From the Principal

As the year draws to a close we have already had so much to celebrate with our class of 2015. I would like to congratulate the following students who have been nominated in their respective disciplines for inclusion in showcase events. The work of these students has been deemed to be in the high range of results by HSC markers and worthy of being considered for showcasing.

They are: Zoe Heytman, Alyson Theseira, Matt Grant, Anastasia Baldwin and Alyshia Randell for ArtExpress; Bronte Ellis, Siobhan O’Hara and Hannah Robb for Callback in Dance; and Matt Grant, Claudine Mendoza, Tabatha Jenkins, Zoe King and Sahara Gaw for OnStage in Drama. What a wonderful achievement by all of these students!

The teachers put in an enormous amount of their own time into nurturing the talent that is within the school. Any subject that has a major work requires enormous amounts of dedication and patience so that students are appropriately supported and guided through what is a rigorous and time consuming process.

So on behalf of the entire school community I would like to thank our Dance teacher - Ms Jenni Bradstreet, our Drama teacher - Ms Annette Giblett, Visual Arts teachers Ms Sandra Svilans and Ms Terri Morley and all the teachers whose subjects involve the production of major works or projects, for their generosity of spirit and unwavering dedication to excellence.

As this is our last newsletter for the year may I take this opportunity to wish you all a safe, joyous and peaceful festive season and thank you all for your continued support of the school. Together, I am sure, we will continue to make this place something special.

Frank Pikardt

From the Year 12 (2016) Deputy Principal

It has been pleasing that so many students have been approaching myself and Year Advisers for the “coaching conversations” that we have been offering. Hopefully this will assist students as the HSC approaches and allows them to be more proactive, methodical and have goals clearly realised.

As the term draws to a close, a working routine should be established with homework and study or revision occurring each day. I have been asking students to connect with their teachers and seek help and advice on how much time should be devoted to revision each week, what to revise and to develop strategies for targeting any problem areas.

I would also like to remind you of the importance of your son or daughter attending lessons right up until the end of this Term. Year 12 is a challenging and at times stressful period for many students, and there should be no requests or notification by families of pending leave unless there is an emergency.
There is a far greater emphasis on grades and ranks in the HSC course with a demanding assessment schedule that all students are aware of. In the event of a class being missed due to sickness, students MUST see their teachers upon returning to school and catch up on work missed. It is not the responsibility of the teacher to chase those who have missed lessons or who have fallen behind, so if you could remind your student about this expectation it will undoubtedly help in the long run.

I recently sent an email concerning Crossroads Day on Monday, 14th December which is a mandatory course for all Year 12 students. If your son or daughter will not be at school that day, could you please advise the school immediately and the material will have to be completed as an assignment. In the same email, I discussed the application process for disability provisions for the HSC and the closing date for these, which is at the end of Term 1, 2016. If this concerns your student please be aware of this deadline and the documentation that is needed to support the application.

It has been a productive and busy year and a great pleasure working with the current group of students. I would like to wish everyone a very happy, safe and peaceful Christmas and I look forward to a positive 2016.

Chris Mortimer

From the Year 11 (2016) Deputy Principal

It is always an interesting time in both a student’s and a parent’s life when transition to any new context occurs. The upcoming change of school to our Senior campus for Year 11 students in 2016 will no doubt create challenges, but also generate significant opportunities.

A dedicated Wellbeing team made up of our Year Advisers: Mrs Janelle White, Mr David Watkinson and Ms Shannon Cooper in addition to our Counsellor, Careers Advisers, Learning Support Teachers, Head Teachers and Deputy Principals will assist our new students’ journeys. As a team, we will manage and support a student’s time at Freshwater, providing the strategic holistic development and learning opportunities to build well-rounded and healthy young adults.

Our Orientation Evening, which was held on Tuesday, 1st December was our initial significant opportunity to meet our 2016 cohort and parents. It is a highly important facet of the transition program for families. Additionally this year, we will host a follow up event where the 2016 Year 11 cohort are invited to a casual, social afternoon here at school on Tuesday, 8th December. This event aims to provide the opportunity for students to make positive connections prior to starting at full throttle next year. The notion of “connecting” is an intrinsic focus of our 3-year school plan, and as a community, we certainly recognise the positive differences that building relationships with others can have on confidence, collegiality and acceptance.

