Welcome back to what I hope will be another productive term. Ms Caroline Powell’s tenure as acting Deputy Principal has come to an end and on behalf of the entire school community I would like to thank her for the wonderful contribution she made to the school during that time. Mr Darren Percy has joined the school as our new Deputy Principal. Mr Percy will be the Deputy Principal responsible for our incoming 2016 Year 11 students.

Our new student leadership group has been elected and was formally inducted at a ceremony attended by family, friends, teachers, and fellow students. I would like to congratulate them on their election and I am sure that the team led by School Captains Monique Miller and Aaron Skilton will make a positive contribution to the school over the coming twelve months.

Graduation week was a great success. I asked the Year 12 students to take care of themselves and each other, I asked them to play like they were metaphorically 6 years old and I asked them to enjoy their final week. On all accounts they listened. The Fun Fair was a beautiful day, the students and the teachers had a ball and no one escaped a water bomb (not even me). Graduation was slick, the students looked great, the music and drama were excellent and the whole day ran incredibly well. The Formal was a lovely night and all the students looked amazing. The students finished their time at Freshwater in the best possible way.

Finally I would like to share with you an extract from the speech that Billy Bosler and Keily Dober, our 2015 captains made at the Graduation ceremony. “To our lovely Year Advisers, Mr Herft, Ms Sykes and Mrs Hamilton, thank you for making the transition to Freshie easier and for the thoughtful guidance you’ve given us along the way. To the incredible office ladies, seeing your smiling faces every day as we sign in and your patience as we explain why we’re late is something we are all going to truly miss after we leave.

It’s been great seeing how our year has all come together, especially in the last couple of months. Walking down the halls it really has felt like we’re all a family. And like any family we’ve had a lot of memories from the late nights in Crackenback, to vaccine debates and our school wide ping pong competitions: man, we’ve had it all and its sad now to be saying goodbye to that. We know that we may not see everyone here today again. Our lives inevitably will take different paths but these memories we’ve made will always remain. We do not know a more talented and caring group of people than those we’ve met at Freshwater Senior Campus. You all have the potential to do great things and we hope that regardless of what result you get in the HSC, you remember that fact. We hope you all go after your goals no matter how crazy or weird they may seem. We hope you all become the men and women we know you can be. And we hope you hold onto the friendships and memories you’ve made here. We know we will.

Everyone here has the power to turn their dreams into reality. However, at just 17 or 18 years of age it’s hard to know exactly what you want to achieve in life. Some of us may have a mapped out plan with exact goals to reach, whereas some may be searching for that spark of inspiration. Both of these situations are equally amazing and exciting and you should all be excited by the possibilities. So for the many of us still trying to figure out what we want to do, just give it time, and you’ll find your dream or maybe it’ll find you. And when you find that dream, you’ve got to chase it, protect it, and dare to be idealistic.

While tomorrow brings a new journey, today marks the end of an extraordinary chapter in our lives. No longer will we fight for the closest car park to the gates. No longer will we race for the infamous bird at sporting carnivals, of course...
conquering the Year 11s. No longer will we sit together in the performance space and sing happy birthday to whoever’s birthday lands on that Friday, and no longer will we walk together down the halls to class each day.

Our hope is that if we meet later on down the road of life, we will have amazing stories to share with one another. Our hope is that we all become fearless, we seize every opportunity and that we live with no regrets. But most of all we hope that you are all proud of who you are and that you continue to surprise yourself and chase those crazy dreams. Year 12 class of 2015, we made it.”

Frank Pikardt

From the Year 12 Deputy Principal

It has been a busy start to Term 4 and the first few weeks have involved students changing subjects and being introduced to their Year 12 pattern of study. Whilst these changes have been made for school and cross campus courses, some of the arrangements concerning TAFE are still being determined and finalised over the next few weeks.

We also recently inducted our new leadership team, and this group will be prominent and visible at assemblies throughout the remainder of this year and next year. The group recently attended a training day and is well prepared for the challenges that lie ahead. A breakfast for the team has been planned for Wednesday 4th November in the undercroft from 7.45am.

It has been great catching up with individual students in coaching conversations. I wanted to again share what this process is about and encourage students to either see me or their Year Adviser to make an appointment. This Term is the best time to be having these discussions and making positive changes as the HSC draws ever nearer. During the interview the following points are discussed:

1. Listening modes that affect people at different times.

2. Study methods that are simple and effective including my “Japanese Fan” technique or reordering and redesigning material.

