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## Diary Dates

P&C Meeting  
Tuesday, 16th June  
7:30pm - ILC



## Principal's Report

### Our School Leaders meet the Governor

On 3<sup>rd</sup> June I accompanied our school captains, Tom Grimes and Abby Gallimore to the NSW Parliament Secondary School Leaders Day. This day enabled Tom and Abby to meet and ask questions of a number of our States leaders. They had the opportunity to attend a session in the NSW Lower House of Parliament where elected leaders of community were delivering speeches to the house to raise issues of concern, attention and also celebration in the communities that they represented. We also attended a session in the Upper House where we were able to see first hand the role of our leaders in debating amendments to bills prior to them becoming law. On this occasion it was actually an intended change to legislation governing the law profession which was being considered. Of interest and particular note during the session was the statement by one leader who asked "how is this in the best interests of the people". As a leader in our school and community, this question is one that should always be considered as we make our path forward. Astutely, this was not a point lost on Tom and Abby.

The final session of the day gave us an opportunity to meet with the Governor of NSW, His Excellency General The Honourable David Hurley, where we attended a presentation and had the opportunity to ask questions before we had afternoon tea with the Governor and his wife in the gardens at Government House.

The day gave numerous opportunities to reflect on the nature of leadership and the importance of this role in supporting schools and communities to reach their potential. Our school leaders discussed the many opportunities in their role as leaders and no doubt their remaining term as School Captains will be action packed..



## Dates to Remember

### Monday 15th

- Y10 Exams commence
- ICAS Writing Exam

### Tuesday 16th

- Y7 PLG
- Yrs 7,11&12 Vaccinations

### Thursday 18th

- Y11 Parent / Teacher Interviews

### Thursday 25th

- ROSA Assemblies
- Yrs 7,9,11 - 11:00am
- Yrs 8,10,12 - 1:30pm

### School Development Day

Our Term 3 School Development Day will be held on Day 1 of Term 3, Monday 13<sup>th</sup> July. Students will not attend on Monday and the first normal school day is Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> July.

School development days are pupil free days, the purpose of School Development Days is to assist whole school strategic planning and staff development which contributes directly to the improvement of student learning outcomes through targeted professional learning.



### **Reporting to Parents**

As the first semester draws to a close we enter a period of reporting to parents. This is an opportunity for staff to provide information to parents on students' progress and strengths across all courses of study during Term 1 and Term 2 2015. Year 11 reports will be issued on the 12<sup>th</sup> June with Parent Teacher interviews to be held on the afternoon of 18<sup>th</sup> June. Parents can book interviews online by accessing the website [schoolinterviews.com.au](http://schoolinterviews.com.au) and logging on using the unique code emailed to all Yr 11 parents in week 5. If any parent requires assistance in making their bookings, please phone the school office.

Year 7, 8 and 9 reports will be issued on the 26<sup>th</sup> June and Year 10 on the 27<sup>th</sup> July. Parent teacher interviews will be held on the 21<sup>st</sup> July for year 7 and 9 and the 30<sup>th</sup> July for Year 8 and 10.

All bookings for Parent Teacher interviews will be made via our online booking system and parents will have immediate access to their interview schedule, making it easier for parents to plan their time. Specific booking codes for the interviews will be emailed to parents prior to the end of this Term. Whether your child receives a great report or a report indicating a need for improvement it is important wherever possible to attend these and meet with your child's teacher.

### **ROSA Assemblies**

On Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> June we will be holding Recognition Assemblies for Years 7, 9 and 11 at 11.00am and Years 8, 10 and 12 at 1.30pm. Whilst we will not be sending personal invitations to these ceremonies, lists of students who will be receiving awards will be made available and posted around the school for students to access. Students are encouraged to invite their parents to attend these ceremonies and I would commend these ceremonies to you. Parents are very welcome to attend these assemblies to help us celebrate some of the achievements of our students throughout the first Semester of learning.

### **Student Representative Council**

Last week our newly elected SRC were presented to the school at our weekly assembly. I would like to congratulate our outgoing SRC members for their wonderful contribution to the school over the last 12 months. I acknowledge the work they have done in fundraising for charities and student led school projects as well as in the provision of school activities and events that lead to a positive school culture amongst Merewether High School students and staff.

Our new SRC were put through their paces in their leadership day on Thursday where they investigated the nature of leadership within Merewether High School and looked at the roles they now have and the best way that they can enthusiastically become an active leader in the school community.

The group have elected Bridget Buckley as their chairperson and Nicola DeJong as their secretary. Congratulations to the other elected representatives, who are named later in this bulletin.

### **High Tea**

I had the privilege last week of attending our Year 8 students' High Tea function. I was very impressed with the quality of service, the taste and preparation of the food and in particular the effort our students went to in developing and articulating a theme for their class challenge. It was no easy task to prepare their menus and serve a room full of adults and I commend our young people on their team work, collaboration and effort in presenting this quality event to their families who attended.

### **Star Struck 2015 AMazeing**

Congratulations to our singers, dancers, actors, instrumentalists, soloists and back up singers who will be involved in Star Struck in this year from the 9<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> June. The number of students representing us at Star Struck grows each year and this year for the first time, our Drama students will be performing in Starstruck. We are very proud of the efforts of all students and staff who are involved and I am certain that those members of the community who attend the show will be in awe of the quality of performance and the effort and commitment of the staff and students who present such a quality show. Be ready to be amazed!

### **Year 7 2016**

During the term break, students who have been successful in gaining a place at Merewether High School for Year 7 2016 will receive letters of offer from the High Performing Students Unit. We will welcome these families to our school with a Year 7 2016 tour and information evening on Thursday 16 July 2015. The afternoon will commence with tours of the school starting at 4pm. Families will receive an invitation to attend this event.



## Mindful Fridays

Throughout this Semester we have been offering Mindfulness, a positive wellbeing program for students. The program is open to any interested student and focuses on helping students to develop a range of positive mindful techniques to reduce stress and increase personal focus. The group meets each Friday during lunch time in the Drama room and is led by DEC employee and guest presenter Mr Herron. The program has gained some very positive feedback from students and the sessions will continue for all interested students until the end of this Term.

## P and C letter

This week, parents of the school will have received a letter from the school P and C seeking support for the Merewether Foundation building fund and library fund. The P and C raises funds to contribute to numerous building programs and specific initiatives for school improvement. This method of support is tax deductible and the P and C would like to encourage families to contribute where possible. The P and C meets at 7:30pm in the Independent Learning Centre on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of every month during School Terms. All parents are invited and very welcome to attend.

