

## PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

### RELIEVING PRINCIPAL REPORT

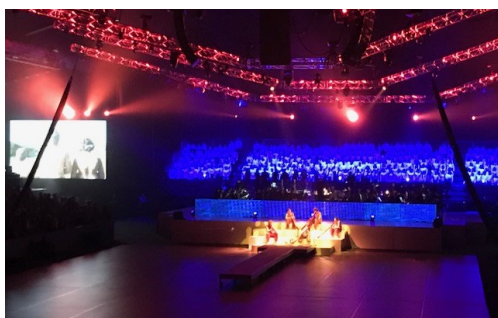
It is with great excitement and also a little trepidation that I write my first report as Relieving Principal.

Firstly, on behalf of the school community I would like to congratulate our Principal, Mr Samuel Ricketts, on his appointment in the role of Principal, School Leadership. This role will see Mr Ricketts working as a member of the Leadership and High Performance team, offering support to other school Principals in relation to their school's validation process and their school planning. It is a wonderful opportunity for Mr Ricketts to pursue further leadership opportunities within Public Education and we wish him all the best. Fortunately for Gorokan High School, the role is only for the remainder of the year and will see Mr Ricketts return to us in 2020.

Due to Mr Rickett's appointment there has been some shuffling in staff roles within our school. As I am relieving in the Principal role, Mr Jon Glasson will be relieving in my position as Deputy Principal and Mr Andrew Sawatske will be relieving in Mr Glasson's role, as Head Teacher, Special Education.

The role of Principal requires me to be the leading learner in the school, as well as a role model to the staff and the community in improving the quality of education for our students. It is therefore a role that I do not undertake lightly and I guarantee that I will do my best for our school community over the remainder of the year. I am very grateful that I have a fantastic staff team and I am honoured to lead them over the next six months.

In speaking of our fantastic staff, I would like to thank them for the opportunities they have afforded our students. This term we have had students perform in Star Struck, in representative sporting teams, experiencing leadership opportunities, competing in academic competitions including most recently the Hunter Environthon, and later this month our Year 7 students will attend school camp.



In our classrooms, Year 7 and Year 9 sat the NAPLAN test in mid-May and in opting to complete the paper test our students weren't disadvantaged by the ongoing computer glitches that schools doing the online test were exposed to. The results will be available in September.

All year groups have been completing formal assessments and teachers are in the process of finalising and evaluating student progress to report on student achievement and to inform their teaching and learning programs for Semester 2. Parent teacher meetings will take place on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> July, Week 2, Term 3.

## PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Year 12 HSC Trial Examinations will be taking place in Weeks 3 and 4 of next term. It is imperative students make valuable use of their time during the weeks ahead and upcoming holiday break in order to prepare adequately for these exams. Some teachers are planning holiday workshops for added academic support, so I urge all students to make use of these wonderful opportunities. Similarly, those students working on practical projects, major works and performances really need to put in the extra effort during this time in order to meet the Term 3 deadlines for these major works. There is also additional support offered through our Supported Senior Study, every Monday and Wednesday afternoons and Mrs Kelly is available to all Year 12 students to support them in the completion of tasks, study plans and just generally getting organised. Good luck Year 12 and their parents and carers during this stressful time.

The school is currently undergoing some major building works and I would like to acknowledge the work of Kim Costa in managing this. I would also like to thank our students and staff who are accommodating the 'construction' disruption. The final project will see the addition of a Life Skills Kitchen, 2 MC Classroom spaces, a disable toilet and shower, a laundry facility and a new English book room. We are hoping that this is completed by late August.

In closing my first report, I want to say I was completely STAR STRUCK. Having attended the Saturday night Star Struck performance I was blown away by the talent, hard work and achievement and extremely proud of what Public Education has to offer our students. Gorokan High students not only represented us, but lead in various aspects of the show, including; in the Acknowledgement of Country, in the performance of the National Anthem, multiple dance performances and again our didgeridoo performers took centre stage and did us proud. I want to sincerely thank all of our students, parents and staff who were involved – your commitment, talent, effort and ultimate achievement simply blew me away.

Shanie Singleton  
(Relieving Principal)



## KEY DATES

<b>TERM 3</b>		
Week 1	July 23rd July 26th	Term 3 Begins all students return CHS Cross Country
Week 2	July 29th—30th July 30th July 31st July 31st	Sydney North Athletics Parent Teacher Night NAIDOC Performance Art Celebration Opportunity Class Placement Test
Week 3	August 5th—9th	Trial HSC Exams
Week 4	August 12th—16th August 12th—14th	Trial HSC Exams Year 11 Snow Trip
Week 5	August 20th August 21st August 23rd	P & C Meeting 6pm White Card Course Year 8 –10 Selective School Test
Week 6	August 26th—28th August 30th	10 ALPS Leadership Camp Pink Day
Week 7	September 3rd September 4th	Year 5 & 6 Numeracy Day CHS Athletics
Week 8	September 13th	Year 10 Central Australia Trip
Week 9	September 16th—20th September 16th—20th September 17th	Year 10 Central Australia Trip Year 11 Exams P & C Meeting 6pm
Week 10	September 23rd—27th September 23rd—27th September 23rd September 23rd September 27th	Year 10 Central Australia Trip Year 11 Exams Muru Bulbi Meeting 5pm Year 7 Immunisations Year 12 Graduation Assembly
<b>Term 4</b>		
Week 1	October 14th	Term 4 Begins all students return



## YEAR 7 TERM 2 2019

As we approach the end of Semester One, GHS's largest cohort of students have settled nicely into high school life. It has been a busy semester full of challenges, opportunities and success.

This term has seen the introduction of the Year 7 Rewards System, which has been highly successful. The system is based on the concept of rewarding students who are consistently doing the right thing, both inside and outside of the classroom. It focusses on promoting positives behaviours that increase engagement and the learning outcomes for our students. Students receive Core Cash for positive behaviours, which then goes into the Core Cash draw. Each week, there are several exciting and cool prizes for students to win. The system has been very successful in promoting GHS's four core values of; Respect, Cooperation, Personal Best and Empowerment. A big congratulations and thanks to HT Mr Moore and the Core Staff for implementing such an amazing system!

During Week 8 of Term 2, 130 students from Year 7 attended the Great Aussie Bush Camp at Tea Gardens, Hawks Nest. The camp serves as a great reward for all the hard work students have put into their studies over the course of the semester. After nearly two terms of organisation and lots of permission notes, it was great to finally to get away. It was an awesome three days in which the kids had the opportunity to participate in a variety of recreational activities such as; the Dual Flying Fox, Giant Swing, and of course the teacher's favorite, Commando. Students had a fantastic time making new friends, getting dirty, and getting to know their teachers in a different light. I'm sure the camp will hold fond memories for all who attended for many years to come.

