



Concord High School **Keeping In Touch** *Respectful Responsible Achieving* **Term 1 Week 4**

Email us your thoughts –
concord-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au

Regularly check school website –
www.concord-h.schools.nsw.edu.au

Principals Report

HSC Minimum Standards

The Minister for Education announced on Thursday 22nd February that Year 9 NAPLAN tests will no longer be used as an early way for students to demonstrate the minimum standard of literacy and numeracy needed to receive the HSC from 2020.

This change has been made to ensure NAPLAN remains focused on its diagnostic purpose and to reduce unnecessary stress on young people.

Changes to the HSC minimum standard

From this year, Year 9 NAPLAN tests will no longer be an early way for students to demonstrate the minimum standard of literacy and numeracy needed to receive the HSC from 2020.

The NSW government remains committed to requiring a minimum standard to receive the HSC due to the importance of literacy and numeracy skills for success in everyday life.

What is the HSC minimum standard?

A minimum standard of literacy and numeracy is required to receive the HSC from 2020 to reflect the importance of literacy and numeracy for success in daily life.

HSC students will need to meet the HSC minimum standard in three areas – reading, writing and numeracy.

The standard is set at level 3 of the Australian Core Skills Framework (ACSF), which means students will have the basic reading, writing and maths skills needed for everyday tasks and future learning after school. It includes skills for tasks such as:

- following safety instructions in equipment manuals
- understanding a mobile phone plan
- writing a job application
- creating a personal weekly budget.



Principals Report continued

Literacy and numeracy skills are essential for success in learning and life after school. Together with the NSW Literacy and Numeracy Strategy, the HSC minimum standard is part of an effort to extend the literacy and numeracy focus up into secondary school.

Who needs to meet the HSC minimum standard?

If you are sitting the HSC in 2018 or 2019 you do not need to meet the HSC minimum standard.

Year 10 students

Please be assured that if you have a child in Year 10 this year, who achieved a Band 8 or above in one or more of the 2017 Year 9 NAPLAN reading, writing or numeracy tests, they are recognised as having met the HSC minimum standard in that area/s and will not need to sit the corresponding online test/s.

Minimum standard online test periods available for Year 10 students

- Term 1: 19 February to 23 March 2018
- Term 2: 21 May to 22 June 2018
- Term 3: 13 August to 14 September 2018
- Term 4: 5 November to 7 December 2018

*Students will decide with their teacher when they are ready to attempt each test.

Future Year 10 students will be required to show they have met the HSC minimum standard by passing online tests of basic reading, writing and numeracy skills, which are available for them to sit when they are ready from Year 10 until a few years after Year 12.

For more information, including sample online test questions, visit www.educationstandards.nsw.edu.au/HSCminimumstandard If they achieved a Band 8 or above in one or more of the 2017 Year 9 NAPLAN tests they are recognised as having met the HSC minimum standard in that area/s and will not need to sit the corresponding online test/s.

Year 9 students

From this year, Year 9 NAPLAN tests will no longer be available as an early way for students to demonstrate the standard.

Exempt students

Where possible, all students in NSW should be supported to develop core literacy and numeracy skills required for success in life after school. Some students sitting the tests will be eligible for disability provisions or be exempt from meeting the HSC minimum standard in order to receive their HSC.

Further information can be found in the attached parent information sheet.



Principals Report continued

Year 7 Camp

The Year 7 students attended camp from the 21st to 23rd February and all had a wonderful time. I would like to thank the hardworking teachers for giving up their time to attend the camp: Ms Turner, Ms Milinovic, Mr Munday, Mrs Easterbrook, Ms White, Ms Hoy, Mrs Milligan, Ms Bekheet, Mr White, Mr Clare, Mr Choudhary, Mr Shum and Mrs White.



Chinese New Year

Chinese New Year, Lunar New Year, or Spring Festival is the most important of the traditional Chinese holidays. It is commonly called “Lunar New Year”, because it is based on the lunisolar Chinese calendar. This week students had the opportunity to engage in a range of activities to celebrate the event including Chinese Dragon dancing , seen in the picture below organised by the Confucius classroom staff.