## Congratulations

Congratulations to the following students who have recently been named in state teams for their respective sports:  
**Harry Johnson-Holmes** - NSWCHS Rugby   **Bailey Proud** - NSWCHS Swimming   **Tom Grimes** - NSW Sailing  
**Nicholas Sonntag** - NSWCHS Swimming   **Rebecca Ward** - NSWCHS Hockey   **Kiahni Abell** - NSWCHS Hockey  
**Boys Open Tennis Team** - Regional Champions

**N. Harvey - Relieving Principal**

## Deputy's Report

Term 2 is coming to a close – we began with a storm that has certainly left it's mark on the school and community and will finish the term with our NAIDOC assembly and Recognition of School Achievement presentation. It is testimony to the resolve of all staff, students and their families that we continued learning, sporting and cultural activities whilst our site slowly recovered.

Students in Years 7-11 have undertaken their formal mid course examinations in many subject areas this term. I encourage students to reflect not just on their performance in these exams but also on their preparation; What study activities supported you best? How well planned were you for the structure and content of the exam? What were your strengths and areas of emerging need? This reflection will allow you to plan for further success in coming years. I recently trialled "exam preparation plans" for Yr 8, 10 and 12 students which suggested week by week activities to look at in the lead up to exams and assessments. These suggested activities offered a checklist of varied study and review exercises which can be applied to any exam or assessment period. Students from any year who would like a copy of one of these checklists are welcome to collect a copy from my office.

Members of our School Learning Support team are currently completing the Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability. An information sheet for parents and carers is included in this bulletin. It records details of reasonable adjustments to learning made by the school to ensure all students are able to access and participate in learning. Privacy of students and families is protected and personal details such as student names or identifying information are not provided to local or federal education authorities.

I would like to thank those families who supported the Parent Learning Groups this term and encourage those who are unable to attend to access resources on the school website. These meetings are a great option for two way communication and I am heartened by the interest and support offered by families and the passion of our Head Teachers, Counsellor and Careers Advisor as they work with parents. With subject information meetings scheduled for term 3, families are encouraged to be having conversations regarding subject selections and curriculum directions with their children. Information booklets and details of the process are being refined at school at the moment and will be issued to students early term 3 for consideration.

In closing I would like to acknowledge the tremendous efforts from both Ms Harvey and Ms Morrison this term in the leadership and management of the school during term 2. I am sure Ms Rippon will return with many stories of her travels and will be excited to share these! Congratulations to students and families negotiating another busy term and thank you for your support.

**Tony Southward - Deputy Principal - Yrs 8,10, 12**



## **‘MOOS’paper**

### **MHS Open Boys Football – Round 3 vs West Wallsend HS**

**Jack Fisher, Year 11**

On the 26<sup>th</sup> May, the Merewether High Open Boys football side crossed the road to Myer Park for a Round 3 fixture against West Wallsend High School in the CHS Open Boys Football Competition. The boys opened strong, firing themselves to a 2-0 lead by the 20-minute mark through a long-range effort from Chris Fayers and a neat passing move resulting in a goal from Asher Beasley soon after. The visitors struck back to make it 2-1 right before the half-time break. However, a moving half-time speech from Jack Harden motivated the boys to come out firing during the second half to propel the home team to a 9-1 lead. A goal from Harden himself set the gears in motion as James Wootton went on to grab himself a hat-trick, Fayers to collect a 2<sup>nd</sup> goal, keeper Dominic Fox to slot away a penalty, and Gordon Ferguson to score perhaps the goal of the match (maybe even goal of the tournament) from a bicycle kick just outside the 18yd box. A dominating second half performance sends the MHS side through to the 4<sup>th</sup> round of the competition. The stats ended with MHS having 59% possession and 31 shots in total (21 of which were on target).

Man of the Match: Chris Fayers (2 goals, 3 assists)

### **Rostrum Voice of Youth Public Speaking Competition**

**Zoë Davis, Year 8**

The Rostrum Voice of Youth public speaking competition is an annual high school event for selected participants to present a speech for adjudication. The winner proceeds to Zone finals. Students are given several different topics in both junior and senior divisions, to interpret and manipulate into entertaining and informative speeches. I felt very lucky to be one of the two junior Merewether representative students chosen to compete. The competition was held at Newcastle High School, and they didn't shy away from providing delicious snacks – cordial, sandwiches, cookies and slices were all appreciated by the nervous competitors. The competition was friendly, but intense – the eight competitors in the junior division all had fantastic speeches. Topics ranged from global warming to palm oil to asylum seekers to volunteering. A huge congratulations to Merewether High representative Rosanna Gately of Year 9 for winning the competition with her topic on 'Rewind', and good luck for the next stage!

### **Open Girl's Soccer Campaign comes to an end**

**Olivia Stanley, Year 12**

2015 saw the MHS Open Girls Soccer team again contest for the title of Regional Champions in the knockout competition.

In the first round the team started off on unsure footing with a home game against Morisset, under the guidance of Mrs Ridgeway and managed to slip through one-nil. In the second round, played at the brand new Lake Macquarie Regional Football Facility, the team faced Toronto HS in a heated 70 minutes. The girls came from a goal down to pull off a solid 3-1 win, putting them through to the next round.

A week later, the team prepared for the big leagues (led by the coaching of Mr Harrison): a 10:30am game against Taree HS, again at the LMRFF. The match was well-contested by both sides, but the superb crossing skills of Abby Gallimore twice enabled goals from Carson McGovern and a late volley from Shani Vazey, on top of a quick toe-in by Caitlyn Shaddock. The team only conceded one, making the score finish up at 3-1 to Merewether.

Stamina was thoroughly tested at 1:30pm, when the team took on rivals Lambton HS in one of two regional finals the same day. An early goal put MHS ahead by one, and at half time the girls were ahead 2-1. But the team just didn't seem to have the 'petrol in the tank', as Mr Harrison acknowledged, to pull off one more win against a quick, skilled Lambton team, eventually going down 5-2.

The 2015 campaign saw some great play and brilliant goals, and the team should be congratulated on their status as Regional Runners up this year.





## UN Youth Evatt Competition Christy Mullen, Year 12

On the 14th May, students from across the Hunter Region joined 10 Merewether High School students within the Learning Centre for the regional round of the UN Youth Evatt Competition.



The competition is a United Nations - style debate which requires teams of two to represent a country from the United Nations Security Council and are judged on achieving their nations goals through diplomacy. The judging criteria assesses the team's speaking, negotiation, teamwork, research and diplomatic manner.