Check out some of the photos from the camp below!

On top of all this, many students have taken the opportunity to involve themselves in a variety of extra-curricular activities thus far in 2019. We have had students involved in; musicals, dance groups, Didgeridoo Group, and a range of representative sports. In particular, I would like to single out and congratulate Gloria Jovic, who won the Junior Girls Australian Open Clay Court Championships in April. What a fantastic achievement. Well done!

As the semester winds down, I would like to wish everyone a safe and happy mid-year break. Enjoy your time off, refresh, and come back ready for a big Semester Two.

Warm regards,

Samson Underwood

Year 7 Advisor 2019









# YEAR ADVISORS REPORTS





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Mr Samson Underwood  
Year 7 Advisor 2019

## YEAR 8 TERM 2 2019

What a term!

With Semester 1 coming to a close, this term has seen our Year 8 students involved in numerous positive and engaging activities both inside and outside the classroom. Not only have our students completed their Semester 1 assessments but we have also had our students participate in the 2020 Subject Expo Evening (one of the highest turnouts in recent years), over 60 families attend the 2021 Central Australia Parent Information Session, many students represent Gorokan in numerous school sport knockout teams, the annual Gorokan High School Athletics Carnival (well done Hargraves!), several of our students work with local Aboriginal leaders and complete the Ngura program, as well as 6 students having performed in the Star Struck extravaganza. Between all of these incredible extra-curricular opportunities, all of the students in Year 8 have steadily worked their way through their class lessons with diligence and responsibility.

We have also had some fantastic student initiatives from the cohort with some students getting involved and doing their part for the environment with the student lead "Gorokan Beautification Project". This has had our students volunteer to stay after school and come up with ways to protect our local bushlands and waterways with plans to implement a "Green for Marine" day to raise awareness about the impact of waste on local ecosystems, as well as funds for local conservation groups. The project has been entirely student lead and directed and I must complement the students on their leadership and ideas in attempting preserve our precious environment.

With the first half of the 2019 done and dusted, I am hoping that all of our Year 8 students and their families will have an amazing and well deserved break. I would like to wish you all a great holiday as it won't be long before students will be back at school ready for another busy term of learning and preparing for the future.

Mr Pascoe  
Year 8 Advisor 2019

## YEAR 9 TERM 2 2019

Hello Year 9 Parents, Carers and Students,

I would firstly just like to take this time to thank-you all for what has been a fairly positive start to 2019 overall. Many students are showing Gorokan High School's core values of Respect, Cooperation, Personal Best & Empowerment.

The Gold Coast Excursion which is taking place in Term 4 Week 8 has had many students pay their initial deposit. I encourage parents/carers to continue making payments toward the camp, which has a total of \$745.00. A reminder to all students to return the medical and consent forms.

The Central Australia 2020 Excursion is well and truly gaining momentum. This year alone we have had some profitable fundraisers with the Bunnings BBQ and Rotary Club of Northlakes/Toukley Community Raffle. We have another Bunnings BBQ organise for Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> June, which is another opportunity for students to raise funds for the payment of the excursion. I encourage parents/carers to continue making contributes towards the trip and are staying up to date with the original payment plan. There are still some spots available, if this trip does interest you, can you please speak with me ASAP, as it is not too late.

Semester 1 reports should be arriving shortly to your address. Within the reports pack you will receive instructions on how to book Parent/Teacher interviews, which will be taking place in Term 3. These interviews give valuable insight into your child's progression and how they could further develop into the future.

Stay safe, be kind and look out for one another.

Thank you all for your support.

Daniel Jonovski  
Year 9 Advisor 2019



## YEAR 10 TERM 2 2019

Another term is almost over and Year 10 you are to be congratulated for a wonderful first semester! The majority of students have approached their studies with enthusiasm and diligence. As a year group you once again impressed at the athletics and cross country carnivals. Students have also played important roles in many of the representative sporting teams too.

It was a fantastic turn out by year 10 at the subject selection evening. Students approached this with keenness and are taking the interview process very seriously – great to see! If you haven't already please ensure you make arrangements for your interview with Ms Thompson ASAP.

Students have participated in many programs including iTrack, Certificate 1 in Financial Services, Whitecard course, Top Blokes.

A number of students were invited on the Stand Tall excursion that took place on the 12<sup>th</sup> June at Darling Harbour. It was brilliant! Thank you to Ms Holly Buchanan for organising such a worthwhile experience!

Thanks to Mr Ben Glachan the ALP students have been chosen and already started their training by participating in the Year 6 Taster evening and the transition process. These students have been chosen for their many attributes including great attendance, being respectful and upholding the core values of Gorokan High School – well done!

At the end of this term students will have the opportunity to attend the Careers Expo at Avondale College. Please take advantage of all of these great opportunities set for you to aid you in making decisions about your future prospects.

The majority of Year 10 students are doing the right thing each and every day – diligently completing assessment tasks, working hard in class, participating in class activities and sports AND their attendance has been superb! Yet there are quite a few whose attendance is a HUGE concern. What needs to be emphasized is that if their attendance is high in most subjects but they have a poor attendance rate in a particular subject – that is below 75% then the student is at risk of being asked to repeat year 10 as they will not have met NESAs requirements.

Take care over the holiday period and see you all Term 3!

Mrs Kim McLean  
Year 10 Advisor 2019

# YEAR ADVISORS REPORTS

## YEAR 11 TERM 2 2019

Things are still moving along quickly for our Year 11 cohort. They have settled in to senior studies after a tough Term One. Students were quickly tossed into the fire of senior work with a huge amount of work and assessment tasks during Term One. Please keep in mind all of the help that is available to senior students, including the senior study running in the library every Monday and Wednesday afternoon from 2.30-4.00pm, which are supervised by staff members (including afternoon tea), Maths Homework Centre operating every Tuesday from 2.30-3.30pm, Mrs Cheryl Kelly is available in the library any time to assist seniors with completion of tasks and my classroom door (Y2.04) is always open at lunchtimes. Please take advantage of any, or all, of those opportunities to assist in getting work completed and relieve some of the stress.

The Central Australia Trip from 2018 has now officially wrapped up, with a very successful dinner at Wyong Leagues Club on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> June. The evening was enjoyed by over 130 people who were well fed with cheese and anti-pesto platters on arrival, a very nice carvery buffet and cake and slice platters for dessert. Students and parents enjoyed a few brief slide shows before students were presented with hoodies and a photo book of the memories of the trip. The night wrapped up with the lucky door prize draw, where many people left happy with their chocolates and gift cards. Overall, a great night, which could not have been possible without the help and support of those who helped with the preparation and attended the evening. Thank you to Daniel Jonovski, Frank Mesina, Imogen Selby-Smith, Matthew Pascoe, Kim Costa, Carla Drummond, Erin Manu, Lauren Goldie, Nicole Walker, Samson Underwood and Kim McLean.





