From the Principal

On Thursday September 17th our 2015 senior class will graduate from the school. The majority of the 311 members of the graduating class have completed the past two years with us, and have come from 34 different schools. It is my hope that after their time here that they have developed a real sense of loyalty and connection to the school and will have fond memories of their days at “Freshie” for years to come.

To our student leaders Keily Dober and Billy Bosler (School Captains), and the rest of the leadership team goes my gratitude for their support and leadership of the school. They have all played a significant role maintaining the wonderful sense of community that exists within the school.

I would like to acknowledge the wonderful work of the Year 12 Year Welfare Team consisting of Year Advisors, Ms. Kim Hamilton, Ms. Marie Sykes and Mr. Andrew Herft, Deputy Principals Ms. Hayley Emmerton and Ms. Caroline Powell, Careers Advisors Ms. Melissa Penrose and Ms. Maryann Rogers and Learning and Support teacher, Ms. Cathy Moran. The devotion of the welfare team to the wellbeing of our students is extraordinary.

The teachers of Year 12 over the last two years also deserve our gratitude. I know they always have the best interests of the students at the very core of their work. We are so lucky as a school to have such a dedicated and skilled teaching faculty.

I congratulate the parents of the graduating class and thank them for their support of the school. We will miss them and wish them every happiness and success in the future.

Frank Pikardt

From the Year 11 Deputy Principal

I would like to wish students every success for their end of Preliminary Course Examinations that will take place in Weeks 9 and 10 of this term. The Examination Timetable is on the school website at http://www.nbscfreshw-h.schools.nsw.edu.au/

In preparation for the exams, students should consider planning and creating a study schedule and having a coaching conversation with me or their Year Advisor. These conversations are extremely helpful for students as goals are discussed and a weekly work schedule is constructed for students individually. As well, we speak about how to:

1. Connect with teachers and seek feedback to assist, improve and consolidate learning.
2. Work around obstacles and existing commitments.
3. Prioritise subjects for additional revision where necessary.
4. Provide relief from study by including but balancing leisure and social commitments.
5. Find creative ways to study through redesigning and rebuilding notes that are user friendly and effective.
6. Consider how we listen and identify our preferred methods.

7. Rate performance in subjects on a 1-10 scale, through discussing where a subject should be at and how this can occur. This applies to both strong and weak subjects.

8. Share and discuss plans and goals with others who need to be aware so that support can be provided - parents, teachers, peers.

9. Make personal changes that are needed in order to achieve success.

10. Work SMART: study goals should be: Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant and Time-Bound.

By now, students should be comfortable with their teachers and be aware of subject demands and know that very soon an HSC assessment schedule will be available. It is important that dates and assessment periods are noted and that there will be periods where multiple tasks are due and therefore planning needs to occur well in advance.

In Term 4, things go “up a notch” as the HSC course commences. There will be class tasks, homework, research and assessments tasks issued and a much higher level or organisation will be required. To avoid stress and cramming, it is essential that students think ahead of time, carry some form of a diary (eg: a paper type or electronic) and pace themselves. Teachers are there to help and it is essential to realise that if a productive and positive relationship is to be achieved, there must be clear communication. Students should consider where they sit in class – is it the best choice and if not, is an alternative seat available? Participation and attitude needs to be considered and students must be as organised as possible. Teachers are incredibly generous with their time, and most would be happy to provide some “one on one” help at times with students who are experiencing difficulty.

Although peoples’ lives are complex, I expect the current Year group to be resilient and mature. There are mechanisms in place for dealing with circumstances including debilitating sickness or misfortune, but students need to work with these challenges to overcome obstacles and press on. It is a great credit to many who are experiencing problems that help is being sought and improvements are occurring, as strength and resilience are key attributes in life.

I hope the rest of Term 3 is productive and successful, and that Term 4 starts well for all.

Chris Mortimer

From the Relieving Year 12 Deputy Principal

I am amazed at how quickly this Term is speeding past and how much has already been squeezed in. So far, we have had the Trial exams, followed by the performance of the Major Works in Drama and Dance, and all the final assessments in other subjects. Major Projects in other subjects have been submitted for marking. While there should be a collective sigh of relief I am also aware how tired Year 12 students are.