Ruby Dempsey, Lucy Witherdin (Year 9), Fia Sankoorikal, Rizina Yadav, Jacob Gamble, Annalise Turner, Sammy Seth (Year 10), Charlotte Walters (Year 11) Kain O'Dea and Christy Mullen (Year 12) debated and discussed issues of drug trafficking, Somalia and nuclear weapons in the Middle East.

Regardless of whether anyone advances to the next round, the Evatt Competition was beneficial for all students whom participated. The more seasoned debaters were able to hone in their skills in a different context whilst the more inexperienced speakers found courage to participate. Learning about their delegated country views through research and listening to their speeches gave the participants a greater appreciation for the world we live in.

## English

Recently we were notified that Merewether High had over 10 students successfully progress past the initial judging in the 2015 *Write4fun* Schools Writing Competition. This year the competition was held throughout primary and secondary schools within Australia and there were over 12 400 student entries. MHS was recognised for the outstanding level of their entries and was presented with a *Certificate of Excellence* for 'Outstanding Student Achievement'. This is a fantastic achievement as less than 10% of schools demonstrated, and were recognised with, Certificates of Excellence.

The English HSC revision study sessions have been running successfully this term. The first session had over 80 students attend and the feedback from students after each session has been overwhelmingly positive. Our year 12 students should try and make time to attend these sessions so that they continue to develop and consolidate their knowledge of the Area of Study and each of the modules.

Students in years 7 – 9 will be receiving their Semester 1 Examination marks and feedback on what they still need to do to consolidate their skills in English. It is critical that students take time to reflect on what they have achieved in English this semester. I would also encourage students to identify a goal to work towards as they move into the second half of the academic year.

As the term draws to a close, it is important that students remember to return the copies of any text they were issued in class this semester. These texts should be returned to the library. Students do not need to retain their text for the year.

**Ms Esme Corney**  
HT English



## Social Science

### 2015 Australian Geography Competition

In March Year 10 Geography students and Senior Geography students participated in the Australian Geography Competition organised by National Geographic. It is a national competition with schools across Australia entering. I am very pleased to announce that in 2015 we have 3 students who have won prestigious prizes. Congratulations to the following students:

**Matthew Blyth** - Equal Eighth in Australia in the Intermediate Level.

**Aiden Ball** - Equal Eighth in Australia in the Intermediate Level.

**Clare Fletcher** - performed very well and has tied for a potential place at the Geography's Big Week Out, being held 27 September - 2 October, 2015 on North Stradbroke Island.

Additionally Merewether High School has placed 5<sup>th</sup> in the state overall. Congratulations to these students and we look forward to presenting them with their prizes and certificates later in the term.

**Mrs Burnett - Head Teacher**

### YEAR 8 COMMERCE MARKETING DAY

On Friday the 5<sup>TH</sup> June Year 8 Commerce students took part in a Business Marketing Day. This day saw year 8 students selling products produced as part of the "Promoting and Selling" component of the Commerce course. The day is the final stage of work completed in the subject which included students setting up a business, fulfilling the marketing requirements that any business would implement and finally selling their product to their market (Merewether High School students and staff).

The day which is known as "Sweet Treats for Charity Day" required students to donate 50% of the profit made to a chosen charity, which was nominated by the class group. This year OXFAM was the chosen charity (with the Nepal earthquake in mind). Congratulations to the year 8 Commerce class and thank you to their families who were a great support to the students at home with making sweets for the day.

**MUNA 2015** After weeks of preparation, Friday the 22<sup>nd</sup> had finally arrived, and with that came a 2 hour drive down to Muswellbrook to compete in the Model United Nations Assembly, hosted by the Rotary District of 9670. Prepared with an excess amount of information about our chosen country, Iraq, we were well equipped to represent our nation and speak on behalf of its interests on contentious issues, such as the moratorium on the death penalty and oil in OPEC nations. After the motel check in, and many new introductions to the participants of other schools, it was off to the Muswellbrook RSL Club for a traditional rotary dinner. Eagerly awaiting a roast dinner, we chatted with other delegates about similar interests that each of our countries held – boasting the merits of each of our nations. Nervously, after the procession of a rotary dinner, our chance had come to introduce ourselves, as well as our supervising teacher: Mr Berry, and the nation of Iraq. After a quick briefing about the MUNA rules and regulations, it was off to regroup with our roommates and hopefully get some sleep. Waking up at the early time of 6 o'clock, final preparations were made before having breakfast and driving off to Muswellbrook Council Chambers to begin MUNA. The passion and knowledge that was demonstrated throughout our experience at MUNA was an incredible opportunity that allowed us to understand the processes behind international organisations, as well as the interests and attitudes held but other nations. Although we didn't come home with a win, the skills we developed and the chance to meet like-minded students was invaluable, and the talent shown made the victory for Kotara High School even more well deserved. This couldn't have been achieved without the assistance and time given Mr Berry and of course the generous sponsorship of Newcastle Enterprise Rotary Club and we would like to give a massive thank you for granting us the opportunity to attend this exciting event.

**Levi Grondin and Emily Barr Y11**







## Hospitality

### Year 12 Hospitality

Year 12 Hospitality have had a very busy month completing the Assessment Event 'Interact with Customers'. The students held a meeting to decide which charity they would support- the guidelines being it had to be a local, non - profit organisation. The students decided upon Jenny's Place. This organisation supports women and children who have been affected by domestic violence.

Marcia and Lauren, representatives from Jenny's Place, came and spoke to the class about the type of programs they run and how they would spend our money on clothing, school uniforms and other supplies for children.

That was all it took, we were all keen and motivated. The students have run two coffee shops for staff before school, utilising the skills gained from Crema Coffee Training, raising much needed funds. We have also held two "Café Merewether" luncheons. Students are being assessed on running a 'mock' café situation and must take reservations, organise table seating plans, greet and seat the customer, take food and beverage orders and serve customers.

The atmosphere has also been further enhanced by Mitchell, Scott and Josh, our wonderful guitarists from Years 11 and 12.

We have served 16 staff members per luncheon and our next café will occur in Week 9. So far we have raised \$460 for Jenny's Place.

I would like to congratulate all of the students who have rotated roles and responsibilities for each of the cafes. They have done a very professional job. A big thank you to the Staff who are very 'eager' to support these worthwhile events.