From the Year 12 (2016) Year Advisers

Lisa Peterson  Glenn Bennett  Leanne Turner
Term 4 has begun smoothly for our new Year 12 students as they settle into the routine of their HSC year. Difficult decisions as to whether to discontinue or keep subjects to ensure the best result possible for their ATAR have been made through consultation with teachers, careers advisers and parents. As we move towards the second half of the Term, the first round of assessment tasks are being finalised and handed in. Students are now in full swing with homework, major project ideas for practical subjects are being developed and study notes being devised. Students should use the summer break to revise their Term 4 class notes and complete these summaries as the half yearly exams at the end of Term 1 2016 will be upon them quickly.

Several students were accelerated into HSC courses this year and will receive their results on Wednesday 16th December. This means they have already completed their HSC exam in one of their subjects, and they gained valuable insight into what is expected from them in order to do well, and how to manage the workload. They will be speaking at our next assembly to give others some hints on what worked well for them (and of course, what to avoid)!

Staff members have continually commented to us all year on the diversity of talent in the Year group and the level of maturity shown, especially when students are representing our school. The STA group went to the War Vets, Collaroy on Friday 20th November for a Christmas visit where they handed out gifts and joined in singing Christmas carols. During Weeks 4 and 7, Hospitality students completed their mandatory 35 hours work placement at various businesses across the Northern Beaches. Employers commented on the work ethic and standard of presentation of our students, which was very pleasing. Students have also enjoyed continued success in sports with the Boys and Girls Touch teams participating in a Beach Touch carnival at Maroubra and at school there has been widespread eagerness and competition with our annual Ping Pong tournament.

On Wednesday 11th November at 11am, the school stopped to commemorate Remembrance Day. In each classroom, beautiful words that Mrs Low had prepared were read to the class and a one minute silence followed. Those who had a study period gathered under the magnificent flowering jacaranda outside the library, and took time to listen and appreciate the words being read.

We look forward to acknowledging student success in the Preliminary courses, sporting and whole school activities on Wednesday 16th December for our Merit Achievement Assembly.

We wish all students and their families a very happy Christmas, a restful and safe break, and look forward to seeing their continued hard work and success in 2016.
From the Learning Support Co-ordinator

The progression to Year 12 brings with it many changes for students. One of these is the completion of the first of the many HSC assessment tasks. All Year 12 students have now received their assessment schedules for each subject for the 2015-16 academic year. They should ensure that this information is recorded in diaries and calendars. This will help to ensure adequate time is allocated to the completion of each task and that they are not left until the last minute.

Sometimes students get discouraged and I often hear them say that they cannot do the work or the work is too hard. So much time is often wasted by avoidance or talking ourselves into feeling not successful enough. I would like to encourage all students to always set an intention for what they feel they cannot achieve and then just get started. By doing this the focus moves away from whether there will be success or not, to actual achievement, competence and determination.

Now is a perfect time for students to also consider the importance of planning and organisation in order to achieve their personal best and the desired result at the end of Year 12. This success can be achieved through the setting of SMART goals. If students think about both short and long term goals in terms of how specific they are, can they be measured, are they achievable and realistic and are they appropriate for the time available it can help reduce unnecessary anxiety.

Students are also encouraged to access support from their teachers as they are available to assist outside of scheduled lessons at a time that is mutually suitable. This builds connections that are most valuable and also increases the likelihood of success.

I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the two Learning Support officers who play an important role in the Learning Support Team at Freshwater Senior Campus. Max Cullen and Christian Pikardt provide assistance to students on an individual basis with classwork, assessment work and improving specific skills such as essay writing, and general study skills. Their attributes of knowledge, communication and organisational skills are crucial to the multi-skilled support they provide to students, whilst working collaboratively with classroom teachers. Their commitment helps in providing specific direction for students to achieve their goals and learning success.

Marie-Anne Sykes

Chinese Debate within Our College

On 29th October, Chinese students (background speakers) from Freshwater held a debate in Chinese with Mackellar Girls’ Chinese students. Freshwater students hosted the event, and every student had a job to do in order to make the event run smoothly. The topic was about the balance between economic growth and environmental protection.