3. Which people the new plan should involve and how it will be monitored long term.

4. A weekly plan based around existing commitments factoring in leisure and social activities, looking at where revision should occur and how much. The plan is later discussed and shared with teachers privately.

5. A goal or mission statement that looks at the dream or purpose of the school, a student’s best performing subjects and how they can be consolidated and developed. Similarly, an approach for subjects that are more challenging or even difficult is discussed, and personal changes that can be made so that goals can be reached.

I recently reminded students about the need for safety to be observed especially when behind the steering wheel of a car. It is great to see more and more students coming to school with their licences, but now is not the time to become complacent about all the rules and techniques of driving that they have learned. Having a licence is a privilege and should never be taken for granted. Risks are a part of growing up but taking risks in a car, driving inconsistently or conversely, with too much confidence can result in fines, disqualification or accidents. As an experienced motorist, seeing young drivers take risks is always a great cause for concern. I hope that our young drivers are sensible, respectful and continue to practise the skills taught when driving a vehicle at all times.

Chris Mortimer
From the Year 11 Deputy Principal

In my inaugural submission to the Freshwater newsletter I would like to thank the teaching and SASS staff for their openly warm and accommodating welcome. I am very excited about my appointment to this role and very much look forward to working with the staff, students and community to ensure we achieve the best possible outcomes for our students by providing access to opportunities and the highest quality teaching. I come from a Year 7-12 high school background having been a Head Teacher Teaching and Learning, and Head Teacher Learning Support for 12 years. I am significantly involved with BOSTES in the area of assessment and throughout my career have always been involved in student wellbeing.

As an outsider to the school, I immediately recognised the dedication of the teachers towards all of their students, the confidence they instil in them and the clear focus and direction they are collectively working towards. I would like to recognise the outstanding work of the previous Deputy Principal, and those who have filled the relieving position, Caroline Powell and Jasmin Chowdhury, and hope I can continue to build on their success.

In my first few weeks, I have had the pleasure of interviewing many of the new 2016 cohort and their parents to discuss their motivation to enrol at Freshwater Senior Campus. Overwhelmingly, these students view the school as an institution that will provide them with the tools and opportunities to succeed. These young adults are coming to us with a growth mindset, an understanding that their academic success and social wellbeing will only come about through concerted and sustained efforts, and a knowledge that by doing this they will overcome each challenge.

Members of our student wellbeing team are doing a tremendous amount of work behind the scenes in preparation for the arrival of the new cohort and I look forward to introducing these key people to you on Orientation night which is to be held on Tuesday 1st December, at 6.15pm for a 6.30pm (sharp) start.

Darren Percy

From the Year 11 Advisers

Welcome back to Term 4 and the start of your HSC year!

During Year 11 a common saying is “I’ll be more organised in Year 12, Year 11 doesn’t count.” Well, it’s now Year 12 and you all need to be putting in place positive habits NOW! For those who are already in a routine, have folders clearly labelled for each subject and have an organised note taking and revision system - great work and keep it up!! We are sure your results reflect these habits.

The first assessment tasks will have been handed out and these marks will start to count towards next year’s Higher School Certificate. Part of being an organised HSC student is seeing your teachers if you don’t understand what a task is requiring you to do. Marks lost now cannot be made up – so start applying yourself today.
A good way to keep organised is to keep a copy of the assessment schedule for each of your subjects pinned up on the wall near your desk so you know when tasks are due. Keep a copy of the assessment summary page on the fridge so everyone in your home knows when you have a task due. There were several students, who at the beginning of Year 11, thought that if a task was handed in late, he or she would just lose marks. The reality is, that if an assessment task is not handed in on the due date, you receive zero and there is no way of ever making up those marks. If you truant the period that the task is due (or truant another class on the due date to finish it), then you will also receive a zero. If you turn up to the lesson without your task ready to hand in and say that your printer was not working - that is also a zero. So don’t leave it till the night before or the morning a task is due to print it out - we all know technology often doesn’t work when you need it urgently. The school assessment policy that you received at the beginning of this year clearly explains this information - now would be a good time to read over it again. It is also found on the school website and students will receive another copy in the next few weeks.

We would also like to remind students that that attendance above 95% in all classes is expected, and this will also mean that you are more likely to maintain a consistent standard in your work. If you are absent, you need to be responsible for your own learning and seek out the work missed from the teacher as soon as you return.