Principals Report continued



Assessment Handbooks

Each student should now have a copy of the assessment handbook and I encourage them to take the time to write down the due dates for tasks on a calendar and in their diaries. Copies of each assessment handbook can be found on the school website together with the school calendar of important dates.

Student Leave

Regular attendance at school is essential for students to achieve quality life outcomes. Schools, in partnership with parents, are responsible for promoting the regular attendance of student's.

Can I remind parents to apply for any leave in writing to the School Principal. For most exemptions, parents make an application by completing an Application for Exemption from Attendance/Enrolment at School. This must be made in writing and in advance. Exemption forms must be completed for any leave five days or more. Copies of the enrolment form are provided by Mrs Polley, School Administration Manager. Holidays should be avoided during the school term, particularly around important assessment periods and should not be booked until approval has been given in writing by the School Principal.

Relieving Principal
Mrs Jody Engisch

Deputy Principals Report

by Craig Anderson & Fiona Payne

Lunch time activities at Concord High School.

Please encourage your young man or woman to join in with one of the many clubs at school. In Week 3 the following clubs are back operating.

Breakfast club is every Wednesday morning in the staff common room. All students are welcome to come and have breakfast or take some goodies for recess or lunch. Breakfast club operates from 7.45 to 8.30 am.

Robotics club is every Monday and Wednesday lunchtime in Common 6. See Ms Gould in Mathematics.

Maths club is every Monday, Wednesday and Friday at lunch in 6.5. Staff and senior mathematics students are on hand to do activities, help with homework and classwork.

Confucius classroom club every Monday and Friday in Room 2.2. See Ms Yuan in LOTE.

Greek dancing group in Common 2 most lunchtimes. See Ms Theodoris in Common 2.

Mens group meet Wednesday lunchtimes in the staff common room. See Mr White in English.

Girls sport group meet Wednesday lunchtime in the school hall. See Ms Verniquet in PDHPE
If you know your student would benefit from participating in these clubs and might need some extra encouragement please contact the year adviser.

ATAR club

Year 12 students were offered a teacher mentor last year as a component of the ATAR club. We will start regular lunch time meetings with Year 12 ATAR students in the coming weeks. If your student had a teacher mentor please check that they have started meeting again this year.

School swimming carnival

Congratulations to the students who participated in the school swimming carnival last Friday. They say a picture tells a thousand words. The pictures below give you a feel for the fun day had by all.



Some of the awesome TAS staff



Deputy Principals Report continued



Some of the awesome Brays House



Some of our awesome Year 12 students



Some of the awesome Kendall House

Deputy Principals Report continued

Student behaviour on buses

As our students are clearly identifiable by uniform we receive a lot of calls from the public about student behaviour on the way to and from school. We would like to pass on a recent email about our students.

“I just wanted to write to commend the politeness of a group of your students travelling on the M41 bus this morning. I noted every student thanked the driver as they left the bus. I was very impressed. I just wanted to let you know as so often our young people are not well regarded.

Well done to these young people... they were great ambassadors for your school”

Please discuss with your student the courteous way to wait for buses, to offer a seat to an adult, to not use poor language and to always thank the driver. The young people that we help grow will shape what our world looks like.

Year 7 Camp

As this edition of Keeping In Touch goes to print Year 7 are returning from Camp. Next week there will be a full article and photos from Camp. This was part of Year 7 as they were getting organised in the Hall for departure. Unfortunately we couldn't fit the whole group into the photo. Congratulations to the students for excellent respect and responsibility shown and to our staff who have had three days and two nights with little sleep.



Learning Support News

By Catherine Picone

Disability provisions for the Higher School Certificate examinations

Disability provisions in the HSC are practical arrangements designed to help students who couldn't otherwise make a fair attempt to show what they know in an exam room.

The provisions granted are solely determined by how the student's exam performance is affected. Provisions may include braille papers, large-print papers, use of a reader and/or writer, extra time or rest breaks.

Applying for disability provisions

Disability provisions application forms and information guides are available at the school for students who intend to sit for the Higher School Certificate examinations.

