*
- *My favourite activity was doing the duck dance on stage for the Junior School Musical 'The Little Red Hen'.*

Kindergarten

- *I really liked Science... We learnt that there are some movements you cannot control. I liked making my Roly-Poly toy.*
- *I really like making Origami in Japanese...*
- *I liked doing a marble painting of an owl in Art...*
- *I like telling the time.*
- *I like Writing.*
- *I'm good at writing short letters and long letters.*
- *I like counting up to one hundred.... School is super-duper fun.*

Year 1

- *I really like Sport, especially all the stations we did in gymnastics.*
- *Swimming is so much fun and I am good at diving now.*
- *I love reading groups because I can practise my fluent reading and the books I read teach me lots of interesting things.*
- *I really enjoy Sport, especially the game Sharks and Seals because I have to run very quickly.*
- *I like learning all the addition and subtraction strategies in Mathematics and using them all in different ways.*
- *I really like reading groups because I like reading interesting books and I am very good at reading now.*
- *I would like to get better at telling the time in Maths.*

Years 5 and 6:

My learning highlights for Semester 2 include:

- *TOMS competition; although it was hard when we were making the solution, we had fun and the result was very rewarding.*
- *Involvement in my group's Science investigation...*
- *Code Camp, because it was fun and required logical thinking...*
- *Fractions in Mathematics because I think that I have a better understanding of fractions and how to add unlike denominators...*
- *My piano and singing lessons...*
- *'Stars of Science' research...*
- *Being a buddy, playing cricket and being part of the RoboCup Team...*
- *Soccer in a team of 12 boys and one other girl...*

With only four weeks of school remaining, Students from Pre-Kindergarten to Year 6 have been reflecting on the many experiences they have enjoyed in Semester Two.

Enrichment/Activities

Soirée

The second annual **Soirée** will be held in the Gib Gate Hall on Thursday 19 November with performances by selected music students from Years 5 and 6. This recital commences at 6.00pm.

Remembrance Day

Year 2 students confidently led the **Remembrance Day Assembly** on Friday 6 November. They shared their understanding of this important day with the school.

Years 1 and 2 Sydney Excursion

Students in Years 1 and 2 will be participating in a Music and Science Excursion to the **Sydney Symphony Orchestra** at ABC Studios, Ultimo and to the **Sydney Observatory** in Sydney on Tuesday 17 November. They will attend a Sydney Symphony Orchestra Concert featuring short pieces including the 'Sorcerer's Apprentice' and 'Tortoise and the Hare', specifically selected for Stage 1 students and a 60-minute presentation at the Sydney Observatory.

Mrs Anne Graham, Gib Gate Coordinator (Administration)

Sport

Summer sports are well under way and the children and their families are enthusiastic and committed to the local competitions. This summer, we have over 130 children from Pre-Kindergarten to Year 6 representing the School in Basketball, Cricket, Tennis, Water Polo, Swim Squad, Equestrian and Gymnastics activities. In addition to these teams, students are well represented in representative level Cricket, Basketball and Equestrian.

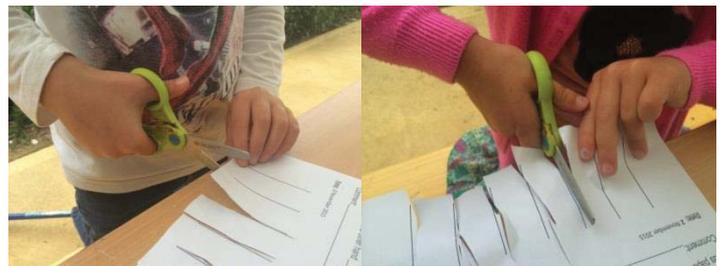
Mr Michael Standen, Co-ordinator of PDHPE and Sport

Preschool (Pre-Kindergarten)

Scissors are always accessible in the Pre-Kindergarten classroom for the children to use. This week they have been working on their cutting skills, with support to learn how to hold scissors and how to cut.

Pictured at right are **Jock Basham and Mirabelle McLean**.

The importance of developing cutting skills: Cutting accurately refines a child's fine motor skills by building up the tiny muscles in the palm of his/her hand. The muscles are the same muscles used in writing. Cutting enhances hand-eye coordination. Children must be able to use their vision, process what they see and move their hand accordingly while looking at something else. Hand-eye



coordination is used in writing and many other activities. Cutting skills encourage a child to use bilateral coordination. (Bilateral coordination refers to the ability to use each side of the body for a different action, like stabilising a piece of paper while cutting it, or writing on it). Last, but not least, cutting develops the skill of hand separation, which is the ability to use the thumb, index finger and middle finger separately from the pinkie and ring finger.

