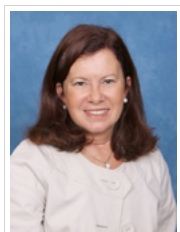


14 August 2014

Principal's Message



GRC Oatley is always an exciting place and last week I reflected on the achievements of our students in the preceding week:

- CAPA held 3 successful nights to showcase HSC performances in Drama and Dance

- Subject Market Night – a very

successful night for 2015 enrolments. The students were great ambassadors.

- Marking of HSC Dance performances by BOSTES External Markers
- Omar Abdel Wahab was selected for Australian National Cross Country
- Futsal Soccer Boys team were NSW runners up, being narrowly defeated in final
- Elaine Tong, Tiana de Silva and Tristan King were selected in Australian Touch Team
- For our ex-students, Rob Horne played in the winning Waratahs Rugby Union team. Jack Hicking broke his age State and National Pole Vault record at the International World Athletics Championships in Canada and Nada Nasser continues her success with X-Factor (Nada joins Joanna Hadja-Joelle who was 3rd in the 2013 season of X-Factor)

What a wonderful week at GRC Oatley!

HSC Trials

HSC Trial exams continue until the 22nd of August. Attendance after the trials is essential, both to meet the 240 hour completion requirement and to increase the potential of HSC marks. Attendance after the trials increases both assessment and exam marks.

Visit from 3 schools – Jiangxi China

Last week we were very honoured to have 94 visitors from Jiangxi, China. Thank you to Mr Zhao and his students who assisted with the visit. Thank you to Ms Kalan, Ms Jamieson and the catering team for providing lunch.

Important Dates

- Monday 18 August, 7pm. Parent Information Night 7pm Monk Theatre – [Post school options. How parents can help?](#)

- Year 12 Graduation – Friday 19 September 10.30am Sydney Town Hall – students are requested to sign in by 9.30am. Tickets are \$12 each and purchased through www.trybooking.com/FLPK (graduating students are free)

- Year 11 exams commence 8 September. Students should now be preparing for these exams. The Year 12 courses begin at the beginning of Term 4.

It has come to our attention through social media and brochures that a Year 11 student is organising a harbour cruise. This event is a private event organised by the student. GRC Oatley is not associated nor endorses this event.

Term 3 can be quite stressful for both year 12 and year 11 students. Please contact us if you have any concerns.

Mr Kevin Wright –Head Teacher Welfare (Year 12) is currently on leave until 8th Sept. Ms Jessica Davies will be relieving in this position. Ms Margret Zauss-HT Welfare (Year 11) can be contacted with Year 11 concerns

Deidrei Bedwell

Simon Wong an International Student Ambassador for NSW Government Schools

Simon Wong from Malaysia studied at our school Georges River College, Oatley Senior Campus and is now an International Student Ambassador for NSW Government Schools.

The Governor of NSW, Her Excellency Professor The Honourable Marie Bashir AC CVO has acknowledged the leadership, commitment and achievement of 51 international students who attended NSW public high schools last year.

In 2013 3,887 international students attended 280 NSW government schools. Some 140 (or 23 per cent) of the 612 international students who sat the HSC appeared on the merit list of Distinguished Achievers for scoring more than 90 in a subject.

"All award recipients demonstrated outstanding academic and personal achievements and made valuable contributions to their school communities and we congratulate them," said Mark Howland, Chief Executive Officer, DEC International

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jmQ4yAVZmdw>

Deputy Principal's Report

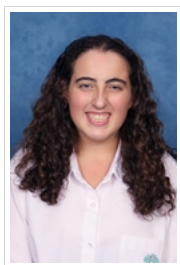
This is a busy and difficult term for our Year 12 students. It is one of mixed emotions – the stress of exams, HSC Major Works and Performances, the formal, Graduation and of course the end of their schooling.

Our Year 12s are currently completing their Trial HSC examinations, which comes with much stress. They have all worked hard and are prepared, even though they may not think so! I know that all our students have a great deal of support, both here at school from all our dedicated staff as well as from their families and friends, and so, will succeed.