Both teams put in a lot of effort, especially the speakers, to make this debate a high quality event. They presented well prepared scripts and delivered them in a sophisticated manner. The debate provided both classes the opportunity to look into the theme of “Global Issues” and it was indeed a lively experience for all! It was also a chance for international students to meet, exchange ideas and make connections. A local resident from the Chinese community was invited to be the judge of the debate.

Each team tried very hard and it was a close debate, but in the end the Mackellar team was judged to be the winner. Congratulations to all involved for a fine effort.

Joy Yau, Chinese (Background Speaker) teacher
Students Take Action (STA) Report

Sharing Christmas joy with Collaroy War Vets residents

Each year, our delightful boys and girls from STA, our ‘Community Outreach’ group at FSC combine with our talented music students and the angelic Manly Selective Campus Christmas Choir, to visit the Collaroy War Vets residents in the Phyllis Stewart Wing. These photos really speak for themselves, as it is clearly a moment of peace, joy and love, shared by both the elderly and the students. Indeed, the overwhelming feeling shared by our students, is that they gain so much from bringing joy to others. Christmas carols, chocolate Santas, warm smiles and at times, delighted hand clapping to the carols, were what this lovely event was all about.

STA’s mission statement is “We reach out to our community in order to enrich all of our lives”.

STA students support White Ribbon Day

Wednesday, 25th November was White Ribbon Day and three of our beautiful STA students attended a special assembly at Mackellar Girls Campus where the focus was ‘say no to domestic violence’. The speakers included a representative from Zonta - a group focusing on empowering women in our community, and the Domestic Violence officer from Manly Police headquarters. Leaders from all of our college campuses were invited to offer their support for this incredibly important cause.
From the Head Teacher Secondary Studies

All Year 12 students by now should have received the 2016 Higher School Certificate ‘Rules and Procedures’ booklet. This is a very important document that all students should take the time to look over. There is a Term by Term checklist on page 5 that should be completed as we move closer to the HSC. It also outlines assessment procedures, examination information, how to get your ‘Students online’ login, and what to do in the event of misadventure. Please take some time to ensure your child has received this document, and if not, remind them to see me to collect their copy.

On Monday 14th December, all students will be involved in a whole day ‘Wellbeing Seminar’. The content presented will form part of the mandatory 25 hour ‘Crossroads’ course that all students in Stage 6 must complete. Topics to be covered during the day include relationships, making good choices, drugs and alcohol and staying safe. Sessions will be delivered by external presenters and educators who will provide interactive and highly informative sessions. Any students absent on the day will have to complete an alternate module of equivalent hours in their own time. More details to follow.

Cathy Moran
Careers News

Student Experiences in Law and Diplomacy

1. The United Nations Experience

In October we were selected to represent Freshwater at the annual United Nations Mini Model, held at UNSW. Our visit to this campus was mind opening - the maze of buildings and the size of the campus was very confusing for us first timers! At enrolment it became clear we were mixing it up with many selective and private school students, making us feel like the underdogs and so we felt determined to give these kids a run for their money!

We started with workshops and team building based around communication and effective presentations. These workshops were delivered by University students and three external speakers, including two Members of Parliament and a representative from Amnesty International. The day was linked to Human Rights and encouraged youth involvement.

The dilemma for the afternoon model was then introduced - the Syrian refugee crisis. All the students represented a country in the United Nations - Brooke represented Saudi Arabia, and Carl represented Sweden. We each made an opening statement about our countries standpoint on the issue which was limited to no more than 30 seconds. We then discussed and moved motions digesting different countries' views on the crisis and tried to form alliances. It was a difficult task to keep up with all the viewpoints whilst taking copious amounts of notes, but it was a good indication of how this would all be played out in a real life United Nations Forum.

It was an intense day, but a fabulous experience and we recommend it to future students for the knowledge and skills gained. It was an inspirational exercise which left us wanting more!

Brooke Dickens and Carl Saunders

2. UTS Law Discovery

In Week 8, four Legal Studies students spent a day at UTS in the Law Faculty. Amelia Crawford, Tayla Plunkett, Dean Askew and Timothy Manson took part in a lecture series which was conducted by UTS students. The students listened to a Human Rights Lecture and then went on to participate in a Mock Trial and Dispute Resolution. The opportunity to participate in these mock legal representations gave the students a great feel for what it would be like to work in this industry. The facilities at UTS were very impressive with lecture spaces set up just like courtrooms. The students took their roles in the mock experiences very seriously and found the day extremely productive.