**Julie D' Amico - TAS Teacher**







## Food Technology

### Year 8 Food Technology - High Tea

The date was June 5. You could cut the air with a knife except we were all busily using the knives eagerly preparing for the Master chef High Tea Challenge. In one corner was the Black Team under the guidance of Ryan and in the opposite corner was the Red Team with Teza keen for victory.

The Master chef Challenge was a spectacular way for the Elective Food Technology class to showcase the skills learnt over the past two terms. The design brief was to produce food items that would be served in a high tea situation, one team produced 2 sweet and 1 savoury and the other team 1 sweet and 2 savoury. Students had total control over the menu items produced and had to plan in their groups the appropriate invitations, table settings, and job allocations for the service period.

We had a room full of parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, sisters, teachers, Year 8 Year Advisors and even the Relieving Principal who had all come to support the students and to decide which team would win the challenge?

After the "Critics" had their beverages made, and each of the three dishes were served from both teams it was voting time.

It was close with some voters even saying they couldn't choose between the two teams. Red were the victors in the end, but to me they were all winners.

I would genuinely like to thank all of the family members and staff who supported the students. To Isaac thank you for providing the music for our gathering.

It was incredible watching a group of young men and women producing such a quality event.

**Julie D'Amico - TAS Teacher**





### The Support Unit

Well what an exciting lesson we had with the first ever Masterchef Challenge in the Support Class. The dish was pumpkin soup, the judge was Mrs Hughes and the stakes were high to try and win the trophies

Fancy dress always helps to "encourage" teamwork and so "The Princesses" versed "The Pirates" to see who made the better dish. Mrs Onslow used her special recipe to help guide The Pirates while Mrs D'Amico worked with the tiara wearing Princesses.

The Princesses were not threatened by the pirate swords or eye patches and went on to obtain victory.

Great fun was had by all.

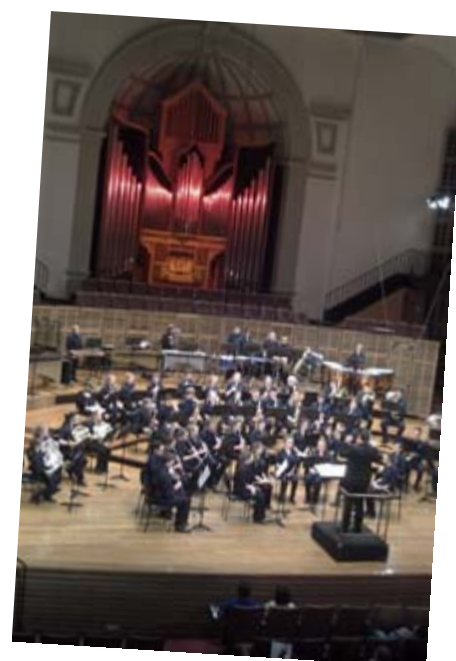
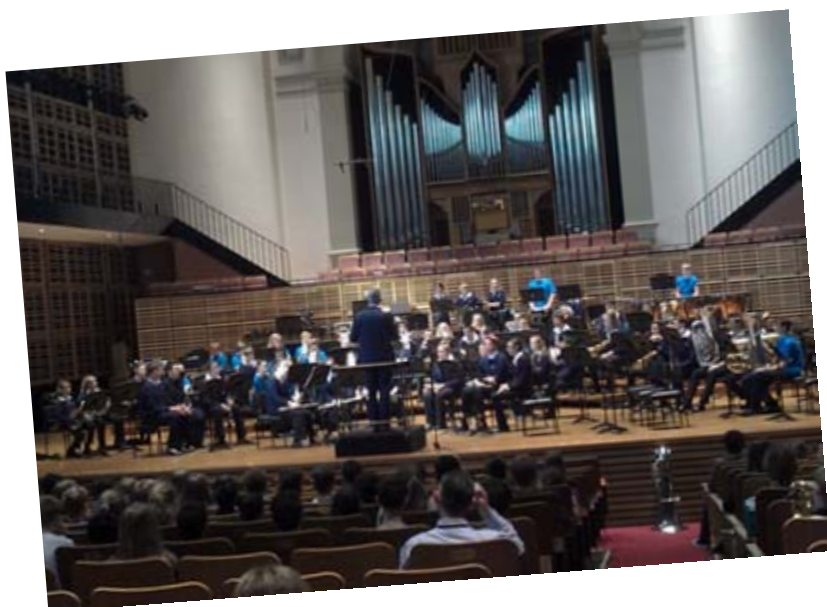
### Mrs D'Amico - TAS Teacher



## CAPA

### Sydney Conservatorium of Music

The regional ensemble - Hunter Wind Ensemble spent their long weekend Sunday at Sydney Conservatorium of Music's inaugural "Invitational". Merewether High School has many members in this ensemble: Max Spencer Karinen, Adrienne Hanslow, Courtney Hardwick, Angela Searls, Oscar Girgis-Cook, Luke Clemenson, Hamish McCarthy, Izzy Whitehead and Will Clifton. They took part in a day of workshops and Clinics with Associate Professor John Lynch and academic instrumental staff. The students gained invaluable experience during these sessions. In the evening Hunter Wind Ensemble performed in a concert with three other invited secondary school ensembles. They were then treated to an outstanding concert performed by the Sydney Conservatorium Wind Orchestra conducted by Assoc. Prof. John Lynch.



### Sunday Interlude

MHS's Clarinet Quartet were invited to perform at the Mother's Day Concert at Adamstown Uniting Church's Concert series – Sunday Interlude. They performed three movements of the Jazz Suite by Gregory Yasinitsky: i. Relaxin' ii. Night Music iii. Southern Exposure. The Clarinet Quartet consists of three Year 10 students, Mark Holdsworth, Campbell Moore and Madeline Newland and Year 11 student Rachel Ditton.







## Meet the Music

Our recent Meet the Music event took us to an interesting concert at Sydney Opera House featuring Josh Pike. Josh Pike who performs in the Indie genre performed his repertoire with the Sydney Symphony Orchestra creating an amazing sound. This is the first time Josh has performed with such a large ensemble which he found exhilarating.



## Muswellbrook Eisteddfod

2015 saw the MHS Music Ensembles make the early morning trip up to Muswellbrook for the Muswellbrook and Upper Hunter Eisteddfod. Our ensembles again were outstanding and represented our school spectacularly. Vocal Ensemble received first place in all sections entered with outstanding scores in the mid 90's (this is extremely impressive). String Ensemble placed first closely followed by Percussion Ensemble in the Orchestra section both ensembles demonstrating excellent performances. Concert Band performed superbly earning first place and Jazz Band came a very close second with an outstanding performance of Pick Up the Pieces arranged by Mark Taylor. The day of course ended with lunch at McDonalds and then the chance to wind down on the bus trip home.