After the exams, students must attend all classes. Classes are scheduled through until Thursday 18th September. Valuable learning will occur after the exams, including constructive feedback from the Trial HSC exams in each course. Lessons will continue to ensure that: students complete the all BoSTES requirements for their courses; students are well prepared for their HSC examinations; and students will complete past HSC and other practice questions to refine their ability to apply the knowledge and understanding effectively in the HSC.

Classa Martinuzzi
Deputy Principal

Bethany Pankhurst Marie Bashir Peace Award 2014



Bethany will be presented with her award by Governor Bashir at Parliament House in September. Well Done Bethany !!!!

Your Digital reputation is important

What you put online can have a dramatic impact on your future career. Imagine going for that dream job after having achieved a great HSC and excellent university results only to not get the job because of what you have posted online click below to see a dramatization of the consequences:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8SuUghBAC7o>

Video produced by ACMAcybersmart

For more information visit <http://www.cybersmart.gov.au/>

Alex Gardiner
HSIE Teacher

Year 12 Dance performance

Click on the below to view an outstanding dance act by Steven Prasad and Lachlan Richardson

<http://vimeo.com/102088121>

Tribute to HSC mothers (and two of our students, Nour and Ismail)

In my role as Head Teacher Welfare at Oatley, I sometimes refer students to an organisation called "Young Carers". This organisation assists young people who share responsibilities in caring for a family member.

When I was advised that one of our young men, Nour, was helping to care for his mum, I approached him, only to receive this beautiful tribute to his mum:

"It's my privilege to look after my mum ...to help pay her back for what she's done for me".

Nour allowed me to share this story with our Year 12 students and their parents in this newsletter. If you are a student, consider taking inspiration from Nour's comments and thank your own parents - especially when things are tough - they got you this far. To parents who read this, I'm sure that you can feel satisfied and proud that you have helped to get your young child all the way to the doorstep of the HSC.

I leave this quote from another one of our wonderful Arabic Australian students, Ismail. He added to Nour's sentiments telling me, "In our culture, there's a saying: **Love your father once ...but love your mum three times**".

While it's a great privilege for me to help our Year 12 students, I derive great pleasure from working with the young people that you parents have sent to us to educate and to support in the pursuit of their HSC.

Many Thanks,

Kevin Wright
Head Teacher, Wellbeing & Engagement

GRC Oatley Senior Campus Parent Information Night

All parents are invited to attend this very important night which will focus on the different options for your child to consider after their schooling is completed.

When: Monday 18th August 2014

Where: The Monk Theatre GRC Oatley

Time: 7.00 to 8.00 pm

Light refreshments will be served

All Welcome !!!!

CAREERS FEATURE FOR PARENTS

Year 12 has been encouraged to attend **open days**

The University open days are listed on page 14 of the UAC Guide

Programs for the day are on each university's web site

Students should consider all of the study options that are available and likely

Ultimo TAFE will host open day, covering courses at all Sydney Institute Campuses

<http://m.sydneystafe.edu.au/openday/>

Penny Morrison, Careers

Mooted changes in Higher Education

For students studying in 2015:

Student contribution won't change over the course of the degree

Repayment threshold for HECS debt may be lowered

Interest rate for repayment of HECS debt may increase (to treasury rate)