Ms Kelly Lees, Preschool Teacher



JUNGLE GIB GATE Senior Musical Production

FRIENDS OF STURT

Chris Topp (President), Penny Hoskins (Secretary), Ruth Wright (Roster Secretary), Denise Sumner (Mail-out Coordinator), Joan Dinning, Bill Dinning, Anne Thomson, Alan Matthews, Julie Musgrave, Michael Harris

Special News

Join us for the 2015 students' graduation and end-of-year exhibition from the Sturt School for Wood.

Transformation - an exhibition of new work by graduating students from Sturt School for Wood 2015 - 21 November to 6 December

Sturt's world-class Wood School, training Australia's future fine furniture makers and designers, will celebrate the graduation of its 2015 students and the opening of their end-of-year exhibition in Sturt Gallery. The Sturt School for Wood is now more in demand than ever with a full school already for 2016 and enrolments now being taken for 2017. The high quality of the work on display at this important exhibition showcasing emerging talents is truly outstanding.

The graduation and exhibition opening will take place at 11am Saturday 21 November, with special guest Dr Rodney Hayward, craftsman and scholar and former Head of Furniture Workshop, ANU School of Art.

Summer School 2016 - 4-9 January

Places at the Summer School are almost filled. View courses with places remaining via the website where there is an option to book online. Some courses with places remaining include – Drawing flowers with Suzanne Archer, Painting: exploring narrative with Justin Pearson, Seascapes, rivers and lakes in pastel with Tricia Taylor, Weaving: the basics with Liz Williamson, Contemporary wood project: Coolamon table with Simon Zablotsky and Digital crafting for artists with Rod Bamford.

Short Courses

Pierced Clay with Julie Shepherd – Saturday 14-Sunday 15 November - **Level:** For those with some experience.

Sculpture - Hebel Block with Britta Stenmanns – Saturday 14-Sunday 15 November - **Level:** Suitable for all levels of experience.

Weaving - tackle a new technique with Susan Walker – Saturday 14-Sunday 15 November - **Level:** Intermediate-Advanced.

Exploring Bangalow Basketry: with Glenese Keavney – Saturday 14-Sunday 15 November - **Level:** Suitable for all levels of experience.

Botanical Art - making colours sing with Leonie Norton – Saturday 14-Sunday 15 November - **Level:** Suitable for all levels of experience.

Special 3-Day Woodwork Course - Friday 13-Sunday 15 November**Wood and Weave: Three-legged stool construction with Isabelle Moore**

Work with our international artist-in-residence, furniture designer, Isabelle Moore from Scotland.

Level: Some experience required with machines and reasonable hand skills

This exclusive opportunity to work with one of Europe's top furniture designers, will enable students to gain an overview of frame construction and the elements to be considered when designing seating for comfort, ergonomics and practicality. During the first two days, using pre-prepared stock, students will be shown how to mark out and cut the required joinery using a range of workshop machinery, then hand shape, assemble, glue-up and finish a wooden frame construction to accommodate their chosen sitting height. On the third day, Isabelle will demonstrate weaving techniques and the selection of appropriate materials for a woven seat surface and guide you through the completion of your stool. The stool will be constructed from native hardwoods and be woven from a choice of Japanese sea grass or Danish cord (or equivalent); other weaving materials could be used if appropriate.

Sturt Gallery

Drawn to Clay – ceramics and drawings by Carlos Barrios, Vince Vozzo, Slavica Zivkovic, Justin Pearson - 12 December to 15 February

Four wonderful Australian artists seize the opportunity to work in clay and on paper to explore the relationship and influences between these very different media. All have spent time recently working in clay and, in this innovative exhibition will, for the

first time, show their work in clay alongside raw experimental drawings. The resulting exhibition captures a unique studio atmosphere and insight into the thinking of these inspiring artists.

The exhibition opening and Sturt's popular **Christmas Shopping Night** will take place on **Friday 11 December** from 6pm. The evening will feature live music and complimentary sparkling wine and canapés with special guest, **Michael Yabsley**, Designer and owner of Wombat Hollow, opening the exhibition.

Sturt Shop and Gallery are perfect places for early Christmas shopping and a look at the current exhibition. There are many exciting new ranges in the shop currently which will make ideal gifts for Christmas.

At The End of the Rainbow - porcelain by Julie Shepherd - continues to 15 November

This is an exhibition of exciting new ceramics by Julie Shepherd exploring an evolution of colour and lustre in exquisite fine porcelain. Inspired by Sturt Craft Centre's Garden, these sculptural and functional ceramics with hidden treasures celebrate the fragile beauty and resilience of nature.

Sturt Coffee

Sturt's Café in the gallery and garden courtyard provides the perfect place for coffee and delicious sweet and savoury treats, courtesy of Gilbert's of Mittagong.

Events

Friends of Sturt Committee Meeting - Sturt Cottage, Wednesday 18 November 2015 at 5.30pm.

