

# NEWSLETTER

MOOREBANK HIGH SCHOOL

[MHS WEBSITE](#)



MAY 2017

ISSUE 3

## Principal's Report - Ms Grego



### HSC minimum literacy and numeracy standard

In July 2016, the Minister for Education announced the Stronger HSC Standards reforms. The reforms include the requirement for students to demonstrate a minimum standard of functional literacy and numeracy to be eligible for the HSC from 2020. Over the next 12 months, NESA will continue to work with principals and other stakeholders to develop specific requirements for implementation of the minimum standard. In the meantime, we recognise the need to clarify aspects of the minimum standard, including that:

1. The minimum standard is set at a functional level of literacy and numeracy for success in day-to-day life.
2. Students can demonstrate the minimum standard in two ways: a. Band 8 or above in Year 9 NAPLAN reading, writing and numeracy tests, or b. Passing online reading, writing and numeracy tests of an equivalent standard in Years 10, 11 and 12.
3. Students will have multiple opportunities to demonstrate they meet the standard between Year 9 and the time they complete their HSC.
4. Importantly, no student will be ineligible to sit for the HSC on the basis of their Year 9 NAPLAN results.

[\\*Additional information has been provided at the end of the Newsletter.](#)

### Keeping current

Do we have your up-to-date details? We understand that circumstances change over time. These details are important to ensure that you receive up-to-date information by mail, email and phone. Please contact our SASS enrolment team with any changes to your contact details so that we can continue our support. We encourage all parents to download the skoolbag app and engage in our new Facebook page.

### A word from our community

It's a wonderful experience to get positive feedback about our students. Below is an email I received after a Year 11 Legal Studies excursion.

Dear Ms Grego

I would like to congratulate you on the group of Moorebank High School Legal Studies students whom I had the pleasure of facilitating their Law Day Out experience on 4 May 2017 at The Supreme Court.

The students and teacher were a credit to your school. Their behaviour, respect and enthusiasm could not be faulted.

I was impressed with Ms Ana Golijan's relationship with her students, she managed them perfectly and this certainly helped make my morning with the students a very enjoyable one. Justice Campbell was likewise impressed with them.

As a retired Deputy Principal I know people are quick to criticise our students and few contact schools to congratulate them. I believe it important that you know I was impressed with this group of young people ... please pass on my congratulations to this group of students who were great ambassadors for your school.

Could you please also pass on these comments to the appropriate Head Teacher, Student Adviser and Ms Golijan.

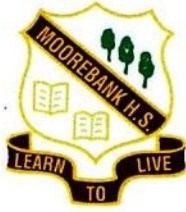
Kind regards

Wayne Gleeson  
Law Day Out Facilitator

**Vally Grego**  
Principal

Bangalow Ave  
Moorebank 2170  
Ph.: 9601 3999 /Fax: 9822 5096  
email to: [moorebank-h.school@det.nsw](mailto:moorebank-h.school@det.nsw)





## **MOOREBANK HIGH SCHOOL**

*A Selective and Comprehensive School*

Bangalow Avenue MOOREBANK NSW 2170

Phone No: 9601 3999 Fax No: 9822 5096

Web Site: [www.moorebank-h.schools.nsw.edu.au](http://www.moorebank-h.schools.nsw.edu.au)

Email: [moorebank-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:moorebank-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au)

Dear Parents and Carers,

Moorebank High School will transition to the new NSW public schools' finance system and a new bank account on **24 July 2017**.

To ensure a smooth transition, there will be changes to the way we accept parent or carer payments.

1. **Direct deposits:** As of **30 June 2017**, we will no longer accept direct deposits into our current school bank account as we prepare to close this account and transition to the new one. Any payments made using direct deposit after this date cannot be properly allocated to a student's account in a timely manner. Please ensure you have made any outstanding direct deposits before **30 June 2017**.
2. **EFTPOS payments:** We will not be able to accept EFTPOS payments between **19 July** and **24 July 2017**. Please ensure that you have made any outstanding EFTPOS payments before **19 July 2017**. From **25 July 2017**, EFTPOS payments will be accepted as before.
3. **Cash and cheque payments:** Between **19 July 2017** and **24 July 2017**, we will also not be able to accept payments by cash or cheque as we prepare to close our current bank account and transition to the new one. Please ensure that you have made any outstanding cash or cheque payments before **19 July 2017**. From **25 July 2017**, cash and cheque payments will be accepted as before.
4. **Online payments (POP):** As of **30 June 2017**, payments to our current online payment facility will cease. You will not be able to use the Department of Education's Parent Online Payment (POP) system until **Monday 24 July**.

Thank you for your patience and understanding as we transition to our new finance system. If you have any questions, please contact **(02) 9601 3999**.

