



CHESONEWS



CHESTER HILL HIGH SCHOOL
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Term 4 Issue 2

Principal's Report

This is the last edition of Cheson News for 2014 and it is an opportunity to look back on a very successful year across all facets of our school's life.

Outstanding Academic Results

We started the year with the great news that over 60% of our ATAR pathway HSC students were made university offers which maintained the high standard of the previous two years. We expect similar results for our 2014 cohort. Some of the pleasing factors in these results were the considerable reduction in the lower band results and the fact that we were at state average for the majority of our subjects. This last statistic is very meritorious because when we receive our students in Year 7, we know that they are well below the expected state average. This is no reflection on the work of our Primary partner schools who do a fantastic job but it is a reflection of the fact that we are classified as a low SES school. This classification is based on our parental community's formal educational attainments and employment status which are not as high as other areas of NSW. This means that our students 'catch-up' to and in many cases exceed, the performance of other

students across NSW during their time at CHHS. In educational terms, this is called 'value-adding', where our students gain better results than can be statistically expected. As a school, we are very proud of our sustained achievements in this important educational indicator.

Secondly, the results from the 2014 NAPLAN and the Improving Literacy and Numeracy National Partnership (ILNNP) were also outstanding. In Yr. 9 NAPLAN writing results, we surpassed the DEC average. Our ILNNP results for our Yr. 7&8 students showed substantial improvement during the year. All these fine results have brought CHHS to the attention of the DEC. On Friday 5th December, a DEC research team came to the school to explore the reasons for our 'value-adding' successes so they can share this information with other schools.

Community Involvement

On Monday 7th November, we had a joint meeting of all our parent groups where we explained and explored our 2015-17 School Plan. Currently we have numerous parent groups including a Community Forum plus Vietnamese, Arabic-speaking, Aboriginal, Karen and Pacifica parent meetings. I would like to thank all our hard working

Community Liaison Officers (CLOs) for involving our community in the life of the school. The joint meeting of parent groups enthusiastically endorsed our plan.

We have also developed very strong ties with our community of schools throughout 2014. We hold regular meetings ably managed by our HT Student Engagement, **Ms Lucy Watts**. This year we had a very successful joint school development day with five of our Primary Partner schools and we plan to hold another one next year. We plan to provide opportunities for our teachers to work with their primary colleagues through reciprocal classroom observations.

2014 also saw us continue our fruitful partnership with Optus. We currently have seven programs running with them which provide rich, extra-curricular opportunities for our students. We are very grateful for their support and encouragement and I would like particularly to thank **Mr Andrew Buay** for his efforts on our behalf.

New School Plan

For our new plan, we have proposed that there will be four main focus areas,

- 1 - Literacy, Numeracy and Assessment;
- 2 - EAL/D pedagogy across the HS & IEC;
- 3 - Integrating technology into the curriculum
- 4 - Sustainable Futures.

In the first focus area, oversighted by **Ms Christina Mateus**, we will continue to invest much of our equity monies into this vital area. We are going to employ our current Maths teacher, **Ms Lorein Nasser** as our Numeracy teacher and keep **Ms Angela Smith** as our Literacy teacher. We will continue to develop our assessment tasks so that they meet the needs of our students. In the second focus area, managed by **Ms Mee Lin Liao**, we will be concentrating on professional learning (PL) opportunities for teachers especially as we continually strive to

improve our classroom practices. The PL will be focusing on HS teachers gaining experience in the IEC. Additionally we will continue to provide IEC students with some HS curriculum experience. In the third area, oversighted by **Mr Perry Rosewall**, we will continue to expand our students' access to the latest technology by increasing our hardware capacity. We will also deploy **Mr David Criniti** and **Mr Michael Barnes** to look after our website and have **Mr John De Martin**, **Ms Kasia Dolleiser** and **Mr Michael Yeung** maintain our complex ICT infrastructure. The fourth area, managed by **Mr Mark Milne**, is an initiative where we want to address the concept of sustainable futures. This will involve developing new curriculum as well as reducing our ecological footprint through water and energy saving measures.

International Visits

This year we hosted a major Professional Learning Program for a group of 31 Chinese teachers from the province of Ningbo. This was a NSW first, with the teachers completing an eight week stay at CHHS. Our school was chosen because of our staff expertise in contemporary pedagogy, especially in the EAL/D field. It was a great honour to share our school with them for this time and the visit has given CHHS an international reputation.