3. Law Scholarship awarded

In closing, we are excited to announce that Oceane Pearse, of Year 12, 2015 as the recipient of a Bond University 'Excellence Scholarship' which will allow Oceane to study Law at the prestigious Bond University. We congratulate Oceane on this well-deserved honour. Her commitment to hard work has been acknowledged and rewarded.

Melissa Penrose and Maryann Rogers, Careers Advisors
Freshwater students continue to excel in their chosen sports.

Natalie Jander is a wonderful all round sportswoman and has had outstanding success in Water Polo. She has a long history in this sport and has been captain of Sydney Northern Beaches Breakers team since 2013. This year, her U16s team won the Sydney Metropolitan Competition, as well as the State and National titles.

Natalie trains in the early hours several mornings a week at Homebush with the NSW Institute of Sport squad, who are coached by Bec Rippon and Tim Hamill (past Olympians). She has been in the NSW Blues team for two years, and in 2014 her team came 2nd at the Hawaiian International Invitational tournament.

Last week Natalie represented Freshwater Senior Campus in the Sydney North Regional team at the state carnival, where she was selected for the NSW Combined High Schools team, to play early next year. Congratulations to this amazing athlete.

Beach Touch Football

This week we had our boys and girls touch teams representing us at the NSW Beach Touch tournament on Maroubra Beach. This is the first time Freshwater has attended this tournament and in scorching temperatures they had a very successful day. Coached brilliantly by Mr James Marks (one of our parents) the players quickly learned the game and the tactics involved. Our girls had convincing wins against Kambala Girls (15-2), Hurlstone Agricultural High (15-6), and lost in very close matches against Barrenjoey High (9-8) and Hills Sports High (11-8). They made the quarter finals, but fatigue and the heat took their toll, and they bowed out of the tournament.

Our boys teams played with skill and determination and had some fantastic results. They were ably coached by James Marks (Cam’s dad - thanks James!) and here is his report:

‘It was a very hot day for beach touch at Maroubra last Wednesday. The team of Matt Stirrat, Nathan Williams, Campbell Marks, Asher Riese, Willson Lowe, Daniel Rashleigh, Isaac Earl and Jeremy Allen competed very well in the intense heat. Freshie didn’t really lose a game with the only loss of points due to not scoring first.

Gez, Nathan and Rash played very strong in the middle with Isaac making running in soft sand look easy. Asher scored plenty of tries down the wing with his insane speed, while Cam’s cut out pass gave our wingers plenty of time to score many tries. Willson’s change in direction made his defence very difficult to get past even when the opposition had an overlap. Matt’s speed in cover defence was very frustrating for the opposition.

The game results were:

---

Our boys teams played with skill and determination and had some fantastic results. They were ably coached by James Marks (Cam’s dad - thanks James!) and here is his report:

‘It was a very hot day for beach touch at Maroubra last Wednesday. The team of Matt Stirrat, Nathan Williams, Campbell Marks, Asher Riese, Willson Lowe, Daniel Rashleigh, Isaac Earl and Jeremy Allen competed very well in the intense heat. Freshie didn’t really lose a game with the only loss of points due to not scoring first.

Gez, Nathan and Rash played very strong in the middle with Isaac making running in soft sand look easy. Asher scored plenty of tries down the wing with his insane speed, while Cam’s cut out pass gave our wingers plenty of time to score many tries. Willson’s change in direction made his defence very difficult to get past even when the opposition had an overlap. Matt’s speed in cover defence was very frustrating for the opposition.

The game results were:
1st game (v International Grammar) – a very easy win 17-2.

2nd game (v Barrenjoey A) - a close game at first but in the end, we ran away with it 11-4 for a great win.

3rd game (v St Leo’s College) - a draw as we didn’t score first.

Quarter Final (v Emanuel College) - a convincing win 11-2.

Semi Final – (v St Leo’s College) - a comfortable win 13-8.

Grand Final – a triumph over Barrenjoey High.