Ms. V. Grego  
Principal  
24<sup>th</sup> May 2017

# DEPUTY PRINCIPALS REPORT

## YEARS 7, 9 & 11

### **NAPLAN**

Year 7 and 9 completed NAPLAN this term in week 3. The link below goes to the NESA site where the HSC minimum standards fact sheet and media release provide information about how students can meet the minimum standard and the opportunities they will have to do this before they sit the HSC. Our year 7 and year 9 students were cooperative and I believe approached the tests with a view to doing their best.

[http://educationstandards.nsw.edu.au/wps/portal/nesa/about/news/media-releases/media-release-detail/year-9-naplan-and-the-hsc-minimum-standard?utm\\_source=TractionNext&utm\\_medium=Email&utm\\_campaign=NESA+News+8+May+2017](http://educationstandards.nsw.edu.au/wps/portal/nesa/about/news/media-releases/media-release-detail/year-9-naplan-and-the-hsc-minimum-standard?utm_source=TractionNext&utm_medium=Email&utm_campaign=NESA+News+8+May+2017)

### **Sibling support for year 7**

We have a number of year 7 students who have siblings in older age groups. These siblings naturally want to look after and assist their younger brothers or sisters. The best way for them to do this, if their younger sibling feels they are being harassed or bullied by someone, is to encourage their brother or sister to report the issue to a teacher, their year advisor Ms Nguyen or to me as their Deputy Principal. The issue can then be investigated and action taken. When siblings intervene themselves, in some conflict or disagreement between year 7 students, it usually ends up escalating which is not helpful. Please encourage your older child to assist their younger siblings to make reports rather than taking matters into their own hands.

Dr Susan Griffin

Deputy Principal years 7, 9 & 11

# FACULTY FOCUS—SCIENCE

## HT Report

**Staffing** – The Science Faculty have welcomed Mrs Ghaly this term, who is taking over Ms T. Nguyen’s classes for the rest of the term. Mrs Ghaly has worked with us several times in the past, teaching a variety of junior sciences, as well as Biology and Chemistry. Ms Jones has continued in her role as Year 12 Assistant Year Advisor and Environment Committee Coordinator. She has several excursions planned for this year, including the bi-annual River Health Monitoring program and the 500 Schools tree planting program. Ms Bond has continued to lead the SRC, whilst Ms Di Qual is running Interact. Both groups have attended leadership opportunities in Term 1, and Ms Di Qual is currently running a Red Cross blood donation initiative. Mr Diakanastasis has returned this year in his new role as Assistant Year 7 Year Advisor and continues to play an active role as the Blue House Coordinator.

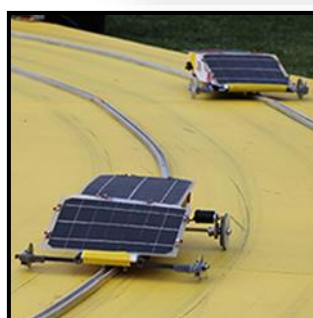
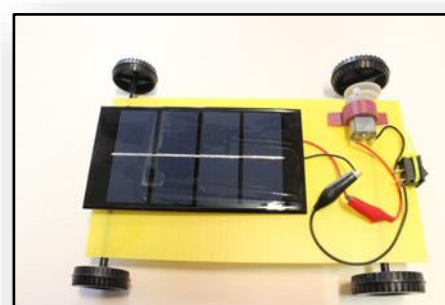
**Lab Safety** - Students and parents are reminded that leather enclosed shoes are a requirement for completing practical activities in a Science laboratory. Students are encouraged to abide by this safety and legal requirement in order to ensure that they are able to participate during experiments in Science. Long hair can also create challenges for working safely with chemicals and Bunsen burners, and students are reminded to have a hair tie with them to secure hair during practical activities.



**Dry Ice Activities: Year 7** were given the opportunity to investigate the properties of frozen carbon dioxide, otherwise known as ‘dry ice’, during initiatives run in Term 1, while investigating the properties of sublimation and making observations. A massive thank you to Mr Maharaj for ordering and picking up the dry ice for these experiments.

**Student Research Project: Year 8** will be undertaking their student research project in Term 3, with the selective stream being involved in a trial for a cross-curricular project between PDHPE, Science and Mathematics. This trial is part of our involvement with the USYD STEM Academy program, and if successful it will be rolled out across all classes next year.

**STEM Extracurricular:** Science, Industrial Arts and Mathematics will be targeting selected students in **Year 8** to be involved in a Solar Car program. This initiative will involve teachers from each faculty covering concepts relating to model solar cars, whilst students build competition worthy cars in groups. The best performing groups will be offered the opportunity to compete at the UNSW Minisprint and Pursuit events.



**Year 11 Biology and Senior Science** - These courses are required to complete field work as part of their studies. Students will travel to *Penrith Lakes Environmental Education Centre (EEC)* Term 2, Week 6 to undertake various activities to meet course outcomes. The information and skills gained on the day will be used to undertake the Field Work Booklet and an In-Class Examination.