For up to date and accurate information use www.studyassist.gov.au

Penny Morrison, Careers Adviser

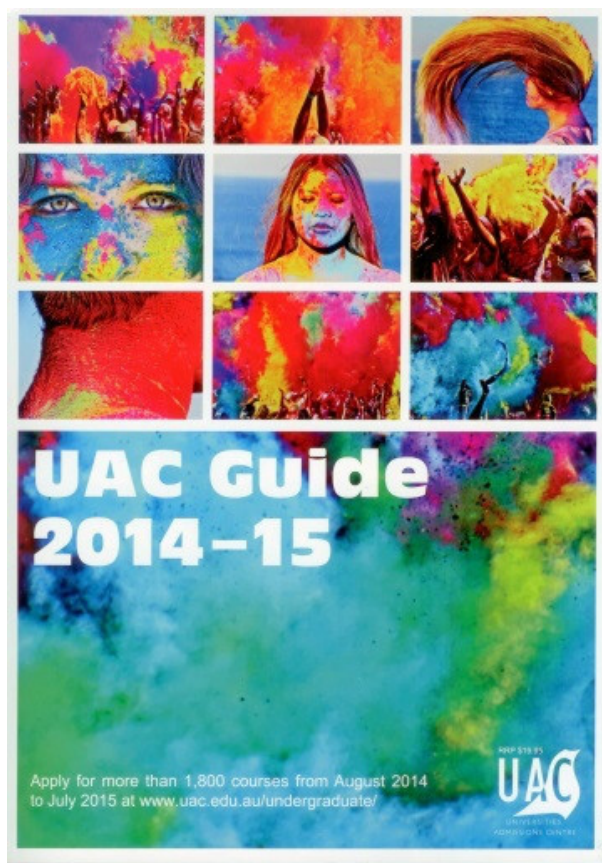
CAREERS FEATURE FOR PARENTS

Another successful University morning at GRC Oatley

Year 12 students came to school early on Wednesday 30th July to hear about applying to university through the University Admissions Centre.

Students received a free copy of the UAC Guide outlining the application process and detailing university course information.

If your child doesn't have a UAC Guide they can collect one from the Careers office



All 8 universities within commuting distance sent representatives.

These were current or newly graduated students who could give handy tips and share their knowledge and advice.

All of the reps commented on the calibre of our students, such as "they were polite", "they seemed to be well prepared", "they asked really good questions".



What did our students say?

Lauren: "A really friendly and informative morning"

Jordan: "Lots of questions I had were answered"

Sophie: "Now I have a better idea of what I want to do"

Coco: "It opened my eyes to the different unis"

Nathan: "Talking to the students provided a valuable insight"

Megan: "Truly wonderful. It changed my opinion on whether or not I want to go to uni"

Sanjida: "A very friendly and informing experience"



Catching the sleep wave

Helping children and teenagers get the right amount of sleep

In our country, many young people are simply not getting the right amount of sleep. The part of their minds that coordinates and weighs-up options - the pre-frontal cortex - needs rest to be able to function properly when they're awake. According to the Sleep Health guys in SA, teenagers need 9.5 to 10.5 hours' sleep a night. How often do you think that is happening?

PD Training Opportunities

Coming soon to a location near you!

A reminder of upcoming one-day PD training opportunities for the remainder of 2014.

Please distribute to your colleagues and extended networks. Easy options to share this training information can be found at the end of this story

1-2-3 Magic & Emotion Coaching

Manage children's difficult behaviour

1-2-3 Magic & Emotion Coaching is a program for family service professionals who work with families and/or children aged between 2 and 12 years. It is based on two underlying perspectives on parenting: first, that children can be taught to respond more flexibly when they are frustrated or upset and second, that parents and carers can be taught easy-to-use skills they can use at particular parenting moments. This one-day course equips professionals with the knowledge to teach parents the program over three sessions and/or how to teach the tenets of the program in a few one-to-one clinical sessions.

DATES AT A GLANCE

NORTH RYDE | Monday 1 September | Dunmore Lang College - **Places still available**

BRISBANE | Monday 8 September | Souths Leagues Club - **NEW DATE**

NEWCASTLE | Thursday 23 October | Club Macquarie

ADELAIDE | Monday 27 October | The Monastery

CANBERRA | Monday 3 November | Majura Business Park [Canberra Airport]

MELBOURNE | Tuesday 6 November | Graduate House - **NEW DATE**

LIVERPOOL | Monday 17 November | Bella Fonte Events Center

Early bird: \$359 | Full Fee: \$459 | ADD 123 for \$649*

Select a location near you. *T&C's apply.

Supplied with permission by parentshop.net

MUSIC update

I would like to wish all the year 12 Music students good luck in their upcoming HSC performances. As yet we don't have the official date for our school, but we do know that the HSC Music performances begin on Monday 1st September.

A very special thank you goes to the Year 11 Music students who are assisting year 12 by providing accompaniment for several of the Year 12 students. Thank you Paul, Maddie, Alex, Vanessa and Blake for your help and the time you have given up for rehearsals. I know that year 12 greatly appreciate your help and this opportunity will also assist you in your preparation for your HSC in 2015.