For students who have a Major Project component in one or more courses, remember that there are approximately three Terms until the hand-in date. If you have two or three Major Projects, you should be planning to use class time and study periods productively. Consistent effort will determine your end result.

Congratulations to the 2016 leaders and the way they conducted themselves at the Year 12, 2015 graduation ceremony at the end of Term 3. They not only spoke well and looked smart, they were a great help to the organisers and were very willing to assist with the organisation of the event.

Good luck to all students over the next twelve months, remember we are here to help.

From the Year 12 Advisers

Kim Hamilton  Andrew Herft  Marie-Anne Sykes

WOW! What a journey of discovery we have been on for the last two years. It certainly is with genuine sadness that we say goodbye to Year 12, 2015 and their parents but it is with real excitement that we look forward to their stories from the new journey they will begin. The final few weeks of Term were celebrated with the completion of subjects, some solid revision, class parties, fun and games, farewells and of course the finale of the formal.

The final Year assembly was celebrated with well wishes from the Freshwater Senior Campus Staff demonstrating their amazing musical talent for the ‘Class of 2015’. This initiative was the work of the Year Adviser Andrew Herft who was able to showcase the hidden talents of many of the staff members. Although we laughed at, and with, each other the words of the song, ‘We are the World’ still resonate with the reminder that, ‘We are all a part of that great big family’ and ‘We stand together as one’.

The Freshie Fun Fair was also a reflection of these lyrics, ‘We are the ones that make a brighter day so let’s start giving’. A special thank you must go to all Freshwater staff for their involvement and time to prepare and help on the day. The
The weather was kind to us and everyone joined in with lots of fun and laughter to make the day ‘bright’ and one to remember. Indeed, the word bright is an apt descriptor for the array of fairies, super heroes, ninja-turtles, power rangers and the like who were obviously excited to play ‘dress ups’ in the name of good fun!
Formality resumed on the day of the Graduation ceremony. The musical items entertained us, the achievement awards amazed us and the speeches enlightened us. Mr Herft, Ms Hamilton and Ms Sykes left us with ‘words to live by’. Although many of us experienced mixed feelings about finishing school, the confetti cannons quickly reminded us that there were plans in place for a great night ahead.

The formal at The Crystal Palace Luna Park was a night to remember and share with family, friends and staff. A huge thank you must go to Mrs White for all her hard work in organising a very special celebration. Everyone looked breathtaking. The venue was stunning with the city in the background, the meal was great and the fun and dancing continued on until it was time to leave.

Year 12, 2015 are now at the finishing line. The HSC has begun and all the hard work is paying off and coming to an end. It has been a privilege to have helped you over the last two years and it is with a great deal of pride and satisfaction that we say farewell for now. We are very proud of every one of you as individuals but also as a year group. Always remember, ‘We are all a part of that great big family’. As Year Advisers we miss you already.
From the Counsellor

Silence of the Hands There are few people these days who are comfortable with silence or stillness. Young people particularly are constantly online. They are communicating with both friends and strangers via text, Facebook, Twitter and email and are constantly on the move even if it’s just their fingers dancing across the keyboard.

There are various types of silence, including:

- The silence of ‘giving up’ (hopelessness)
- The silence of keeping people away (isolation)
- The silence of holding onto pain (grief)
- The silence of hatred (punishment)
- The silence of listening (engaging)
- The silence of quietness (calmness)

We have become accustomed to perpetual sound and movement. Students now can’t tolerate studying in silence and so have to be hooked to a silence drowning device. Nor can many sit still but need to scroll, tap, type, text, click, jiggle and bang. Silence and stillness have become enemies which need to be defeated.

Do an audit in your home. How much productive silence is there? We need to rediscover silence and stillness and use it to our advantage; to quiet fears and anxiety, to relax and to listen, breathe, observe and re-engage.

Caroline Powell, Psychologist to the Stars

From the Relieving Learning Support Co-ordinator

I would like to introduce myself as relieving Learning Support Co-ordinator while Cathy Moran continues in her position as Relieving Head Teacher Secondary Studies. I am grateful to be given the opportunity to work with both the school’s learning support team and the wellbeing team in continuing to provide assistance to students with additional learning and support needs. The support provided is based on positive relationships built between teams, students and parents and focuses on solutions to move forward in assisting students to reach their personal best.