**PENRITH LAKES**  
ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTRE  
EDUCATION FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

**Valid – Year 10 and Year 8** will sit the VALID examination (Validation of Assessment 4 Learning and Individual Development) in terms 3 and 4 respectively. This examination is online and tests student's science knowledge, problem solving skills, scientific reporting skills and scientific literacy. Like NAPLAN, parents are able to opt out of the examination, and can contact the Science faculty for the appropriate paperwork. Last year's results placed us on par with the state average for Year 8 and above state average for Year 10, which we were pleased to see. The Year 10 results went home in Term 4 last year and Year 9 were given their Year 8 results in Term 1 this year.



On Wednesday the 7th of June, Moorebank High School invite you to attend our annual performance night 'MIX.'. Students from years 7 to 12 will showcase their talents in both music and dance. Tickets can be purchased at the door for \$5; this includes a lucky door raffle ticket. All money raised will go toward future music events.

Doors open at 5:30 for a 6pm start and will conclude approx. 8:30pm.

We hope to see many of you there to support our talented students.

Congratulations to Arthur Lim in year 12 who has progressed into the next round of the NSW Plain English Speaking Award Competition.

The next round, the Regional final, will take place on May 31 at the Arts Unit at Lewisham.

Special commendation to Thomas in year 11 who also participated.

#### Here is Arthur's winning speech:

To those of you in your safe spaces, allow me to take you on a journey. The art of swearing remains a hotly contentious issue to this day. But if I were to commit this act, if I were to utter a series of letters sequenced together in a way that some of us perceive to be offensive, I would most likely be disqualified. But swear words, like any other words, are just words. Why is it that some words are offensive and some aren't? What makes a word taboo? And in the age of information technology, have we become so exposed to these words that they have lost their shock value, negating the need for the suppression of free speech that is inherent in classifying words into arbitrary categories?

Interestingly, what is considered as a swearword depends on the cultural values of the place in which they were said. For example, the British have very low tolerance for such words, and the word "bloody" is still somewhat considered offensive, whereas here in Australia, there aren't too many words that offend us, and "bloody" is something a primary school student would say and it would be tolerated. That isn't to say that all Australians are this tolerant. My economics teacher imposes a penalty of picking up five pieces of rubbish every time a person utters a proverbial four-letter word, and I have once sworn in German, which she miraculously picked up.

Two main reasons exist for this classification of words. One, religion. Historically, words referring to religious figures that are used according to the Commandments, "in vain" were considered to be offensive, because if one mentions the name of a god without asking it for forgiveness or earthly requests, it suffers. As a result, "oh my god" has been softened to "oh my word". Much of European history has been shaped by Christianity, which is why these words have been considered for so long to be offensive and taboo. But if you were following the outcome of an obscure election in Jakarta, the capital of Indonesia, you will have realised that suppressing free speech in the name of religion is a cowardly act. The incumbent governor, Ahok belongs to a Chinese-Christian double minority, and was charged with blasphemy against Islam in the midst of an election. Sadly, despite the reforms he introduced in his term, including anti-corruption and social mobility programs, the blasphemy charge ended his term. Now, you might think that, hang on? This has nothing to do with swearing. But remember that swearwords, are just, words. The ability of a religion, any religion, to influence so many people into believing that some words are good and some words are bad, using that primal fear of a higher, divine being, threatens free speech.

It starts with swearwords, words that have a powerful and confrontational meaning, but from there, it can spread to entire vocabularies and then, no more words. A good man is paraded as a criminal, and we are in 1984.

The Victorian era was characterised by the Industrial Revolution, but if one were to assume that people of the Victorian era had minds as cold as the machines of the Industrial Revolution, one would be mistaken because this era brought censorship to farcical standards. Swearwords did not consist of words depicting violent nor sexual imagery as many of our current four-letter words do, but articles of ordinary clothing and body parts, especially those below the waist. The word "trousers" was considered so offensive that a euphemism, aptly called "inexpressible" was used in its place. The mouth, a symbol of free speech, was also reduced to a swearword, with the word "tatur-trap" used in its place. The pinnacle of Victorian sensitivities however, was reached when certain male reproductive organs, namely the testes, were referred to as "tallywags". Swearwords of the Victorian era depicted rather innocuous things such as clothing and body parts. Undoubtedly, this must have resulted in difficulties for the medical profession. The suppression of a category of words for the sake of self-proclaimed civility and Victorian values, not only makes life difficult for everyone, but acts as a platform whereby more, and more words can be suppressed arbitrarily. The unholy matrimony of Victorian sensibilities and religion destroys common sense that can only be achieved by embracing the true meaning of a word.

However, look around you. We're not in 1984, there isn't a surveillance device in everyone's pockets and we can say anything we want. And a growing number of Australians have reported themselves as having no religion in the census. In 2011, 31.7% of Australians declared no religious affiliation. So if we are no longer offended as a society by words referring to a god, what about Victorian sensibilities? Well, Queen Victoria died more than 100 years ago, and although one might argue that the values of the era continue to live on, significant geopolitical events have eroded the values embodied within the Victorian era. Colonialism acted as the driving force of progress in Victorian England, but much of the land that had been directly owned by the English monarchy has been lost, either through war or diplomacy. Australia too has a revitalised republican movement after the loss in the 1999 referendum. Still, I can't swear without consequence. Why?

