From the Principal

May I extend a very warm welcome to all our new parents. I am aware of how important it is to communicate with you on a regular basis. There are two ways I see this happening, one is by email contact and the other is by distributing a newsletter to keep you updated on what is happening in our school. To accomplish the latter, newsletters will be distributed via email in Week 4 and Week 9 of each Term and will also be posted on our website at the same time.

The 2015 HSC results were excellent and once again provided a strong acknowledgment of the wonderful teaching and dedicated learning of our students. The teaching staff has invested a lot of time and effort into refining their teaching methodologies and the school's continual improvement over the last five years has vindicated the direction we have taken. New parents will hear their son or daughter talk about ALARM (A Learning And Responding Matrix). It is a framework that has been developed at Freshwater and is now being adopted by many schools in the State. Moving forward, we intend to refine our assessment practices and welfare structures so that the school continues to be at the forefront of education for senior students.

Below are the highlights of the 2015 HSC results. A more comprehensive analysis will appear in the School’s Annual Report, published later this year.

-A top ATAR of 98.05 achieved by Christie Brandt. Christie also topped the State in Extension 2 English.

-Jessica Chignell and Naomi Peterson on the Premier’s all-rounders list for Band 6 results in all subjects.

-Zoe Heytman, Alyson Theseira, Matt Grant, Anastasia Baldwin and Alyshia Randell having their major works accepted for ARTEXPRESS.

-Bronte Ellis, Siobhan O’Hara and Hannah Robb were nominated for Callback in Dance.

-Matt Grant, Claudine Mendoza, Tabatha Jenkins, Zoe King and Sahara Gaw were nominated for OnSTAGE in Drama.

-146 Band 6 results (results above 90%) which were the most of any school on the Northern Beaches apart from Manly Selective Campus. 32 separate courses had at least one student in Band 6.

I look forward to a very successful 2016 and am sure that the school will continue to provide a quality education for our students. Please do not hesitate to contact myself or the Deputy Principals if you have any concerns.

Frank Pikardt
From the Year 12 Deputy Principal

Term 1 has started successfully for Year 12, with classes well and truly off and running. As I have said previously, it is a good time for students to consider change. It should be a reflection of what previously worked, and also a consideration of how things can be done better.

High achieving students from previous years who have participated in my coaching conversations have discussed the pressure of retaining high places in courses, and maintaining form over an extended period. For many students, we also discuss practical matters like time management and setting of goals, how they can be reached and chat at length about what the supposed end product looks like, and how it differs to what is taking place at present.

Over the last few days, the Senior Executive has been raising the issue of uniform with students, and requesting that skirts are the correct length (mid-thigh), and that shoes are the appropriate “all black” colour and style. It has been great to see that the vast majority of students are complying with these requests. The appearance of students is definitely of a higher standard which reflects positively in the eyes of the community.

Shortly we will be speaking to the students about the process of applying for Disability Provisions for the HSC. It is essential that a student’s condition be medically diagnosed and be supported by documentation post October 2015. In most cases, school testing also takes place and students are required to gather supporting evidence by their teachers. The applications are due to BOSTES by the end of Term 1 each year.

On another topic, I have previously mentioned driving and would like to remind you to ensure students conduct themselves appropriately in this regard. This entails displaying P plates correctly, driving with courtesy and consideration, applying the skills they have been taught, taking extra care when occupants are on board, obeying the rules of the road, and be mindful that even as a driver, the Freshwater uniform can be seen and students are on display. Driving is a privilege and simple mistakes can see this withdrawn in an instant, so care and respect for the road rules must be practised at all times.

Chris Mortimer

From the Year 11 Deputy Principal

Happy Chinese New Year to all those who have recently celebrated the beginning of the Year of the Monkey. With many of our Year 11 students being born in the Year of the Dragon (2000), it is an interesting time to consider the stereotypical traits they represent. Whilst people born in the year of the Monkey are considered the erratic geniuses of the Zodiac cycle, our Dragons are healthy, energetic, excitable, short-tempered and stubborn. However, they are honest, sensitive and brave, and can inspire trust in others. These attributes can hold them in good stead into the future.