Therefore Freshwater were the winners on the day - well done boys, congratulations on a fine effort and with great sportsmanship!'

James Marks (Cam’s dad), coach.

Ping Pong

Our sports captains (Hannah and Nathan) have been busy organising knock-out ping pong tournaments this Term. With 15 teams joining in the first competition (boys doubles), and some very close early round matches, the winners were Jack McGinley and Matt Stirrat. They were the most consistent team throughout, defeating Umar/Alex, Luke/Asher and Carl/Joe combinations along the way. The girls’ doubles tournament is underway and is currently up to the semi-finals. This will be followed by mixed doubles in the last two weeks of Term. It has been great to see the teachers getting involved, who are definitely not giving in without a fight!

Lisa Peterson, Sport Co-Ordinator

NBSC Duke Of Edinburgh’s Award Update:

Tahlia Anderson and Nathalie Kasselis completed the GOLD URBAN ODYSSEY Qualifying expedition in the October holidays. Congratulations! Alice Martin completed a PACK AND PADDLE expedition at Somerset (Colo River) in September to complete her Adventurous Journeys for the Gold award. Well done! Maaike Hofman and Mr Jonas Lemmon will participate in the Gold hike in the Royal National Park on December 12-15 with 9 other NBSC students. All the best! All GOLD participants – please be planning your award, taking into consideration a Residential project (5 days, 4 nights) and continue your skill, service and physical recreation and any further expeditions needed. The next hike will be at Bungonia in the April holidays.

Naomi Yorston, Duke of Edinburgh Award Co-ordinator
Faculty in Focus - CAPA (Creative and Performing Arts)

The Creative and Performing Arts Faculty have had a busy and dynamic year preparing for practical performances and submissions as well as a range of school and community showcase events.

Dance
This year in Dance, students have been lucky enough to work with Adam Murray and Brittany Skea whilst Mrs Bradstreet was on maternity leave. These teachers focused on developing skills in performing with Year 11, by preparing two On Show pieces as well as an appreciation for Australian Dance history and skills in composition. This group has now successfully started on their HSC composition work with Mrs Bradstreet building on the knowledge provided by these two excellent teachers.

The current Year 12 also hope to attend the HSC Dance enrichment day on Tuesday, 15th December at Belrose. This will be an excellent opportunity to further develop their compositions whilst working with industry professionals, and beginning their HSC study of performance by attending lectures by Dance physiotherapists. The focus for Year 12, 2015 has been on appreciating two new HSC works, ‘Sarabande’ and ‘Fine Line’. These works explore notions of masculinity and the importance of spaces. To enrich understandings of this work, students were lucky enough to be able to meet and learn from Sue Healey, the artist who created the work, ‘Fine Line’. This enabled them to understand more completely how the work was constructed and filmed, and assisted in the completion of their own choreographic work. HSC students refined their performance pieces under the supervision of Mrs Bradstreet and the Dance examinations were held over three days in August.

It has been another successful year for HSC Dance with three students receiving nominations for HSC Callback - congratulations to Siobhan O’Hara, Bronte Ellis and Hannah Robb, and the Dance class of 2015 for a range of excellent achievements!

Music
It has been an exciting year for the Music and Entertainment students at Freshwater. Music 1, Music 2 and Entertainment classes have all worked well this year to create a supportive and positive collegial environment. Freshwater Entertainment students have supported all school events with professionalism and their continual dedication towards refining their skills contributed to creating memorable and powerful environments for our Creative and Performing Arts students to excel in. Our Music students have worked hard on refining their style and communicating through a high level of technical skill and personal expression. They have developed this musicality during school functions as well as in extra-curricular activities. Caitlyn Perry has particularly excelled in this area, performing in School Spectacular 2015, and participating in a range of Arts Unit initiatives as part of the State Senior Choral Ensemble.