The traditional reasons that forbid swearing have become less relevant so what is stopping me? euphemisms to express feelings? The English language is beautiful, yet we are desecrating it by making a conscious effort to suppress certain words.

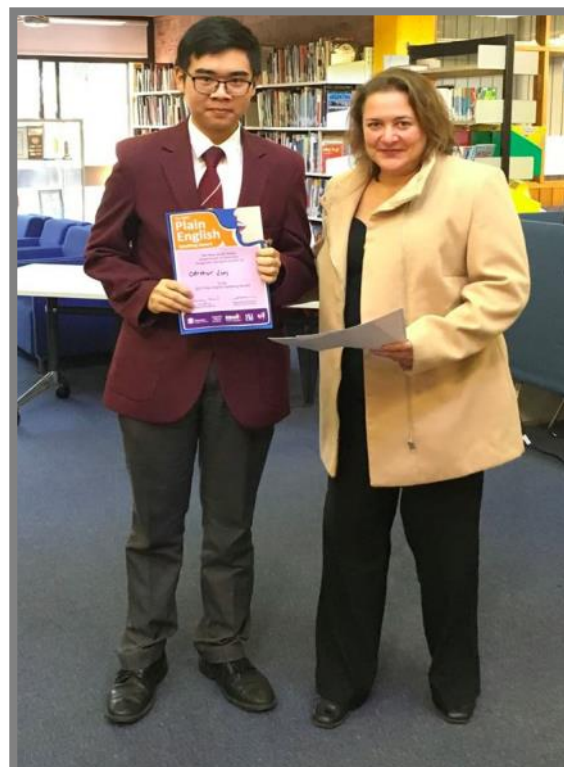
I propose that the reason I cannot swear at you today, is because we belong to Generation Snowflake, the peak of human evolution where we are physically hurt by words, and nobody can say anything without offending multitudes of social justice warriors. The swearwords I intended to say were not the traditional swear words that consisted of four letters, but rational arguments. Because today, everyone is so easily offended it's a joke. The taboo words of our time do not depict violent sexual imagery nor religion nor innocuous items deemed offensive by Victorian England, they consist of words that stoke passionate debate. I have no problem with people proclaiming that Donald Trump is moronic, but let's not forget that he was democratically elected. When faced with rational arguments, people who shout from the rooftops must be able to stand by their opinions and back their views instead of calling everyone who disagrees with them a bigot.

Questions about the human identity, the future and dangerous geopolitical tensions are the big issues facing this generation. There is a sense of hopelessness when you turn on the news, and you see millennials will never be able to buy a house. There is a sense of fear when you see that North Korea is developing nuclear weapons, and that madmen from across the world hold the keys that can unleash global disaster. We need to talk about these issues sensibly. But that does not mean we talk about them with the fear of offending people.

**The suppression of offensive language that prevented the expression of free speech long ago, have given birth to this age of unrelenting political correctness, where heated debate is discouraged because we're so scared about what people think.**

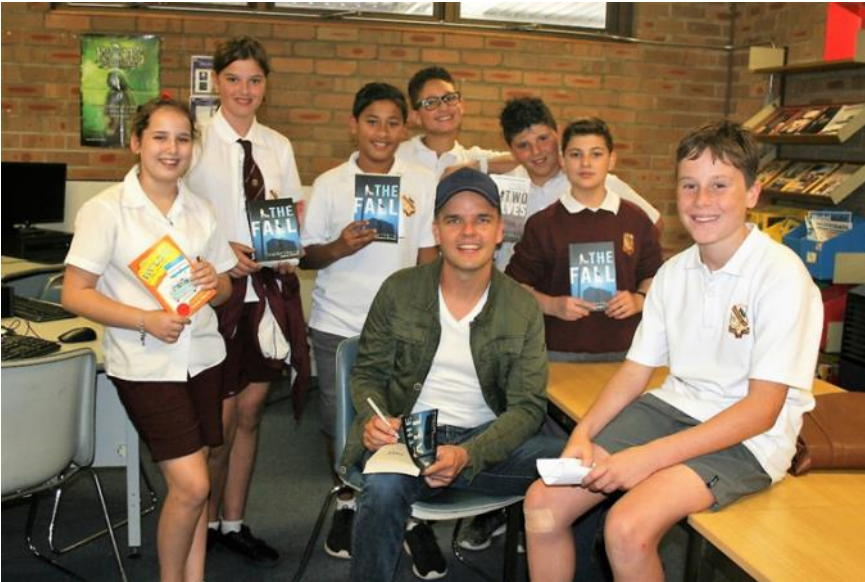
But sometimes, it is necessary to expose people to controversial ideas, because only then can they appreciate the true, beautiful and nuanced complexities of this world and its people. The words we consider to be offensive today are not fundamentally offensive, instead, they embody ideas that this generation simply is too sensitive to comprehend. The taboo words of today are the same words that were used by previous generations as they established this world, this remarkable world that we live in. But if we keep on treating those provocative words as taboo, then humanity is doomed never to progress for we are forever stuck in our safe spaces.