Inter-IEC Oratory Showcase

For the first time in NSW IEC history, all IECs were represented at the oratory showcase held in the school hall on the 19th November. In front of an audience of nearly 700 people, 25 young people dazzled everyone present with their fine display of oratory skills. None of these young people had been in Australia for more than nine months. This was yet another day in the life of CHHS of which we can be very proud. It would not have taken place if not for the

visionary leadership of **Ms Mee Lin Liau and the loyal support given to her by all the IEC staff.** The day was simply inspirational and enhanced the already great reputation of our amazing IEC.

Staff Professional Learning

Over the past year, our staff have engaged in many forms of Professional Learning (PL) that have enhanced their capacity to deliver quality education to our students. For our many early career teachers, there has been a comprehensive induction program culminating in a very successful Beginning Teacher conference. I would like to thank **Mr Andrew Viller** for his leadership in this regard. There was also an EAL/D conference which showcased our research into EALD pedagogy. Five of our teachers also completed the *Reading to Learn* program which will add to our expertise in literacy education. All faculties had a PL project in the ILNNP which involved teacher observations and a focus on literacy. By the end of 2014, 95% of all CHHS teachers had completed the *Teaching English Language Learners (TELL)* program and over 60 had completed the *Teaching Refugees in My Classroom* PL course. There have been numerous Australian Curriculum courses attended by our staff and our executive have had leadership training in a number of key reform areas. I would like to thank our dedicated staff for devoting their time to their own learning.

Facilities and Grounds

Over the past year we have made substantial investments in both increased facilities and ground improvements. In 2014 we established three new facilities, the Art Shed, the Performance space and the Learning centre. These represent a substantial investment in both our curriculum and capacity to help students. We have created outdoor learning

spaces and erected a new electronic school sign. We have removed about fifty old, diseased or dangerous trees but have planted around 150 trees as replacements. We have established or renovated ten new native plant gardens including a bush tucker garden with thousands of plants added to enhance our wonderful school environment. In the coming months we will create more covered walkways, create an Industrial Arts outdoor space, fertilise and top dress the oval and renovate the quadrangle.

We were happy to see a picture of Chester Hill's Flag Day Ceremony in an article about Sydney on the Daily Telegraph's online site, "NewsLocal". If you missed it you can catch it here: www.chesourl.com/telegraph

In conclusion, I wish to sincerely thank all teachers and SAS staff for their mighty efforts throughout the year. You have made a significant difference to the lives of our students. I would also like to wish everyone a happy and safe Christmas, New Year and holiday period. We look forward to working with you again next year.

Mr B. Miller



Sport, Fitness and Recreation – Sport Coaching.

Each Thursday afternoon the Year 11 Sport Coaching class have been coaching at Chester Hill Public School. Students have

The primary school students really enjoy being coached by the high school students. Each week the students are well dressed and punctual. The primary school teachers have regularly commented on the improvement students have been making over the term.



been working in groups and coaching to a lesson plan. Each Monday in class they work closely with Mrs Grant to produce a coaching plan which suits the Year 1 and 2 students. Ensuring the plans are age appropriate and at the correct movement skill level. They must organise an appropriate warm up, 2 drills and a modified game for each week. They coach on a two week cycle and rotate sports and assistants. The students are showing an improvement in their maturity and understanding of the basic fundamentals of coaching.

This is called work simulation and under the guidance of PE staff they coach the enthusiastic primary students to record hours for qualification as Sport Coaches in the VET course. Next year students will be encouraged to be involved in organising and assisting at primary school carnivals and sport programs. Students also must organise work placement whereby they go out into the work place. They must complete 35 hours of work placement by the end of Year 12 in order to be deemed competent in the course and to receive a HSC. Congratulations to the Yr 11 SFR class keep up the good work.

Mrs Lykouras

PEER SUPPORT 2014

Peer Support Training took place on the 13th and 14th of November. We had 41 super keen and amazing Year 10 students who volunteered to take part in the training program.

This program aims to teach Year 10s how to become leaders and help our new Year 7s in 2015 to successfully transition into high school.

The students worked in small groups with teachers leading the sessions on day 1. On day 2 students led the sessions showcasing to the teachers their wonderful leadership and communication skills.

The two days were filled with fun activities, lots of stories (tears in my group), new friendships being built, food, food, food and more food being eaten.