Students have now been in classes for a few weeks and have settled in well, building a strong rapport with their classmates and teachers and no longer getting lost in the corridors and levels of the school. Now is a very helpful time for students to take the opportunity to refine their study times and techniques. As an English teacher I ask my students to ensure they have timetabled two hours of study/revision time for my subject per week. I also recommended that they start sooner than later to build a strong foundation for future academic success.

Parents of Year 11 are invited to a non-formal “Welcome to Freshwater” evening on Tuesday 23rd February starting at 7pm in the school Undercroft. Parents will have a chance to meet teachers and other parents while enjoying a catered supper and drinks. I look forward to meeting you again.

Darren Percy
From the Year 12 Advisers

Lisa Peterson                     Glenn Bennett                                    Leanne Turner

We warmly welcome back our Year 12 students. We hope you have had a relaxing break and are feeling refreshed and ready to tackle the remaining Terms of Year 12. Assessment tasks will start rolling out and those completing Major Projects should be well and truly confirming their ideas and starting the actual components.

As the Term starts to fly by and Year 12 Half Yearly exams rapidly approach, added pressure begins to build and student welfare becomes a priority. If any students are feeling stressed, just want to have a chat or are concerned about their progress, please don’t forget to see your Year Advisers – Mrs Peterson, Mrs Turner, Ms Sykes and Mr Bennett – we are always available to talk.

One of the best ways to overcome stress is through being prepared. Being organised helps students feel in control of stressful situations. Students should create a study schedule well in advance of assessment tasks and exams, so they are best equipped to handle the ‘busy periods’. A calm and balanced approach to study and exam preparation is necessary. Family and school support is essential to your success, and an organised and balanced approach to your lives is encouraged. If you need help to develop a study regime see Mr Mortimer or one of the Year Advisers, so that you can develop a plan and stick to it.

Congratulations to all the subject award recipients at the Recognition Assembly at the end of last year – keep up the fantastic level of work. Well done to the wonderful performers at the Christmas concert – it was a great morning of entertainment that was appreciated by all students and staff. The level of talent at the school never ceases to amaze us. The donation of numerous gifts from the mentor groups was also appreciated by the Salvation Army. Good luck for the rest of the term!
It is a great pleasure to have our Year 11 students join our Freshwater family, and they seem to have settled in beautifully. Our first (VERY full) Year meeting gave the students an opportunity to connect with their Year Advisers. We discussed how they could fully participate in their learning and making the most of their experiences here at Freshwater. Information about swipe cards, bell times, sporting teams and the Freshwater Code was explained.

We also covered the importance of taking pride in our uniform and their appearance, of students being organised to make their lives easier and needing a well-equipped study space of their own. They were advised to devise a ‘do-able’ study schedule and to ask LOTS of questions. We warned them against fear of failure as, often that is when we learn the most important lessons and that it is important to always ‘having a go’. Amongst the motivational and organisational tips, there was also a reminder of the responsibilities that they have as Senior students.

As you can imagine, there was a LOT of information and we were highly impressed with their good humoured patience and attention. We asked the students to come to us with any concerns that arise and we urge you to do the same. Please do not hesitate to contact us as needed. Email is probably the most effective method of communication as we then have a record of your enquiry and can follow it up either by return email or phone.

Rounding off our first full week was the first session of our new Mentoring Program. One of our school goals is “Flourishing” and we want our students to explore this aspect through:

As such, we have changed our mentoring this year to give the students more choice and the opportunity to choose something they enjoy, and participate in activities with like-minded students and staff.

Groups vary from Soccer, Touch and Volleyball to Mindful Colouring and Meditation, with Beginners Guitar and Studio Recording for our budding performing artists. All indications from our first session are that this has been a very positive change and our students will benefit from this fresh approach.
Year 11 Sport and Recreation days

As part of their Team Building and Crossroads program, all Year 11 students will be attending a day at the Narrabeen Sport and Recreation facility. Prior to the day all students must complete a Medical and Consent Form by Tuesday 15th March. The information that Sport and Recreation needs about your child includes:

- medical conditions
- food related allergies
- special diets
- medication
- emergency contact details

Sport and Recreation needs you to complete this form on behalf of your child. The form is available online and is easy to complete. Once you submit the form it is sent directly to the Centre so the staff can prepare for your child’s visit. It is vital that you complete the online form including the details above. Go to:


NB Students are divided into 2 groups as follows:

ALFonso to LAZIC – GROUP 1 - Monday 4th April - Booking Number 481249

LEE to ZHENG – GROUP 2 - Tuesday 5th April - Booking Number: 481252

We ended our first Year meeting with this fabulous reminder (see image on the right - courtesy of Mr Watkinson) and we think that it is a nice way to end our first newsletter to you.