Annette Lynch
Music Teacher

Amy Crawford takes the prize



When VET students complete their work placement, they are asked to provide feedback about their experience through an online survey. This information provides our work placement provider, Southern Sydney Business Education Network (SSBEN) with valuable information and feedback so they can continually improve the quality of the

work placements they offer our students.

To encourage completion of this survey, SSBEN selects a student at random each term and presents them with a small gift to thank them for their time and comments.



This term the winner was **Amy Crawford**. Her VET Hospitality teacher, Danika Kalan, presented Amy with her prize of movie tickets at the Year 11 assembly

Anthony Allison
Head Teacher VET Studies - GRC Oatley Campus

GRC Oatley Ex Student

Click on the video below to see a former student Fox Gefu Chen of our college plays Tchaikovsky Violin Concerto in D Major, Op.35 with Zhejiang province orchestra in China.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v6HxU7JfNLo>

State school kids do better at uni

State school graduates do better at university than private school graduates with the same end-of-school tertiary entrance score. That's the clear finding in a number of Australian studies since the 1980s...

Author Barbara Preston

PhD candidate, Education, Science, Technology & Mathematics Faculty at University of Canberra

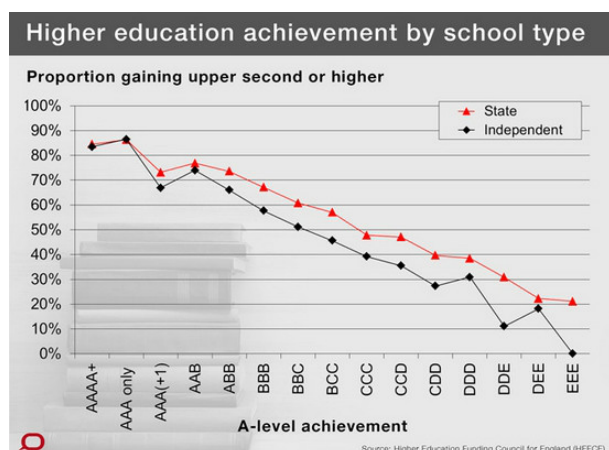
State school kids do better at university than private schooled kids with the same tertiary entrance score.

State school graduates do better at university than private school graduates with the same end-of-school tertiary entrance score. That's the clear finding in a number of Australian studies since the 1980s and in England since the 1990s .

The Australian research compared academic results at the end of first year at particular universities for cohorts whose entry was based on tertiary entrance scores (now ATAR) for the previous year in the same state. The most recent English research tracked all students who completed the end-of-school A-levels and went directly on to complete a full-time four-year degree course.

The differences between graduates of state and private schools were substantial. The Australian research found that, on average, graduates of state schools received the same marks at the end of first-year university as graduates of private schools who had tertiary entrance scores around three to six points higher.

The English research found that at each A-level standard, on average around 7 percentage points more graduates of state schools than graduates of private schools received first or second-class, first division (upper second) honours.



English results for graduates of independent schools and all categories of state schools, showing percentages that received an upper second or better degree by A-level achievement at the end of school.

Research in both Australia and England also found that with the same tertiary entrance scores:

- graduates of co-educational schools tend to do better than graduates of single-sex schools
- graduates of lower-fee private schools (in Australia, Catholic schools) tend to do better than graduates of

higher-fee private schools (in Australia, independent schools)

- graduates of schools with lower average tertiary entrance scores tend to do better than graduates of schools with higher average tertiary entrance scores
- graduates of (English) state comprehensive schools do better (to a small extent) than graduates of state selective schools.

The general finding is that graduates of non-elite and co-educational schools do better at university than graduates of socially and academically elite and single-sex schools who achieved the same tertiary entrance score.

So what can explain this difference?

There are no definitive explanations for these findings, though there is some attempt in the literature, some indicative data, and much informed speculation. And there is, of course, great variation among individual students – and among schools, universities and university courses.