## StarStruck 2015 A-Maze-ing

The CAPA faculty would like to wish all of our performers the best in the upcoming StarStruck concert at the end of this week. They have all been working hard towards another outstanding show. Merewether High School is involved in many areas of StarStruck including, Dance, Drama, Massed Choir, the Show Band, Hunter Singers item, Backing vocalists and Soloists. Look out for a detailed report and photos in the next bulletin.



## LOTE

### JAPAN TOUR 2015

... and wow what a すばらしい trip it was!!!!

Years 10, 11 and 12 students studying Japanese, along with some adventurous parents and Mrs Hughes, Mr Platt and Mrs Allen spent 10 days in Japan over the April school holidays.



Starting off in Tokyo we explored the side streets of this bustling city, taking in the sights and flavours of all it had to offer. Asakusa Shrine introduced us to our first taste of Japan with the Japanese markets, kimono wearing men and women and the beautiful cherry blossoms. Akihabara was the anime and electronics lovers delight and Harajuku was a teenage shopping dream, with some others taking in the Meiji Shrine. We visited the famous Shibuya scramble crossing and were dazzled by the city night lights. Mrs Allen was delighted to meet up with and introduce her Japanese mother おかあさん from her year as an exchange student many years ago.





A shinkansen ride to the ancient capital of Japan, Kyoto allowed us to explore the history of this beautiful city. We visited the famous Kinkajui Golden Pavillion, Inari Fox Shrine, Kiyomizu Temple where were drank from the 'fountain of long life', Nijo Castle with the nightingale floors, Sanjusangen Do with its 1000 Buddha statues, Heian Shrine and a trip back to Kiyomizu Temple lit up by night with all the night stalls too. A day trip to Nara to see the world's largest bronze statue of Buddha and the many free roaming deers, regarded as messengers of the gods in Shinto religion. More shopping and local cuisine was enjoyed.



The last leg of our journey took us to the lovely city of Hiroshima. Our hearts were touched and emotions high as we strolled through the Peace Museum and Peace Park and saw the dome and artefacts that remain after the first atomic bomb was dropped in 1945. A stroll down to Sadako's Children's Monument of Peace with the 1000 origami peace cranes folded by students of Merewether High School was also a highlight. Students folded peace cranes in the park and placed the cranes under the statue as a sign of peace and respect. We visited Hiroshima Castle and strolled around the paths, bridges and ponds of Shukkeien Gardens. On our final day we took a ferry to Miyajima Island to see the huge floating Tori gateway and Itsukushima shrine as well as meet up with some of our host families, who came up to spend the day with us from our sister city in Ube. How special it was to reconnect with old friends and extended family we have in Japan. A must on the last evening was to try the local specialty of Hiroshima okonomiyaki.... おいしい。



We rode bullet trains, crowded peak hour trains, trams, ferries, taxis, buses..... we ate sushi, tonkatsu, yakitori....drank way too much CC Lemon.....we spoke Japanese and gained an appreciation for the kind, gentle spirits of our Japanese neighbours...we mastered the use of Japanese style toilets..... we stayed in Japanese inns on tatami mats and futons and enjoyed relaxing in Japanese baths. Our first MHS trip to Japan was a huge success and many of us are already saving for the next MHS Japan Tour in 2017. Mrs Allen would like to thank the students, parents, Mrs Hughes and Mr Platt for being fabulous, fun travel companions and making memories that will last a lifetime.

June  
2015



どうもありがとうございます！

私 ♥ 日本



## Support Unit

### ANZAC Memorial Walk

On Tuesday our class went to the ANZAC Memorial Walk. We walked from Strzelecki Lookout looking at the signs and sculptures. The sculptures were of soldiers in the army, navy, air force and of nurses and horses. On the sculptures were soldiers' surnames who served in WW1. Some people found their last name or family members last names on the sculptures. The view is great and we could see boats, Merewether High School and the race course. We had lunch after our walk, at Dixon Park. It was very windy.

### Support Unit students





## SRC

The SRC is an integral part of the MHS school community, with representatives striving to represent their respective cohorts in decision making processes, planning fundraising and charity events and adding to the positive school atmosphere of MHS.

Recently we held an out of uniform day for Stewart House raising \$1000 to aid students in need of short term respite care. We also sent 10 students to the World Vision Leadership Conference discussing global issues of poverty and injustice and ways to develop awareness surrounding these issues.

We have just held our elections for our new 2015- 2016 SRC and held our SRC Orientation Day last week, with students from Years 7 – 11 participating in leadership building and icebreaker activities and the planning of an exciting year of events for the MHS student body. Students also benefitted from an entertaining and inspirational visit from past student and past SRC member Sally Spicer. Sally was a passionate member of the SRC and can be heard reading the Midday News on 2NURFM.

We would like to thank our outgoing SRC from 2014- 2015 for the continued service to the school with dances, parent teacher interview assistance, Valentine's Day and Santa's Photo Cave events, Blood Bank, BBQ's, fundraiser and charity events. Your kind, generous hearts, enthusiastic and positive spirits, commitment to making Merewether High a fun, productive and positive place for everyone has been appreciated.

Thank you to....

Campbell Starrett  
Connor Westbury  
Tanisha Cragg

Ryan Stoodley  
Jabez Mehanathan  
Isaac Powers

Mitch Robinson  
Paul Battaglia

Ruby Dempsey  
Sophie Griffiths

Holly Yare  
Luka Harrison

Elly Diamandia-Nikolettatos  
Miriam Temperley

Priya Vakil  
Georgina Brindley  
Gavin Hays

Mikaylee Biles  
Kate Miskin

Tim Whelan  
Zephan Thambar

Josiebel Cardona  
Bridget Buckley

Abby Butler  
Brendan Searls

Levi Grondin  
Tom Su

Tom Grimes  
KJ Nithiyanthanan

Jess Grimes  
Jonathon Clifford

Taylor Kelly

And our wonderful chairperson - Abby Gallimore.