Friends of Sturt members are invited to join the FOS Committee for its regular meeting, a glass of wine and a preview of the next exhibition.

Full details of all Sturt courses, exhibitions, residency programmes and events can be found on the website www.sturt.nsw.edu.au or to make a booking or enrolment call Sturt Shop on +61 2 4860 2083 or email shop@sturt.nsw.edu.au

Mr Mark Viner, Head of Sturt

FRENSHAM News

Deputy Head

Preparations for 2016 are a major focus for teachers and students this term to ensure a seamless transition academically.

Most students have now made subject choices for the next year. Letters will be sent to parents to confirm Elective choices and Preliminary HSC subjects. Ms van Gogh and Ms Chauncy are still working with some students on their curriculum structure and will be finalising the details prior to the Christmas break.

Girls have nominated their IGSSA sport for Term 1 and selection trials will be held during Jamieson Week and will continue during the first week of 2016. The first weekend of Term 1, 2016 will involve team selections or training in the girls' chosen sport.

Parents are reminded that Extra Subject forms will be available to families on Schoolbox after Christmas. These forms should be completed and returned by the date indicated. All students must complete a Music Lesson form if they intend to continue with, or take up, an instrumental music lesson next year.

Mr Geoff Marsh, Deputy Head

Boarding News

On Thursday 22 October, there was great anticipation in the Houses for the arrival of new girls for the Overnight Orientation programme, in preparation for their commencement in 2016. The new students arrived at Clubbe Hall to be greeted by Senior Students, Shadows and Heads of House. The evening included Dinner in the Dining Room, games in the Parker Gymnasium and sleeping over in Kennedy of Hartfield. The following day started with breakfast followed by Morning Prayers, classes and a barbecue lunch.

Activities scheduled over the weekend of 24 and 25 October included Pool sessions and local excursions, with a group of Junior Boarders attending a cooking school in Bowral to bake Christmas fare to be taken home at the end of term.

On the evening of Sunday 25 October, as well as the Sydney bus from Frensham, the School organised a Yass bus service for about 20 Boarders returning from the Southern Tablelands. This inaugural weekend service proved very popular and is now planned to be offered at least one weekend every term, planned a term ahead.

On the evening of Friday 30 October, Handball and Basketball were enjoyed and a group of **Year 10 and 11** girls completed their **Safe Driving Course**.

McCarthy House farewelled the Year 12, 2015 Boarders on Wednesday 4 November and by the next evening the new Year 12, (2016 cohort) moved in!

Mme Deborah Panaretto, Director of Boarding

Director of Teaching and Learning

University of Sydney GROK Learning NCSS Challenge begins!

A number of our students have taken up the challenge to join this online computer coding competition running for five weeks, from Monday 2 November to Sunday 6 December. Facilitated by senior lecturers at USYD, including co-founders, James Curran, Associate Professor in Computer Science and Tara Murphy, Senior Lecturer in Astroinformatics, each week students are provided with a set of 5-10 interesting and fun problems (the 'challenges') and some accompanying notes. The questions are released at the same time which test the new material for that week and consolidate understanding of the previous week's material. The difficulty of the problems varies between the three streams of the Challenge. Each week's problems also range in difficulty: starting with problems testing the previous week's material, then introducing the new concepts in simpler questions, and finally combining the concepts together.

The following students will complete the challenges as they are presented:

Year 10: Sophie Booth, Elspeth Robertson, Dominique Romijn; Year 9: Jessica Latimer, Gabrielle Steiner; Year 8: Joanna Hicks, Annabelle Hickson, Hayley Hunter, Imogen Senior; Year 7: Frances Alldis, Aarthi Avvari, Annabella Damiani, Bronte Garcia, Caitlin Hargraves, Mia Horsfall, Adelaide Poulos.

The University of Sydney Science Gifted and Talented Discovery Programme Qualifying Examination 2015

Last Monday and Tuesday, selected students in Years 8 and 9 completed a 40-minute qualifying examination to test their level of skill in solving advanced scientific problems in the areas of Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

The aim of the University of Sydney's **Science Gifted and Talented Discovery Programme** is to provide gifted, enthusiastic Science students with the opportunity to be challenged through hands-on experiments, interactive lectures and demonstrations, and to make friends with students of similar interests during the July school vacation period for three days. Students in the top 10-15% nationally are invited by the university, to attend one workshop per year in Year 9 and 10 and then they will be invited back to a University-wide workshop in Year 11. Results of this examination and invitations to attend will be advised to Frensham in February 2016.