A big thank you to: **Ms Baker**, **Mr Htoo** and **Ms Ing**, the teachers who helped out.

And as you can see from the wonderful photos we have some great wedding fashion designers and models in our Year 10 group! Well Done!!! Year 10

Mrs Watts



Library News

2014 has been a great year for increased student borrowing of fiction books. An ever increasing group of students are finding reading books an enjoyable recreational activity. It is wonderful to see students ask and give advice on what book is a good read. A huge thanks to **Ms Sullivan** who has a 'good read' list of books posted at the library borrowing counter. The books she recommends are always on loan and we have had to buy extra copies for our school library.

The following students have been rewarded for their love of reading by being allowed to choose thousands of dollars, worth of books from the book van. **Kristine Tran** and **Anh-Thu Chung** in Year 11, **Briannan Tallon** in Year 10 and **Julie Huynh, Dalena Nguyen** and **Danrou Chen** in Year 7. I hope to reward more students in 2015 by allowing them the same opportunity. Students recommending books to other students, has been a great way to motivate students to read as well as encouraging them to read other genres (fantasy, mystery, horror etc.).

Miss Sullivan recommends:

'Masquerade' - Kylie Fornasier
 'Daughter of Smoke and Bone' - Laini Taylor
 'A Monster Calls' - Patrick Ness
 'Finnikin of the Rock' - Melina Marchetta
 'Every Day' - David Levithan
 'Eleanor & Park' - Rainbow Rowell
 'Half bad' - Sally Green
 'Wonder' - R.J. Palacio
 'Tomorrow When the War Began' - John Marsden



Year 10 Optus Careers Choice Day 23/10/14

We participated in the Careers Choice Day hosted by Optus. There were many activities throughout the day, one of which included the call centre. We were able to listen in on conversations from customers regarding general issues. Overall, it was an interesting experience as we were fortunate enough to gain an insight into the corporate industry.
- **Jocelyn and Shannon Huang 10V**



The excursion to Optus was entertaining and quite informative. I thoroughly enjoyed taking in the Optus employees' advice on future careers while at the creative services centre. They provided a wonderful experience (and a great selection of food for lunch).
- **Minh Nguyen 10V**



CHESTER HILL HIGH SCHOOL UNIFORM 2015

Revised list as at 1.12.2014

School Uniform is compulsory. School Parent Committees, the School Community Forum and staff all believe that school uniform enhances the school's image with the community and gives our students a sense of **belonging** and **pride**. All uniform is to be worn as designed, and not altered in any way.

Only the uniform items listed below are acceptable.

GIRLS

- * White (plain) socks or black or beige pantyhose
- * **BLACK** shoes (black leather lace-up school shoes **ONLY**) Heels no higher than 6cm. **NO** platform shoes.
- * Tartan (Maroon/Grey/Black) skirt pleated (2 front and 2 back)
- * Custom polo/button shirt with emblem or white shirt (with collar, sleeves and buttons)
- * Long sleeve plain white shirt may be worn under polo/button shirt
- * Mid-grey tailored pants/slacks (2 styles – as per uniform shop) or * Mid-grey long skirt
- * Maroon sloppy joe/Maroon school jumper
- * School jacket
- * Head scarf (**white only**)
- * Maroon/White Official Chesos neck scarf OR a plain black /plain white scarf **ONLY** (*may be worn in winter*)

BOYS

- * White (plain) socks
- * **BLACK** shoes (black leather lace-up school shoes **ONLY**) Heels no higher than 6cm.
- * Custom polo/button shirt with emblem or white shirt (with collar, sleeves and buttons)
- * Long sleeve plain white shirt may be worn under polo /button shirt
- * Mid-grey school trousers-2 styles elasticised/beltloop
- * Mid-grey school shorts
- * Maroon sloppy joe/maroon school jumper
- * School jacket
- * Maroon/White Official Chesos neck scarf OR a plain black/ plain white scarf **ONLY** (*may be worn in winter*)

PHYSICAL EDUCATION & SPORT UNIFORM

GIRLS

- * Maroon sports shorts
- * CHHS PE/Sport shirt (Compulsory for all years)
- * Socks and sport shoes (lace-up only NO canvas)
- * School tracksuit pants
- * School cap or hat
- * Head scarf - white OR (maroon may be worn with full sport uniform on **Tuesdays only**)

BOYS

- * Maroon sports shorts
- * CHHS PE /Sport shirt (Compulsory for all years)
- * Socks and sport shoes (lace-up only NO canvas)
- * School tracksuit pants
- * School cap or hat

NOTE: On Tuesdays Years 8–12 may wear **Full School Sports Uniform** as listed above.
(part sport and part school uniform - **is not acceptable**)

Year 7 may wear the School Tracksuit/School Maroon Sports Shorts on Special Sport/Gala Days.