**SRC MEMBERS 2015- 2016**

**Year 7**

Nadia Pandoulis  
Emily Donovan-Schultz

Dharam Arora  
Harriet Brindley

Louis Stibbard  
Lucas Wong

**Year 8**

Paul Battaglia  
Jem Cranson  
Michelle Avtarovski

Tanisha Cragg  
Zoe Davis  
Isabella Moretti

Isaac Powers  
Teza Sankoorikal

**Year 9**

Ruby Dempsey  
Charles Lott  
Todd Hodgson

Holly Yare  
Jack Novak

Elly Diamandia-Nikoletatos  
Annabelle Cleary

**Year 10**

Georgina Brindley  
Gavin Hays  
Joshua Starrett

Kate Miskin  
Campbell Moore

Zephan Thambar  
Lauren Moore

**Year 11**

Josiebel Cardona  
Bridget Buckley

Abby Butler  
Harrison Callen

Levi Grondin  
Nicola de Jong

A special congratulations to Bridget Buckley our new SRC Chairperson.

**Mrs Allen - SRC Adviser**

**UPCOMING SRC EVENTS**

**M FACTOR – who has got the  
‘M Factor?’ at MHS?????**

Every two years we hold our M Factor contest culminating in our concert night during Term 3. We will be looking for students from all year groups and with all kinds of talents.... Tap dancing, rap dancing, singing, juggling, comedy, drama, musicians and bands.... So grab some friends or go it solo to start rehearsing and prepare for auditions early term 3 when we will select finalists to go through to the concert night.



## 2015 information for parents and carers

### WHAT IS THE NATIONAL DATA COLLECTION?

The Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability (the national data collection) is an annual collection that counts the number of school students with disability and the level of reasonable educational adjustment they are provided with.

The national data collection will count students who have been identified as receiving an adjustment to address a disability under the *Disability Discrimination Act 1992* (the DDA). The DDA can be accessed from the ComLaw website at [www.comlaw.gov.au](http://www.comlaw.gov.au).

### WHAT IS THE BENEFIT FOR MY CHILD?

The aim of the national data collection is to collect better information about school students with disability in Australia.

This information will help teachers, principals, education authorities and families to better support students with disability to take part in school on the same basis as students without disability.

The national data collection is an opportunity for schools to review their learning and support systems and processes to continually improve education outcomes for their students with disability.

### WHY IS THIS DATA BEING COLLECTED?

All schools across Australia collect information about students with disability. But the type of information currently collected varies between each state and territory and across government, Catholic and independent school sectors.

When implementing the national data collection, every school in Australia will use the same method to collect information. Therefore, a government school in suburban Sydney will collect and report data in the same way as a Catholic school in country Victoria and an independent school in the Northern Territory.

The information provided through the national data collection will enable all Australian governments to better target support and resources to benefit students with disability. The data will help schools to better support students with disability so that they have the same opportunities for a high quality education as students without disability.

### WHAT ARE SCHOOLS REQUIRED TO DO FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITY?

All students are entitled to a quality learning experience at school.

Schools are required to make reasonable adjustments, where needed, to assist students with disability to access and participate in education free from discrimination and on the same basis as other students.

These responsibilities are outlined in the DDA and the Disability Standards for Education 2005 (the Standards). The Standards require educators, students, parents and others (e.g. allied health professionals) to work together so that students with disability can participate in education. The Standards can be accessed via the ComLaw website at [www.comlaw.gov.au](http://www.comlaw.gov.au).

### WHAT IS A REASONABLE ADJUSTMENT?

A reasonable adjustment is a measure or action taken to help a student with disability access and participate in education on the same basis as students without disability. Reasonable adjustments can be made across the whole school setting (e.g. ramps into school buildings), in the classroom (such as adapting class lessons) and at an individual student level (e.g. extra tuition for a student with learning difficulties).

### WHAT INFORMATION WILL BE COLLECTED?

Every year your child's school will collect the following information for each student with a disability:

- ☐ the student's level of education (i.e. primary or secondary)
- ☐ the student's level of adjustment
- ☐ the student's broad type of disability.

The information collected by schools will be provided to all governments to inform policy and programme improvement for students with disability.





### **WHO WILL BE INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL DATA COLLECTION?**

The definition of disability for the national data collection is based on the broad definition under the DDA.

For the purposes of the national data collection, students with learning difficulties such as dyslexia or auditory processing disorder as well as chronic health conditions like epilepsy, diabetes or asthma, that require active monitoring by the school, may be included.

### **WHO WILL COLLECT INFORMATION FOR THE NATIONAL DATA COLLECTION?**

Teachers and school staff will identify the number of students with disability in their school and the level of reasonable adjustment they are provided based on:

- ☐ consultation with parents and carers in the course of determining and providing reasonable adjustments
- ☐ the school team's observations and professional judgements
- ☐ any medical or other professional diagnosis
- ☐ other relevant information.

School principals are responsible for ensuring the information identified about each student is accurate.

### **HOW WILL MY CHILD'S PRIVACY BE PROTECTED?**

Protecting the privacy and confidentiality of all students and their families is essential. Personal details such as student names or other identifying information will not be provided to local or federal education authorities.

Further information about privacy is available from [www.education.gov.au/notices](http://www.education.gov.au/notices).

### **IS THE NATIONAL DATA COLLECTION COMPULSORY?**

All education ministers agreed to full implementation of the national data collection from 2015. This means that all schools must now collect and report information annually on the number of students with disability in their care and the level of adjustment provided to them. Information about the arrangements that may apply to your school in relation to this data collection is available from your child's school principal and the relevant education authority or association of independent schools.

Even if your child's information is not included in the national data collection, the school is still required to provide support to your child with education needs.

### **FURTHER INFORMATION**

Contact your child's school if you have further questions about the Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability and how it may involve your child.

You can also visit [www.education.gov.au/nationally-consistent-collection-data-school-students-disability](http://www.education.gov.au/nationally-consistent-collection-data-school-students-disability).

An e-learning resource about the Disability Standards for Education 2005 is freely available for the use of individuals, families and communities at <http://resource.dse.theeducationinstitute.edu.au/>.



**Congratulations Cameron Allan Year 12 2014 Prestigious Hawker Scholarship Recipient**

Former Speaker of the House of Representatives and Hawker family member Hon David Hawker AO presented five new Charles Hawker Scholars from four states and the NT with their scholarship certificates this morning (27/05) at a ceremony held at St Mark's College in Adelaide.

Since 1990, the Hawker Scholarship Trustees have awarded five million dollars to one hundred and nine young Australians, including a significant number from regional areas. The five successful candidates were awarded their residential Hawker Scholarships from a strong field of 170 applicants.

The new scholars are studying Engineering, Law, Commerce, Arts, International Relations and Economics. The 2015 scholars are from Newcastle, Launceston, Adelaide, Sale and Alice Springs.