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Senior jumpers have been ordered and SHOULD be arriving by the end of term, if all goes according to plan with production. Payments for these jumpers (\$76) should be made, if they have not been made yet. Our students will look amazing when they all wear them to school during the chilly start to Term 3.





Finally, our preparations for the Year 11 Snow Trip are well under way and we are beginning to finalise most things. The trip will be taking place at the start of Week 4, Term3. We will be travelling through the night, departing GHS at about 10.30pm Sunday night (11<sup>th</sup> August), skiing or snowboarding on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday and departing the ski fields late afternoon on Wednesday to arrive back at GHS around midnight. Lessons are included, for those who need it (obviously not for the likes of Mr Glachan, Jess Wasley and Hannah Vincent – masters of the slopes) and I'm sure a lot of fun will be had. I personally look forward to seeing Mrs Manu sliding and tumbling down the beginners slope and falling off the T-bar. Those who are attending are looking forward to this trip to add to their experiences at GHS. Can't wait – it should be narly dude!!



Mr Jeff Costa

Year 11 Advisor 2019





**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.**

**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.

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](http://www.dec.nsw.gov.au)

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NSW Department of Education and Communities

# YEAR ADVISORS REPORTS

## YEAR 12 TERM 2 2019

Another eventful term for our Year 12 students who have been working hard to complete their assessment tasks and juggle the pressures of the HSC. I will reiterate again the support networks that are available within the school, the Supported Senior Study on Monday and Wednesday afternoons in the Library, Mrs Kelly in the Senior Study for further guidance and support with assessments and also the plethora of staff who are more than happy to help get you through to the end.

Thanks to the students who helped out at the Athletics carnival BBQ, and to those who also participated and represented your house it was great to see your cooking skills and athleticism. Also thank you to the year 12 students who gave up their time and helped out or performed at the showcase evening for the incoming year 6 students. So good to see our students giving back to their school, it's a credit to you all !



A big thank you to Ms Thompson who has organised the Careers Expo Excursion, the up and coming Defence Force talks, University and Tafe talks. These sessions have been invaluable for our senior students to help them understand the expectations and opportunities that are available to them after school.

Year 12 you only have 14 official weeks left of school, so please keep striving towards the reasons why you stayed and show everyone that you can do it. HSC trials begin week 3, so good luck to each and every one of you. Please remember to look after yourselves and each other during this exciting, chaotic and stressful time. If you need me please come and see me.

Mrs Lauren Goldie

Year 12 Advisor 2019

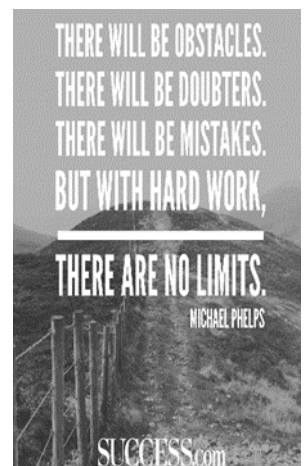
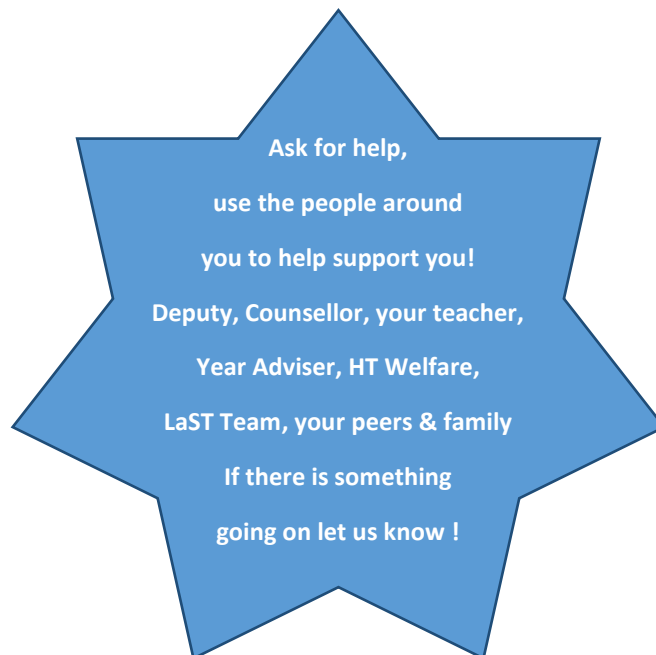


## YEAR 12 IMPORTANT DATES

TERM	DATE	EVENT	WHERE
3	5 <sup>TH</sup> to 16 <sup>TH</sup> August 2019	HSC TRIAL EXAMS	SCHOOL HALL
3	11 <sup>TH</sup> September 2019	YR 12 WELLBEING DAY	SCHOOL HALL, SITE VISIT & LUNCH
3	27 <sup>TH</sup> September 2019	Graduation Ceremony	SCHOOL HALL
4	17 <sup>th</sup> October 2019	HSC Commences	SENIOR CITIZENS HALL TOUKLEY
4	12 <sup>TH</sup> November 2019	HSC FINISHES	SENIOR CITIZENS HALL TOUKLEY
4	16 <sup>th</sup> November 2019	Year 12 formal	Magenta Shores

### THINGS TO REMEMBER:

- Triple SSS – Senior Supported Study- Mondays and Wednesdays available in the library from 2.45-4pm, with 2 teachers.
- Mrs Kelly – Senior support during study periods in the library every day.
- Assessments – Don't leave them to the last minute. Get them in on time to eliminate N awards.







# 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.



## WHATS BEEN HAPPENING IN WELLBEING TERM 2?

Rock'n'water - Year 7  
Lovebites - Year 9 Gravity Youth Centre  
Top Blokes - Year 9 and 10 Boys  
Junior Girls Mentoring Program - Year 7-9  
ITrack - Year 10  
Smith Family Cert 1 in Financial Literacy - Year 10-11  
Year Adviser drop-in sessions -Year 7-12  
Aspiring Leaders Program - Year 10



### Helpful resources for parents:

The following resources will assist you in dealing with a variety of issues that may arise with your children whilst at High School.



**Website link:** <https://www.esafety.gov.au>

The Office of the **eSafety** Commissioner is committed to empowering all Australians to have safer, more positive experiences online. The Office was established in 2015 with a mandate to coordinate and lead the online safety efforts across government, industry and the not-for profit community.



- 1300 22 4636
- Chat online
- Email us
- Online forums

**Website link:** <https://www.beyondblue.org.au/>

**beyondblue** provides information and support to help everyone in Australia achieve their best possible mental health, whatever their age and wherever they live.