Freshwater Couch Sessions Music Videos – a new initiative developed by Music and Entertainment students in 2015, has promoted this professional view towards working together to create a refined product. Entertainment students aided in the setup and creation of the videos, and the Music students developed their skills in performance communication, creating a learning environment that reflects industry practice. Use of higher order skills is also fostered at Freshwater through opportunities to perform regularly at assemblies, Cross Campus music nights, OnShow, master classes with professional musicians and composers, and the Freshwater HSC Music days that involve all the campuses in the college.
It is wonderful to see such a rich and profound music community flourishing here at Freshwater. This community has extended recently towards Alumni Music students Sean Niven and Daniel Willington, who came back to accompany our students for their HSC performance programs. These Alumni students spent weeks rehearsing, mentoring and providing masterclasses for our HSC students to develop their performances even further. We extend a big thank you to all the support from parents, friends and family members throughout 2015, and are excited for the year ahead.

Drama

It is very rewarding to look back on the year and the range of theatrical styles and conventions the HSC Drama students learnt to use in developing the compulsory self-devised group performances. It was impressive to see the way students used theatre as a tool to not only entertain audiences, but to also explore a broad range of personal, social, historical and cultural issues. In The History of Her Story, Savannah Appleyard, Chloe Howard, Molly O.hlback and Alexandra North critiqued the changing roles of women throughout the decades using a mattress as a powerful visual metaphor for oppression.

However, deserving of special commendation are Matthew Grant, Claudine Mendoza, Tabatha Jenkins, Zoe King and Sahara Gaw for the Board of Studies ‘OnSTAGE’ Nomination they received for their Group Performance ‘To Jab or Not to Jab’. Using highly effective ensemble work and innovative use of space, their comical, satirical montage piece dramatised the fight of five parents to retain their democratic rights in response to the Australian Government’s compulsory vaccination policy. It is satisfying to see such a commitment by students to achieve excellence.

The success of the HSC Showcase evening was testimony to the ongoing support that was provided by parents, family and friends of the students throughout the past two years. It is also timely to welcome Bee Lanham to the Creative and Performing Arts Faculty. Ms Lanham will replace Ms Jasmin Chowdhury who is on maternity leave. Bee Lanham is an experienced Drama educator and will be teaching the 2016 Year 12 Drama class.

Visual Arts

Visual Arts students have had a busy year, with notable events being visits to visually exciting and diverse exhibitions. Year 11 and 12 students viewed the Chuck Close, Pop Art and Artexpress exhibitions earlier in the year. The new Year 12 cohort have been involved in an excursion program to view contemporary Chinese art at the White Rabbit Gallery and the Art Gallery of NSW. The viewing and interrogation of art works is outstanding preparation for examinations where students are required to analyse previously unseen artworks.

Congratulations to Aaron Skilton and Georgia Anderson (HSC 2016) who were selected to participate in the National Art School HSC Intensive Program. Acceptance for this program was competitive and students were chosen through portfolio submission. Aaron was selected for the Photography stream and Georgia in the Sculpture group. Both students attended two weeks of tuition during their school holidays and achieved high range marks at the top of the cohort.

Year 12 students exhibited their HSC Visual Art Bodies of Work as part of the Freshwater Senior Campus HSC Submission Exhibition in July. The Body of Work contributes 50% towards the HSC Visual Arts examination mark. It represents the student’s art practice over a period of ten months. This year’s candidature chose to explore diverse art making forms. The traditional forms of painting, drawing, sculpture, printmaking and photomedia were well represented with a growing interest demonstrated in design and time based works. Many students explored a number of techniques within their submissions and chose ‘Collection of Works’ as their Expressive Form category. This year there was a significant preference for landscape works with students expressing a personal voice about environmental issues. Other popular subject matter included beach culture, world conflict and portraiture with family and friends being popular sources for imagery.
This year students have had their works preselected for Artexress across a range of Expressive Forms including Sculpture, Painting and Graphic Design. Nominations were received by Zoe Heytman, Alyson Theseira, Matthew Grant, Anastasia Baldwin and Alyshia Randell. What was common to these works was each student’s commitment to examining concepts which held personal interest or relevance, their perseverance in refining their chosen media, and dedication to achieving a high level of technical resolution and mastery of the process. These works fulfilled the criteria of the higher mark ranges for this year’s HSC marking operation.

The Year 12 Freshwater Visual Arts Exhibition provides an opportunity for the curator from Manly Art Gallery and Museum to view and select works for the annual ‘Express Yourself’ Exhibition. Bodies of work produced by Anastasia Baldwin, Ash O’Connor, Hayden Brewer and Ryan Miller have been selected for exhibition in early 2016.