Additional Information:-

1. For all **excursions or out of school activities**, full school uniform must be worn. Variations to this will be noted on permission notes sent home.
 2. **Footwear - Work, Health & Safety regulations require the following:-**
School - **Black leather fully enclosed lace-up shoes must be worn.**
Sport/PD/H/PE - **lace-up sport shoes only** that provide adequate support and grip. (**No canvas shoes**)
 3. **Make-up and Jewellery -**
 - No excessive make-up.
 - No excessive jewellery.
 - Earrings may be only studs or small sleepers. No necklaces that hang over uniform shirt (Work, Health & Safety regulation).
- If students have a reason for not being able to wear a uniform then they must bring a note signed by their parents before school to the Head Teacher Administration (D Block).**

I am a safe, respectful learner who belongs at Chesos

Reading For Understanding

Since 2013, all students in Year 7 and 8 have participated in the **CARS & STARS** program. This program focuses on assessing students for and explicitly teaching the reading strategies needed for texts in all subject areas.

The **CARS** (Comprehensive Assessment of Reading Strategies) enables us to assess exactly where students' needs in reading are, and the **STARS** (Strategies To Achieve Reading Success) component, focuses on demonstrating how to use those strategies on a variety of texts in class.

It is encouraging to announce that the latest set of online assessments revealed students who began the program in 2013 have shown dramatic improvements across the board, with around 75% of students now demonstrating comprehension skills 'at' or 'above' the levels required for their current stage (up from 38%). We also noticed a drop in the percentage of students in 'below' and 'well below' levels of performance from 50% to 25%.

Students have worked hard throughout the year focusing on reading strategies in class and have demonstrated just how much this work has paid off.

Well done to all students involved.

Mrs A. Smith



Drawing Conclusions and Making Inferences

- ☐ Think about the details in a reading passage.
- ☐ Think about what you know from your own life.
- ☐ Use the detail clues and what you already know to draw a conclusion or make an inference about something not directly stated in the passage.



SRC Fundraising

The SRC have been very busy fundraising for charities and for the school this term. In the last couple of weeks, Cheso staff and students have helped raise \$841 during Breast Cancer Awareness month, \$640 for CanTeen and \$252 for Movember for men's health. The SRC also held a Krispy Kreme day to raise funds for the school. Over \$400 will go towards the SRC's projects to improve the school based on suggestions made from the student body. Over the next two weeks, there will be Candy Cane gifts available for students to purchase for friends as an additional fundraiser. It has been a pleasure to see the generosity from the Cheso family.

CHHS SRC





STRENGTH IN UNITY, EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION

Supporting Learning at Home

There has been research that supports the claim that learning done outside the classroom can reinforce what is taught at school. Not only does the learning improve the student's academic work, which involves literacy, reading and writing skills, but also important organisation and study skills will be established.

We would like to suggest using a checklist.

Checklists are a valuable way for students to keep track of what they have completed and what still needs to be completed.

This method is shown to give a satisfying feeling when the child can see from the list how much they have accomplished.

CHECKLIST

- ☐ Check your child has their Diary in which should be written their Homework/ Assessments etc.
- ☐ Check if they have their timetable and are prepared for the day.
- ☐ Check to see if they have all their books for each subject for the day.
- ☐ Check to see if the teacher has written any comments in the diary to follow up.
- ☐ Check to see if they have all stationery required for their classes i.e. pens, pencils, calculator, ruler, compass, eraser, scissors, glue. etc.
- ☐ Have they completed their homework?
- ☐ Have they read for 20 to 30 minutes per night.
- ☐ Practice Mathletics (www.mathletics.com.au) for 20-30 minutes per night. Applies to Years 7 - 10.
- ☐ Speak with your child to see if they have any learning concerns.