**Website link:** <https://bullyingnoway.gov.au/>

**Bullying. No Way!** is your ally in your search for trustworthy and practical information about **bullying. Bullying. No Way!** provides information and ideas for students, parents and teachers and where to get help if you are being bullied.



## DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD

We are currently recruiting for this amazing personal development and civics program. The Duke of Edinburgh Award has previously had fantastic success at Gorokan High School with over 150 participants over recent years.

Students wishing to participate in the Award are currently going through the online registration process, which we hope to have finalised by the end of this term.

Term 3 will see the Award participants completing their training and preparation for their adventurous journeys. These adventurous journeys require the students to be out in the bush for a minimum of 4 days over two separate expeditions. These are run by the school to keep the price down for participants.



Proud to deliver



Mr Ben Dreincourt



## OUTDOOR PURSUITS

Students recently took part in the Outdoor Pursuits Challenge Day. This activity provides the students with the opportunity to complete a number of Campcraft based challenges in a real world setting before their overnight bushwalking experience next term.

The bush environment tested their skills and knowledge in the areas of navigation, shelter, knots and food preparation.





# OUTDOOR EDUCATION

## ARCHERY-TAG

All Outdoor Recreation classes have the opportunity to participate in Archery-Tag on the school oval during week 7. The students really enjoyed the experience and became quite competitive to see which team would be the overall winners of the morning.

Armstrong Archery-Tag provided the bows, padded arrows, protective equipment and refereed the matches on the day. We had participants competing against each other from Year 9 through to Year 11. It was great to see some of the strategies that were used to get the win.





**UNIFORM REQUIREMENTS**

**JUNIOR GIRLS**

**JUNIOR BOYS**

Light blue button through collared shirt, polo shirt or Blue/Red Polo shirt with school logo

Light blue button through collared shirt or polo shirt or Blue/Red Polo shirt with school logo

Navy PLEATED skirt, shorts, long pants or navy track pants

Navy shorts, long pants or navy track pants

Navy cardigan / jacket with GHS LOGO

Navy jumper / jacket with GHS logo.

**NO- STRAIGHT SKIRTS**

**NO- JEANS OR BLACK TIGHTS**

**NO- JEANS**

**ENCLOSED BLACK SHOES LACE UP LEATHER**

**SENIOR GIRLS**

**SENIOR BOYS**

White button through collared shirt or polo shirt.

White button through collared shirt or polo shirt.

Navy checked PLEATED fabric skirt, navy shorts, long navy pants or navy track pants

Navy shorts, long pants or navy track pants

Red cardigan / jacket with GHS LOGO

Red jumper / jacket with GHS logo.

Red jacket / jumper

Red jumper / jacket

**ENCLOSED BLACK SHOES LACE UP LEATHER**

**NOTE :**

**NO DENIM AT ALL**

**BLACK IS NOT A SUBSTITUTE FOR NAVY**

**NO TIGHT LEGGINGS**

**NO JEANS**

**PE UNIFORM**

**BLACK SHORTS** with blue side stripes and **WHITE GHS SHIRT OR BLUE/RED POLO SHIRT**

**UNIFORM SHOP**

This shop operates on Tuesday mornings and Thursdays from 7.30am to 9.00 am

**CURRENT UNIFORM SUPPLIERS**

Gosford Tailoring at The Entrance and GHS premises.

As a very busy Term 2 draws to a close, those students at Gorokan High School studying Mathematics can breathe a well-deserved sigh of relief as all assessment tasks for this term have been completed. For Term 3, students will be completing in-class assessment tasks with a focus on effectively integrating technology with Mathematics in a practical and meaningful way.

Each week, teachers from the Mathematics faculty offer and supervise a free, Mathematics homework centre, run between 2.30pm and 3.30pm each Tuesday from weeks 2 through to 9 inclusive, in room R2.08. Students studying Mathematics at all stage, course and ability levels are invited and encouraged to attend to experience a supported study space offering professional expertise in all things Mathematics.

Additionally, to support the learning of students and help to develop effective, independent study techniques the school has a range of Mathematics Revision and Examination Workbooks available for sale at the front office for \$20. Below is the recommended book for each class and year group.

CLASS	REVISION AND EXAMINATION WORKBOOK
7MATP, 7MATC & 7MATR	Year 7 Extension Revision & Examination Workbook
7MATB, 7MATG, 7MATW, 7MATY & 7MATI	Year 7 Revision & Examination Workbook
8MATP, 8MATC & 8MATR	Year 8 Extension Revision & Examination Workbook
8MATB, 8MATG, 8MATW, 8MATY & 8MATI	Year 8 Revision & Examination Workbook
9MATP, 9MAT1	Year 9 Extension Revision & Examination Workbook
9MAT2, 9MAT3, 9MAT4, 9MAT5 & 9MAT6	Year 9 Revision & Examination Workbook
10MATP & 10MAT1	Year 10 Extension Revision & Examination Workbook
10MAT2, 10MAT3, 10MAT4 & 10MAT5	Year 10 Revision & Examination Workbook

Just like the famous knight from King Arthur's court who designed the round table, the wise and noble ~~Circumference~~ Sir Cumference, the Mathematics faculty is irrationally excited about celebrating 'Pi Day'. Due to the Staff Development Day we will be celebrating Pi Day for 2019 on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> July, the first Friday back in Term 3. Students will be enjoying all things Pi including: Pie-Eating Contest (each one expertly prepared by approximately 3.14 pastry chefs); Pi reciting competition (try not to go on forever, though); Pie making (remembering that even though  $\pi r^2$ , these pies will probably be round); and, pies and soft drink for sale at lunch (keeping in mind not to eat too much or you might find your circumference pays the price!). As you can see there's no arguing that you'll enjoy Pi Day, that conversation would just go around in circles, so come along and join in on the fun!

A very warm welcome is extended to Mr Kieren Bulger, who will be joining the Mathematics faculty until the end of the year.

Finally, farewell and best wishes to Mr Adam 'Adsy B' Blanco, as he leaves Gorokan High School to take up a permanent position with the Mathematics faculty at Henry Kendall High School. Congratulations on your appointment - you will be sorely missed by staff and students alike.

Mrs Karen Bellamy

Head Teacher Mathematics



## WORLD WAR 1 LIVING HISTORY

Shane from World War 1 Living History visited Gorokan High School again for the second year now to present Year 9 students and Year 11 Modern History students with his detailed World War 1 Trench Warfare Display. The display provides students with an opportunity to get hands on with some World War 1 artefacts and be presented with new and detailed information about Australian soldiers fighting in the Trenches during the First World War in a different setting. All students behaved well and enjoyed the day.