The 2015 Charles Hawker Scholarship recipients are Mr Cameron Allan (Merewether High School, Newcastle NSW), Ms Sophie Jones (Scotch Oakburn College, Launceston TAS), Mr Alexander Makarowsky (Nazareth Catholic College, Adelaide SA), Mr Mark McAnulty (Gippsland Grammar School, Sale VIC) and Ms Nina Miers (St Philip's College, Alice Springs NT).

The late Lilius Needham, in memory of her brother, established the Charles Hawker Scholarship Trust. C.A.S. Hawker Scholarships, valued at up to \$60,000.00 over four years, are one of the most generous privately funded scholarships available to all Australian undergraduate and postgraduate students.

There are a number of scholarships awarded each year. The Trustees offer them to capable students of principle and character, who have demonstrated a commitment to the wider community. Selection is based on personal qualities as well as academic ability.

Applications for the 2016 Charles Hawker Scholarships open on December 7<sup>th</sup> 2015 and close on January 8<sup>th</sup> 2016. An application form and further information about C.A.S. Hawker and the scholarship is available from [www.hawkerscholarship.org](http://www.hawkerscholarship.org) or by contacting the secretary to the Trustees on 08 8127 1654.

## P&C/Canteen News

**2015 ASG National Excellence in Teaching Awards:** If you know of a teacher who has inspired your child, please consider taking this opportunity to nominate them for a NEITA! This is the only independent national awards program where school communities (including individual parents, P&Cs and secondary student councils) can publicly recognise and encourage inspirational teachers and principals. Nominations close on **31 July 2015** and must be made online at [www.asg.com.au/nominate](http://www.asg.com.au/nominate).

**Canteen Menu Assessment:** Our menu has recently been assessed according to the Fresh Tastes @ School NSW Healthy School Canteen Strategy which NSW Government schools are required to comply with. The good news is that cold meals prepared by our volunteers are 100% **GREEN**, which shows again the important contribution these parents and friends make to the well-being of our students. Some actions need to be taken to ensure that **GREEN** "fill the menu" items outnumber the **AMBER** "select carefully" items in relation to snacks, hot meals and drinks. This may disappoint some students in the short term as some items disappear from the menu, but rest assured that efforts are being made to source healthier menu items. Anyone interested in contributing to this process should contact the Canteen Convenor at [merewetherhighpandccanteen@gmail.com](mailto:merewetherhighpandccanteen@gmail.com).

**Entertainment Book:** You can order on line, by following this link - <https://www.entertainmentbook.com.au/orderbooks/3466u6>

Digital editions can be downloaded on line, and hard copies of the book can be collected or purchased at the school canteen. If paying online, please print out your receipt and bring in to the canteen when collecting your book.

Please forward this information to family and friends who may be interested in helping us to meet our fundraising goals.





	June
<b>Mon 15/6</b>	Y10 Exams commence ICAS Writing Exam Y12 HSC English Ext 2 - Draft Major work due
<b>Tues 16/6</b>	Y7 PLG - 9:00am - LC ICAS Spelling Exam Yrs 7, 11 & 12 Vaccinations - LC Y10 Exams P&C Meeting - 7:30pm - ILC
<b>Wed 17/6</b>	Y12 HSC English Ext 1 Tutorials - all day Y10 Exams
<b>Thurs 18/6</b>	Y11 Parent Teacher Interviews Y12 Physics & Chemistry ExperimentFest Lizottes Performance by senior students - 2:00pm Y10 Exams conclude
<b>Fri 19/6</b>	Y7 Verbal Combat - Brainstorming Production
<b>Mon 22/6</b>	Y8 Medieval Day - LC Support Unit Disco - MPC
<b>Tues 23/6</b>	Y11 & 12 Wollatuka Insight Day - UNI
<b>Wed 24/6</b>	HSC Physics Task - LC Yrs 9, 10, 11 & 12 Art Excursion Sydney
<b>Thurs 25/6</b>	NAIDOC Assembly Yrs 7, 9 & 11 ROSA Assembly - 11:00am Yrs 8, 10 & 12 ROSA Assembly - 1:30pm
<b>Fri 26/6</b>	Yrs 7, 8 & 9 Reports issued
	Term 3 - July
<b>Mon 13/7</b>	School Development day - No Students
<b>Tues 14/7</b>	Students return Y11 Jindabyne Trip
<b>Wed 15/7</b>	Y11 Jindabyne Trip
<b>Thurs 16/7</b>	Y7 (2016) Tour & Information session - 4:00pm Brain Bee round 2 - Uni Western Sydney - Y10 students Y11 Jindabyne Trip
<b>Fri 17/7</b>	Y11 Jindabyne Trip
<b>Mon 20/7</b>	Y12 HSC English Task
<b>Tues 21/7</b>	Yrs 7 & 9 Parent Teacher Interviews P&C Meeting - 7:30pm - ILC
<b>Wed 22/7</b>	Opportunity Class Placement Test - 8:00am - 1:00pm Y12 Music 2 - Meet the Music
<b>Mon 27/7</b>	Y12 Blackout period commences Y10 Reports issued
<b>Tues 28/7</b>	Y9 Surfing Scientist - LC ICAS English - Yrs 7 - 10