Arthur LIm



# LIBRARY NEWS

## Author Visit & eBooks



### Author Visit: Tristan Bancks

On Monday May 1 2017 our School Library hosted a visit by Tristan Bancks. All year 7 attended and we invited year 5 & 6 students from Newbridge Heights PS, Nuwarra PS and Chipping Norton PS to join us.

### Student reports:

Tristan Bancks, children and teens author, visited Moorebank and talked to us about what life is like being an author. He talked about his latest book "The Fall" and his other books "Two wolves" and "My life and other weaponised muffins." On behalf of all of year 7 I can say that the talk was interesting, funny, exciting and entertaining. We look forward to being the first kids to read "The Fall."

#### Jorgie yr. 7

On Monday 1st of May, the children's and teen's author Tristan Bancks visited our school and spoke to year 7 students about his childhood, his books and his process to writing his hilarious and mysterious stories. We believe that we can speak on behalf of the whole of year 7, when we say it was an interesting and an all-round entertaining talk. He gave us an insight as to what it is like to be an author, tips as to how to go about writing some wacky scenarios and told us what it was like writing his new books, "Two Wolves", "My Life & Other Weaponised Muffins" and "The Fall".

#### Travis yr. 7

Last week an author, Tristan Bancks, came to Moorebank High School and hosted a talk. Tristan writes books for children and teens. His books were available to buy for \$15 and you could get his autograph with it! He has also written a new book "The Fall" and students were able to be one of the first to read it. If students didn't have money with them and were interested to buy any of his books, they were sold in the Library for the following week for the same price.

#### Novera yr. 7



eBooks anytime, anywhere – just ask our librarians.



**No need  
to wait –  
just read.**

Borrowing our eBooks is as easy as

- 1 Download the ePlatform app from your app store
- 2 Find our library and log in using your library ID
- 3 Browse and borrow an eBook to read on your device



Search for and download the ePlatform app:



Download our eBook reading app now.

## We have eBooks!

We are excited to announce that the School Library now has a subscription to Wheelers eBooks. Our students can access eBooks on their own devices or the School computers at any time.

Students can either Search the Library catalogue through the School Portal or download the ePlatform app from the app store to their own device using the simple steps outlined here.

← Wheelers are the largest supplier of books and eBooks to Public Libraries and Schools in Australasia. Our subscription means students have access to over 1,000 popular titles. Each loan is active for two weeks with the option to re-borrow if no-one else is waiting on that title.

For more information contact Mrs Tierney and the Library staff.

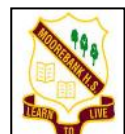


To keep yourself updated on all of the great things happening in the wider community.

Please like and share our Facebook page by searching

**@moorebankhighschool** or visiting [www.facebook.com/moorebankhighschool](http://www.facebook.com/moorebankhighschool)

Look for the school emblem.



# LEADERSHIP GROUPS

## Literacy

### TAFE Training Day- Literacy Leadership Group:

On Friday, 28 April 2017, the school's Literacy tutors attended Liverpool TAFE on a day out of school. The aim of the day was to enrol them as students into TAFE and introduce them to teaching strategies to aid younger students in literacy skills. To say the least, it was a complete success.

The day started with the group meeting up directly at Liverpool TAFE. There, they were met with Joann, the instructor teaching our course, and the school librarian, Ms. Tierney. After filling out the necessary paperwork, the students were taken to be enrolled at the office in small groups of three.

Shortly after everyone had been enrolled, everyone took a short break before starting the course

By going through booklets and an instructional video, the tutors learnt simple but effective strategies to improve the quality of their tutoring. There was a lot to take in but the tutors were determined to make sure their tutees could benefit from what they had learnt.

Along with checking off the set aims, the tutors also bonded together. Without the hassle of anything else during the day, they got a chance to sit together and discuss not only tutoring their pupils but also things about themselves that brought them closer as a group. With all the tutors being year 10 students, there were heaps of mutual things to discuss.

As said above, a definite success!

Written by Faseeha Shakeel and Jimmy Gohil



Year 10 Literacy Tutors working with their Year 7 tutors in the school library during L2L



# CAREERS NEWS

## White Card training / Landscape Construction Apprentice

A major role of a Careers Adviser is to disseminate the large volume of information I receive and to ensure that interested students receive it. To ensure interested students receive relevant information, without having to trawl through lots of information irrelevant to their needs, I have set up many numerous Google classrooms.

Each Google classroom focuses on a specific university, college or vocation. Classrooms focusing on scholarships, traineeships and apprenticeships supplement these. Students can elect to subscribe to as many classrooms as they choose ensuring they receive information relevant to their specific needs.