## ANZAC Day

On Friday the 3<sup>rd</sup> of May 2019 Gorokan High School held their annual School ANZAC Day ceremonies. Years 12, 10 and 8 attended the first ceremony run by School Principal Mr Ricketts and School Captains Bayley Collins and Chailend Malinowski. The second ceremony was run by School Deputy Principal Mrs Costa and Vice-Captains Mason Craig and Allexis Khoury. In both ceremonies was the attendance of Toukley RSL Representatives Bob Wilson (Toukley RSL President), Milton Porter, Bob Swift and Tom Hobbs. Student behaviour was excellent and we would like to thank all involved for their attendance and participation in these solemn ceremonies.













## MODERN HISTORY AND ANCIENT HISTORY HTA STUDY DAY

On Friday the 7<sup>th</sup> of June students from the Year 12 Modern History and Ancient History classes went down to Sydney University to attend the HTA HSC Study Day at the Carslaw lecture Theatre Complex. Students were engaged by a number of University Lectures and academics on a number of HSC topics to consolidate and develop their own understanding and knowledge. Overall it was a long day but a good opportunity for students as we near HSC exams.





## EXPO NIGHT

On the 21<sup>st</sup> of May Gorokan High School held its annual EXPO Night to assist Year 8 and Year 10 students with their subject selection. Teachers from the HSIE Faculty participated in the night speaking with Students, Parents and Carers to assist students in making an informed decision about HSIE subject selections. The following HSIE subjects were on display: Ancient History, Modern History, Aboriginal Studies, Legal Studies, Geography, Business Studies, Economics and Studies of Religion.



## SHOWCASE NIGHT

On the 22<sup>nd</sup> of May Gorokan High School held its annual Showcase Night as part of its transition program for Year 6 students starting High School in 2020. Teachers from the HSIE Faculty participated in the night speaking with Students, Parents and Carers to assist them in familiarising them with the HSIE Faculty and subjects taught, in conjunction with trying out virtual reality goggles and other forms of technology used in the HSIE Faculty to engage students.





## YEAR 10 GEOGRAPHY FIELD TRIP

On Wednesday the 10th April, Year 10 Geography students participated in a fieldwork excursion to Terrigal Lagoon and Wamberal Beach which fulfilled the mandatory component of the Stage 5 Geography course assisting them in the completion of their Fieldwork Assessment Task. Students enjoyed a fun day collecting and analysing water samples and discussed coastal erosion and the effects this has on beach side properties. We also discussed the roles and responsibilities that individuals and councils have to maintain our wonderful coastal environment. Thank you to Rumbalara Environmental Educational Centre for an informative and interesting experience.





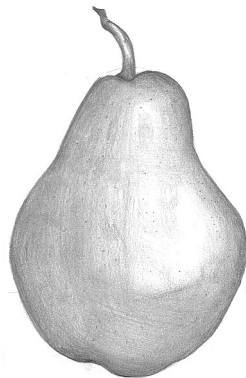
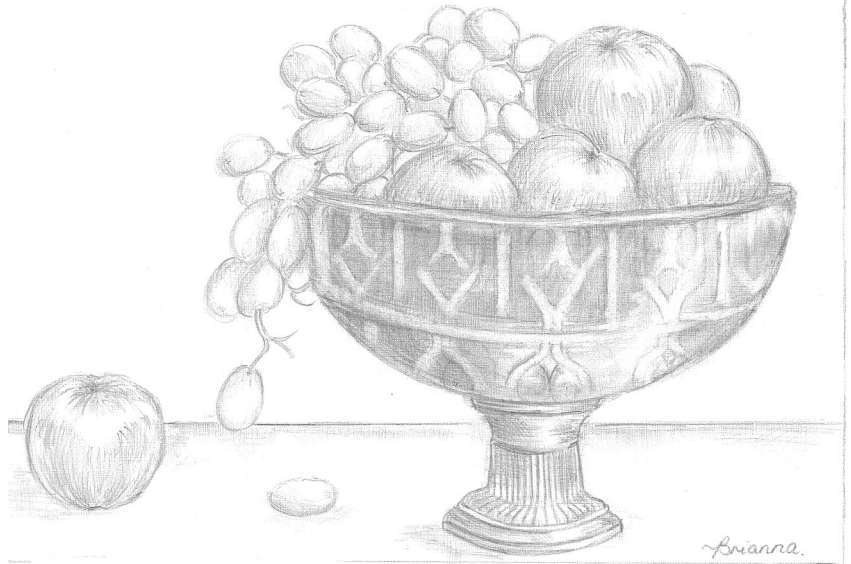
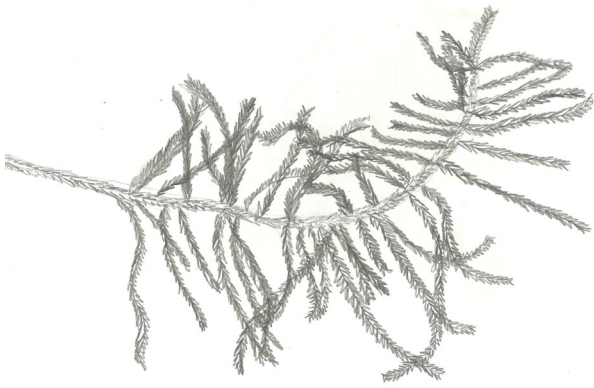


Mr Stephen Carey  
Head Teacher HSIE



## 5Y ART AND DESIGN

This is a 100 hour course available to year 9 and year 10 students. This term we have been looking at still life. Here are some of the wonderful images they have produced. Thank you to Harry, Brianna, Ella, Joella, Gemma, Montana



## CORE FACULTY

It is hard to believe that already we are at the half way mark of 2019- the year is certainly flying by! Year 7 have settled in well at Gorokan High School and are slowly getting into the idea of having several different classes, teachers and of course, the additional assessment tasks that students in a secondary setting are required to complete. Overall, they are meeting the challenges of being in a new setting head on which is pleasing to see.

At the beginning of Term 2 the Core Faculty welcomed Mr Bennett in a permanent appointment as the new LOTE (language) teacher. He comes to us with a wealth of experience in teaching Japanese across several schools on the Central Coast. Welcome Mr Bennett! Of course, when we gain one excellent teacher we lose another. Sadly, we say farewell to Ms Darroch who did an exceptional job as our LOTE teacher for Term 1. We will miss her passion and dedication in inspiring our students to develop a love of languages.

I will talk about the new Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL) reward system that was rolled out at the start of Term 2, but before I do I just wanted to mention some important things:

- It would be great if you could encourage your child to complete **WordFlyers lessons** to improve their literacy outcomes. All students have a login and lessons can be completed at their own pace and in their own time at home. If there are issues with accessing this fantastic program please contact your child's English teacher;
- Please ensure that your child comes to school each day with the **correct equipment** so that they are prepared and can maximise their learning outcomes. It disrupts the flow of lessons and takes valuable time away from learning when teachers are having to provide equipment that students should have in the first place. The equipment needed each day, as a minimum, includes; pen (blue/black and red), lead pencil, ruler, scissors and a glue stick;
- At the beginning of every lesson, as you will be aware, students engage in **silent reading** for 5-10 minutes. They are to read a book or magazine that is of interest to them. It has become apparent that quite a few students are still not bringing reading material to lessons. Whilst reading material is provided by their teacher, it may not be material that will engage your child. Therefore, please ensure that your child is either bringing a book or magazine from home or borrows something from the wonderfully resourced school library.

## PBL REWARD SYSTEM

Term 2 saw the introduction of the new PBL reward system as previously mentioned. The Core Faculty wished to establish a system that recognised the diligent effort and positive behaviour displayed by the vast majority of Year 7 students. The system has been enthusiastically embraced by all staff and students.

The currency for the reward system is 'Core Cash'. The blue notes are worth \$1 and the yellow notes ('Gotchas') are worth \$3. Students can earn Core Cash in a number of ways, for example, showing consistently good manners, improving their work ethic, contributing to class discussions with enthusiasm, performing well in assessment tasks, having the correct equipment in class and being 'caught' doing the right thing e.g. picking up litter etc. There really is no limit to how a student may earn Core Cash; the common theme is, however, that they are doing the right thing and following our core values.



This system rewards students at an individual and class level. Each Monday morning we conduct a prize draw whereby 5 lucky students have their names drawn out of a box to win a fantastic prize ranging from sporting equipment, sweets, stationery, books, toys, canteen vouchers, etc. The prize draws are highly anticipated each week and I know that staff enjoy seeing students rewarded for their fantastic effort and behaviour. At a class level, the class with the highest total of Core Cash wins an end of term reward day that consists of a BBQ lunch, sporting activities and a movie. It is worth noting, however, that some students within the class may be ineligible for the reward day if their behaviour across the term is deemed unacceptable- this will be at the discretion of myself and the Year 7 Deputy Principal.

The chart below will help to explain the new reward system.



## Year 7 Core Faculty Rewards System

### Individual Student Rewards



Trade in **5 x Core Cash** for a small prize  
(e.g. ice-block etc.)



**Five weekly prize draws** at assembly

### Class Rewards

The class with the most Core Cash at the end of the term will earn a:

- Class BBQ; and
- Time off class to play sport, watch a film etc.

SHAKESPEARE

Year 10 English have been studying “The Scottish Play”, Macbeth this term. Here is 10J getting in touch with their dramatic side.





## NEW GREENHOUSE WILL ENHANCE LIFE AT GHS

This semester Year 7, Technology Mandatory (Agriculture and Food Technologies) classes have had the opportunity to use the new green house facilities. It has been a great opportunity for them to have the space to design and develop their projects. Students have been creating a system for growing herbs, vegetable or fruit using a self-watering portable container made from recycled material. In the near future, the students will be developing the area further into garden beds or an agricultural plot.

Each week the students have a plant care and maintenance component which involves planting, watering, fertilising, weeding, pest control and ultimately harvesting. Students then incorporate these plants in practical food preparation lessons. The students develop skills to make informed choices when preparing nutritious foods. They have learnt about the characteristics and properties of food, specifically the herbs and/or vegetables they have grown.

Students have been investigating the seasonality of plants determined by climatic conditions and have collected local weather data by monitoring local conditions. It has been important for students to investigate different farming systems to allow a deeper understanding of commercial agriculture.

It is an exciting time for the TAS Department and the Technology Mandatory students at Gorokan High School as we look forward to a more sustainable world.

Mrs Narelle Sheahan

Head Teacher TAS



## **THERE HAS BEEN PLENTY HAPPENING IN PDHPE TERM 2**

The sporting opportunities at Gorokan High this term were numerous with teams going out every week. Students represented Gorokan with pride and demonstrated excellent sportsmanship through wins and losses. Great determination and teamwork from our students has ensured we have done well in multiple competitions.

7-10 PDHPE classes finished the Athletics Unit early in the term, where students demonstrated some outstanding performances in a variety of running, jumping and throwing events. Students were able to apply their skills at the GHS Athletics Carnival where multiple records were broken. Year 7 are now participating in Gymnastics and are competing in soccer and basketball round robins in integrated sport. Year 9 have thoroughly enjoyed “Relax and Recreation” where students have had the opportunity to play sports that are low intensity; including, Bocce, Finska, Badminton and Frisbee Golf. Year 8 and 10 have started dance and are rapidly increasing in confidence, dancing both with a partner and individually.

Elective PASS and SLR classes have been participating in a variety of hands on learning experiences during Term 2; including, Coaching, Fitness Testing, Campcraft and Defensive Structures of Rugby League. Students directed coaching sessions have been a major theme, as students are able to increase their confidence, communication, organisation and problem solving skills. Some memorable activities include; Wrestling, Archery Tag, Gridiron and Rock Climbing.

Senior PDHPE and CAFS classes are now well into the Preliminary and HSC Courses. All subjects are currently working on the second core unit of work and reflecting on their performance from the first half of the year. Students are reminded that hard work at this time of the year will make things easier come the Trial Exams. Due dates for Assessment Tasks are as follows;

- 11 PDHPE – Core 2 Task – Week 9, Term 2
- 11 CAFS – Individual & Groups –Week 9, Term 2
- 12 CAFS – Groups in Context – Week 10 - Term 2

Mr Sweeney (along with the rest of the PE faculty) have coordinated and organised the indoor soccer competition during recess and lunch time known as “Goro Cup”. This extra-curricular activity allows students to participate in a variety of friendly matches in teams they created. This coincides with the current Women’s Football World Cup being held in France. Students have continued to enjoy the concept, showing plenty of enthusiasm and pride when playing for their respective teams. Participation of the crowd has also been exceptional with up to 150 students sometimes turning up to support the students playing. The behaviour and sportsmanship displayed throughout the tournament is a testament to the fantastic culture this is creating for recess and lunchtime activities. This tournament will continue until the end of term and prizes will be given out to the overall winners; although, the teachers team are currently the red hot favourites. We thank Mr Sweeney for constantly giving up his recess and lunches to run this now prestigious event.

On a side note, please remember that students are required to bring a change of clothes for all practical lessons and be expected to participate as normal. The white GHS Sport Shirts are only to be worn during PE Lessons or on Thursdays. You must wear normal GHS Uniform at all other times. The new red, white and blue sports uniform can be worn throughout the day and during practical lessons.

Lisa Ricketts & Benjamyn Glachan  
Relieving PDHPE Head Teachers



## ENVIRONMENTAL SUPPORT UNIT

The MC2 class has been learning about plastic pollution in the Pacific Ocean. They have discovered the impact humans are having on ecosystems in local lakes, rivers and waterways, all of which connect to the beautiful Pacific Ocean.