We do hope that you can join us on Tuesday, 23rd February from 7pm in the School Undercroft, at our “Welcome to New Parents evening”. Arm yourselves with your student’s timetable (take a quick snap on your phone) so that you can meet the people who will teach, mentor and nurture your child through this very important stage in their school lives.

Looking forward to meeting you …
From the Learning Support Co-ordinator

As we settle into the routine of school I have been taking the opportunity to re connect with existing Freshwater Senior Campus students and introduce myself to many Year 11 students. This opportunity has indicated that they appear to be settling in very well.

The Learning Support Team will play a vital role in ensuring all students get the most out of their time here at Freshwater. Regardless of learning difficulties, every student at Freshwater has the right to engage with their learning in a supportive and inclusive environment. This planned, structured and responsive approach is maintained at the whole school level to support a varied range and level of student needs. Information sharing is crucial to this process, particularly when it comes to learning support needs and the Learning Support Team is guided by information and evidence that can be provided. If your son or daughter requires extra support please share this information so that their needs can be assessed and adjustments can be made to their environment, the curriculum and the instruction they receive.

The Wellbeing Team has begun working on applications for Year 12 students who might be eligible for Disability Provisions for the 2016 HSC related to learning, medical, vision or hearing difficulties. This is a lengthy process and requires evidence and data to support each individual application submitted by the school for a provision to be granted. Examples of provisions that can be offered include use of readers or writers, permission to use medication, time extensions, rest breaks and separate supervision.

Parents and carers are encouraged to provide additional evidence as required so that Year 12 students who are considered to be potentially eligible for Disability Provisions are able to apply. The evidence required must be less than 12 months old at the commencement of the 2016 HSC. The ultimate decision on which (if any) provisions will be granted rests with BOSTES, although in some circumstances an appeal may be lodged in the event of an adverse decision. Please feel free to contact me if you have any concerns or questions.

Marie-Anne Sykes

Careers News

Year 12 University Information Evening
An annual event in the FSC Careers Calendar, the University Information Night for Year 12 students and their parents will take place on Monday 7th March from 6.30pm. Four of the Universities have been invited to attend – Macquarie, Sydney, New South Wales and the University of Technology. It is going to be an extremely worthwhile event, always well attended and we urge Year 12 families whose student is eligible for an ATAR, to attend. Please mark this date in your diaries, more details to follow.

Year 11 and Year 12 TAFE Course Attendance
All TAFE courses commenced in Week 2 and are well under way! Attendance at your afternoon TAFE class is compulsory. Under no circumstances should you make appointments during your TAFE class or just not turn up if you are feeling unwell. When you miss your class at TAFE you are missing four hours of tuition. Of course there are occasions when you will be absent. When this occurs, please contact Lisa Evans, TVET Coordinator, on 9941 5284, or notify the school Careers Adviser prior to your class. When parents phone the school office to advise of absence, please mention that your son or daughter has a TVET class on that day. This way the TAFE teacher can be notified in advance of your absence. As with any school subject, it is your responsibility to catch up on missed work. NB TAFE CLASSES RUN DURING EXAM PERIODS AND YOU ARE EXPECTED TO ATTEND.

Medicine 2017 Any Year 12 student hoping to study undergraduate medicine in 2017 please make yourself known to the Careers Advisers ASAP. UMAT – Undergraduate Medical Admissions Exam registration is now open. Go to www.umat.acer.edu.au.
From the Counsellor

This is a drawing done by my 4 year old nephew titled “Dinosaur eating a strawberry”. I realise at first that it is hard to make any sense of it at all - the paper is wet and crinkled and it’s difficult to know which way is up but then when it is explained to you, it starts to come together. The red blob on the head of the dinosaur is so obviously a strawberry and then when you see the big teeth everything else fits into place.

Often, when I talk to a student, his or her life is a bit like this. They feel overwhelmed by issues and can’t seem to make sense of what they should be doing. They may have a goal, but at times it seems completely out of their grasp and they believe that no one understands what they are going through. This can present as anxiety and/or depression. It is usually articulated as “I can’t cope”, “it’s all overwhelming” or “you don’t understand”.