UNSW School Vacation Workshops: Scientia Challenge for Years 7– 10

The **Scientia Challenge Programme** is designed for gifted and talented high school students in Years 7-10. The programme features a range of workshops taught over three days. The courses are developed and presented by academics at the University of New South Wales. The level of difficulty in the courses is aimed at two years higher than the students' grade level, providing a rigorous and challenging programme. The programme also provides the opportunity for gifted students to meet like-minded peers of similar interests. The next Scientia Challenge Programme will be held 19-21 January 2016. Please visit the following site for more information as the deadline for entries is 22 November 2015:

<https://education.arts.unsw.edu.au/about-us/gerric/for-gifted-students/scientia-challenge-yr-7-to-10/>

Ms Kate Chauncy, Director of Teaching and Learning, P-12 and Coordinator of Gifted and Talented Programmes

Director of Studies

Year 9 is currently in an examination period and Year 10 students completed their examinations last week. Students are prepared for timed assessments in several ways. Girls know what to expect in terms of the format and style of questions, and the content areas being examined. Teachers use the following strategies when preparing students for examinations:

- Guiding the process of analysing questions/content areas (highlighting and breaking down each part of the examination notification and focusing on key terms.
- Using prepared exemplar responses or to past examination papers/questions to model answers with students.

- Providing guidance and instruction as to the study methods appropriate for their subject. This includes specifying areas of focus for review and study during Prep and time beyond the classroom.

Annual examinations for Years 7-10 are stand-alone tasks and are reported on separately from course work. Examination notifications and timetables are published to students in advance to facilitate prioritising of revision programmes.

Examinations are a form of summative assessment allowing students to demonstrate their knowledge and skills under timed conditions. They are only one means of measuring a student's developing competence in achieving course outcomes. It is important to remember that it is the daily classroom teaching and learning activities in which students participate that facilitates achievement - not the testing. The assessment programme, conducted over the academic year by each subject area, acknowledges the different ways in which students learn and demonstrate achievement of their learning. This can take the form of work samples, oral tasks, research projects, portfolios and class work.

Year 12, 2016 students have begun their HSC assessment programme with most subjects first tasks, spread over the remaining weeks of the school term.

'Students will complete school-based assessments as part of their HSC, which together contribute 50% of their final HSC mark for a course (except VET courses). Assessment tasks allow students to show what they know, understand and can do in ways that may not be possible in a written examination. Tasks may include tests, written assignments, practical activities, fieldwork and projects. A balance is required between obtaining sufficient information and not over assessing. Three to five tasks, including the trial HSC, are considered sufficient to adequately assess the components of most courses; for one unit courses, two to three tasks generally would be sufficient. It should also be noted that later tasks generally have greater weighting than tasks completed early in the programme.'

[HSC assessment in a standards-referenced framework - *A Guide to Best Practice* – BOSTES]

Ms Janene van Gogh, Director of Studies – in Residence

Drama

Excitement is brewing as this year's musical, **Annie**, is in the final stages of rehearsals. It is always rewarding to come to this stage of the production process and recognise what the cast and crew have achieved in just a few months. With only a handful of weeks to go, it is thrilling to see the magic of theatre come alive. All the final elements of production are coming together, from the choreography to the costumes and sets. When you attend the School performance on Saturday 5 December, we hope you will enjoy the show and the singing and dancing from this musical spectacular.

Mrs Sally Hannah, Senior Teacher in English and Drama

English

As we know, the English language is constantly evolving. Words which exist now would not have even been thought of 20 years ago. As English teachers, we have a special relationship with words. English originated from a West Germanic language that was first spoken in early medieval England. It has an interesting and complex history and has some remarkable quirks and oddities. One of which is the collective noun. While to many students the grammatical fascination of nouns is elusive, there is no doubt some of the stories around the origins of collective nouns are intriguing. In her book *An Unkindness of Ravens*, Chloe Rhodes has researched the stories behind these interesting and fascinating phrases. From 'A Rascal of Boys' to an 'Obstinacy of Buffalo,' each delightful story is researched and explored.

We felt that the origin of 'A Worship of Writers' was an appropriate story as so much of English is about writing. Writing academically, creatively, inspirationally, persuasively and even beautifully is a skill we all admire. Many think the ability to write is innate. No doubt there are those who are gifted with intuition and flair, yet there is overwhelming evidence to suggest that the craft of writing is something that can be taught and learned. So what is the story of the collective noun for writers?

...In the Middle Ages the only way a writer could earn a living by the pen was to attract the support of a wealthy patron...Patrons were not the altruistic supporters of the arts with whom we are familiar today. They expected something in return for their money, and at the very least they expected kind things to be said about them by the writer they had chosen to help. Eighteenth century literary historian, Thomas Wharton, was critical of a system which compelled writers to include fawning dedications with every new piece of work...

Hence the collective noun for a group of writers became a *worship*.

Year 7

Effie McGuinness has drawn your name from the ballot to compete in 'The Literature Games: Books You Hunger to Read 2015'. To ensure that your district's book will win the Games you will need to deliver a winning presentation to The Capitol.