The countdown to the end of their school career is now in weeks rather than months. While some subjects still have some course work to cover, the next few weeks will focus on consolidating information and working as part of a team to improve every student’s performance. Attendance continues to be a significant factor that enhances performance, and despite student doubts, the weeks before the HSC can make a significant difference to the final outcome.

Staff members have been asked to ensure that all lessons are meaningful and engaging. They will continue to offer support to the students, providing an environment that fosters the best learning possible. The Wellbeing Team also will be providing ongoing emotional support in the form of ‘chill out sessions’, stress management strategies and food!

We are also planning to have some fun and celebration in the final week with the Freshie Funfair on Tuesday September 15th, followed by the Graduation and Formal on Thursday September 17th. These activities will be a fitting end to what has been a big term for all at “Team Freshie”.

Caroline Powell
From the Year 12 Advisors

WOW! Congratulations, Year 12. We have all survived the Trial examinations. As Year Advisors we are pleased to have heard many positive comments regarding the Trials and it is encouraging when students are making statements such as, “They weren’t that bad. Now we feel more confident to sit for the HSC”, and, “I know what I need to do to better prepare for the HSC exams”.

The Trials were, by name and nature, a trial run and valuable practice for the HSC. They provide the opportunity to manage nerves and time pressures in the exam setting, as well as test exam strategies to see what worked for you most effectively. Now is the time to ask yourselves some important questions such as: “Was I as prepared as I could have been? What went well in the exams? What did not go so well, and why? What can I do to consolidate on my strengths and improve any weaknesses?”

Once you receive feedback on your Trials performance, you can take some positive steps to identify focus areas for improvement through revision, redrafting and/or seeking help and guidance from your teachers. As Year Advisors, we are here to assist you in the lead up to the HSC so that your last weeks of schools are productive and positive in terms of your studies and, just as importantly, your overall welfare. We advise you to take the opportunity to not only work individually to strengthen your personal performance, but also support and work with your peers in pairs and groups, to develop performance across the 2015 Year group. With the Trial exams securing your student rankings, you are no longer competing against each other. Rather, in supporting each other as a whole school cohort, you can lift the school’s overall HSC performance by sharing your expertise, strategies and notes and even mentoring each other in study groups in and outside of class.

We are really looking forward to seeing you enjoy and celebrate your final weeks of school with our special End of Year Assembly, Fun Fair, Graduation Ceremony and, of course, the long awaited Year 12 Formal. While we want you to embrace the fun-filled activities planned for you in your last week of school, we would ask that you remain true to your friendly, supportive and enthusiastic reputation as a Year group and behave responsibly, safely and look out for each other so that this time is one to be remembered fondly for many years to come. We will miss you Year 12, and want the best for you now and for your futures.

From the Year 11 Advisors

Well, Year 11, we are nearly there! How fast has the Preliminary Course and this year gone? Only a few more lessons left and then you will be sitting the Preliminary Exams and thoughts of Year 12 begin.

Congratulations to our newly elected 2016 Leadership Team - Aaron Skilton, Uyen Hoang, Matt Thomson, Hannah Yeates, Alex Fauchon, Monique Gray, Dante Simonetta, Bella Denby, Nathan Williams and Monique Miller. We now have 10 wonderful leaders who we are confident will work together as a team and act as ambassadors for Freshwater Senior Campus. They will be presented to the school in a formal induction assembly in the near future. Congratulations also to all students who nominated to be selected for the leadership team.
The process involved was a rigorous series of interviews, after which students bravely gave a speech in front of their peers, which takes great courage. The group was diverse and represented the broad range of students that make up our student body here at Freshwater. The calibre of students who participated in the process was a credit to themselves and even though not everyone was successful, all students can be proud of the way they presented themselves, as it was a very difficult job to vote for only 10 students.

We feel assured that the new team can effectively lead and represent the students and school very well throughout the coming year, and we look forward to their contributions to the school over the next 12 months. Specific roles within the leadership team are currently being decided and these will be published in the next newsletter after the induction ceremony.