My job is to try and simplify issues so that they can be identified and worked through. I help the student break the problem down whether it be academic, social, family or relationship, so that it is less overwhelming. I then work with the student to develop strategies to help the students cope, and to help increase resilience. We usually start with the teeth and work towards the strawberry.

Fortunately, I work with an amazing team at Freshwater including teachers, Year Advisers, Mentors and Learning Support tutors. So often, students will tell me that one of the main things they like about the school is that the teachers “really care” and go out of their way to help. There is rarely a problem so big that the Freshwater team can’t provide some help or guidance.

If you still can’t see the dinosaur eating a strawberry I am available Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, so please feel free to come and see me or call me, and I would love to have a chat and explain it!

Caroline Powell: M.A. Dip Ed, School Counsellor, Registered Psychologist

Library News

The School Library has successfully started 2016 and is buzzing with students from all Faculties.

The Library is instrumental in issuing textbooks for every subject and loaning out all manner of other resources, including cameras (which have been a very popular request for Visual Art and Industrial Technology Multimedia students) as have calculators. The Library also has a large collection of DVDs available for loan, and many magazines are in our collection including New Scientist, Australian Geographic, Delicious, Harper’s Bazaar, Rolling Stone and many more.

There are still some lockers available for hire and this is managed through the Library. A $15 deposit is required which is reimbursed when students leave school.

The Librarians also assist students to access the Internet, and manage the correspondence of Open High School students. We are open to suggestions for the purchasing of books and other resources. Please ask the Librarian on duty for assistance with any of the above. We are looking forward to meeting and assisting you all.

Additionally, Mr Anthony Thompson is available in the Library every Wednesday after lunch to assist any students with General Mathematics, Mathematics and Extension 1 homework or general difficulties with these subjects.

Joan Ellison and Nick Grant Teacher Librarians
From the Head Teacher Secondary Studies (relieving)

We have hit the ground running in 2016 and it is pleasing to see so many new and enthusiastic Year 11 students, as well as happy and rejuvenated Year 12 students.

Being prepared for day to day, plus longer term commitments is very important as we set the foundations for another successful year. A diary in some form is a must to ensure key due dates and homework tasks are noted. There is a school diary available at the office for the very reasonable price of $4 - definitely a ‘must have’ if you want to be organised. Please try to have the exact coin available if possible when purchasing. Having a diary certainly alleviates the stress of having too many mental brain ‘tabs’ open at once!

Freshwater Senior Campus now has an official Facebook page. We hope that this will be a useful tool in allowing current, past and future students, and wider community to engage with our wonderful school. In keeping with DEC policy, this page is registered and all posts and comments to this page will be moderated by an administrator. Make sure when ‘liking’ the page that you search ‘Freshwater Senior Campus – Northern Beaches Secondary College’, and look for the black seagull as the profile picture. Please also check our website for up to date information about school events and other news, as the Facebook page may not be updated daily.

In our attempt to develop autonomous and independent learners, Year 12 will have the opportunity each fortnight to choose a suitable ‘activity’ during the timetabled Mentoring time. At this time, students will be able to choose independent study, peer /group tutoring or catch up time in designated subject ‘hubs’. Faculty staff will be available to assist and there will be special sessions run by the Careers department and school Counsellor. All students should ensure that they ‘check-in’ with their allocated mentor for roll marking before moving to their chosen activity. Finally, a reminder that assemblies will still take place fortnightly and that attendance is compulsory. Important HSC information is often disseminated at these assemblies.

Cathy Moran

Duke of Edinburgh’s Award News

Year 11-12 GOLD 2016
The Duke of Edinburgh Award program continues to be popular amongst Freshwater students with several completing their Gold in 2015. Current students are encouraged to get their Silver Award signed off so that they can move on to their Gold! Please get your registration for Gold organised, by handing in Award Forms and continuing your registration on the ORB. If you have transferred in from a non-NBSC campus you will need to download and complete an “Operator Transfer Form” and drop it to Mrs Busse in the Freshwater staffroom or the College Administration Centre. The Gold practice expedition will be held in the April school holidays at Bungonia. If there are any questions, please email vicki.busse@det.nsw.edu.au

Vicki Busse, Co-ordinator
School Leadership News

‘Courage is what it takes to stand up and speak. Courage is also what it takes to sit down and listen.’
-Winston Churchill

The Leadership Team ended Term 4, 2015 with a walk to Curl Curl Beach, some team building activities, and a vision. They came together to plan ahead for 2016, in what will be three intense Terms of study, leadership duties, and everything else that attends the final year of their school lives. There were conversations about vision and values and some reflections on resilience and gratitude, before presents were exchanged and everyone went their ways to begin their summer holiday.