We partnered with the Marine Studies class on an excursion with Take 3 For The Sea to collect and track pollution on Bateau Bay Beach. This process contributes to the ongoing research into microplastics and the ways humans can decrease their impact on our Earth.

The kids are super passionate about this cause after a semester of study, and have thought up some really remarkable ideas to help Gorokan High School produce less plastic waste.

The students in MC2 designed a KeepCup for the school which they are still in the process of completing and ordering, as well as putting out recycling bins on event days to collect cans and bottles to recycle.



## SPECIAL EDUCATION

During CAPA this term in the support unit, students have been busy creating wonderful pixel art mosaics. They have enjoyed learning about this art form and each had the opportunity to make a mosaic of their own.



Students from left to right: Cody, Charlotte, Sebastian.

Mr Jon Glasson

Head Teacher Special Education



# HUNTER ENVIROTHON

Preliminary Earth and Environmental Science students put in fantastic effort and placed third at the Hunter Envirothon competition on the 6th June at Newcastle. At Envirothon, various schools from the Central Coast, Newcastle and other areas entered teams of four students to compete in a challenge event in the local area linked to the curriculum areas of Geography and Science along with Environmental Education. Each team was asked to investigate, gather data, interview persons of interest and develop solutions for an environmental challenge in the local area. Finally, the students were asked to present the data they gathered to local representatives and be judged on their work and accomplishments throughout the day. Well done to our Preliminary EES students you are to be congratulated for your amazing effort.

Mr Fearnley





# LIBRARY NEWS

## LIBRARY HOURS

OPEN	CLOSED	OPEN	SSS
8am	For recess each Friday	Lunch each day but <b>CLOSED</b> for the first 10 minutes to allow students to eat.	Monday & Wednesday until 4.15pm

## SSS

The Senior Supported Study is on Mondays and Wednesdays in the school library after school until 4.15pm. Fully supervised by classroom teachers, it is a place where senior students can do quiet study or assessment tasks with access to all the library resources. Refreshments are provided for attendees.

## BORROWING@GHS

JUNIORS may borrow 2 fiction and 2 non-fiction books.

SENIORS may borrow 6 fiction and 6 non-fiction books as well as textbooks.

Most resources can be borrowed for 2 weeks and can be renewed if required.

Senior textbooks must be borrowed through the library. All seniors need to pay a \$50 textbook fee that is fully refundable on return of all textbooks at the end of year 12.

If students have an overdue book or calculator they will not be able to borrow.

## NEW RESOURCES

At GHS we are constantly adding to fiction collection and if your student has something they would like to see in our collection they can let library staff know. We have added some new fiction series, graphic novels as they are still very popular. We have added more picture books to collection to help Year 7 with their picture book task.





## RECHARGE AT THE CHARGBAR

The library has installed a Chargebar for students to recharge their devices. Chargebars are now very popular in the wider community and can be found at universities, cafes and airports.

Students will be able to use the Library Chargebar before school, recess and lunch. We have power points and USB ports. Students will need to bring their own charging cable and stay with their device while it is charging.

## LIBRARY RULES

The library is used by many students each day. We ask you to respect the rights of others while you are in the Library.

- no eating and drinking.
- bags left in the foyer on a hook.
- library computers and equipment need to be treated with respect

## WORLD BOOK ONLINE

GHS subscribes to World Book online. It is very much like the World Book Encyclopaedia except digital. It is user friendly and suitable for all high school age groups.

The World Book Web includes several reference sites that feature:

A vast collection of primary source documents, thousands of editor-selected Web sites, research tools, including a timeline and citation builder, current magazine and newspaper selections.

Students can make individual accounts to save their research into for future use.

GO TO: [www.worldbookonline.com](http://www.worldbookonline.com)

See library staff for LOG-IN and PASSWORDS

## PRINTING

Printing for assignments is available in black and white for 10c and colour for 20c and photocopying is also available for the same prices. Or you can email their work to Ms. Powell at [samantha.powell@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:samantha.powell@det.nsw.edu.au) and she will print it.

## AIR CONDITIONING IN THE LIBRARY

We are thrilled with the new reverse cycle air conditioning. This will make the library more comfortable for our students in winter and summer. Thank you Mr Ricketts



## TERM 2

Term two as always, has been extremely busy.

I have continued to help students with writing Resumes and Cover Letters when they are applying for apprenticeships and casual work.

Students must first complete a hand written draft on the scaffold that I give them and as part of the process, I teach them how to clearly and professionally layout their resume and wording of examples in their letters of applications and how to update them in the future.

## GUEST SPEAKERS

During term 2 we had representatives from Newcastle University, and TAFE NSW, present sessions to students in year 11 and 12. These talks were about researching their post school options and how to apply for courses.

In Term 3, I have arranged for representatives from Central Coast Group Training Company to talk to students who are considering applying for apprenticeships or traineeships. The Defence Force have also been invited to present a session about the forces and the application process. The advice from the people who work in these industries is invaluable.

## SUBJECT SELECTION NIGHT

This was held for year 8 and year 10 students and their parents, on 21st May was once again very well attended. It was a very successful school community function.

Thanks to Ms Jacobs for organising the night and also to all the staff for their efforts in setting up the hall, preparing the displays and information leaflets as well as making themselves available to speak with students and parents on the night.

We also appreciate that representatives from the University of Newcastle, TAFE NSW, State Training, and Central Coast Group Training were able to attend.

Senior Subject Selection Interviews, for year 10 students and their parents, which are conducted by the Careers Adviser in conjunction with our relevant support staff and still in progress. If you haven't booked an interview yet, please do so before the end of term.

Year 8 and 9 students have been given their Elective Subject Forms, to make their choices for next year and these are due to be handed by 28<sup>th</sup> June.



## CENTRAL COAST CAREERS PATHWAYS EXPO

The excursion to Cooranbong on Tuesday 25th June, which will be attended by year 10 and year 12 students.

This is an excellent opportunity to speak to people from all areas of tertiary education and industries, such as health, construction, hair and beauty, just to name a few.

## COURSES BEING OFFERED IN TERMS 3 AND 4

Workplace Health and Safety Whitecard Construction Induction Courses are booked for term 3 and 4. This course is compulsory for all Year 10 students who want to do Work Experience in the Construction Industry.

If you have any questions or would like further information, please contact the school and if I am not available at the time the office staff will pass on your message to me.

Susanne Thompson

Careers Adviser.



## SCHOOL SPORT

As another term comes to an end, we reflect on some outstanding student performances within our school sports program. Whether it was school, Lake Haven or bus sports, the students were extremely positive with their participation. The key values of Gorokan High School: Respect, cooperation and personal best were often demonstrated by our students as they instill the motivation for lifelong participation in physical activity.