As always, the talent of our students never ceases to amaze us. The musicians amongst the group regularly perform at our assemblies to great applause. The support that students show to others at the assemblies is a credit to you all. Students have also spoken about causes close to their heart and we have acknowledged the amazing and wide variety of sportspeople amongst us from the kayakers, badminton players and touch football players to the swimmers, soccer and hockey stars!

As we head towards the end of Preliminary Course exams, students are completing their final assessment tasks and thoughts should be turning towards revision of course work in order to achieve success. For most of you, this will be your first time sitting formal exams and the habits you set up for this exam period will hold you in good stead for the HSC year. Here are some ideas:

- Prepare a study timetable and stick to it. If you need help setting up a timetable, speak to one of the Year Advisors - or there are many websites that have templates that will help you set one up.
- Have a copy of the syllabus so you know the work you need to be studying.
- Start going over all your notes and prepare topic summaries using a variety of techniques that will help you remember the information – mind maps, palm or flash cards, or even verbal summaries on your phone.
- Complete past exam papers to gain an insight into what the questions are asking.
- Make sure you are using your study periods (if you have them) productively and find a quiet area/room in the school to start writing out revision notes. Remove distractions while studying.
- Many students benefit from having ‘study buddies’ – you can test each other and bounce ideas off each other.
- Make sure you have enough pens on the day of the exam – that pen you have been using all year WILL run out during the exam, so bring more than one pen!

We wish all Year 11 the best of luck in their preliminary exams. Have a restful break after the exams and come back full of enthusiasm and ready for Year 12.
From the Careers Advisors

University Information
Now that the Trials are over, Year 12 are on the home straight. Application for University is now open online at [www.uac.edu.au](http://www.uac.edu.au). Make your application by September 30th and pay only $32. After this date it will cost $157. Once you apply, you can make regular changes to your preferences at no extra cost. If you still have not collected your UAC guide they are available at the Careers Office.

We hope Year 12 and even Year 11 are attending the University Open days over the next few Saturdays. Invaluable course information and motivation can be gained by attending these. A summary of these dates can be found at [http://www.uac.edu.au/documents/undergraduate/opendays.pdf](http://www.uac.edu.au/documents/undergraduate/opendays.pdf)

The UAC website has a wealth of information for Undergraduate and International students as well as application details about the following:

**Equity Scholarships** These scholarships are for students who have experienced proven financial disadvantage. These may include: relying on Centrelink for financial assistance, having unpaid carer responsibilities, identifying as Indigenous or having refugee status.

**Schools Recommendation Scheme** Freshwater can now recommend students for an early offer to University. Universities participating in this scheme include ANU, Charles Sturt, La Trobe, Macquarie, Southern Cross, University of Canberra, University of New England, UTS and University of Western Sydney. The application involves answering 3 questions demonstrating a student’s suitability to the university and the chosen course of study, attaching the latest school report and any awards. Some universities (UTS included) also include the eligibility criterion of demonstrated financial hardship.

**EAS /ACCESS** This scheme is designed to cater for students with a long term proven educational disadvantage over Year 11 and/or Year 12 to help gain access to tertiary study.

In Week 6 we welcomed Australian Catholic University (ACU) and the University of Notre Dame to our campus to speak with interested students. Both these Universities offer great courses and are a most viable option for students who may be more suited to a smaller campus environment. ACU offers another attractive feature with a campus just in North Sydney! All of our students are eligible for 5 bonus points because of our proximity to this ACU campus.

**Year 11 continuing into Year 12 TAFE VET Courses (TVET)**
Year 11 students need to apply for any 2 Unit TAFE courses they wish to study in Year 12 NOW! This includes students who wish to continue their course into Stage 2. Applications forms and details are available from the school Careers Office. NB The only TVET course a student can pick up for study in Year 12 that can be included in an ATAR is 4 unit Business Services (Category B).

**ADF opportunity for girls**
The Australian Defence Force is holding a Career/Fun event at Northern Beaches Rockhouse, Winbourne Rd, Brookvale on Wednesday, September 23rd starting at 6pm. To register for “reach for a career in the ADF”, enjoy some rock climbing and get information on careers for women in the Defences go to cptnswevents@dfr.com.au by September 11th.