The team had one unifying vision that they have come back to this Term, and that is to listen to the student body and to make a change in the school that is a genuine reflection of the students themselves. Our school captains, Monique Miller and Aaron Skilton, presented the school suggestion box to Years 11 and 12 last week and it has been placed outside the staffroom. The plan is to generate ideas and to inspire the student body to create their own vision for the school, and then to deliver on that vision.

The group has learned that the democratic process does not end when the election has finished and positions are taken, rather that the real work begins after the badging and formalities. It is a hard lesson and the quotation from Churchill is an important reminder that both take courage. It takes enormous bravery to face your peers and stand for office, and then an extra dose of courage to sit down and listen to the group who have elected you and take action on their suggestions.

Leadership often involves giving others the freedom to lead, and one of the challenges that come with working with such a large and diverse Year 11 and Year 12 group, is to allow them to lead, and to try and guide their ideas and articulate a vision. It is a hugely rewarding job when the whole team returns to school energised and committed to completing the work that they started in 2015. The leadership team, in their turn, has allowed each Year group to speak for themselves, to have a voice and a vision. What is created in that process is a school community, united by a vision that they have all created. It has been a great way to start 2016.

James Gordon and Caroline Powell, School Leadership Co-ordinators

STA (Students Take Action) Report

Our mission statement since 2004 ….. “We reach out to our community in order to enrich all of our lives …...” continues to be the fundamental philosophy behind not only our projects within the local community, but also our ongoing commitment to making a difference in our sister school in Tanzania, Africa.

How STA benefits our students
The STA group grew out of a need identified by our girls’ supervisor in 2004 to both support our girls at Freshwater Senior Campus in dealing with emerging issues related to their personal development, as well as to provide them with significant projects. Overwhelmingly the girls chose to focus on those who are in need both here and abroad. Interestingly, it was not long before boys also asked to become involved in this group, hence the original name “Girl Power” coined in 2003 evolved into “Students Take Action” in 2004.

Over the past twelve years, the benefits for our students have included greater self-esteem and less focus on their own personal issues, leading to not only an intense feeling of joy and satisfaction, but also to the development of greater resilience.
Since 2004, the students, staff and parents have been supporting the Hanga Vocational Training Centre in Tanzania. This is a boarding school for young men and women and is run by the Benedictine monks. Hanga is a remote community in the south western part of Tanzania and is about 12 hours by road to the country’s largest city, Dar es Salaam. The school has around 100 students who study courses such as carpentry, auto, masonry, plumbing, tailoring and electrical. All courses are of four years duration and are nationally recognised. They are similar to the TAFE courses offered in NSW.

In 2004, we met Brother Fulgence Mluwili, the principal of the trade school, when we were staying in our sister school in Kremsmunster, Austria with our German students who were enjoying a cultural exchange at that time. After hearing of the wonderful work he was doing in Hanga, the school community decided to offer him whatever support we could.

Since our first meeting with Brother Fulgence, our school has raised more than $100,000 to support this project. This money has been used to provide laptops, printers and most importantly, a link to the rest of the world via the internet.

We have made a commitment to meet the ongoing costs of $5,000 each year to maintain the internet connection. We also aim to meet further costs associated with upgrading the hardware and software as well as expanding the facilities so that more students can benefit from the technology.

In an email from the former principal of the school, Brother Patrick Mwinuka, he said –

“Mr Frank Pikardt and all the members of Freshwater Senior Campus, I would like to thank you for the huge and good job you did in sending us the computers, installing the Internet and keep on paying the running cost for the internet.

Right now, many people from Hanga Village, the monks and students of the Hanga Vocational Training Centre and students from other schools around us do use the internet every day.