Explanations tend to focus on aspects of secondary schooling and on students' effort levels at university (associated with their cultures and aspirations), and any may be involved in particular cases:

- Preparation for the end-of-school assessments in private schools, relative to state schools, boosts tertiary entrance results above “underlying ability”, and graduates regress to “underlying ability” level at university.
- Preparation for life and learning beyond school in private schools (and single-sex schools) relative to state schools (and co-educational schools) is poor, resulting in university performance below “underlying ability”.
- Graduates of private schools make less effort at university because of perceived long-term advantages of their secondary schooling and other socio-cultural reasons.

State school students tend to do better in NAPLAN tests than private school students at schools of similar socio-economic status (especially at higher socio-economic levels), according to data on the My School website analysed by researchers Bernie Shepherd and Chris Bonnor for a forthcoming publication.

What are the reasons for these university results. One involves a narrow focus on tertiary entrance results at many elite schools. Tertiary entrance results are a central aspect of the status and marketing of high-fee private schools – supported by high-visibility league tables and human interest stories in the media. High pressure, close supervision and narrowly defined learning leave little room for independent, self-motivated learning, and developing the personal and social skills required for success at university.

Single-sex school cultures and practices may not prepare students well for university life. This is hinted at in the literature, but was “obvious” for a recent university graduate I spoke to who attended both single-sex and co-educational secondary schools and said many single-sex school graduates “do not

learn to socialise at school, and when they get to uni they just party”.

Other possible explanations relate to cultural class assumptions around success and entitlement. Some private school graduates may have an explicit belief (whether reasonable or not) that just having attended such an elite school will lead to employment advantages after university. Thus the incentive to work hard at university is diminished.

Some may have a less conscious belief that they have innate superior intelligence that will get them through university without much additional effort. This sense is not properly tested in the “hothouse” atmosphere of closely supervised elite schooling, but is found wanting in the more open society of university.

There may also be a lack of motivation for university among those from elite private schools where university is the norm. Those from state schools, where many different destinations are common, make a more deliberate choice for university.

What are the implications?

The government has set its sights on a highly differentiated fee and scholarship regime for higher education. Graduates of many universities are likely to have debts of over \$100,000 for popular and socially important courses such as science, and debts of over \$250,000 for longer courses such as veterinary science.

Universities with high-demand courses and high fees will need fairer criteria for access to all courses and for the awarding of all scholarships based on entry-level academic merit. This is not just a matter of justice for individuals, but also for our future as a well-educated, productive and fair society.

English education commentator Nick Morrison suggested that the disparity between state and private school graduates’ success at university should provoke fee-paying schools to question whether they are doing all they can to equip students for university.

The Australian Financial Review recently urged people to “do the sums on the true cost of private schools”. It’s apparent that high private school fees may not be buying effective education. In the context of university debts upwards of \$100,000, families should “do the sums” on comparable expenditure on schooling.

Originally printed in the conversation
<http://theconversation.com/au>

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Author Barbara Preston
PhD candidate, Education, Science, Technology & Mathematics Faculty at University of Canberra

If any person would like the sources used in the creation of this article please contact the author on barbara.preston59@gmail.com

Sport Report – August 2014

The past few weeks have proved to be a most fruitful period for the athletes of Oatley Senior Campus across a variety of individual and team endeavours. We congratulate all of our

athletes who always perform to the best of their ability with a positive and sporting attitude.

Cross-country

This year we were fortunate to be hosted by our Peakhurst Campus at Gannons Park and many thanks must go to Ms Wiley and Ms Hill for their professional organisation.

Our age champions included:

- 16 years girls – Emilee Tranby
- 16 years boys – Omar Abdel Wahab
- 17 years boys – Nicolas Shaw
- 17 years girls - Renee Button.

Eighteen of our students progressed to the St George Zone Carnival and ten won through to the Sydney East Carnival on a heavy and physically challenging track at Miranda Park where they performed with distinction.

Omar Abdel Wahab won the 16 years division and competed in the NSW all-schools at Eastern Creek. Omar was placed fifth in this elite competition and will now travel to Perth for the Australian all-schools championships. We are very proud of his achievements and wish him well.

Athletics

The Oatley Senior Campus athletics carnival was held at Waratah Park in what can only be described as atrocious conditions. Full credit must go to all of our athletes in performing admirably in trying circumstances.