A new local initiative is the Warringah Council HSC Submitted Works exhibition to be held at the Creative Spaces exhibition venue in January. Artworks produced by Anastasia Baldwin, Zoe Heytman and Enya Schaefer have been selected for this event. In addition, Claire Gravas has had her film ‘Plugged In’ selected for screening at the Robin Anderson Film Awards at the Dendy Quays cinema. It will be very exciting to view this work on the big screen.

These nominations and selections reaffirm our faculty’s values and emphasis placed on individual student support with a focus on achieving refinement. It is also appropriate to note that many other 2015 Year 12 Freshwater students entertained us, provoked our intellect, excited our sense of the visual and touched us emotionally through their dance, music, film and drama works. Congratulations to the students nominated, as well as all Creative and Performing Arts students on a fine year of achievements, and best wishes for the future. A big thank you is also expressed to all Creative and Performing Arts teachers. Their demonstrated passion for their subjects, deep knowledge and expertise combined with a dedication to nurture students in their creative and academic endeavours has facilitated these fine achievements.

Sandra Svilans, Head teacher Creative and Performing Arts

Leadership News

The dream of leadership is familiar - to change the world, to alleviate suffering and to combat injustice. To break through the walls of indifference and ignorance and draw people to the light of truth through the powers of persuasion and reason. However, change can be gradual and is often difficult.

The leadership team has faced some tough challenges in their first Term. Suddenly, the reality of the HSC course has challenged the leaders and tested their resolve and vision. The reality of change has been a theme that the leadership group has been reflecting on, and the visit to NSW Parliament by our school captains, Monique Miller and Aaron Skilton, has been a catalyst for some interesting reflections.

Our captains, along with other leaders from schools in the Manly electorate, were invited by NSW Premier and local member Mike Baird to afternoon tea at Macquarie Street. It was a great opportunity to speak with a political leader facing enormous challenges in NSW, and Monique and Aaron reported that they were inspired by the encounter. The qualities that make for great leaders and the possibilities the future offers were talking points that our captains have brought back to Freshwater Senior Campus. The realities and challenges of the politics of change were on display in the NSW Legislative Assembly – ‘the bearpit’ has a reputation for its confrontational style and its intensity. Some acute observations and similarities were drawn by our captains to the day to day dynamics of the classroom.

The experience was the catalyst for a discussion on democracy and change. Our leaders are inspired by the possibilities of change and our discussions have ranged from refugees and justice to climate change and the challenges of generational change. The discussion ended with a simple truth that was unique in its simplicity and insight. That of all the things in the world that could be changed, to make people less materialistic and selfish was the change that went straight to the heart of many of our problems. The wise words were a reminder to us of two things – of the quality of the leaders and of the hope and possibilities that the future brings.

Caroline Powell and James Gordon, Leadership Co-ordinators
## School Calendar

### Remainder of term 4

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
<th>Weekend</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>10 DEC</strong></td>
<td>7</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>12/13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Geography excursion – Homebush Wetlands</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Christmas Concert – Perf. Theatre</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>11 DEC</strong></td>
<td>14</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>19/20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Y12 (2016) Crossroads (all day, compulsory attendance)</td>
<td>D of E Hike</td>
<td>Last day (students)</td>
<td>School Development Day</td>
<td>School Development Day</td>
<td>Year 12 ATAR breakfast</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>D of E Hike</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Term 1, 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>MONDAY</th>
<th>TUESDAY</th>
<th>WEDNESDAY</th>
<th>THURSDAY</th>
<th>FRIDAY</th>
<th>Weekend</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>TERM 1 JAN</strong></td>
<td>25</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>30/31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>AUSTRALIA DAY</td>
<td></td>
<td>School Development Day (no students)</td>
<td>Students commence</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>2 FEB</strong></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6/7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>TVET Term commences</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>3 FEB</strong></td>
<td>8</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>13/14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Silver and Gold Duke of Ed Info Evening 5.30pm – 7pm, Performance Theatre</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>4 FEB</strong></td>
<td>15</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>20/21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>5 FEB</strong></td>
<td>22</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>27/28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Welcome to New Y11 Parents Night Night 7-8.30pm</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>