Every time new information is added to a classroom to which they have subscribed, a notification is sent to the student indicating updated information is available.

All Year 11 and 12 students have recently had an email sent to them with the codes for subscribing to the relevant Google classrooms. Year 10 will soon also be given the same opportunity to subscribe and this will be particularly important for students looking for pre-apprenticeship and apprenticeship opportunities. Please review all classrooms and subscribe to as many as you like. If there are any problems subscribing, please see Mr. Lewis in the Careers Office and he will directly place you in your preferred classes. Any student suggestions for additional Google classrooms would be appreciated and they would be created where appropriate. So far I have received very positive feedback from students who have taken the opportunity to subscribe to these classrooms but it is clear many students have yet to subscribe to this valuable resource.

There are many career and post school destination websites on the web. After extensive evaluation of the current websites available, I believe the Jobjump website delivers the most comprehensive information for all post school destinations and is relatively intuitive for users. Moorebank High School has taken out a subscription to this website so all students and parents / caregivers also gain access to it. This website provides:

- Current career news emailed directly to your home email address in any of the 100 careers on the website.
- Find the 2016 ATARS on any of courses offered at Universities plus all course descriptions.
- Videos to watch about the careers described on the site.
- Bonus Points schemes for universities.

Scholarships for courses and Universities

I highly commend this website for all students and parents / caregivers. To subscribe to this website:

- Enter [www.jobjump.com.au](http://www.jobjump.com.au)
- Select Moorebank High School as your school.
- Create your account with your preferred email address.
- Please see the Careers Advisor for the password

Recently a group of 19 students from **Years 10, 11 and 12** undertook White Card training. White cards are mandatory to undertake work placements in construction and related industries. All participating students were successful in qualifying for a White Card and a few of these students will be putting their new qualification to use immediately with planned construction work placements which hopefully will lead to permanent employment.

### Landscape Construction Apprentice

**Location: Casula**

Our client is looking for a recent school leaver to complete a 4 year apprenticeship in Construction Landscaping Certificate III including 2.5 years at TAFE with their host employer with work in South Western Sydney including Austral, Campbelltown, Horsley Park, western Sydney including Penrith and surrounding suburbs. Duties include, garden renovation, new landscaping, planting, retaining walls, paving, brickwork, pergolas, fencing, water features and lots of other duties related to building new gardens. Skills you will learn are carpentry, planting, bricklaying, fencing, concreting and lighting. To be considered Drivers Licence and own transport is required. White card is also required or be willing to obtain.

See Mr Lewis for further details.

# SPORTS NEWS

## Boys Open Basketball



### Boys open basketball make it to the regional final

On Friday 28<sup>th</sup> April the boys open basketball team played in the Sydney South West regional basketball trials at Minto Indoor stadium. After a close 34-32 win over a strong Hurlstone Agricultural High School in round 3 the boys were confident of doing well in the semi-finals. We were matched against a talented Punchbowl Boys High School and this promised to be a mouth-watering clash. The game was close all the way through with both teams desperate to advance to the final. Amazingly at the full time siren the scores were locked at 36 all. This meant 5 minutes of extra time. In a mad scramble for possession, and under immense pressure, a gallant Moorebank team held on to a 40-38 victory. Both teams played the game in a competitive spirit and showed outstanding skills. All players contributed to a wonderful victory. Laith Ayari was outstanding and set up a lot of the teams attacking options. He was well supported by Brendan Wood, Luke Shinner, Corey Watt, Duane Durbin, Filip Pejakovic, Stefan Tasic and several others who played their hearts out. The defensive effort and rebounding was very good and laid the platform for the team's success. Punchbowl had several skilled and fast paced players who played well to make the game an attractive spectacle. The players were very tired and had a game off to recover in the final against a Bonnyrigg High School team who had several representative players. Moorebank started the game on fire catching Bonnyrigg off guard to skip to an early 10-0 lead. Bonnyrigg were too good a team to not come back yet we maintained a 16-15 lead at halftime. In the second half, Bonnyrigg had the better of play to lead 36-26 with about 4 minutes to go. A determined fightback by our boys saw us trail 36-34 with a desperate 30 seconds remaining. A late shot hit the rim and just missed and Bonnyrigg were able to hold on to a very narrow win. It was a great effort for the boys to come so far and they represented the school with pride and distinction through the whole competition. Congratulations on a great effort!

Mr Brad Mitchell

### The team was:

- **Corey Watt** - Point Guard
- **Duane Durbin** - Shooting Guard
- **Luke Shinner** - Small Forward
- **Brendon Wood** - Power Forward
- **Filip Pejakovic** - Centre
- **Laith Ayari** - Small Forward
- **Dylan Ward** - Point Guard
- **Steven Otakilevuka** - Power Forward
- **Stefan Tasic** - Shooting Guard,
- **Zak Hamze** (absent) Point Guard
- **Joshua Outterside** - Power Forward
- **Nikhil Chandrashekar** - Small Forward

Friday 28 April 2017

Our reference: D2017/34639

### **HSC minimum standard: Message from NESA CEO to Year 9 parents**

I have written a letter to each and every Year 9 student in NSW to assure them that they will have the opportunity to sit their HSC exams in 2020 regardless of their NAPLAN results this year.