Our age champions included:

- 16 years girls – Elaine Tong
- 16 years boys – Andrew Abdullah
- 17 years boys – Nicolas Shaw
- 17 years girls – Georgia Phillips

Twenty three of these athletes competed at the St George Zone carnival over two days at the ES Marks Field at Moore Park. Ten of these fine athletes competed at the highly competitive Sydney East carnival.

Two of these athletes, Teagan Henry and Andrew Abdullah will now compete at the NSW CHS Championships at Homebush and we wish them all the best.

Girls Baseball

Congratulations to our Divas of the Diamond in winning through to the CHS championships as one of the top two schools in Sydney East.

Well done on a fantastic fight back against Woollooware High. After conceding four first innings runs, the team rallied behind the talismanic Caitlan “Katyusha” Beccaris. Unfortunately, the team ran out of innings and were defeated 5-4.

The coaching staff of Narelle “it ain’t over till it’s over” Straney and James “the professor” Munroe were extremely proud of our girls and are optimistically looking forward to the CHS tournament later this month against Holsworthy High.

Rugby League

The combined GRC team, including players from Hurstville, Peakhurst and Oatley Campuses were outstanding in winning through the St George All-Schools knockout. The boys enjoyed convincing wins over James Cook and Kingsgrove High.

Players from all three campuses were able to gel as a formidable unit and played with pride and determination at the NSW championships at St Marys. The intensity and level of competition proved to be a tough challenge and the team recorded a draw and two losses. This will prove to be a great learning experience, as the majority of the squad are eligible to play again next year.

Oz-tag

Congratulations to our girls and boys teams who competed with much school pride at the St George Schools Dragontag Gala Day at Scarborough Park.

The girls' team performed well to progress to the semi-finals where they were beaten by the eventual champions Kingsgrove.

The boys' team were able to etch their names in GRC history by becoming the first team to win the Dragontag Gala Day. They won the final in a tournament record of 11-1 against the highly fancied Sylvania High. Congratulations boys.

Futsal

On the back of last year's outstanding success, the squad was replenished with six new faces, with only the mercurial Michael Kouta remaining to take on the leadership role.

The team won through Sydney South with three emphatic wins, including victory over arch nemesis Endeavour Sports High.

Our boys then took on the elite FUTSAL schools at the NSW championships at Penrith. The performances at this level were outstanding, winning games against experienced opponents with dogged defending and attacking flair. They won through to the final, losing a tight contest 1-0, finishing as NSW runners-up.

Director of coaching, Dimitrios "Fergie" Polyzoidis was very impressed with the slick passing, tireless work ethic, ruthless finishing and more importantly, the tremendous sportsmanship displayed by all players.

The squad included MoamanAbaid, Moustafa Al Kahi, Ismail Hamdy, JawadHammoud, Michael Kouta, Jake Kubiak, DarremNaeli and Matthew Lecce. Well done boys.



GRC Old Boys

Great to see Jack Hicking, the man who could jump over an adult giraffe (5.24m to be exact) competing at the World Junior Championships in Pole Vault in Oregon . Well done Jack.

Rob Horne also played a starring role in the NSW Waratahs Super 15 victory over the Canterbury Crusaders. We are very proud of them both as they are tremendous role models in balancing sporting success with outstanding academic achievement.

Rob Butler
Sports Teacher

Year 12 Graduation Tickets for attending Guests.

Available at

<http://www.trybooking.com/FLPK>



\$12 - Sydney Town Hall
Friday 19th Sept
10.30am

(Students are asked to register by 9.30 and guests seated by 10.15am)

OATLEY LEO TRIVIA NIGHT

Saturday, 6 September 2014

7pm

Oatley RSL - 23 Letitia Street, Oatley

\$15 pp, tables of 8 people

RSVP by Saturday, 30 August 2014

by emailing oatleyleoclub@hotmail.com

BYO snacks.

Drinks to be purchased from the bar.

PUT ON YOUR THINKING CAP, ROUND UP A
TEAM AND JOIN US FOR A NIGHT OF FUN!

SUPPORTING YOUNGCARE - HELPING TO
GET YOUNG PEOPLE OUT OF AGED CARE.

LEADERSHIP
EXPERIENCE
OPPORTUNITY