Melissa Penrose  
Maryann Rogers
From the Learning Support and Relieving Secondary Studies Co-Ordinator

It’s a busy time of the year for all as Year 12 complete the last of their formal assessments and Year 11 prepare to finish Preliminary courses.

In years gone by we have been inundated at this time with students seeking support for increasing anxiety, in some cases not being able to complete exams because of the effect of stress on their performance and ability to manage their anxiety.

Led by Jasmin Chowdhury and Caroline Powell, the Student Wellbeing team has worked tirelessly to develop support structures and programs designed to lessen the impact of stress and anxiety on students, and increase overall student resilience. The success of this has become evident in the last HSC trial exam period where NO student missed an exam or applied for ‘misadventure’ due to stress and anxiety. This is a massive achievement and congratulations must go to all involved. Our students are most definitely in very supportive hands under the care of this great team.

As reported in the last newsletter, in early Term 4 we will begin to collate evidence and applications for students in Year 11 who might be eligible to apply for disability provisions for the HSC. Any HSC student with a disability recognised in the Commonwealth Disability Standards for Education 2005 can apply for Disability Provisions.

As part of the Disability Provisions application process, all students must complete a sample of writing under exam conditions. This should be provided as evidence of student performance without any additional provisions (eg extra time or rest breaks). To allow us to gather this baseline sample, NO Year 11 student will receive special provisions for the upcoming Preliminary exams. This will ensure that we have valid and reliable evidence to submit to BOSTES.

Please feel free to contact me if your son/daughter is currently receiving assistance from the Learning Support team, and you would like further information regarding the upcoming Preliminary exams.

**The Tell Them From Me student feedback survey**

I am delighted to announce that soon, our school, like many other public schools in the state, will participate in a Department of Education initiative: the Tell Them From Me student feedback survey. This survey aims to help improve student learning outcomes and measures factors that are known to affect academic achievement and other student outcomes. The focus of the NSW-wide survey is on student wellbeing, engagement and effective teaching practices. More information about the survey is available at: [http://surveys.cese.nsw.gov.au/information-for-parents](http://surveys.cese.nsw.gov.au/information-for-parents)

The survey is a great opportunity for our students to provide us with valuable and quick feedback on what they think about school life, how engaged they are with school and the different ways that teachers interact with them. Schools in Australia and around the world have used the Tell Them From Me survey to help improve how they do things at school. I want to assure you that the survey is confidential. The survey is conducted online and will typically take less than 30 minutes to complete. It will be administered during school hours between 17 August and 16 October. Participating in the survey is entirely voluntary.

If you do not want your child or children to participate, please notify the school (in writing) by Friday 4th September. Copies of the appropriate form and FAQs are available from the website above.

**The Partners in Learning parent feedback survey**

Our school will also be participating in the Partners in Learning parent survey, another part of the Tell Them From Me suite of surveys (student, teacher and parent surveys) on student engagement. The survey asks parents and carers questions about different factors that are known to impact on student wellbeing and engagement.

Running this survey will help our school understand parents’ and carers’ perspectives on their child’s experience at school. These include: communication between parents/carers and staff, activities and practices at home and parent/carer views on the school’s support of learning and behaviour. This valuable feedback will help our school make practical improvements.

The survey is conducted entirely online at home or on public computers. The survey will typically takes 15 minutes or less to complete and is completely confidential. The parent survey will be conducted between 17 August and 16 October. Participating in the survey is entirely voluntary, however, your responses are very much appreciated.


Cathy Moran
Sport Report

Every Newsletter I report on outstanding sporting achievements of our students and this month I want to highlight several students who are all pulling on the green and gold for Australia in their respective sports. It is rare for schools to have an Australian representative amongst their cohort, but this year we have eight amazing young men and women who have reached this pinnacle of sporting achievement. All these students have their sights set on representing our country at the Olympics or World Championships one day.

**Conner Wood**: (water polo) Conner has been playing water polo since he was 12. He is in the NSW Institute of Sport squad and trains at Homebush twice a week (which involves getting up at 4am). Currently plays under 18s and Men’s 2nd grade for the Breakers. Conner was in the Australian U16 team that toured NZ and has now been selected in the Australian All Schools team to tour South Africa in December.