I can provide support in the following areas:
- identifying a student’s specific learning and support needs
- informing and working collaboratively with the classroom teacher to support students who have additional educational needs
- sourcing professional specialist advice and assistance about students with additional learning needs for the school’s learning support and welfare team
- assisting with professional learning for classroom teachers where appropriate

For our new Year 12 students, the process has now begun with the collation of evidence and applications for eligible students to apply for disability provisions through BOSTES for the 2016 HSC. Any HSC student with a disability recognised in the Commonwealth Disability Standards for Education 2005 can apply for Disability Provisions. The application requires a number of pieces of evidence regarding the nature of the condition experienced, student work samples, classroom teacher comments and results of standard tests linked to performance. Any parent who feels that their child may be eligible should contact me as soon as possible, as it is important to begin this process early to ensure your child receives the support required.

To our recently graduated Year 12, the movement from school to further education or employment can be a daunting one. Regardless of whether you sought help from the learning support team or not, I would like to encourage you to seek support and not be afraid or too embarrassed to ask for help from the new environments you move into. Most workplaces and institutions provide a range of services such as orientation days, course advice, enrolment assistance, student associations, technological support, academic support, health, wellbeing and disability counselling.

Please feel free to contact me at Marie-Anne.Sykes@det.nsw.edu.au or through the front office, if I can provide assistance to you now or in the future.

Marie-Anne Sykes
From the Leadership Co-ordinators

There is an old legend at the University of Sydney about the jacaranda tree in the main quadrangle. It is said that by the time it blooms, you should have already hit the books. We could start a similar legend here - our jacaranda tree is starting to bloom, the 2015 HSC cohort sit their final exams and the 2016 cohort begin their own HSC adventure. It is a moment in time when the transition from Year 11 to Year 12 takes place.

By Week 3 in Term 4 the leadership formalities have been conducted and the new team has been decided. A well contested election process, a formal school induction and a college leadership day run with the leaders of all the college campuses have provided a busy and intense initiation as a leader at Freshwater. Our 2016 leaders have handled the process superbly. They have demonstrated an ability to bring a community together and combine a clear sense of vision for the school with a strong spirit of community and a sense of humour.

For the leadership team of 2016, the real challenges begin now as they have set an ambitious agenda for themselves. Like our blooming jacaranda – timing is everything. Term 4 provides the space and opportunity to develop big ideas, and the team is generating ideas with a specific focus on community, and a lasting legacy for the school they love and serve. However, like the seasons, the Terms roll on rapidly at Freshwater Senior Campus and the theme of this Term is – “seize the moment”.

As the Leadership Co-ordinators, we are proud and excited to be working with such an accomplished and bright group of students. Our ambition is to provide them with opportunities so that they can flourish in our school environment. We believe this team will come together and seize their moment and to steal a much loved phrase from a famous Australian gardener, we believe this team is “blooming marvellous”.

The 2016 Leaders:
Captains:
Monique Miller
Aaron Skilton

Sports Captains:
Hannah Yeates
Nathan Williams

and:
Isabella Denby
Alex Fauchon
Monique Gray
Dante Simonetta
Uyen Hoang
Matthew Thomson

James Gordon and Caroline Powell, Leadership Co-ordinators
From the Careers Advisers

To our new Year 12….NOW IS THE TIME.....to start thinking about what your HSC School Leaver resume will look like. We are not talking about the physical look, that’s the easy part! We are referring to what your resume will say about you! Some students give up many things in Year 12 so they can ‘focus on their HSC’. Is this a wise choice? Perhaps for those of you who have been actively engaged in many extra-curricular activities, both in and out of school. For those of you who have very little to put in the Achievements, Awards and Activities sections of your resume, perhaps not.

When completing scholarship and job applications next year, you will need to have more than just academic achievements to refer to. So, look around for activities that will firstly, not take too much time away from study and secondly, will demonstrate something about you.

Here are some examples of activities that can go into your resume - join the STA group at school, keep going with your summer or winter sport, run in the school Cross Country event, keep your part time job (but do up to 8 hrs a week only), babysit for the neighbours, participate in the Red Shield Appeal when STA ask for volunteers, get your driver’s licence, do your RSA, co-coach an U9’s soccer or netball team, or collect Merits from teachers towards the levels system at Freshwater. Keep your ears and eyes open for small opportunities you can say YES to, and build up your resume. Improve your chances of getting that scholarship or job at the end of Year 12 by being more than your HSC mark....don’t run out of time......NOW IS THE TIME!