I am happy to tell you that last year’s graduates all passed their national examinations and all will be rewarded with the certificates from the government. We wish them to find jobs but this is not something that is going to be difficult for them as they have the skills which are needed. Thank you very much for being part of their success. Hanga community appreciates the effort of every one of you for supporting us.”

To learn more about Hanga VTC in Tanzania, Africa, google – “Hanga Vocational Training Centre”

Barbara Leonard, STA Co-ordinator/Girls Supervisor
Sport Report

This term has started off at a frantic pace with our school team trials in full swing. Students must keep a look out for trials information on the sports notice board and TV screens so they don't miss out on team selection.

Monday lunch – Boys Volleyball, Girls Touch
Tuesday lunch – Girls Volleyball, Boys Touch
Wednesday lunch – Boys Basketball
Thursday lunch – Netball
Friday 1.40-3pm – Girls Football, Girls Basketball

Our annual Swimming Carnival will be held on Wednesday, 2nd March from 12-2.30 at Manly Pool. This Carnival is for competitors only and those planning to take part must return the permission note before 29th February. Normal lessons will continue for all other students. This is the last swimming carnival ever for Year 12 students and they are planning a fancy dress ‘under the sea’ theme. Warringah Zone Swimming Carnival will be the following week (Tuesday 8th March at Warringah Aquatic Centre) for those successful swimmers in our school Carnival.

Matthew Watts, one of our new Year 11 students attended the Sydney North Baseball trial last week. He is a versatile player, pitching at up to 75km/h or playing shortstop or second base. He was successful in gaining selection in the top 18 players. Matt will be ‘on call’ to play at the CHS tournament at Belmore in Week 9 this Term.

We have a collection of very talented Water Polo players who are looking for a team manager/coach. This person will need to be available to accompany the boys’ team to play at Ryde on Monday 7th March or the girls’ team on Thursday 10th March. If there are any interested parents, please contact me at school.

Above is a list of dates for the upcoming Sydney North Team trials. Students who play at the top level (representative or Division 1 in their respective sports) are encouraged to trial for these teams. All students must see Mrs Peterson for permission notes to attend.

Lisa Peterson, Sports Co-ordinator

Creative Arts News

I would like to extend a warm welcome to all new Creative Arts students. The CAPA Faculty also welcomes Mr Andrew Lai. Andrew is a permanent member of the Freshwater staff, primarily teaching Multimedia. However, Andrew is also qualified to teach Visual Arts and this year has been assigned a Year 11 Visual Arts class.

The Creative Arts Faculty finished 2015 on a high note with the news that numerous Creative and Performing Arts students had their performances and/or works nominated as exemplary by the Board of Studies. Congratulations to the Dance, Drama and Visual Arts students concerned. Further congratulations are in order to those students who made the final cut and have works selected to be showcased. Alyshia Randell and Alyson Theseira have been selected to have their art works exhibited in ArtEXPRESS at the Margaret Whitlam Galleries, their works will then tour to regional centres. Bodies of Work by Matt Grant and Zoe Heytman have been selected for ArtEXPRESS at the Armory, Homebush Bay. Zoe’s series of paintings will also be exhibited at the Glasshouse in Port Macquarie. Anastasia Baldwin’s sculptures will be shown at the Art Gallery of NSW as well as at Port Macquarie.
Excursions have been organised for students to experience exemplar exhibitions and performances in Dance, Drama and Visual Arts. I recommend students to embrace these opportunities and attend the organised events.

Alyshia Randell

Alyson Theseira

All Year 11 and 12 Visual Arts classes will be attending excursions to view the ArtEXPRESS exhibition at the Art Gallery of NSW. Students interested in examining the qualities of exemplar HSC artworks in greater depth are urged to explore the ArtEXPRESS official website, or attend some of the other Sydney ArtEXPRESS exhibitions in their own time. The venues for these exhibitions are Margaret Whitlam Galleries, University of Western Sydney until May 6th, Hazelhurst Regional Gallery, where artworks can be viewed from 13th February until 22nd March, The Armory at Sydney Olympic Park from 29th February until 24th April, and the Art Gallery of NSW from 16th March until 15th May. These sources are the best indicators of the qualities of artworks valued by HSC Visual Arts examiners.