**Zac Walker**: (hockey - goal keeper) Zac plays Club hockey for Gordon, North Sydney Mens, Regional hockey for North Shore and Beaches, NSW U18s and NSW U16s Schoolboys. A couple of weeks ago, after a tournament in Perth he was selected in the U16 Australian Schoolboys team to tour South Africa in July next year.

**Ally Green**: (football) Ally has been playing football since she was 6, and was selected to play for Manly United when she was 12. She then gained selection for the Football NSW Institute team. Recently she was selected in the Australian All Schools Team to tour Japan in January.

**Jeremy Pollard**: (football - goal keeper) Jeremy has been playing football since he could walk. For the past two years he has been playing for Manly United and in July was selected in the Australian All Schools team.

**Jakob Hammond, Hannah Yeates and Alex Aves** (all kayakers) have qualified to represent Australia in the Olympic Hopes Sprint Kayak Championships which will be held in Poland in a few weeks’ time. They all paddle with Sydney Northern Beaches Club, based at Narrabeen and are up at around 4am every morning to squeeze a training session in before school, only to hit the water again most afternoons.

**Keily Dober**: (kayaking) Keily was featured in last month’s newsletter having just returned from the world junior sprint kayak championships in Portugal.

Lisa Peterson, Sports Co-ordinator
Music News

Freshwater Music students have been developing their repertoire in preparation for the Practical HSC in Week 8. Family and friends joined the CAPA faculty in celebrating their progress at the Music Showcase Evening on July 23rd. The audience witnessed spectacular performances from the HSC Music 1 class, while the Year 11 Entertainment class set up and ran the show. Congratulations to all students involved and thanks to the wonderful audience that came – it was a fantastic evening.

To further celebrate student achievement, Freshwater has now set up a live music video YouTube channel, showcasing a piece of music from Year 11 and 12 each week. You can access the channel at https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCJ97m-8T1zYtPFLbt9zIoQ or search YouTube for ‘Freshwater Couch Sessions’. You can subscribe to be notified of a new video each week.

The Department of Education are now auditioning for spots in their instrumental and vocal ensembles. Once in the ensemble, the students are exposed to a wide range of unique experiences, such as developing their performance skills at the Opera House, Town Hall and other major performance venues. Caelan Lee (Year 11 Music 2) is currently in the NSW Public Schools State Senior Wind Band and performed at the Opera House as part of the Festival of Instrumental Music. The Festival presented a diverse and challenging repertoire, as well as some especially commissioned works by Australian composers. In addition to these Festivals, students are given the opportunity to refine their skills at State Music Camps in June each year.

Good luck to all the Year 12 Music students performing their HSC works in the next few weeks, and congratulations for developing yourselves into sophisticated and critically minded musicians.

Andrew Herft, Music teacher

Faculty in Focus - TAS (Technology and Applied Studies)

The Technology and Applied Studies faculty is very diverse providing a wide range of subjects to study. The subjects offered at Freshwater Senior Campus include: Design and Technology, Engineering Studies, Food Technology, Industrial Technology (both Timber and Multimedia), Hospitality, Information Processes and Technology, Textiles and Design, Information and Digital Technology and Software Design and Development. The variety of content covered in these courses, along with the strong focus on practical skills, makes the faculty a very exciting part of the school.

We congratulate our Year 12 students who have recently completed their Major Projects in Design and Technology, Industrial Technology and Textiles and Design. The Projects represent a significant personal and academic commitment and have involved many long and hard hours of work by both students and staff. In Week 1 of Term 3, the annual HSC Major Project exhibition was held in the school gym where students presented their work for viewing by parents, other students, friends and the general public. The projects have now been finalised for the HSC marking process by external markers. As a faculty, we are very proud of the range of unique, imaginative and creative projects that students have undertaken as well as the persistence and skill demonstrated.
Textiles and Design Major Projects

Design and Technology Major Projects
Industrial Technology Major Projects (Furniture and Timber Products)

Work Placement is a challenging component of the Year 11 and 12 VET course. Recently, Hospitality and Information and Digital Technology students left the comfort of Freshwater and spent 35 hours in an industry workplace. They were provided with an experience of what it is like to work in a certain occupation. Year 11 Hospitality students went out in Term 2, Week 7 and Term 3, Week 5. Whilst most were very nervous at first (they have watched too many Gordon Ramsay shows!), they certainly upheld the Freshwater reputation. The students’ work ethic and skills are to be commended as many of the workplaces made complimentary comments on how well our students behaved and conducted themselves. Several students were even offered casual jobs, which they have taken up.