The Judges: President, Theodore Snow; Master of Ceremonies, Caesar Hannah

The Districts: Tuck Everlasting (Natalie Babbit); Northern Lights (Philip Pullman); A Very Unusual Pursuit (Catherine Jinks); Worldshaker (Richard Harland); Obernewtyn (Isabelle Carmody); Bridge to Terabithia (Katherine Paterson); Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes (Eleanor Coerr); Song for a Scarlet Runner (Julie Hunt)

Year 7 students are embarking on a challenge fit for a gladiatorial arena. They have been reading a variety of fiction texts this term and are now working together in their 'Literary Circles' to deliver a winning (and potentially life-saving!) presentation on their novel. Students thoroughly enjoyed being given the choice as to which book they would read, and took to the reading hungrily, with many students now onto their second or third books. In presenting their novels to their peers in fresh and engaging ways, students are working on a series of 'Challenges' which incorporate Making Thinking Visible routines. These include Colour-Symbol-Image and Step-Inside, as well as an imaginative Q&A session with their chosen author. Lastly, groups will devise and present a 'Finale', where they think outside the box and use their imagination to appeal to the judges.

Ms Lee McGuinness, Head of English/Drama

French

Felicitations aux filles de la Terminale de 2015! It was with some sadness that the HSC students from French Continuers and French Extension were farewelled this week, after completing their French HSC. These students have worked diligently and have strived to achieve their best. Given that French is more than a school subject, it is a skill acquired for life, these girls are sure to exercise and benefit from their knowledge and understanding during many occasions in their future. The students in Year 11 French have excellent role models to emulate.

Meanwhile, the Year 10 French students took their first examination in their stride, tackling the paper with equanimity and competence. Year 9 students of French have prepared diligently for examinations this week, with each student demonstrating an exemplary focus and determination to improve upon her previous achievements in the subject. Years 7 and 8 are studying assiduously to realise the outcomes established for their respective year-groups and laying the foundations for their achievements ahead in their study of this beautiful language and fascinating culture.

Mesdames M Kidner and B Micklem, and Mademoiselle V Akins, Teachers of French

Latin

In October, BOSTES (the Board of Studies Teaching & Educational Standards) released a revised syllabus for HSC Continuers Latin. The most significant change from the previous syllabus is that students are now able to use a dictionary in the examination to assist with their translation of unseen passages. While this may sound a great advantage, it is not necessarily so. On 16 October, the Classical Languages Teachers Association Inc held a workshop at Newington College, Stanmore. There were two sessions: the first was advice in training students in the use of a dictionary for translating unseen passages and the second was an introduction to the changes to the actual format of the HSC examination. The first session was given by teachers experienced in the teaching of Latin for the International Baccalaureate for which students have always been allowed to use a dictionary. They stressed the importance of continuing to learn vocabulary and that the dictionary was meant to be a 'last resort', perhaps for only six uncommon words. The advice given was very comprehensive and extremely useful. Needless to say, Frensham students are continuing to learn vocabulary from the set texts and take advantage of quizzes created on the 'quizlet' website. Changes to the examination are the removal of the seven multiple choice questions on grammar analysis for each text, the inclusion of a few grammar questions as part of the 'short answer' responses and an increase in the marks for the extended response for each text from ten to fifteen.

Ms Liz Stephenson, Senior Teacher, Latin

Human Society and Its Environment (HSIE)

Year 11 students have commenced their HSC coursework, with Business Studies students having just completed their first in-class assessment task on Human Resource Management. This week, the Geography class will commence its case study of the Great Barrier Reef as an example of an 'Ecosystem at Risk' and have the first assessment task next Thursday. Students of Modern History are working on their core study of World War I and this will be the focus of their source-based assessment task later in the term. Extension History students have embarked on the first section of the course which involves 'Historiography' with a particular focus on the classical historians Herodotus and Thucydides. They are also in the process of discussing major work topics with their teacher. Students of Economics are investigating the topic of 'The Global Economy' and are preparing an assessment on their case study of the Chinese or Indonesian economy. In particular they are analysing the strategies used to address economic challenges following the Global Financial Crisis (GFC).

Students in Year 10 have commenced their Orientation Programme. In the HSIE Faculty, there are four subjects that students may select for senior study: Modern History, Ancient History, Economics and Business Studies. The Economics class is undertaking analysis of various economic fundamentals as well as recent economic events such as the GFC. The Business Studies class is exploring the concept of entrepreneurship through case study investigations, while in Geography, students are examining the interactions of the biophysical environment, using river catchments as an example. They will also investigate aspects of Human Geography relating to Global Population. In the Modern History orientation, students are examining conditions that cause revolutions, prior to studying the Cuban Revolution as a Case Study.

Year 9 students are completing examinations this week in Geography, History and History Elective subjects.