However, they will need to demonstrate a minimum standard of reading, writing and numeracy to be awarded their HSC certificate.

### **New online reading, writing and numeracy tests**

There will be multiple opportunities for your child to do this, by taking short online tests that specifically assess these skills. Your child will decide with their teacher when they are ready to attempt each test. Once they pass a test they do not have to sit it again.

### **What does Year 9 have to do with the HSC minimum standard?**

We know students learn at different rates. The Year 9 NAPLAN tests are designed to provide you, your child and their teachers with valuable information about how your child's learning is progressing and if you need support.

If your child happens to achieve Band 8 or above NAPLAN results in all three areas this year, they have shown they are already achieving the standard required to receive their HSC in 2020. So, they won't have to do the online tests.

But, to be clear the NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA) expects that the majority of students will be sitting at least one of the online tests starting in Year 10.

### **Why has the HSC minimum standard been introduced?**

The HSC minimum standard is being introduced to help ensure that students leave school with basic literacy and numeracy skills for success in life, and the ability to communicate their ideas effectively in all their HSC exams.

I encourage you to read the letter I wrote to Year 9 students and discuss it with your child.

More information, a short video and flyers (in 14 community languages) are also on the NESA website: [educationstandards.nsw.edu.au](http://educationstandards.nsw.edu.au)

**David de Carvalho**

**NESA Chief Executive Officer**

# HSC MINIMUM STANDARD

ADVICE FOR 2017 YEAR 9 STUDENTS

March 2017

**In 2020, you are required to achieve a minimum standard of literacy and numeracy to receive your HSC.**



## PRACTICAL LITERACY AND NUMERACY SKILLS



Achieving the standard shows you, your parents and any future education and training providers and employers that you can do things like:

- ✓ follow instructions in equipment manuals
- ✓ write a job application
- ✓ calculate the quantity of materials to build a fence and prepare an invoice.

## MULTIPLE OPPORTUNITIES TO MEET THE STANDARD

A pass mark in new online reading, writing and numeracy tests will prove you have achieved the standard.



The tests will take place at your school and you can take them up to twice a year in:

- ✓ Year 10
- ✓ Year 11
- ✓ Year 12
- ✓ If you need to, you can even take them for up to five years after you start your first HSC course.

The tests will be available from next year when you are in Year 10.

Visit the demonstration site to see sample test questions:  
<https://hscliteracynumeracy.nesa.nsw.edu.au>

## YEAR 9 NAPLAN: A CHANCE TO PREQUALIFY FOR THE STANDARD

- ✓ By achieving Band 8 or above in your Year 9 NAPLAN reading, writing and numeracy tests this year, you can prequalify for the standard. This means that you won't have to take the online tests.
- ✓ **It is important you know that you can still receive the HSC if you don't achieve Band 8 in your Year 9 NAPLAN tests this year.**
- ✓ Your literacy and numeracy skills will continue to develop, and with support from your school, you will achieve the standard either by the end of Year 10, Year 11 or Year 12.



### MORE INFORMATION

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

<http://educationstandards.nsw.edu.au>

Friday 28 April 2017

Our reference:  
D2017/34535

Dear Year 9 student

**Re: The HSC minimum standard for literacy and numeracy**

I wanted to assure each of you that you will have the opportunity to sit your HSC exams in 2020 regardless of your NAPLAN results this year. However, you will need to demonstrate a minimum standard of reading, writing and numeracy in order to be awarded your HSC certificate.

**New online reading, writing and numeracy tests**

You will have multiple opportunities to do this, by taking short online tests that specifically assess these skills. These online tests will take place online and at school. You will have two opportunities a year to pass them in Years 10, 11, and 12. You will also be able to take them for a few years after you leave school.

You don't have to pass all three tests at once. You and your teacher will decide when you are ready to attempt each test and if you pass a test you don't have to sit it again.

**What does Year 9 have to do with the HSC minimum standard?**

We know students learn at different rates. Your upcoming Year 9 NAPLAN tests are designed to provide you, your teachers and parents with valuable information about how your learning is progressing and if you need support.

If you do happen to achieve Band 8 or above NAPLAN results in all three areas this year, that means you are already achieving the minimum level of reading, writing and numeracy skills required to receive your HSC in 2020, so you won't have to do any of the online tests.

But the NSW Education Standards Authority expects that the majority of students will be sitting at least one of the online tests starting in Year 10.

So don't believe anyone who tells you that you can't get your HSC if you don't get Band 8s in NAPLAN this year. It's just not true. NAPLAN this year is just the first of a number of opportunities you will have to demonstrate the minimum standard.