H. Helou

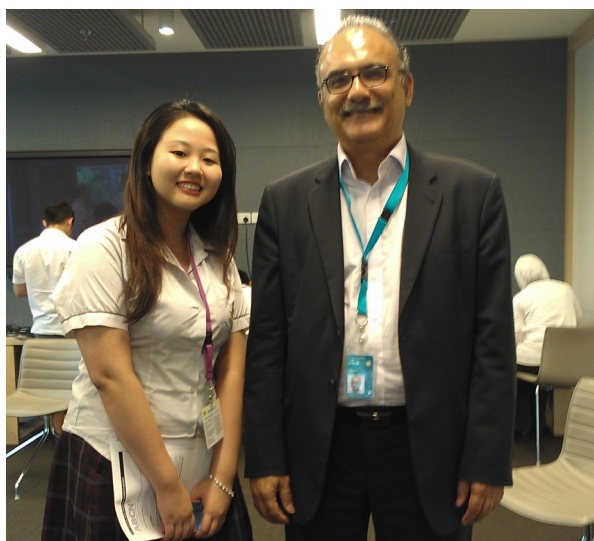




Interview Skills Workshop

Wednesday 26th November

Most of Year 11 Bridging and select Year 10 students attended a wonderful event organised by ABCN and Optus. It was held at Optus, Macquarie Park, we had a tour of the campus and students learnt a lot about standing with confidence and how to present oneself at a job interview. The mentors from Optus were terrific, they were friendly and offered a lot of tips and practice when doing the mock interviews. It was a very informative and engaging day. We thank ABCN and Optus for the day.





Year 7 Gala Day

The students in Year 7 are given a recreational day twice a year, where they play a variety of sports and are treated to a sumptuous feast (well, a sausage sizzle). Even though the temperature reached 40°C a great day was had by all.

Next on their agenda is Water Awareness which will help them to cool down.



Japanese Film Festival Excursion

On the 14th of November 2014, Japanese student in Year 9 and 11 were privileged to attend the Japanese film festival at Parramatta Westfield cinemas. We met Mr Yoshino and Mrs Byrne at school, at 8:20 am and travelled by bus to Parramatta Westfield. We arrived early, therefore we decided to shop around, we went to a Japanese shop called DAISO. Student was excited to purchase Japanese stationary, drinks, food, candies, and other interesting items. We returned just in time to watch the movie "Time Trip App".

The movie was set in the Edo period and it was based on historical events which are significant to the Japanese people. Student and teachers had the opportunity to participate in a quiz that tests their knowledge on Japanese history and culture. Prizes were given out to those who answered correctly, well done to **Mrs Byrne, Kelvin and Kelly**.

After the movie we all headed to a Japanese restaurant, where we ate O Bento (lunch boxes), Edamame and drank Japanese green tea. Although it was an extremely hot day, we had a marvellous experience, broadening our knowledge of Japanese culture.

A huge thank you to Mrs Byrne for this amazing educational opportunity, we look forward for another awesome experience like this.

Year 9 Japanese Class



Mrs Langmack looking very comfortable in her new office.



We have a new fish tank in D block , but where are the fish?



Double Trouble !

Mad Hatter's Tea Party

The annual Cheso Year 10 Mad Hatter's Tea Party was another feast of fantastic, whimsical and imaginative splendour. Students created amazing hats and teapots, dressed up and then feasted on a magical spread of cupcakes and other party fare.

Winners and runners up in each category were:

Best Make-up: Ghenwa Mokdad

Best Costume: Ashleigh Toro

Best Costume Runner-Up: Mary Pordel

Best Hat and Costume Combination: Sally Tran

Best Characters: Sharon To and Elise Le

Best Food: Sharon To and Elise Le.

Best Hat Runners-Up: Mary Pordel, Ghenwa Mokdad, Elise Le, Rhiannon Minett, Alana Johnston, Tharaway Tharaway, Ngai Ngai Lahtaw, Tabarak Abdellatif.

Best Hat Winner: Monique de Freitas.