Year 8 History students are looking at indigenous and European perspectives pertaining to colonisation, while Geography students are learning about global environmental issues and sustainable development and climate change which are being discussed in class. As Prince Charles stated, *'the world's forests need to be seen for what they are... giant global utilities, providing essential services to humanity on a vast scale. Rainforests store carbon, which is lost to the atmosphere when they burn, increasing global warming. The life they support cleans the atmosphere of pollutants and feeds it with moisture. They help regulate our climate and the lives of some of the poorest people on this Earth.'*

Students in Year 7 have been investigating China's ancient dynasty, the Qin Dynasty and the reforms undertaken by the 'First Emperor', Qin Shi Huangdi.

Ms Janene van Gogh, Head of HSIE

Mock Trial

On Friday 6 November, the **2015 Mock Trial Team** made a presentation to Mr Chris Jowett, from Selman Jowett Solicitors to thank him for his great support during the year. All members of the team were on stage in Clubbe Hall, where the team created a mock 'Mock Trial', accusing Mr Jowett of stealing an iris from the Frensham garden. Evidence was presented that Mr Jowett had iris pollen on his clothes. Mr Jowett's defence was that he was on his way to the regular Tuesday night meeting of the Mock Trial Team, and that there was much pollen in the air. Mr Jowett's reputation was saved by the confession of Mathilda Penton who admitted to stealing the iris. Solicitor, Lucinda Macken, recommended that Year 11, 2016 'mock 'em dead!'. The presentation involved Mr Jowett, who demonstrated his true colours with amusing lines. The presentation was a reflection of the esteem in which Mr Jowett is held for his expertise, constant support and great sense of humour.

Ms Judy Bradley, Coordinator of Mock Trial

Jamieson Programme

The Jamieson Programme is built on the belief that ...

'The very experience of being confronted by physical, intellectual and emotional challenges in a stimulating environment is inherently exciting and immensely rewarding.'

This term, Year 7 students are composing Shadow Books for the Year 7, 2016 students, as well as continuing their study of Frensham history.

The Year 9 activity last week saw students spend time in preparation for the Cambridge IGCSE examination in the course, *Global Perspectives*, which took place last Friday 6 November. In preparation for the examination, students completed past papers, under timed conditions, reviewed the Marking Guidelines and examined Sample Answers. Teachers provided precise feedback to students, whilst expanding the students' knowledge and understanding of the United Nations *Millennium Development Goals* (2000-2015) and the newly-established, *Sustainable Development Goals* (2015 -2030).

Teaching staff, Dr Burg, Mrs Harris and Mr Nash, congratulate Year 9 *Global Perspectives* students on their fine efforts in the two *Individual Research Projects* as well as the *Group Project*. We feel confident that they were well prepared for last Friday's assessment, the *Final Examination*.

Frensham is part of the **Cambridge International Examination** network, whose aim is:

'We prepare students for life, helping them develop an informed curiosity and a lasting passion for learning'

Mr Paul Nash, Jamieson Programme Coordinator

Mathematics

The first meeting of the **Mathematics Club** this term was attended by 40 girls from Years 7-11 and we welcomed the new leaders of Mathematics Club, Jessica Herbert and Zali Steiner.

Girls worked individually and in pairs to solve logic puzzles of varying degrees of difficulty. A logic puzzle is a problem deriving from the mathematics field of deduction. The logic puzzle was first produced by Lewis Carroll, the author of *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*, in his book *The Game of Logic*. These puzzles can be challenging, but they are beneficial because they teach critical thinking and reasoning skills.

'What ends in a W, has no beginning, and is always in the present? Now.'

Jarod Kintz, 99 Cents For Some Nonsense

Ms Sue Wymer, Head of Mathematics

Music

It is always a pleasure to attend **Concert Practice** and to be reminded of the depth of talent that exists within the School. More than ever, there is a great variety of instrumentation and music genres with performers, led by Year 12 students, taking advantage of the opportunity to air their pieces in front of a supportive audience.

This week, **Remembrance Day** was observed with a service in Clubbe Hall, led by senior students and with music from the combined forces of the Kennedy Strings and Concert Band. Lucy Barrett (Year 12, 2016) played the *Last Post* with composure and maturity.

HSC Music 1 & Music 2 students enjoyed the final concert in the SSO's *'Meet the Music'* series at the Opera House. They heard a dramatic fanfare by Dukas, the Saint-Saëns *Piano Concerto No.2* as well as the premiere performance of a new Oboe Concerto. However, the highlight of the concert was Ravel's famous orchestration of *Pictures at an Exhibition* by Mussorgsky.

Mr Michael Spencer, Head of Music

Science

The idea of actually getting into space was deemed as a necessity in the middle of the last century and culminated in humans leaving the Earth's orbit to land on the moon. The problems associated with getting into space and returning are enormous and can be extremely expensive. In Year 8, students have started studying the topic, 'Off the Planet' looking at the forces involved in getting into space and problems that have occurred. The activities in this unit centre on students working co-operatively, as well as thinking and completing individual skill-based tasks. The final task in the topic is designing and testing a rocket.

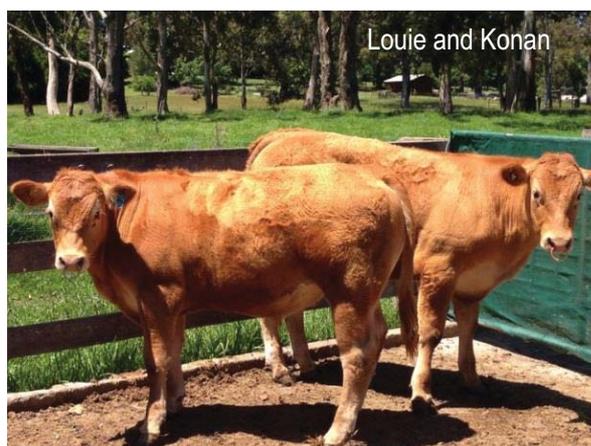
Year 11 Science students have started the Year 12 course this term. In Biology, students are studying 'The Blueprint of Life'. The topic looks at Evolution and the social and political influences on the development of this controversial theory. Then students look at DNA, its structure, how it replicates, how the information is translated into proteins and what happens if a mutation occurs. There is an emphasis on the history of Science in this topic with students studying how theories have changed, as more information has become available through technological developments. Year 11 biologists are also conducting an open-ended investigation looking at the effects of environment on phenotype using genetically identical plants.

Mrs Alison Andrew, Head of Science

Agriculture & Show Cattle Team

'Louie' and 'Konan' are two Limousin steers that have been provided for our Team by Mr Mark Goodfellow of Spring Creek Limousins in Kiama. Mark has been breeding Limousin cattle since 1999 and has been supporting the Frensham Show Cattle Team for many years, providing the likes of 'Gulliver' (2012 – 3rd Open Middleweight Carcase and Silver Medal), 'Gene' (2013 – 5th School Middleweight Carcase), 'Harold' (2014 – Bronze Medal) and 'Rango' (2015).

'Konan' is being prepared by Year 10 student, Emily Ives (Hay) and 'Louie' is prepared by co-Heads of the Show Cattle Team, Annabel Milling (Leadville) and Claudia Cruikshank (Ganmain). Both steers were quite lively on arrival and had little regard for the farm fences, but with plenty of attention from their handlers, they have settled and are



well on their way to leading. These steers are being *ad lib* fed their grain to boost their fat development as they are both quite well muscled and are gaining close to 2kg per day. The students are preparing *Louie* for the Lightweight class and *Konan* for the Middleweight class at the Sydney Royal Easter Show.

Mrs Leonie Harris, Coordinator Agriculture & Show Cattle Team

F1 In-Schools State Championships

The **2015 F1 In-Schools State Championships** were held at the University of Newcastle during 4-6 November and the three Frensham teams had a rewarding time.

Thirty-one teams were competing in the three-day Championships with schools from Dubbo, Newcastle, Sydney, Canberra, Wollongong and Mittagong. These teams were competing in all levels - Cadet, Development and Professional classes. The Frensham teams: *Vai Vai*, *Peregerine* and *Need4Speed* were all competing in the Cadet class along with 11 other teams.

Kate Crawford, Mia Coupland, and Isabella Allen



The Cadet teams were judged throughout the day on a range of disciplines within the F1 In-Schools Technology Challenge, including: timed racing of their F1 design car; reaction time racing; engineering compliance and machining of the car; and the portfolio of the design process they undertook.

The results are as follows: *Vai Vai*: Kate Crawford, Mia Coupland, Isabella Allen - 2nd place in Overall Rankings in Cadet Class; 1st place in Design Process; Documentation: 4th Best in the Engineering Competition and 4th Fastest Car in the Grand Prix Competition.

Harriet Darvall, Imogen Senior and Lucille Schmidt



Peregerine: Imogen Senior, Harriet Darvall, Lucille Schmidt - 6th Place in Overall Rankings in Cadet Class; 2nd Best Team in Design Process; Documentation: 7th Best in the Engineering Competition, 10th Fastest Car in the Grand Prix Competition.

Need4Speed: Olivia Swires and Alexandra Hill - 8th Place in Overall Rankings in Cadet Class; 5th Best Team in Design Process; Documentation: 11th Best in the Engineering Competition, 9th Fastest Car in the Grand Prix Competition.

Within the Frensham F1 teams: *Fastest Car* was a tie between and *Vai Vai* at 1.151 seconds; and *Fastest Reaction Racer* was Olivia Swires at 0.164 seconds (*Need4Speed*)

The two-day excursion to the State Championships in Newcastle was successful and thanks must be given to the School Executive and WWS Board of Governors for supporting the 'From STEM to STEAM' focus in 2015 and to the teachers involved in implementing the programme with the Year 8 cohort. **Olivia Swires and Alexandra Hill**



Dr Tristan Burg, Miss Sophie Piper and Ms Sara Farmer

PDHPE

Year 7 Focus

This term in PDHPE lessons, Year 7 students have been investigating the importance of making connections with people and places and identifying strategies to seek support when it is needed. As part of this unit, the girls critique the National Framework, *Nine Values for Australian Schooling* as well as our own *Positive Peer Relations Policy*. In practical lessons, students have been practising and refining skills common to Striking and Fielding Games such as Softball and Cricket.

Miss Erin Gray, Head of PDHPE

Sport

Wet Weather arrangements for Saturday Sport

Cancellations of Saturday Sport are rarely made before Saturday morning, unless a venue notifies IGSSA that the facilities will not be playable prior to this.

Means of gaining information concerning play: **IGSSA WEBSITE:** <http://ahiqs.nsw.edu.au/IGSSA.aspx>

For example: If checking re Touch at Frensham, **TEXT** 'touchf'. **SMS Weather Information:** Using your mobile phone, SMS your keyword to **1992 5465**. Messages cost 55c per message sent. Your keyword is the name of the sport and the first initial of the venue. A return SMS will be sent that gives you the status of the venue - open or closed.

Rugby 7s

Recently, Emily Ives and Arabella McKenzie (Year 10) were selected for the **Illawarra U18 Rugby 7s** team. On Friday 6 November the girls travelled to Coffs Harbour to play in the **NSW Rugby Youth Girls 7s Championship**.

Touch Football

Touch Football this season has been very successful to date. Fifteen out of the 20 teams have qualified for semi-finals which is an excellent result. All other teams will have a playoff. These matches will be played in Sydney with venues and times to be confirmed and will be published once they have been allocated.

Water Polo

Teams have been training diligently this season and have been competing in a Round Robin competition each Saturday. There are two more rounds to play in this competition before finals are played amongst the teams: Stingrays, Sharks, Dolphins and Swordfish. The competition is currently very close, with only a few points between 1st and 4th place. The girls have been very enthusiastic throughout the season and it has been fun for all involved. This is promising for Water Polo 2016 when Frensham enters the IGSSA Competition.

Softball and Tennis

Softball and Tennis trials have continued in the mornings for Teams 1 and 2. A large number of girls have been attending the trials, which is promising for the seasons ahead. Girls in Years 7–9 will be starting trials in their PDHPE classes over the next few weeks and once Term 4 Sports have finished in Week 8, trials will continue at normal Sport training times.

On Saturday 28 November, Softball and Tennis trials will take place throughout the morning from 8am until 11am. All girls must attend these trials.

Mrs Jane Crellen, Head of Sport

Visual Arts/Design & Technology

At the conclusion of the HSC written examinations last week, the School received news from BOSTES that five Visual Arts Bodies of Work have been nominated for inclusion in ARTEXPRESS 2016.

The students and their nominated Bodies of Work are:

Georgina Campbell: *Victory over Death* (Photomedia). A series of five large, mesmerizing black and white photographic prints on Edition Etching Rag paper; Zella Casey Brown: *Cambodia - A Nation Taking Flight* (Printmaking). Five intricate and highly graphic large-scale lino-prints responding to first-hand experiences in Cambodia; Phoebe Crowe: *Kirawin* (Painting). An expressive and evocative four-panel study of the seasonal changes experienced at *Kirawin*, near Yass; Giorgi Jardine: *Meandering on the Main Road... A Journey Through the Monaro* (Painting). A large painting featuring a number of finely rendered images of the Monaro landscape, split vertically by the meandering Monaro Highway; Camilla Munro: *A Farmer's Face, A Road Map* (Printmaking). Five detailed etchings of portraits of people with rural backgrounds framed in weathered wood and adorned with rustic artefacts.

The School will be notified during early December if these practical projects have been selected for exhibition at various venues in 2016. We wish the girls all the best during the remainder of the process and congratulate them on their nominations.

On Friday 30 October, the **2015 Southern Highlands Arts Festival**, featuring the Southern Highlands Arts Studio Trail, opened at Glenquarry Hall. This annual event is coordinated by the Wingecarribee Shire Council and celebrates the work of artists in the Southern Highlands. Leading up to the event, a council representative contacted the School to invite *Young Archies* winner, Ellie Arnott (Year 10) to formally open the festival, which she graciously accepted. Along with Isabella Prideaux, Willa Robinson (Heads of Art Studios) and I in support, Ellie delivered an eloquent opening address to the large audience in attendance. Congratulations to Ellie for her poise on the night and for representing the School in such an impressive manner.

Mr Phil Alldis, Head of Visual Arts and Design