**Why has the minimum standard been introduced?**

The HSC minimum standard is being introduced to help ensure that you leave school with basic literacy and numeracy skills for success in life, and that you will be able to communicate your ideas effectively in your HSC exams. Regardless of your plans beyond school, you will need adequate reading, writing and numeracy skills to make sure you can do things like:

get a good deal on your mobile phone plan write a job application follow written instructions to operate equipment safely.



# STUDY SKILLS HANDBOOK

## RESOLVING CONFLICT AROUND HOMEWORK

Some of the most common arguments at home (related to schoolwork!) lead to statements like this: -

- "Stop playing computer games and do your homework."
- "I told you, get off your phone, I can see you are on Facebook."
- "Why haven't you started your homework yet?"
- "What do you mean you have no schoolwork to do?"

If these are common refrains in your household there are some simple steps that can be taken to deal with this.

**Step 1:** Family meeting. Both students and parents get a chance to explain what is bugging them.

**Step 2:** Agree on how much time will be allocated to schoolwork per day or per week.

**Step 3:** Agree that during this time homework will be the first priority, then assessments and any remaining time should be spent on independent learning (e.g. reviewing difficult work, making summaries).

**Step 4:** Allocate set times for schoolwork and write these out and put them on the fridge e.g. Monday 4-5pm, 6-6.30pm.

**Step 5:** Agree that in these blocks of time, there will be no personal technology use (preferably phones switched off and put out of sight).

**Step 6:** Decide on rewards and consequences if the agreement is not honoured.

There are many units in [www.studyskillshandbook.com.au](http://www.studyskillshandbook.com.au) that can help you specifically with these areas. For example:

**DEALING WITH CONFLICT** – strategies for conflict resolution.

**TIME MANAGEMENT SKILLS** – find out the recommended amount of time to spend on schoolwork, learn more about independent learning and print weekly planners.

**DEALING WITH DISTRACTIONS** – strategies for managing technology addictions.

Log into [www.studyskillshandbook.com.au](http://www.studyskillshandbook.com.au)

See Mr Khodragha or Mrs Tierney for the school password.



**Nuwarra Public School**  
"Excellence, Innovation, Opportunity"  
McKay Avenue  
Moorebank 2170  
Phone: (02) 9601 1990 Fax: (02) 9602 0656  
Email: [nuwarra-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:nuwarra-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au)



Monday 27 March 2017

Dear Friend of Nuwarra Public School

The Year 5 and 6 students at Nuwarra Public School are an enthusiastic group of students who follow the school rule *Always Try* to achieve their goals. They have inspiring teachers, a great classroom atmosphere, plenty of school spirit and understand how important their role as a community member is.

The Year 5 and 6 students and teachers are currently organising the upcoming 2017 Annual Mini Fete to be held on **Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2017**. This fundraising event allows school students and the community to partner together to achieve great benefits for our school.

Last year Nuwarra Public School was supported by many community businesses which allowed the school to purchase a new sound system for our school assembly hall. This is vital for all 406 students who attend Nuwarra Public School but most importantly for those students who belong to one of five Hearing Support Classes we have at our school.

This year we are hoping you will partner with our school to help us achieve our 2017 goals for providing the best learning environment possible. Will you support us?

Sponsorship support can be provided in many forms. Perhaps your company could provide an item to auction, a gift voucher or an experience to offer the students at the Mini Fete. Alternatively, with End of Financial Year quickly approaching a cash donation may be more suitable.

Our school consists of 406 children and 270 families. By partnering with our school for this fundraising event we will show our appreciation by providing positive exposure for your business to the whole school community. Promotion opportunities include a listing in the school newsletter and inclusion in a Sponsors Directory created just for the Mini Fete which will be distributed to each family, placing your business details in new homes and connecting families to your company through a positive experience. Opportunities also include display of your company logo on the day and verbal promotion on the day.

There are 3 levels to this giving opportunity and we appreciate your support.

**Silver Sponsorship - up to \$50**

Sponsorship to the value of \$50 will have your company name listed in our Sponsors Directory (sent to each family) and mentioned in our school newsletter.

**Gold Sponsorship - \$51- \$100**

Sponsorship to this level provides promotion in the Sponsors Directory, listing in the School Newsletter and display of the company logo on the day of the event.

**Platinum Sponsorship \$100 or more**

Platinum sponsorship partners will have a listing in the Sponsors Directory, inclusion in the School Newsletter with advertising add, display of company logo on the day and special mention of support at our well attended Mini-Fete Auction by the Auctioneer.

For all sponsorship support enquiries please contact Nuwarra Public School on 9601 1990 or email the Year 5 and 6 coordinator at [Tamara.stoddart@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:Tamara.stoddart@det.nsw.edu.au). Thank you in advance for your support and partnering with our school.

Mr R. Comey  
Principal

Mini-Fete Committee

**PS Mark your calendars and plan to join us at the Annual 2017 Mini Fete, Thursday 7 December. Hope to see you there!**