Melissa Penrose
Maryann Rogers

From the Relieving Head Teacher Secondary Studies

As a teaching profession we have faced much technological change. One of the conversations I hear constantly is about the use of mobile phones by our students. Some see the mobile phone as an additional teaching tool, others as a menace and something to be banned. With students at Freshwater very much attached to their phones, some interesting information has come to light regarding the use of them in schools.

A study conducted in the UK has yielded some significant results. Conducted across 91 schools and across four cities, the authors questioned school staff about their related policies and the efficacy of those policies. During the time of the study, all but one of the schools introduced a complete ban on the use of mobile phones. The results of the study found that banning mobile phones in schools resulted in a 14.23 per cent improvement in test scores for low-achieving students, and a 6.41 per cent improvement overall in the schools that had introduced a ban. The evidence supported the theory that low to mid-range students are significantly affected by using their phones during lesson times. Go to http://cep.lse.ac.uk/_new/publications/abstract.asp?index=4639 to view the report in more detail.

No staff member wants to take responsibility for a box of confiscated mobile phones, and students at Freshwater are free to have their mobile phones with them throughout the day. The anecdotal evidence has been available for some time, and now there is data supporting the fact that mobile phones are distractors from learning. As our new group of Year 12 students have just begun their HSC study, now might just be the time to have a conversation with your son/daughter about the option of leaving the phone out of reach.

Cathy Moran
Sport Report

Willson Lowe is a talented athlete and 2016 has been a very successful year for him. After being Freshwater Athletics 16yrs boys age champion and setting three records at our carnival, he went on to Warringah Zone carnival where he was also age champion, placing in every event he competed in. In September, Willson competed at CHS, earning himself a silver medal in Triple Jump with a personal best jump of 13.05m and a bronze medal in Long Jump with a jump of 6.51m.

During the recent school holidays, Willson competed in the NSW All Schools Athletics Championships which include the best athletes from Government, Catholic and private schools.

Willson qualified for both the Triple and Long Jump events and was up against some very talented athletes nearly twice his size, but his beautiful technique (see below) got him through and he was successful in winning a Bronze medal in the Triple Jump. He backed it up the following day with a Silver medal (and PB of 6.55m) in the Long Jump. Congratulations Willson - this is an amazing effort and these are Freshwater’s first ever All Schools Athletics medals. He has now qualified to compete at Nationals to be held in Perth next year.

Lisa Peterson, Sports Co-ordinator
Faculty in Focus: PDHPE

Personal Development, Health & Physical Education is a vital and growing subject, not only here at Freshwater, but across the state. Around 20% of HSC students have chosen the subject, making it the fifth most popular course overall. Interestingly, in this year’s cohort, the girls have won the gender balance with 53% versus 47% for boys.

The popularity of this subject here can be attributed to the relevance of the topics studied and delivery of quality lessons where students learn about the practice of maintaining active, healthy lifestyles and improving their health status.

PDHPE at the senior level is a unique subject that develops knowledge to not only navigate the HSC exam, but enrich the quality of their life and wellbeing throughout the lifespan. Here at Freshwater we have a growing and very enthusiastic PDHPE faculty. Mrs Lisa Peterson, Ms Cathy Moran, Ms Shannon Cooper and Mrs Vicki Busse, are all very experienced teachers who aim to create engaging and relevant lessons that promote learning, self-evaluation and critical thinking.

The current module that our new Year 12 group is studying is ‘Health priorities in Australia’. We investigate, in depth, the current health priority issues and the roles that the health system and health promotion play in achieving better health for all Australians. Students are introduced to population groups with particular health needs, and exposed to the various health inequities that exist across our nation. Students were staggered to learn the cost of treating ill health, particularly as they will soon become taxpayers! It provides a great incentive to stay healthy!

Our aim is to make learning concrete and enable students to see the purpose in what they are learning. A great example of this is the completion of First Aid certificates where students learn vital first aid skills, and meet compulsory course outcomes at the same time. Students interested in becoming personal trainers also had the opportunity to design fitness sessions for their classmates in the ‘Fitness Choices Unit’. Students had to apply the skills of selecting appropriate activities, organising equipment and then co-ordinating the group to get them physically active!

Many of the students who study PDHPE go on to careers in Physiotherapy, Sports Science, Human Movement and many other health and sports related industries.

Cathy Moran
Faculty in Focus: LOTE

Foreign Language Learning is so rewarding & a lot of fun!!

Once again, our students of German, Japanese and Chinese background speakers courses have had a most successful and enjoyable year. The LOTE activities began with our international Chinese students celebrating Chinese New Year, with a colourful Dragon Parade and delicious dumplings!

As for those who studied German and Japanese, students in both Year 11 and 12 classes enjoyed the culinary and cultural delights of the respective countries. An authentic opulent lunch at the iconic Lowenbrau Restaurant in the Rocks, accompanied by a piano accordion player and a band in full swing, with waiters in lederhosen and dirndl skirts was very much enjoyed by all. Our Year 11 and 12 students of Japanese delighted in a delicious and most generous meal of miso soup, a bento box brimming with sashimi, sushi, teriyaki chicken, tonkatsu pork, salad and rice, in an authentic Japanese restaurant. Of course the waiters spoke the target language with each group, which proved a lot of fun!

As already presented in earlier newsletters this year, we hosted a delightful group of 62 students and 4 teachers from Japan on a full day interactive program with buddies from not only Japanese classes, but also from Society and Culture classes. Such days are always a huge success. In addition, as featured previously, Jessamy Goddard from our Year 11 Japanese Beginners class participated in the wonderful Manly/Odawara sister school visit to Japan. Such experiences are obviously invaluable on both linguistic and cultural levels.

We have been so fortunate to have Alev Yalcin, our beautiful assistant German teacher here with us in our German classes this year. She has provided invaluable assistance, particularly for additional practice for speaking in preparation for final exams. Alev has been loved by all.

However, of course our academic learning drives the majority of our LOTE focus in Stage 6. All students sat the ACER Australian Language Proficiency Competition, where they receive certificates of attainment in the skill areas of Listening and Reading comprehension. At this stage, we are still awaiting the competition results. It has been an extremely successful and enjoyable year for us in the LOTE faculty and we look forward to an exciting 2016.

Barbara Leonard: LOTE teacher, STA Co-ordinator and Girls Supervisor
STA (Students Take Action) Report

“We reach out to the community in order to change all of our lives”

Our mission statement drives all initiatives which our beautiful STA students choose to support, both in our local community and abroad.

Recently, two highly significant fundraisers we supported for those in our community who have been, or will be touched by cancer, were The Cancer Council NSW’s Daffodil Day and Pink Ribbon Day. In the tradition of the ‘spirit of giving’ here at Freshwater Senior Campus, students and teachers have donated generously.

World Vision’s 40 Hour Famine was also a project several of our students supported, raising both awareness and funds for those suffering poverty overseas.

Young Women’s Leadership Seminar

On August 20th, Gemma Wood and I with seventy other Year 11 young women from schools all over NSW filled Parliament House in Macquarie St for the Young Women’s Leadership Seminar. The seminar discussed the concept and definition of leadership with a focus on women and the issues that women face, both in order to gain power and whilst holding power.

The discourse was refreshingly impartial, even discussing Parliament’s own lack of women in all levels of government - only 5 out of 22 NSW ministers are women. Insightful and entertaining anecdotes were shared by the wide range of speakers. They included actors, activists, the first (and current) Madam Speaker in New South Wales History, lawyers and parliamentarians. These speakers discussed not only their own experiences and the sexism they faced in the work force, but how they are tackling larger societal, national and international issues such as the “genderocide” in India. After each speaker, the floor was open to the audience to comment on specific issues or to ask questions.

Throughout the seminar the theme of leadership was explored. Different career paths for young women who hold leadership qualities, were discussed. These careers involved activism, law, innovation and politics. One speaker talked about the challenges of having to support herself whilst embarking on non-profit aid work. “It’s about balance and knowing yourself... having a realistic idea of what you need and looking for jobs that can support that, as well as fitting your moral code.”

I came out of the seminar with my mind full of thoughts. Gendered issues are an undeniable truth: gendered poverty, violence and disempowerment are issues that this generation has to address. Despite all the challenges and difficulties which women are expected to accept, I left the seminar more passionately feminist than before. The words of these strong and inspirational women made me more determined to challenge the statistics and the status quo.

Niamh McCool
## School Calendar

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