This Term continues to be busy for students studying one or more subjects in the faculty. This ranges from student presentations on Bioengineering topics such as Nanotechnology in Engineering Studies, exploring interesting concepts of nutrition in Food Technology, a recreation of the schools timetable database application in Information Processes and Technology, the preparation of a variety of decorative techniques for application as surface decoration in Textiles and Design, and the development of a ‘souped up’ version of the classic arcade game ‘PONG’ in Software Design and Development.

We wish all our students success in their continuing TAS studies and their upcoming Preliminary and Higher School Certificate exams.

Marie-Anne Sykes, Relieving Head Teacher TAS
Students Take Action (STA) Report

WORLD VISION 40 HR FAMINE & DAFFODIL DAY
Our beautiful STA students are very busy supporting these most significant fundraising projects.

The World Vision 40 Hour Famine attracts great interest every year. We encourage participants to substitute going without food for the 40 hours, or going without things such as their mobile phones or other technology. Of course, the money raised contributes to support projects for World Vision’s worthy causes in a variety of countries.

In addition, Daffodil Day is so important, as it raises both awareness and much needed funds in relation to the support for cancer research and support networks in our local communities. STA students have been selling daffodil badges and pens. As so many families are touched by cancer of various forms, lovely initiatives such as this are clearly a great help to all affected.

Barbara Leonard, STA Co-ordinator, Girls Supervisor

JAPAN - KONNICHIWA

Recently, I was given the great opportunity to participate in the Manly/Odawara Student Exchange to Japan, hosted by Manly Council. The program was such a life changing experience for me, as I was able to create lasting friendships and many unforgettable memories with everyone involved. I was exposed to the different culture of Japan and participated in many traditional activities, including dressing up in kimonos, calligraphy, and origami. All students lucky enough to be selected for this amazing trip were able to witness how different the Japanese lifestyle is, compared to Australia.

People were kind and considerate, always catering to our needs and often bowing to each other out of politeness and respect. While in Odawara, we enjoyed many different Japanese experiences, both tourist and more traditional. We visited Tokyo Disneyland, Odawara Castle, schools and even participated in traditional ikebana (flower arranging), and tea ceremonies. We were able to experience everyday life with our host families and return the favour when the Japanese students came to Australia. The entire experience was incredible and I thank Manly Council for the great opportunity. This exchange has now continued into its 25th year and I hope that it will continue to be a success for students chosen in years to come.

Jessamy Goddard - Year 11 Japanese Beginners Class
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**School Calendar**

- **31**: Parents Consultative Meeting – 7.30pm
- **2**: State Athletics Carnival - Homebush
- **14**: Y11 Prelim Exams
- **15**: Y12 Fun Fair
- **16**: Y12 Graduation Practice
- **17**: Y12 Graduation and Formal
- **5**: Public Holiday
- **6**: School resumes
- **13**: College Subject & Expectation Interviews 2-6pm, Leadership Induction Assembly 9.30am
- **19**: HSC exams
- **26**: HSC exams
- **2**: WH&S Committee Meeting

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**Calendar Events**

- **Parents Consultative Meeting**: August 31, 7.30pm
- **State Athletics Carnival**: September 2, Homebush
- **Y11 Prelim Exams**: September 7
- **Y12 Fun Fair**: September 14
- **Y12 Graduation Practice**: September 16
- **Y12 Graduation and Formal**: September 18
- **Public Holiday**: October 5
- **School resumes**: October 6
- **College Subject & Expectation Interviews**: October 12, 2-6pm, Leadership Induction Assembly 9.30am
- **HSC exams**: October 19
- **HSC exams**: November 26
- **WH&S Committee Meeting**: November 2

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**School Holidays**

- **August 31**: State Holiday
- **September 3**: Public Holiday
- **October 3**: Public Holiday
- **November 2**: Public Holiday
- **November 3**: Public Holiday