<b>Wed 29/7</b>	Y11 Ext English Presentations Y11 Chemistry - LC
<b>Thurs 30/7</b>	Yrs 8 & 10 Parent Teacher Interviews Australian Maths Competition
<b>Fri 31/7</b>	Yrs 7 & 8 Indigenous Infusion
<b>August</b>	
<b>Mon 3/8</b>	Y10 (2016) Course Information Evening - 4:30pm Y11 (2016) Course Information Evening - 6:00pm Y8 Snake Tails - LC
<b>Tues 4/8</b>	Y8 (2016) Course Information Evening - 4:30pm Y9 (2016) Course Information Evening - 6:00pm Y11 Advanced English task
<b>Thurs 6/8</b>	Yrs 7 & 8 Indigenous Infusion
<b>Mon 10/8</b>	Y12 HSC Trial exams commence
<b>Tues 11/8</b>	Y10 Science - Case of Conspiracy Y12 HSC Trial exams
<b>Wed 12/8</b>	Y12 HSC Trial exams
<b>Thurs 13/8</b>	Y12 HSC Trial exams
<b>Fri 14/8</b>	Y12 HSC Trial exams
<b>Mon 17/8</b>	Y12 HSC Trial exams
<b>Tues 18/8</b>	Y12 HSC Trial exams P&C Meeting - 7:30pm - ILC
<b>Wed 19/8</b>	Y12 HSC Trial exams
<b>Thurs 20/8</b>	Y12 HSC Trial exams
<b>Fri 21/8</b>	POSH Concert - Newcastle Conservatorium Y12 HSC Trial exams conclude
<b>Mon 24/8</b>	Y11 Preliminary exams commence
<b>Tues 25/8</b>	Y11 Preliminary exams
<b>Wed 26/8</b>	Y11 Preliminary exams
<b>Thurs 27/8</b>	Yrs 9 - 12 - Meet the Music Y11 Preliminary exams
<b>Fri 28/8</b>	Y9 Cheap Thrills - Brainstorming Productions Y11 Preliminary exams
<b>Mon 31/8</b>	Y11 Preliminary exams
<b>September</b>	
<b>Tues 1/9</b>	Y7 English Task Y11 Preliminary exams
<b>Wed 2/9</b>	Y7 English Task Y11 Preliminary exams
<b>Thurs 3/9</b>	NSW CHS Athletics - Homebush Y7 English Task Y11 Preliminary exams
<b>Fri 4/9</b>	NSW CHS Athletics - Homebush Y7 English Task Y11 Preliminary exams conclude





<b>Mon 7/9</b>	Y10 Wired - Brainstorming Productions Yrs 8 & 9 - English Assessment
<b>Tues 8/9</b>	Y7 PLG - 9:00am - LC
<b>Thurs 10/9</b>	Y12 (2016) Extension Course Information - 4:30pm
<b>Tues 15/6</b>	P&C Meeting - 7:30pm - ILC
<b>Wed 16/9</b>	Sports Presentation Assembly - 9:00am Y12 reports issued Y12 Formal
<b>Fri 18/9</b>	Y12 Presentation Assembly - 9:30am - MPC Fri 25th - Sun 27th - Book fair - Sports Tour Fundraiser
<b>Term 4 - October</b>	
<b>Tues 6/10</b>	Y12 (2016) Learning Conference
<b>Wed 7/10</b>	Y7 (2017) Information session - 4:00pm
<b>Thurs 8/10</b>	Y7 (2016) Challenge Day
<b>Mon 12/10</b>	<b>HSC</b> exams commences
<b>Tues 13/10</b>	<b>HSC</b> exams
<b>Wed 14/10</b>	<b>HSC</b> exams
<b>Thur 15/10</b>	<b>HSC</b> exams
<b>Fri 16/10</b>	<b>HSC</b> exams
<b>Mon 19/10</b>	<b>HSC</b> exams
<b>Tues 20/10</b>	Y7 PLG - 9:00am - LC <b>HSC</b> exams
<b>Wed 21/10</b>	Y9 Camp <b>HSC</b> exams
<b>Thur 22/10</b>	Y9 Camp <b>HSC</b> exams
<b>Fri 23/10</b>	Y9 Camp <b>HSC</b> exams
<b>Mon 26/10</b>	<b>HSC</b> exams
<b>Tues 27/10</b>	Y8 PLG - 9:00am - LC <b>HSC</b> exams
<b>Wed 28/10</b>	Yrs 7 - 10 Blackout period commences <b>HSC</b> exams
<b>Thurs 29/10</b>	<b>HSC</b> exams
<b>Fri 30/10</b>	<b>HSC</b> exams
<b>November</b>	
<b>Mon 2/11</b>	<b>HSC</b> exams
<b>Tues 3/11</b>	Y9 PLG - 9:00am - LC <b>HSC</b> exams
<b>Wed 4/11</b>	Yrs 7 - 10 exams commence <b>HSC</b> exams conclude
<b>Thurs 5/11</b>	Yrs 9 - 12 Meet the Music Yrs 7 - 10 exams
<b>Fri 6/11</b>	Yrs 7 - 10 exams



<b>Mon 9/11</b>	Yrs 7 - 10 exams
<b>Tues 10/11</b>	Y10 PLG - 9:00am - LC Yrs 7 - 10 exams
<b>Wed 11/11</b>	Y12 Music 2 - Meet the Music Yrs 7 - 10 exams
<b>Thurs 12/11</b>	Red Cross Donormobile Yrs 7 - 10 exams
<b>Fri 13/11</b>	Y7 Vaccinations Yrs 7 - 10 exams conclude
<b>Mon 16/11</b>	Y7 - 10 Semester 2 exams overflow if needed
<b>Tues 17/11</b>	Y7 - 10 Semester 2 exams overflow if needed Y11 (12 - 2016) PLG - 9:00am - LC P&C Meeting - 7:30pm - ILC
<b>Thurs 19/11</b>	Y11 Assembly - 11:00am
<b>Fri 20/11</b>	Prefect's Investiture - 11:00am
<b>Mon 23/11</b>	Support Unit Disco - MPC
<b>December</b>	
<b>Wed 2/12</b>	Y7 (2016) Orientation Day
<b>Fri 11/12</b>	SSSA Blues Presentation
<b>Mon 14/12</b>	Y10 Assembly - 9:00am - MPC Y9 Assembly - 11:00am - MPC
<b>Tues 15/12</b>	Y8 Assembly - 9:00am - MPC Y7 Assembly - 11:00am - MPC
<b>Wed 16/12</b>	Presentation Assembly - 9:30am - MPC
<b>Thurs 17/12</b>	School Development Day - No Students Y12 BBQ - 11:00am
<b>Fri 18/12</b>	School Development Day - No Students



## The Uniform Shop

**0401 725 885**

**[merewetherhigh@alinta.com.au](mailto:merewetherhigh@alinta.com.au)**

Uniform Shop opening hours during school terms are:

**Monday 8.00am – 12.00pm**

**Thursday 1.00pm – 3.30pm**

The uniform shop can be contacted during these hours by phone or email:

**Ph: 0401 725 885**

**[merewetherhigh@alinta.com.au](mailto:merewetherhigh@alinta.com.au)**

Payments can be made direct to Alinta Apparel on the day of purchase. Alinta will take payments in the form of cash, credit card, or debit credit card.

Uniform price list & online shopping available at: **[www.alintaapparel.com.au](http://www.alintaapparel.com.au)**





# Merewether High School Sports Tour 2016

We wish to thank the following businesses for their generous support of the Merewether High Sports Tour through the donation of prizes and vouchers which will assist us in achieving our fundraising goals. Please support our supporters.

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