Enya Schaefer

Ash O’Connor, Hayden Brewer and Ryan Miller have been chosen to exhibit their HSC artworks in the Express Yourself exhibition held at Manly Art Gallery and Museum. This exhibition runs from 1st April until 8th May. Freshwater Visual Arts students are encouraged to view this exhibition in their own time and familiarise themselves with their local regional art gallery and the programs on offer.

A new Warringah Council initiative this year has been the New Horizons Exhibition held at the Creative Spaces Gallery in Curl Curl at the end of January. Enya Schaefer was selected to exhibit her work and was successful in being awarded the prize for exemplary two dimensional artworks.

Congratulations to all the students concerned.

Sandra Svilans, Head Teacher CAPA

Community and Family Studies (CAFS) classes participated in ‘getting to know you’ activities in the first few lessons of the Term. The aim was to develop fundamental relationships within the class room over the next two years. The critical importance of resource management and the nature of wellbeing, needs, wants, resources, values, goal setting, communication and personal management are all important aspects of Term 1 work in this course.

Shannon Cooper, CAFS teacher
Faculty in Focus - English/History

It has been a very smooth return to school with all students settling in very well and making real commitment to their learning. One of the great joys of working at Freshwater is the positive relationships we are able to build with our students, and this is largely due to their maturity and their willingness to give of their best.

As we begin each new school Year, we like to reflect on previous practices to build on our successes to ensure our students are given every opportunity to achieve new levels of personal best. The new school management plan has established a solid foundation for that review this year, as have our strong HSC results for 2015. A focus on innovative assessment and collaborative learning will guide much of our teaching activities, and we are excited to continue to work as a team to design assessment tasks that will promote learning.

We have seen very strong growth in the English Extension subjects over the past few years, with more students participating in these courses, and improvements in the results they have gained. The extension courses are a culmination of knowledge and skills developed in the Advanced Preliminary and HSC courses and are the product of input from all teachers. However, I would especially like to congratulate Jasmin Chowdhury and James Gordon on their outstanding work with Christie Brandt who gained first in the state for her English Extension 2 major work. Christie is a very talented student and it was the combination of that talent and the excellent teaching from Jasmin and James that brought her creativity, innovation, and strong work ethic together to achieve this prestigious result. We are very proud of her. Here is the reflection statement from her major work, titled “The Modern Apocalypse”:

“I am essentially responding to the situation that is the modern apocalypse; because I have inherited this world. The purpose of my work is thus an attempt to make sense of the world, this overwhelming crisis through the apocalyptic paradigm; as well as to open up love and transcend this stark reality to find the beauty that lies in the nothingness. And although good books and good teachers cannot cleanse this work of dull vision and obtuseness, I do take some comfort from the conviction of the infallibly interesting nature of my subject as well as its burning relevance.

It is not enough to simply show the horror of man or to survive it. We must make beauty in the face of it.”

Gail Perry, Head Teacher English/History
Year 11 on their first school day of 2016

Year 12 on their first school day of 2016
## School Calendar

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<td>University Info Evening 6-8pm Performance Theatre</td>
<td>Zone Swimming Carnival</td>
<td>VET Work Ready Day – Year 11 – Period 3</td>
<td>Y11 Geography excursion</td>
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<tr>
<td>8 MAR</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>19/20</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Parent Consultative Group</td>
<td></td>
<td>Sydney North Swimming Carnival</td>
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<td>9 MAR</td>
<td>21</td>
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<td>23</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>26/27</td>
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<td></td>
<td>GOOD FRIDAY</td>
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<td>10 MAR APRIL</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2/3</td>
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<td></td>
<td>EASTER MONDAY</td>
<td>Y12 Half yearly exams start</td>
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<td>TVET Term concludes</td>
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<tr>
<td>11 APRIL</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>9/10</td>
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<td></td>
<td>CHS Swimming Carnival</td>
<td>CHS Swimming Carnival</td>
<td>Yr 11 Orientation program</td>
<td>Yr 11 Orientation program - crossroads</td>
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Local foster carers needed

Family and Community Services are seeking people in the local area to provide short term and crisis foster care for children and young people 0–18 years that are unable to live with their own families.

Individuals, couples and families from varied backgrounds and cultural groups are required. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are encouraged to apply.

All carers receive training, ongoing support and financial assistance.

If you are interested in making a difference and helping children reach their full potential, please call 02 9765 5000 or email fosteringwithfacs@facs.nsw.gov.au