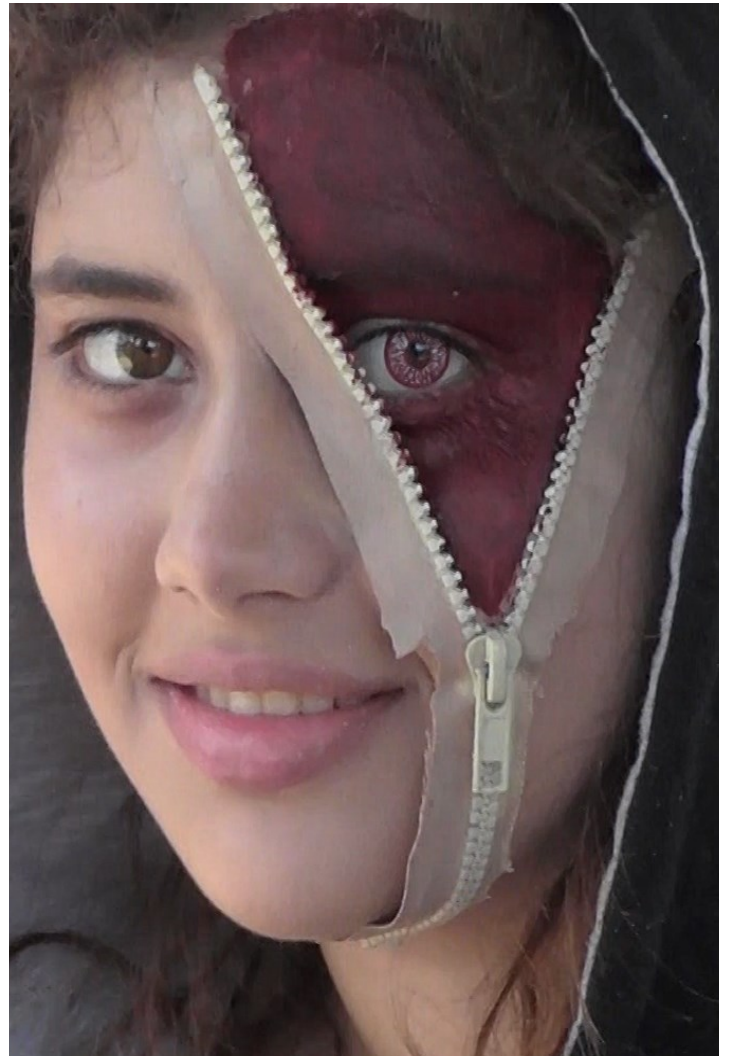


The Tea Party is the culmination of the unit of work entitled "The World May be Fantastic."

Visual Arts Dept.



Mad Hatter's Tea Party (continued)





New Sports Uniform

There have been changes made to the boys and girls sports uniform as a result of consultation with students and the uniform committee.

The new sports uniform is now available at the Uniform Shop.



SCHOOL UNIFORM COSTS

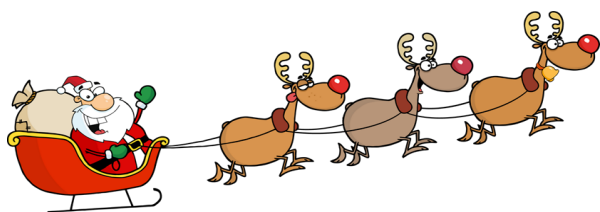
ITEM	PRICE
Boys	
Trousers - Elastic Waist	\$32.00
Shorts - Elastic Waist	\$25.00
S/S Button Shirt	\$25.00
Girls	
Tartan Skirt	\$47.00
Grey Slacks - Bootleg	\$38.00
S/S Button Blouse	\$27.00
Unisex/ Sport	
80/20 Wool Jumpers	\$68.50
White Custom Polo	\$26.00
Sloppy Joe	\$28.00
School Tie	\$20.00
Cap – Embroidered	\$10.00
Microfibre Jacket	\$63.00
Microfibre Track Pants	\$39.00
S/S Sport Polo	\$32.00
Sport Shorts	\$26.00



Uniform Shop - Hours

1st December 2014 -- 1st June 2015

Monday: 8:00am -- 12:00pm
Friday: 12pm -- 4pm



Uniform Shop Special Opening Hours

Thursday	22nd January	8am - 4pm
Friday	23rd January	8am - 4pm
Tuesday	27th January (Pupil Free Day)	8am - 4pm
Wednesday	28th January (Years 7, 11, 12)	8am - 4pm
Thursday	29th January (years 8, 9, 10)	8am - 12pm



To all our contributors, all our readers and all the rest

2014

Season's Greetings and
All the Best for the
New Year

From Karen, Karin and Michael

STRENGTH IN UNITY, EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION