



Diary Dates

P&C

Tuesday 18th February

7:00pm - ILC

This Issue

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Principal's Report

Welcome back to the beginning of another exciting year at Merewether High School. A big welcome to our new families and a special welcome to our new Year 7 students. We also welcome new staff. Alison Latimore - English, Steve Pizzey - Science, Sonya Hewitt - Languages, Joel Steward - PDHPE and Charissa Ferguson - CAPA.

Our School Development Day at the beginning of the term involved staff looking at Revisiting Gifted Education and the implications for teaching and learning. This will continue throughout the year maintaining our focus on teaching and learning ensuring we are meeting the needs of our gifted and talented students.

Last week a letter was emailed to all parents outlining the way we communicate with our parent body. This included important dates for teacher parent interviews, parent learning groups and curriculum information nights which will occur throughout the year. I would ask that you note these dates in your calendar. More information as to each of these events will be provided closer to the dates.

The annual swimming carnival was a great way to start the school year, with a demonstration by our students of what makes Merewether High such a great school. The enthusiasm and participation from students was outstanding, with students taking the time out to demonstrate the pride they have in their school. Congratulations to all students who attended the carnival.

If you have a question, concern, or query, please contact the school.

Year Advisers 2020

- ◆ Mr Rice - Year 7
- ◆ Ms Bennet and Ms Roxby - Year 8
- ◆ Ms Davis and Mr Poullos - Year 9
- ◆ Mrs Clark and Mr Byrnes - Year 10
- ◆ Mrs Scollay and Ms Wenham - Year 11
- ◆ Ms Brooks and Mr Harrison - Year 12

Dates to Remember

Tues 18th

-Year 7 Welcome BBQ -
5:30pm

-School Dance - 6:30pm

Wed 19th

-Zone Swimming

Wed 26th - Fri 28th

-Year 7 Camp

**Head Teachers 2020**

- ♦ English – Ms Davis (relieving)
- ♦ Mathematics – Mr Singh
- ♦ Science – Mr Smith
- ♦ Humanities – Mr Gibb
- ♦ Social Science – Mrs Burnett
- ♦ CAPA – Mrs Tenorio (relieving)
- ♦ PDHPE/Languages – Mr Harrison (relieving)
- ♦ TAS – Mrs McCudden
- ♦ Technology – Mr Cox
- ♦ Administration – Mr Horrell
- ♦ Teaching and Learning – Mr Berry (relieving)

If you would like to discuss course specific information, please contact the relevant Head Teacher.

Deputy Principals 2020

- ♦ Mrs Corney – Years 7, 9 and 11
- ♦ Mrs Crooks – Years 8, 10 and 12

The Deputies can also be contacted if you have a question in relation to your child.

If you would like to email your child's Year Adviser, the relevant Teacher/Head Teacher or Deputy Principal, please do so via the school email address:

merewether-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au or call 49693855. A full staff list has been placed later in the bulletin.

Our annual Welcome to Year 7 BBQ provides the opportunity for parents of Year 7 to meet other parents and staff in an informal environment. Light refreshments and a BBQ are provided by the SRC. Details of this event are as follows:

18th February 2020 – 5:30pm – 6:30pm – meet at MHS Hall. A Welcome to Year 7 dance will be held immediately following the BBQ from 6:30 – 9:30. The first P&C Meeting for the year will coincide with our Welcome BBQ and dance. The meeting will be held in the Independent Learning Centre at the front of the school, commencing at 7:00pm. It would be great to see new parents at this meeting.

The Merewether High School P&C is holding a fundraising event called Comedy for a Cause, Friday 13th March in the high school hall. Comedy for a Cause presents a showcase of some of the best comedians from the Sydney and Melbourne International Comedy Festival in support of our school. Please see below and the flyer later in the bulletin for times and how to purchase tickets. There will be food available pre show on the night, so come early, mingle with other parents and then enjoy the show.

Date: Friday 13th of March 2020

Doors Open/Mingle: 6:00pm

Showtime: 7:30pm Show ends: 9:45pm (approximately)

Tickets: \$25.00 Students: \$20.00

Seats are not allocated – so first in, best dressed.

Venue: The Bensley Hall at Merewether High School – Chatham Street, Broadmeadow

PLEASE NOTE: THIS IS AN ALL AGES EVENT.

To buy tickets follow the link below:

<https://comedyforacause.net/tc-events/mhs/>

Comedy for a Cause

FRIDAY 13 MARCH 2020

Doors: 6pm / Show: 7.30pm / All ages

Food & refreshments before the show, come and mingle from 6pm!

Featuring comedians from
**Sydney & Melbourne
International
Comedy Festivals**

comedyforacause.net/MHS



**The Bensley Hall
Merewether High School**
Chatham Street
Broadmeadow



Adults:
\$25
Students:
\$20

In Support of:

Merewether High School





In support of:
**Merewether
High School**



Peter Berner

- Melbourne International Comedy Festival Gala
- Host of the BackBerner and The Einstein Factor on ABC TV
- The Peter Berner Experiment on Triple M
- As seen on Good News Week, Rove, The Footy Show

"exactly what stand up should be"

"hysterically funny" – Chortle



Brett Nichols

- Sydney Comedy Festival
- Green Faces National Champion
- Finalist in the U.S Network NBC's "Last Comic Standing".
- The Footy Show, Stand Up Australia

"he had me in tears of laughter."



Joe Comino

- Comedy Court Grand Champion
- Australian Comedy Festival
- Housos & Fat Pizza Live National Tours

"Makes you laugh till you cry" - The Jokes On Me

Friday 13 March 2020
Doors: 6pm / Show: 7.30pm
The Bensley Hall
Merewether High School
Chatham Street



Adults: \$25 / Students: \$20 at
comedyforacause.net/MHS
FOOD - TRUCK & refreshments
before the show.
Come and mingle from 6pm!
(All ages)



Deputy Principal's Report

Welcome back to all our families for 2020! I am very excited to have returned to Merewether High to take on the role of Deputy Principal and I am looking forward to working with our students and families throughout 2020. A special welcome to all our new families and students who have started at Merewether this year.

Over the first few weeks this year I have prioritised getting to know our new Year 7 students and I am impressed with how quickly they have adapted to life at Merewether. I have been regularly visiting classrooms where I have found students focused and engaged in a wide range of learning activities.

Our Year 12 students are well into studying their HSC courses. Mrs Crooks has recommenced the *100 Mark Journey* workshops. These workshops will continue to be delivered for the first 10 minutes of Thursday lunch and provide our HSC students with valuable study tips and advice to support them in achieving their personal best in their HSC studies. All of our Year 12 students will also have an academic review meeting scheduled for week 4, 5 or 6 this term. These meetings provide an opportunity for our students to reflect on their achievements to date and set goals in the lead up to their mid-course examinations. Information regarding these review meetings and scheduled time slots will be emailed to our Year 12 students.

Students in Years 11 should have returned their *Senior Student Responsibilities and Privileges* agreement that was issued in the first week of school. This document provided important information regarding attendance privileges, responsibilities and expectations for our Year 11 students.

Students in Years 7 - 11 will be issued with an assessment calendar in week 4. These calendars outline the proposed dates for assessment tasks in each subject throughout the year. When distributing these calendars, Mrs Crooks and myself will encourage students to write the dates of tasks into their school diary so that they are better able to manage their school workload and various extra curricular commitments. They also support our parents so that you are aware of upcoming assessments and can support your son/daughter to manage their time as required.

Parent Learning Groups are a valued part of us engaging with our parent community. Sessions will continue to run from 9am to 10:30 on a Tuesday morning in the learning centre. If you are unable to attend, the presentations and handouts will be uploaded to the school website at the conclusion of each presentation. They are a valuable part of our community connection and Mrs Crooks and I look forward to meeting and working with as many families as possible on a Tuesday morning.

The PLG schedule for Term 1 is as follows:

Week 4 – Year 7, Week 5 – Year 8, Week 6 – Year 9, Week 7 – Year 10, Week 8 – Year 11, Week 9 – Year 12, Week 10 – Year 7.

If any of our families have school uniform items that are still in good condition and that are no longer required they can be donated back to our uniform pool by leaving them at the office.

Mrs Crooks and I are looking forward to working with you throughout 2020. If you have any queries, or need for support, please don't hesitate to contact myself or Ms Crooks on 4969 3855.

Ms Esme Corney



English

As a faculty we would like to extend a warm welcome to all our new Year 7 families and students and welcome back all our continuing students and their parents. This year the English staff are working hard to challenge our students with vibrant new learning opportunities. We are designing exciting new assessment tasks and innovative teaching and learning programs to challenge and extend our gifted and talented student in 2020.

All students in Years 7 – 9 will continue to engage in wide reading for a short period at the beginning of each English lesson. Research findings clearly support that wide reading improves students overall literacy skills. Reading widely for pleasure also exposes students to new ideas, develops critical and creative thinking skills and significantly assists in improving our students' writing skills as well. For wide reading time students may choose to borrow a library book, bring a novel from home or have a novel downloaded onto their digital device. When reading ebooks on digital devices, it is important to ensure that the device meets the recommended screen size outlined in the schools BYOD policy. iPhones and iPods which do not meet the recommended screen size, are not suitable for reading novels in class. Any student who is a member of our school library may also be interested in electronically borrowing eBooks on their devices. This service is offered to all library members, is free and allows the borrowing of eBooks from home or school.

While we encourage students to have an electronic device to use for research and multimodal projects, **all students still require an English workbook**. This workbook is used for note taking and to complete class work each lesson. It is essential that students develop their handwriting skills as many of their assessment tasks are written under timed conditions and English students attempting their Higher School Certificate Examinations in Year 12 are still expected to write all their responses by hand.

It has been a productive start to 2020 as Years 7 – 12 Assessment schedules have already been distributed to students and uploaded to the school Moodle site. These schedules outline to students the task requirements, weightings, timing and assessment criteria of each of the tasks this year. In the next few weeks we will also ensure that a variety of teaching and learning resources are available to support students in experiencing success in their English courses. The Moodle site also provides an educational platform to enable parents' to familiarise themselves with the innovative learning experiences offered to our English students at Merewether High.

We look forward in 2020 to continue and improve our wonderful tradition and successes in debating, public speaking and writing competitions. These competitions will be promoted to students through email and the daily notices on a regular basis to ensure our students don't miss out on these really valuable extra-curricular opportunities. Students interested in being involved in any of these activities should ensure that they check their emails regularly and listen closely when the daily announcements are read out.

As a faculty we look forward to developing even stronger educational partnerships between staff, students and parents in 2020. I hope to meet many of you at the various Parent Learning Groups which take place throughout the year. Furthermore, please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns throughout the school year.

Ms Barbara Davis - Relieving Head Teacher English



Social Science

We welcome Year 7 students who have been issued with their assessment schedule for Geography and we look forward to developing their skills as budding geographers over the course of the year.

Students in Years 8 to 10 Commerce and Geography classes have been notified of their assessment schedules which have been posted on the school's Moodle site for access at home or at school. The schedules include: course outcomes, report outcomes and assessment items.

All Year 11 and 12 students studying Social Sciences subjects have been issued with appropriate documentation in line with NESA guidelines.

Further Matters

- ♦ The National Geographic Channel (Australian Geography Competition 2020) will be held during Week 8 and 9 of Term 1. The competition is compulsory for Years 9, 10, 11 and 12. Students in Years 7 and 8 who would like to take up the challenge can pay \$4.00 to the front office by 22nd March.
- ♦ Year 7 will attend a field trip to Awabakal Field Study Centre in Term 2, Week 4.
- ♦ Year 10 will be attending a mandatory field trip to Taronga Zoo in Term 3.
- ♦ The Mock Trial Competition is underway for 2020 under the guidance of Mrs Tonks.
- ♦ The Mock United Nations Assembly (MUNA) Competition will take place in Muswellbrook in May. Mrs. Burnett will be organising this extra curricula activity.
- ♦ The Share Market Game will get underway in early March 2020. Students in Year 9 Commerce will test their financial skills in this competition.

Business Studies Update

The new group of Year 11 students have started the course with a great deal of enthusiasm. Throughout the Year 11 and HSC courses, Business Studies students regularly receive small research tasks and are challenged to make recommendations to solve business issues based on their new knowledge. This arrangement of delivering work and gaining confidence in actively using the knowledge of business concepts is designed to give students an authentic experience of the type of post tertiary graduate position work they will be required to undertake in large corporate settings.

HSC Business Studies students, have begun the Finance topic and are currently considering a range of equity and debt finance options to suit the requirements of hypothetical and real world businesses.

Legal Studies Update

Our new group of Year 11 Legal Studies students have begun immersing themselves in a wide array of concepts to familiarise themselves with the basics of The Australian Legal System. From the rule of law to equality and fairness, the students are engaged in examining contemporary legal issues and have begun to consider what constitutes justice. Lively debate and discussion is central to the delivery of the course and later this semester students will also have an opportunity to visit the Supreme Court in Sydney to observe the operation of our court system.

All students will be offered the opportunity to participate in the MUNA competition. This is a youth initiative that provides students with an opportunity to represent a country in a Mock United Nations Assembly, debating issues and creating international law. Additionally Year 11 course students have the opportunity to participate in the Law Society's Mock Trial Competition.

Geography Update

Students studying the Year 11 Geography course are immersed in examining the interactions of the biophysical environment and developing background knowledge in relation to the Blue Mountains which will be used for the case study and upcoming fieldwork in week 8.

Economics Update

Our HSC Economics students are currently focusing on the effect of changes in the global economy on Australia through an examination of the balance of payments and our budding Preliminary economists are being introduced to key economic concepts like the production possibility curve and the circular flow of income.

Later in the year all of our Economics and Business Studies students will participate in the UNSW Economics and Business Studies Competition.

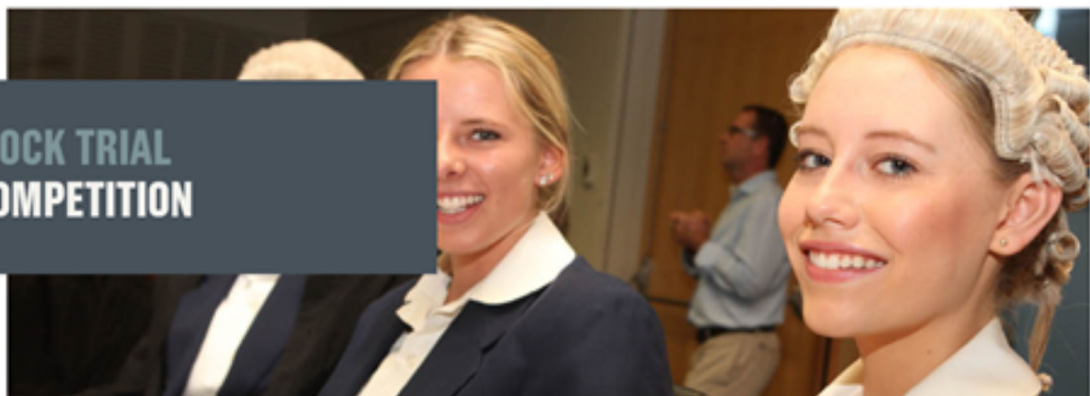
Mrs Lisa Burnett - Head Teacher Social Science

The Model United Nations Assembly (MUNA) is a significant international Rotary youth program in which our District participates.

Senior high school students develop an awareness of the United Nations and the countries they represent at a simulated UN Assembly. The event provides an excellent forum for students to develop and practice their public speaking skills whilst debating on topical world issues.



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**MOCK TRIAL
COMPETITION**

I WANT TO: [Register for the 2019 Mock Trial Competition](#)



CAPA

MUSIC ENSEMBLES

The ensembles program at MHS provides great opportunities for students to perform at a high standard and work with students across the whole school for a common aim. We will be participating in The Arts Unit Secondary Choral event in the Sydney Town Hall, the Hawkesbury Eisteddfod, Star Struck, our own POSH concert and ensemble performance nights, and school presentation assemblies. We will also audition to perform in the Sydney Town Hall and have had success over the past few years.

Ensemble rehearsals have commenced. Students should just turn up for the first rehearsal and mark their name off on the roll, or sign up if they haven't already done so.

The following ensembles are offered in 2020:

String Ensemble	Monday lunchtime in KM1
Flute Quartet	Monday lunchtime in KM2
Jam Ensemble	Wednesday lunchtime in KM1
Concert Band	Thursday 7.30am in the Learning Centre
Vocal Ensemble	Thursday lunchtime in KM1
Saxophone Ensemble	Thursday lunchtime in KM2
Clarinet Ensemble	Friday lunchtime in KM2

FEES FOR ENSEMBLES

Concert Band \$60 per semester

This covers costs for the purchase of music and equipment.

All other Ensembles \$30 per semester

This covers the purchase of music and equipment

If students are in more than TWO ensembles, a **maximum fee of \$90 per semester** is to be paid

INSTRUMENT HIRE: The school has a number of instruments available.

See Music Staff (or phone 4969 3855) for details. **The Hiring Fee is \$100 per annum.**

Thank you for your assistance in paying fees. Invoices will be sent for those who have not already paid their Ensemble fees.

MUSIC LOCKERS are still available for those students who have instruments that will not fit in the regular school locker. See Mrs Tenorio for availability of tall and medium music lockers.

REGIONAL ENSEMBLES

Merewether HS is the home of the two prestigious Department of Education ensembles; Hunter Singers and Hunter Wind Ensemble. Both ensembles have had outstanding success and offer students the opportunity to perform in such venues as the Sydney Opera House. Both HS and HWE tour nationally and internationally. The regional ensembles participated in a joint tour for Central Australia. Rehearsals are held in the Learning Centre.

HUNTER SINGERS

The Regional Choir, Hunter Singers, is a prestigious ensemble which was founded by Kim Sutherland in 1989. The group rehearses on Tuesday afternoons, 5.00-7.00pm in the Merewether HS Learning Centre. Information is available on the Hunter Singers website: www.huntersingers.com

HUNTER WIND ENSEMBLE

The Regional Wind Ensemble is open by audition to students who play a wind, brass or percussion instrument. Information is available by sending an email to hunterwindensemble@gmail.com. Hunter Wind Ensemble (HWE) rehearses twice per term with an occasional extra rehearsal leading up to a performance.

STAR STRUCK

Merewether HS will have Dance, Drama and Vocal ensembles involved in Star Struck this year. Students should listen carefully to daily notices for information regarding auditions and rehearsals. Ms Mansfield will be supervising the Dance group, Miss Roxby will supervise the Drama group and Mrs McClure will supervise the Choir group. In addition, application forms for Star Struck instrumental soloists and orchestral players will become available on the Star Struck website in the near future. Expressions of interest are now due for Star Struck Choir, Dance and Drama inside the CAPA staffroom.

YEAR 8 VISUAL ARTS EXCURSION TO LUNA PARK

On Monday, 24th February, 180 Year 8 students will make their way down to Luna Park on an inspirational and fact finding excursion based on our unit of work called "Just for Fun". In class we are researching the historic and artistic importance of this iconic part of Australia and whilst in Sydney, students will be collecting ideas for their major artworks by taking photos and drawing from life. This has always proven to be a popular excursion and a great opportunity to create artwork directly inspired by a personal experience. Excursion permission notes and payments are due by Friday 14 February to the front office.

HSC VISUAL ARTS 2019

Visual Arts HSC results last year were outstanding. The hard work and dedication to their Bodies of Work paid off with Tahlia Nicholas, Matthew Humby, Nicholas Wilson and Susanna Kwok being selected in the 'First Class' HSC exhibition at the Museum of Art and Culture at Lake Macquarie (previously known as the Lake Macquarie Art Gallery), opening from Friday 14th February 2020. This exhibition showcases Hunter Region HSC works that explore the students' world and where observations of nature, culture, the environment, health, memories and family are explored. Our students are to be commended for the breadth and depth of their work over the past year as the techniques and concepts tackled in this class were so varied.



One panel of 7 - Tahlia Nicholas' work 'Souvenir – What I remember, what I forget'



One panel of 4: Matthew Humby's artwork 'The Thoughtlessness and Vices of Honest Men'



One panel of 12 of Nicholas Wilson's work 'A Land of Great Fertility'



COMING UP FOR YEAR 12 2020 - HSC Study Day

On Friday 21st February, HSC Visual Arts students will be attending an HSC study day across 3 venues in town – The Town Hall, Watt Space Gallery and Newcastle Art Gallery. The keynote speaker is acclaimed Australian artist George Gittoes who is known as a multi-disciplinary artist whose work has consistently expressed his social, political and humanitarian concern at the effects of injustice and conflict in countries such as Somalia, Rwanda, Bosnia, Bougainville, Afghanistan, Palestine, Iraq, and the Middle East. There will also be workshops with senior HSC markers on developing creative ideas for the BOW as well as discussions about how to improve your work moving forward to the final submission. Overall an excellent and powerful experience for HSC Visual Arts students.

MONA Excursion – February is a very busy time for Year 12 students with our annual excursion down to Hobart to visit the Museum of Old and New Art, the largest privately funded museum in the Southern Hemisphere. We will fly out on Thursday 27th February and return on Saturday 29th February. This excursion has always proven to be a worthwhile cultural and educational experience as students are exposed to some challenging contemporary works as well as archaeological gems such as a mummified cat. The building itself is designed for maximum impact as it is almost completely underground, reminiscent of caves and cathedrals. Many artworks are interactive and allow the audience to manipulate the work, creating new work constantly.

DRAMA ENSEMBLE

Drama has commenced rehearsals for 2020, Friday lunch in the Learning Centre. New members are always welcome. Come along this Friday to the Learning Centre to develop your theatrical skills!

CAPA EVENTS/EXCURSIONS:

On Stage	11 th February	Drama
Reprise	14 th February	Year 11 Music
HSC Art Study Day	21 st February	Year 11 Accelerated and Year 12 Visual Art (10 students only)
Luna Park	24 th February	All of Year 8
MONA	27 th -29 th February	Year 11 Accelerated and Year 12 Visual Art
ENCORE	16 th March	Year 12 Music
CAPA Ensembles Night	23 rd March	All MHS Music and Drama ensembles
POSH Concert	7 th August	Year 12 and all MHS Music Ensembles

Alison Tenorio - Relieving Head Teacher, Creative & Performing Arts



TAS

TAS 2019 HSC results

Congratulations to all of the students who studied a TAS subject as part of their 2019 pattern of study for their HSC.

Results overall in the faculty were very pleasing **with 3 individual students gaining state ranks in Engineering Studies. They were all Year 11 accelerated students - James Harvey Punch - 4th, Mackenzie Gilligan - 6th and Martyn Cox - 10th.**

This is an outstanding result which was coupled with overall excellent results in this course with an amazing 87% of the cohort achieving a band 5/6 result (43% band 6). Engineering Studies has continued to gain commendable results each year. Ruby Hackett's Major Design Project in HSC Design and Technology was selected for the SHAPE exhibition which is currently displayed in Sydney. Other noteworthy results include Community and Family Studies with 81% of the cohort achieving a band 5/6 result (38% band 6) and Food Technology with 95% band 5/6 (60% band 6) and the cohort mean 20% above state average. Results in Software Design and Development continue to improve with almost 60% of the cohort achieving a band 5/6 result.

Vicki McCudden—Head Teacher TAS

School Photography Day – Tuesday 3rd March

School photographs are scheduled to be taken by Advancedlife Photography on Tuesday March 3rd. If your child is absent that day a catch up day is scheduled for the following week – Tuesday 10th March. It is important that students are dressed in full school uniform and that no excessive make up or jewellery is worn on the day – students will be asked to remove this.

A photo envelope will be distributed in week 4. If possible it is our preference that ordering be completed online to reduce administration and potential security issues related to the return of cash and envelopes on photo day.

Orders for packages and sibling photographs can be placed securely online at www.advancedlife.com.au using our school's unique 9 digit Online Order Code. **XNC9LY9G1**

Sibling and friendship group photographs can be taken – envelopes are available from Mrs McCudden in the TAS staffroom.

Should you have any queries concerning school photographs or online ordering, please direct them via email to enquiries@advancedlife.com.au

PDHPE/SPORT

WARATAHS COME TO MEREWETHER HIGH

The Waratahs Super Rugby team played in Newcastle last week and two of their players along with the NSW Rugby Development staff paid us a visit where they put 50 students through their paces. Because of the bad weather the activities transferred into the hall. During the session the students were coached in tackle technique as well as passing and evasion. On hand throughout, the Waratahs players demonstrated their skills as well as lending advice on how to better perform for our students. The students were given caps and tickets to the Super Rugby match in Newcastle at the conclusion of the session. The students are now a little bit better prepared to tackle the challenges of the upcoming Rugby season. Many thanks to Michael Howell, the Waratahs Development Chief and the Waratahs players for making Merewether High one of the three schools in the Hunter that were visited.



TERM 1 PDHPE

The 2020 year has started off with all PE classes involved in a range of practical activities. Our extensive programs cover a number of individual, team and recreational sports as well as specialist activities such as Dance. Our Health theory classes are conducted for Years 7, 8 & 9 during Terms 2 and 3 whereas the theory component for Year 10 is conducted throughout the whole year. The new NSW syllabus has now been fully implemented at MHS and topics are designed specifically for students in our school environment and include safety, relationships, sexuality, nutrition, drug use, cyber safety and general health and fitness. Any students that are injured and cannot participate in PE should bring a note from their parent stating the nature of the problem and the expected length of time that participation may be affected. This allows us to better plan for students who suffer an injury or illness and ensures no interruption to their learning. A reminder that PE Uniform is required for all practical lessons. This is essential as we encourage students to develop skills in personal hygiene and organisation, as well as protecting expensive school PE uniform from damage that may occur during physical activity. We would invite parents to contact their child's PE teacher should they require any further information.



LIFESAVING

Late last year our Year 10 PASS students demonstrated the skills that had developed in PASS in supervising and instructing at the Year 7 Lifesaving program. Aquatics is now included as a mandatory element in the PE syllabus and an intensive three day lifesaving school is our chosen delivery method. Throughout the days the Year 7 students learnt skills that will not only keep them safe in an aquatic environment, but also skills that will enable them to assist others should they get into any trouble. Learning CPR skills was an important element in the program. Congratulations to our Year 10 students, they worked hard and were very diligent in ensuring that the Year 7 students got a thorough and valuable experience.



TERM 1 SPORT

Term 1 Sport has started and students spend part of their Wednesdays participating in one of 15 sports. As of Term 4 last year students select their sports through an online system with the bus levy able to be paid online through the School's payment portal. Any outstanding bus payments should be finalised by the end of Week 5 so that we can meet our tight budget where we work hard to offer students as wide a variety of sports as possible while still attempting to keep the costs associated with each sport as low as possible.

SWIMMING CARNIVAL

Our annual Swimming Carnival was held last week and as usual the student participation in the event was excellent. Without doubt one of the highlights of the day was the performance of the Staff Relay team, headed up by Principal Mrs Rippon, who blew away all of the competitors with a dominant victory in the Senior Girls' Relay. The overall Champion House on the day was BAARTZ House. Well done to all of those students. Age Champions at the event included Amelia Ockerby, Spencer Imlay, Hannah Horn, Huw Bloomfield, Charlie Burns, Marco Buzzi, Kelsey Van Eldik, Charles Walker, Pepita Barton, Alex Garnett, Eve Leacey, Chris Kim, Kaitlyn McMahon, Tom Grice and Dylan Day. Congratulations also to the House Captains for 2020, Emily Donovan-Schultz, Dylan Day, Shahar Eidels, Tom Grice, Lara Manning, Jared Muller, Grace Thiveos and Vihan Roy. A strong team will be selected to attend the City Zone Carnival which will be held at Wallsend Pool on Wednesday 18th February. Ms Brooks will shortly distribute notes and information to those students that have qualified.

**SPORTS TOUR 2020*****WE NEED YOUR HELP!!!***

In the next Bulletin we will be highlighting the many elements involved in the conduct of this program. There are a lot of people who have been supporting us in terms of fundraising and these will be acknowledged in the next Bulletin. At this stage our school community can help us in two main ways:

1. We are conducting a second hand Book Fair in the school hall in the July holidays. This is a mammoth task and to maximise our success we are needing the donation of up to 30,000 books. While the students that are attending the tour have been working hard, we also are asking our general school community to assist us if they can. What we require is fairly simple. Books, on any subject are what we are chasing. So..... if you have a bookcase that needs cleaning out we would appreciate it if you could donate those unused or already read books that may be cluttering up your study or are packed in boxes in your garage. The only thing we ask is that they are in good condition, meaning no rips, stains or wear. Books that are delivered to the school in poor condition only means that staff time is wasted as we process every book and then books that are unsuitable must be disposed of. If you can help please deliver the books to the office and they will be directed to the book processing and storage areas. If every family in the school donates 20 good quality books, then we are sure to meet our goal in terms of books available for sale.

2. We are also conducting a Trivia Night in May. Details of how to get tickets and secure a table will be available in the next Bulletin. For now however, we have set ourselves the lofty goal of securing 400 raffle prizes and 10 auction items. To do this we ask our school community that if you are a business owner, or are friends with one, then a donation of suitable things for us to raffle would be most appreciated. Often unwanted presents etc also make excellent raffle prizes. We accept almost anything, no matter how big or small as we can package various items together to form a prize. Like the books, please drop into the office if you can help.

The 77 students going on our next Sports Tour certainly would appreciate your support !!!!



World's Greatest Shave

Merewether High School will once again take part in the World's Greatest Shave in an effort to assist the Leukaemia Foundation in supporting families and continuing vital research. We have over 45 brave year 12's signed up to commit to the shave (boys and girls!) which will be held at Merewether High on the 19/3 at assembly. We have raised over \$1000 already and ambitiously aim to beat last years \$42k record. It would be amazing if people would be able to donate to our team via this link so we can continue to honour this great cause.

<https://secure.leukaemiafoundation.org.au/registant/TeamFundraisingPage.aspx?teamID=117218>



Principal: Mrs Christine Rippon

Deputy Principals: Mrs Jane Crooks

Ms Esme Corney

CAPA	PDHPE /LANGUAGES	CAREERS ADVISER
TENORIO, Alison (Relieving HT)	HARRISON, Bob (Rel. HT) (YA 12)	ABBO, Levina
FERGUSON, Charissa	<u>BIRAM, Kelly</u>	DISTANCE ED ROOM
GILBERTSON, Karen	BROOKS, Karyn (YA 12)	
McCLURE, Rebekah (M-W, F)	DAVIDSON, Adam	COUNSELLOR
ROXBY, Sienna (Tu- F) (YA 8)	DRUITT, Fiona (W-F)	McINTYRE, Helen (M-W)
WATSON, Amber	<u>HEWITT, Sonya (M-W, F)</u>	McGREGOR, Anne (Fri week B)
	STEWART, Joel (T1)	WATTS, Steve (Th)
ENGLISH	CALLINEN, Megan (M-Tu)	
DAVIS, Barbara (Rel. HT) (YA 9)		INTEGRATION-SLSO
BENNET, Clair (YA 8)	SCIENCE	WOOD, Raylee (M-Tu, F)
BURDEKIN, Michelle	SMITH, Stephen (HT)	
CARMAN, Ann	ADEI-CARDWELL, Priscilla (M-Tu, F)	LEARNING & SUPPORT
CORNEY, Leanne (PREFECTS)	BELL, Philip	REILLY, Paula (Tu-W)
EVANS, David	DICKINSON, Karen (M-Tu, Th-F)	STUBBS, Cathy
LATIMORE, Alison	JUNG, Jin	
McNAUGHTON, Donna	McDONALD, John	SENIOR STUDIES
PARKER, Lisa	MORROW, Ami	KELTY, Ed (M-Tu, Th)
	PENSON, Ros	TOWERS, Glenyce (W)
HUMANITIES	PIZZEY, Steve	
GIBB, Steven (HT)	TIMMINS, Denise (M+Th pm) W (Tu+F am)	LIBRARIAN
BORRELLI, Gabbi (SRC)	WILLIAMS, Louise	BYRNES, Grahame (YA 10)
HOWLETT, Clare (M, Tu-W pm, F)		
KARNUPS, Dane	SCIENCE ASSISTANTS	LIBRARY ASSISTANT
MANSFIELD, Taylor	MOORE, Kylie	ELLIS, Christiane
POULIOS, John (YA 9)	ACHURCH, Gail	
		AUDIO VISUAL
HT ADMINISTRATION	SOCIAL SCIENCES	SCOTT, Lorraine
HORRELL, Philip	BURNETT, Lisa (HT)	
	BERRY, Rob	BUSINESS MANAGER
TECHNOLOGY	CLARK, Nicole (YA 10)	HAZLEWOOD, Nerine
COX, Scott (HT Technology)	GREEN, Sophie (M-Tu, Th-F)	
REICH, Brian	HORRELL, Philip	ADMINISTRATION
	RICE, Nathan (YA 7)	BROWN, Toni (SAM)
SPORTS ORGANISER	TONKS, Rachael	SCIBERRAS, Cecilia (Reception M-Th + Cashier Fri)
BROOKS, Karyn		WILLIAMS, Jade (Reception Fri)
DAVIDSON, Adam	HT TEACHING & LEARNING	PEARSON, Lidija (Attendance)
	BERRY, Rob	CASHIER
MATHEMATICS		FITZGERALD, Tracey
SINGH, Dharmendra (HT)	TECHNOLOGY (TAS)	HUTCHISON, Sharon
CHALMERS, Cathy	McCudden, Vicki (HT)	JENKINS, Kristie
DAGG, Sonia	D'AMICO, Julie	SHERWIN, Brodie (M-Th)
EASTON, Melinda	DONALDSON, Andrew	
GILLESPIE, Debbie	INGLIS, Wendy (Girls' Supervisor)	SICK BAY
HILL, Bruce	JOHNSON, Sherida	
JONES, Mitchell	JOHNSTON, Anthony (M-Tu, Th- F)	GENERAL ASSISTANT
SCOLLAY, Tracy (YA 11)	PLATT, Michael	D'AMICO, Frank
WENHAM, Cassandra (YA 11)	TAYLOR, Lu	
		CANTEEN
COMMON ROOM	TAS (KITCHEN) ASSISTANT	HALLETT, Mrs Lisa
	WARK, Samantha	



Education &
Communities

Compulsory School Attendance

Information for parents

Education for your child is important and regular attendance at school is essential for your child to achieve their educational best and increase their career and life options. NSW public schools work in partnership with parents to encourage and support regular attendance of children and young people. When your child attends school every day, learning becomes easier and your child will build and maintain friendships with other children.

What are my legal responsibilities?

Education in New South Wales is compulsory for all children between the ages of six years and below the minimum school leaving age. The *Education Act 1990* requires that parents ensure their children of compulsory school age are enrolled at, and regularly attend school, or, are registered with the Board of Studies, Teaching and Educational Standards for homeschooling.

Once enrolled, children are required to attend school each day it is open for students.

The importance of arriving on time

Arriving at school and class on time:

- Ensures that students do not miss out on important learning activities scheduled early in the day
- Helps students learn the importance of punctuality and routine
- Give students time to greet their friends before class
- Reduces classroom disruption

Lateness is recorded as a partial absence and must be explained by parents.

What if my child has to be away from school?

On occasion, your child may need to be absent from school. Justified reasons for student absences may include:

- being sick, or having an infectious disease
- having an unavoidable medical appointment
- being required to attend a recognised religious holiday
- exceptional or urgent family circumstance (e.g. attending a funeral)

Following an absence from school you must ensure that within 7 days you provide your child's school with a verbal or written explanation for the absence. However, if the school has not received an explanation from you within 2 days, the school may contact you to discuss the absence.

Principals may decline to accept an explanation that you have provided if they do not believe the absence is in the best interest of your child. In these circumstances your child's absence would be recorded as unjustified. When this happens the principal will discuss their decision with you and the reasons why.

Principals may request medical certificates or other documentation when frequent or long term absences are explained as being due to illness. Principals may also seek parental permission to speak with medical specialists to obtain information to collaboratively develop a health care plan to support your child. If the request is denied, the principal can record the absences as unjustified.

Travel

Families are encouraged to travel during school holidays. If travel during school term is necessary, discuss this with your child's school principal. An *Application for Extended Leave* may need to be completed. Absences relating to travel will be marked as leave on the roll and therefore contribute to your child's total absences for the year.

In some circumstances students may be eligible to enrol in distance education for travel periods over 50 school days. This should be discussed with your child's school principal.





**My child won't go to school.
What should I do?**

You should contact the principal as soon as possible to discuss the issue and ask for help. Strategies to help improve attendance may include a referral to the school's learning and support team or linking your child with appropriate support networks. The principal may seek further support from the Home School Liaison Program to develop an Attendance Improvement Plan.

What might happen if my child continues to have unacceptable absences?

It is important to understand that the Department of Education and Communities may be required to take further action where children of compulsory school age have recurring numbers of unexplained or unjustified absences from school.

Some of the following actions may be undertaken:

- Compulsory Schooling Conferences

You may be asked, along with your child, to attend a Compulsory Schooling Conference. The conference will help to identify the supports your child may need to have in place so they attend school regularly. The school, parents and agencies will work together to develop an agreed plan (known as Undertakings) to support your child's attendance at school.

- Application to the Children's Court – Compulsory Schooling Order

If your child's attendance at school remains unsatisfactory the Department

may apply to the Children's Court for a *Compulsory Schooling Order*. The Children's Court magistrate may order a Compulsory Schooling Conference to be convened.

- Prosecution in the Local Court

School and Department staff remain committed to working in partnership with you to address the issues which are preventing your child's full participation at school. In circumstances where a breach of compulsory schooling orders occurs further action may be taken against a parent in the Local Court. The result of court action can be the imposition of a community service order or a fine.

What age can my child leave school?

All New South Wales students must complete Year 10 or its equivalent. After Year 10, and up until they reach 17 years of age, there are a range of flexible options for students to complete their schooling.

Working in Partnership

The Department of Education and Communities recognises that working collaboratively with students and their families is the best way to support the regular attendance of students at school.

We look forward to working in partnership with you to support your child to fulfil their life opportunities.

If a student misses as little as 8 days in a school term, by the end of primary school they'll have missed over a year of school.

Further information regarding school attendance can be obtained from the following websites:

Policy, information and brochures:

Please visit the Department of Education's *Policy library*

The school leaving age:

Please visit the Department of Education's *Wellbeing and Learning* website

Do you need an interpreter?

Interpreting services are available on request, including for the hearing impaired. The Telephone Interpreter Service is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week on 131 450. You will not be charged for this service.

For further advice and questions contact your educational services team

T 131 536

Learning and Engagement

Student Engagement & Interagency Partnerships

T 9244 512

www.dec.nsw.gov.au

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NSW Department of Education and Communities

February
2020

Merewether High School Bulletin



Shop Hours
Monday 8.00-12.00pm
Thursday 1.00-3.30pm

Contact Details
0401 725 885
merewetherhigh@alinta.com.au
130 Chatham Street, Broadmeadow
NSW 2292

Merewether High School Uniform Shop Order Form



Order Form Details

Date: _____
Name: _____
Address: _____

Contact Number: _____
Email Address: _____
Pick up from shop ☐
Delivery to above address \$7.95 ☐

Payment Options

☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard ☐ Cash (enclosed)

Name On Card: _____
Credit Card Number: _____
Expiry Date: ____/____/____
CVC: _____
Signature: _____

Uniform: Y6-Y12	Size	Price	Size	Qty
S/S Blouse 7-9	J8-L20	\$40.00		
S/S Shirt 7-9	J8-3XL	\$38.00		
S/S Blouse 10-12	J10-L20	\$44.00		
S/S Shirt 10-12	J8-3XL	\$38.00		
Tartan Skirt	J8-L20	\$71.00		
Fitted Formal Shorts	J10-L20	\$45.50		
Fitted Pants	J10-L20	\$50.00		
Formal Shorts	J8-3XL	\$49.95		
Formal Trousers	J10-3XL	\$55.00		
Outerwear	Size	Price	Size	Qty
Jumper	10-16	\$84.00		
	18-20	\$94.00		
	22-26	\$104.00		

Sports Uniform	Size	Price	Size	Qty
Sports Polo	J8-3XL	\$45.00		
Sports Shorts Unisex	J8-3XL	\$39.50		
Sport Shorts Girls Cut	J10-L20	\$39.50		
Tracksuit Jacket MF	J10-3XL	\$79.00		
Tracksuit Jacket - Heavy	J10-3XL	\$89.00		
Tracksuit Pants	J10-3XL	\$51.50		
Bags	Size	Price	Size	Qty
Swim Excursion Bag	one	\$20.60		
Backpack	Large	\$86.50		
Accessories	Size	Price	Size	Qty
Sport Socks	All Sizes	\$10.00		
White Socks	All Sizes	\$6.95		
Black Socks	All Sizes	\$6.95		
Microfibre Tights	All Sizes	\$10.50		
Leather Belt	All Sizes	\$17.50		
Bucket Hat	S-XL	\$22.50		
Sports Cap	One Size	\$19.00		
Gloves		\$8.50		
Scarf		\$12.50		
Fabric Marker		\$4.00		

Note:

• Sizes not carried are available by custom order (SMU). During peak times it may take up to 3 month lead time. An additional \$10.00 is applied to custom orders.

• Online orders are distributed from the Uniform Shop the next opening day of the shop. A postage charge will occur for all orders marked for delivery.

• Payments can be made by Cash, Credit Card or Debit Credit Cards only.

Prices Effective from 1-09-2019 and are subject to change without notice.



Merewether High School
Uniform 7-12



Merewether High School
Uniform 7-12



Merewether High School
Sports Uniform



Merewether High School
Bags and Accessories





THE UNIFORM SHOP

IMPORTANT NOTICE: Coronavirus



Due to the recent coronavirus we are expecting a delay in the delivery of some uniform orders. We are doing everything possible to ensure the safety of our production team while at the same time working on fulfilling orders as soon as possible.

The majority of Winter Uniforms are in stock and can be purchased as normal. We advised that there will be some delays and some winter stock items will not be delivered until Term 2. Further updates will be provided as we progress through Term 1.

We thank you for your patience and understanding.

Alinta Management

February
2020

Merewether High School Bulletin



	February
Monday 17th	Year meetings this week
Tuesday 18th	Y7 PLG - 9am Y7 Welcome BBQ - 5:30pm School Dance - 6:30pm
Wednesday 19th	Zone City Swimming Carnival
Tuesday 25th	Y8 PLG - 9am
Wednesday 26th	Y7 Camp - day 1/3
Thursday 27th	Y7 Camp - day 2/3
Friday 28th	Y7 Camp - day 3/3
	March
Monday 2nd	Y12 Elevate - Ace your exams - 11am
Tuesday 3rd	School Photos Y9 PLG - 9am
Monday 9th	Y7 Vaccinations
Tuesday 10th	Y10 PLG - 9am School Photos Catch-up
Wednesday 11th	Internet Safe Y7 - 10 (Parents at night)
Friday 13th	Pi Day
Monday 16th	Y12 Blackout period commences
Tuesday 17th	Y11 PLG - 9am
Friday 20th	SRC Harmony Day
Tuesday 24th	Y12 PLG - 9am
Wednesday 25th	High Resolves Y7 - 10
Thursday 26th	High Resolves Y7 - 10
Friday 27th	High Resolves Y7 - 10
Monday 30th	Y12 Assessment period commences
Tuesday 31st	Y7 PLG - 9am
	April
Wednesday 1st	NSW CHS Swimming
Thursday 2nd	NSW CHS Swimming
Wednesday 3rd	NSW CHS Swimming
Friday 10th	Good Friday



TERM 2	April
Monday 27th	School Development Day - No students
Tuesday 28th	All students return
Wednesday 29th	Athletics Carnival
	May
Tuesday 5th	Cross Country
Wednesday 6th	Elevate parent Session - 6 - 7pm (Yrs10 - 12)
Thursday 7th	Elevate Y10 (9am) Y11 (11am)
Friday 8th	Zone Cross Country
Monday 11th	Y10 Vaccinations (Y7 catchup)
Tuesday 12th	Y 7 - 9 NAPLAN Y7 PLG - 9am
Wednesday 13th	Y 7 - 9 NAPLAN
Thursday 14th	Y7 - 9 NAPLAN Y10 Careers Expo
Friday 15th	Y 7 - 9 NAPLAN catchup Y11 Blackout period commences
Tuesday 19th	P&C Meeting Y12 Parent Teacher Interviews Y8 PLG - 9am
Wednesday 20th	Zone Cross Country
Friday 22nd	Y11 Assessment period commences
Monday 25th	Y7 - 9 Blackout period commences
Tuesday 26th	Y9LG - 9am
Friday 29th	Hunter Region Cross Country
	June
Monday 1st	Zone Athletics
Tuesday 2nd	Y10 PLG - 9am
Monday 8th	Queen's Birthday Holiday
Tuesday 9th	Y11 PLG - 9am StarStruck Week
Monday 15th	Y10 Blackout period commences
Tuesday 16th	Y12 PLG - 9am
Monday 22nd	Y10 Assessment period commences
Thursday 25th	Y11 Parent Teacher interviews
Friday 26th	NAIDOC Assembly

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Monday 29th	ROSA Assemblies ♦ Years 7,9,11 - 11am ♦ Years 8,10,12 - 1:30pm
Tuesday 30th	Y11 Jindabyne day 1/4
	July
Wednesday 1st	Y11 Jindabyne day 2/4
Thursday 2nd	Y11 Jindabyne day 3/4
Friday 3rd	Y11 Jindabyne day 4/4
TERM 3	
Monday 20th	School Development Day - no students
Tuesday 21st	All students return Y12 Meeting
Thursday 23rd	Y7 (2021) Tour and Information Session - 4pm
Friday 24th	CHS Cross Country
Tuesday 28th	Y7 & Y9 Parent Teacher Interviews
Wednesday 29th	Regional Athletics
Thursday 30th	Regional Athletics
	August
Monday 3rd	Y10 Reports issued Y12 Blackout period commences
Tuesday 4th	Y7 PLG - 9am
Thursday 6th	Y8 & Y10 Parent Teacher Interviews
Monday 10th	Y10 (2021) Course Information Evening - 4:30pm Y11 (2021) Course Information Evening - 6pm
Tuesday 11th	Y8 (2021) Course Information Evening - 4:30pm Y9 (2021) Course Information Evening - 5:30pm
Monday 17th	Y12 Trial HSC exams commence ICAS Science
Monday 24th	Y11 Blackout period commences
Friday 28th	Y12 Trial HSC concludes
	September
Tuesday 1st	ELEVATE Y12 - Finishing Line
Wednesday 2nd	CHS Athletics

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Thursday 3rd	CHS Athletics
Monday 7th	Y11 Final Assessment period commences
Tuesday 8th	Y12 PLG - 9am
Monday 14th	Y7 Vaccinations (Y10 Catch up)
Tuesday 15th	Y7 PLG - 9am
Friday 18th	Y11 Final Assessment period concludes
Tuesday 22nd	Y12 Report issued
Wednesday 23rd	Sports Presentation Assembly - 9am Y12 Formal
Friday 25th	Y12 Presentation Assembly - 9:30am
TERM 4	October
Monday 12th	Y12 (2021) Learning Conference including ELEVATE sessions
Tuesday 13th	Y7 (2022) Info session - 4pm
Wednesday 14th	Y7 GATS Challenge Day - 9:30am - 1pm
Thursday 15th	HSC Commences
Monday 26th	Y11 Report issued
Tuesday 27th	Y7 PLG - 9am
Wednesday 28th	Y9 Urban Challenge
Thursday 29th	Y9 Urban Challenge
Friday 30th	Y9 Urban Challenge
	November
Monday 2nd	Y7 - Y10 Blackout period commences
Tuesday 3rd	Y8 PLG - 9am
Monday 9th	Last Day HSC
Tuesday 10th	Y9 PLG - 9am
Tuesday 17th	P&C Meeting - 7pm Y10 PLG - 9am
Friday 20th	Prefects' Investiture - 11am
	December
Wednesday 2nd	Y7 Lifesaving
Thursday 3rd	Y7 Lifesaving
Friday 4th	Y7 Lifesaving

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Friday 11th	Y10 Assembly - 9:15am Y9 Assembly - 11:15am
Monday 14th	Y8 Assembly - 9:15am Y7 Assembly - 11:15am
Tuesday 15th	Presentation Assembly - 10:30am HSC Results
Wednesday 16th	Y12 BBQ - 11am
Thursday 17th	School Development Day
Friday 18th	School Development Day