The term ran with the winter sports options of Awezone and SLAM in place of Surfing and Beach Activities and the same program will run during Term Three. There have been some student requests for new sports such as golf and bungee fitness, and with adequate student interest, these sports could be up and running.

Sports selections will be reopening at the end of term and it is vital that students log into their student portal to select their sport. Any student who does not select a sport by the end of week one will be randomly placed in a school sport. Students cannot change their sport once they have picked so please be mindful of this when you make your choices. Speak to your friends prior to selecting as this is not grounds for moving into another sport.

It is extremely important that students wear their sports uniform during sport time. Students are able to wear their PE uniform for the entirety of the day each and every Thursday.

We hope you have another great term of sport and as always, the PE staff are more than happy to take on any suggestions for new sports or assist you in any way possible.

Mr. Sharpe



## GHS OWN TENNIS SUPERSTAR

Gloria Jovic of year 7 has been selected in the Australian U/13 Tennis team to compete in Germany from the 16th of July until 13th of August. This is an outstanding effort and all the staff and students of Gorokan are extremely proud of her success so far. We wish her all the best in the tournament.



## GIFTED AND TALENTED STUDENTS UNIT

The **selective class entry** for years 8 to 10 closed the 26<sup>th</sup> of July. We are having numerous applicants coming from our own school and from other schools. Those students will sit a **test on the 23<sup>rd</sup> August** at the school library. Only a few positions are vacant in our selective classes. Therefore, the competition for placement will be rigorous. The outcomes for entry in the selective class will be sent by mail at the beginning of Term 4. Application forms and procedures are available in our school webpage or the front office.

The results for the **selective entry for Year 7 2020** is under assessment by the selective unit and in consultation with the respective selective schools. Results are going to be posted next Term. Parents has to understand that Gorokan High school does not have any say in this process, the Selective Unit mandate the process.

The **UNSW REACH competitions (former ICAS)** Digital Technologies, Science and Writing have been completed this semester and results are going to be delivered next term. The tests are challenging and all the participants had applied a consistent effort to achieve their best.

**Extra-curricular activities** for our selective classes are organised by the different faculties, check our school Facebook page for posts and photos of our current activities.

The reports from the first semester have shown that the majority of the students have achieved excellent results and this is a reflection of their consistent effort and diligence in class. For those students who need extra help with task management and study skills, an **improvement program** has been developed. Students are recommended by their teachers to participate in this program and parents will be informed by mail. The improvement program is not a discipline program. It is a teaching and learning program to increase and develop study skills, time and task management of students who needs to catch up with the high standards expected in the selective class.

The **GHS STEM Academy** is well and truly on his way. Students from year 7 and 8 mentored by a group of year 9 are learning new skills in science, mathematics, engineering and technology. A group of dedicated teachers are overseen the STEM Academy and we are very grateful for volunteering for this challenge. The STEM Academy is a project together with Sydney University.

## SRC NEWS

Members of the SRC have attended meetings this term and are preparing for some upcoming events next term. We participated in celebrations for Harmony Day, which is about inclusiveness, respect and belonging for all Australians, regardless of cultural or linguistic background. Our SRC students hosted an afternoon filled with foods from various cultures, embracing all the deliciousness that has become a part of our country.



Our school captains attended the dawn service at Toukley RSL for Anzac Day, with other SRC students marching to represent our school later in the day.



We are accepting applications for new members, especially from Year 7. Please see Mrs Wallwork in the Science staffroom for an application form.



## SCIENCE TERM 2, 2019

Term 2 comes to a close, we in Science reflect on how much can be packed into the first half of the school year!

There has been numerous excursions supporting and extending the learning opportunities of our students. Out of the classroom and exploring the world around them lets our students see in practice the skills and knowledge that we discuss in the classroom. On excursions it is so pleasing to report that our students are always respectful and we received compliments about their behaviour at each venue.

Speaking of the class room, we have brought more of the world to the students in the Marine Studies class. More tanks, more fish and more experiences! Watching Mr Watson transferring baby fish to the “Nursery Tank” (so the baby fish can grow in the safety of not being eaten) shows we are moving along and breeding our own fish. They must be happy. Mr Fearnley and Mr Watson have worked so hard developing Marine Studies in our school. Attending workshops on weekends when necessary, taking students on numerous excursions and making learning fun. Any wonder so many students are choosing and enjoying this subject. The “Take 3 for the Sea” initiative is also making not only our Marine Studies students, but all our students think about their environment and where rubbish goes.

Our first year 11 Marine Studies class is working well and enjoying their studies.

Speaking of firsts, our first Investigating Science class is now in Year 12 and students are progressing well. They are telling us that Investigating Science is their favourite subject, not only because it is interesting, but because the skills learnt in this subject is helping them in their other subjects! Great feedback indeed and exactly doing what this subject was designed to do! Mrs Wallwork, their teacher deserves a big thank you for a job well done. It is never easy teaching, but new subjects take a lot of work to deliver effectively.

Our year 10 students got to experience Physics in action with an excursion to Luna Park. For some this was their first visit to Luna Park and the smiles on the faces told the story! Even though it was a cold day the students experienced the ups, downs, twists and turns that come from the forces that make the rides so much fun.



Year 12 Biology went to the University of New South Wales to the Museum of Human Diseases for a Depth study with Mr Penfold and Dr Rudmann. The presenters were very impressed by our students. The comment was... “these kids are really switched on!” A brilliant compliment to them.



Also Mr leClercq and Mr Fearnley took the Chemistry students to the water treatment works at Penrith for some hands on practical experiences. It was an informative and enjoyable day.

Year 8 had a tele-conference with NASA about Space Exploration. We had to submit questions by typing them into the conference interface, other Australian schools were online as well - and the questions posed by our students were greeted with genuine interest from the presenter. The students were again excellent ambassadors for our School. Thanks to Mr Mesina and Mrs Wallwork for organising this "Inursion".



The STEM academy group have been working together for over a year. We went to Williamtown RAAF base and were lucky enough to see the Air Force in full swing. The US Air Force aggressor squadron up against our best! Australia won on the day (Mr Mesina spoke to one of the US pilots). Seeing the planes up close in the "Fighter World" museum was fantastic. Hearing and seeing them in action, even better. The big transport plane, the C-17 was a particular highlight.

The Science and Engineering Challenge is next!

The EXPO night was a great success and you can see the genuine interest our students and their families have for Science. It was an enjoyable evening. Just a reminder if you have any questions about Science at Gorokan High or in general, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Behind the scenes Mrs Prest, our wonderful Lab Coordinator always looks after us and lets the "learning happen". A massive thank you to Mrs Prest.

Thanks again to the Science staff for their tremendous effort this semester.

It has been a busy two terms and we look forward to bringing "Our World" to our students.

Have an enjoyable and safe holiday. Looking forward to the new semester ahead.



Frank Mesina and the Science faculty.