Students who wish to apply for disability provisions should see the Relieving Head Teacher Secondary Studies, Ms Catherine Picone who will provide them with the application forms. You will need to:

1. Indicate the provisions for which the student is applying.
2. Indicate how the disability affects the student's work in the classroom and in examination situations.
3. Supply evidence of the student's disability.
4. If the student is unable to obtain an appropriate diagnosis, then other detailed information will need to be submitted to establish the existence of a disability. In this case it is necessary to provide: details as to why the student cannot obtain relevant documentation and diagnosis, a reasonable history of the student's difficulty and needs (including previous and current in-school support), and detailed teacher comments which indicate the impact of the student's condition on their classwork and in examinations.

If all the necessary information is not provided, some requested provisions may be declined due to insufficient evidence.

How does the process work?

Once the NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA) has received the application, a letter acknowledging receipt is available to the school.

NESA has a Panel of Specialists that includes medical practitioners, educational psychologists, and consultants for the visually or hearing impaired. The category of the disability and the evidence presented will determine who reviews the file.

When a decision has been made, a decision letter listing the approved and/or declined provisions is provided to the school with a copy for both the principal and the student.

Appeal procedures

Should a student wish to appeal the decision to decline a provision, the appeal must be submitted through the school after receiving the disability provisions decision letter. The appeal must state the reason why the decision is considered unacceptable, making reference to the evidence supplied in the original application.

The appeal must include new supportive evidence, such as a further medical report, which clearly states why the student needs the provision, or additional reading, writing or spelling test results.

NESA will conduct an independent review and a decision will be made regarding the appeal.



Learning Support News continued

By Catherine Picone

Note to Parents

If you are concerned about whether disability provisions apply for your child, you should contact the Relieving Head Teacher Secondary Studies, Ms Catherine Picone.

The application form must be submitted by your child's school as it requires specific information about the difficulties your child may experience in a classroom or examination situation. This does not mean, however, that you should not be involved in the application process.

Who can apply for disability provisions?

Any HSC student with a disability recognised in the *Commonwealth Disability Standards for Education 2005*.

The definition of 'disability' in the *Disability Discrimination Act 1992 (Cth)* includes:

- physical
- intellectual
- psychiatric
- sensory
- neurological, and
- learning disabilities, as well as
- physical disfigurement, and
- the presence in the body of disease-causing organisms.

(Australian Human Rights Commission).

Note that the disability provisions apply only where the disability is such that a practical arrangement is required to reduce disadvantage in an exam situation.

Disability provisions also apply to temporary and emergency-related disabilities. A typical example of an 'emergency' is where a student breaks their writing arm a week before an examination.

Students who become ill during an examination period may be eligible to make an illness/misadventure appeal rather than a disability provisions application.

Kind Regards,
Ms Catherine Picone, English Department



Creative & Performing Arts News

ENCORE

On Monday 19th February CHS Senior music students attend the 2017 HSC ENCORE Concert at the Sydney Opera house. ENCORE is a program of outstanding performances and compositions by students from the Higher School Certificate Music examinations.

CHS student, Marian Kwon (Violin) performed a composition; string quartet titled *El Vestido Rojo* by ENCORE nominee Tegan Mackay - James Sheahan Catholic High School.



Students on the excursion valued the opportunity to be able to see at first hand the expectations and requirements of successful performances.

Thank you to Ms Sandy Huang for organising this opportunity for our senior music students and congratulations to Marian Kwon on her performance.



AFTER SCHOOL TUTORING FOR TERM 1, 2018

Applications for Term 1 tutoring has officially closed and no more forms will be accepted.

Term 2 applications will open later in Term 1 and parents are advised to check the KIT (Keeping in Touch) between weeks 9 – 10 for information on the application process for Term 2 tutoring.

Please contact Ms Sarah Kim (Tutoring Coordinator) for any queries regarding the After-School Tutoring Program at Concord High School
sarah.kim69@det.nsw.edu.au

Thank You!





Congratulations to **Marian Kwon Year 12** for her selection to perform as part of Encore at the Sydney opera House on Monday 19 February. Marian is a highly talented musician, studying Extension Music and we are very proud of her and this recognition of her ability.



Year 11 Crossroads Camp

Payment is closed for Yr11 Crossroads Camp. Any students needing to complete their 2nd deposit, must do so by Friday, 2 March (Week 5). Please complete the online medical consent forms ASAP.



P&C NEWS

We once again remind and list the meeting dates for 2018 below for your diaries and these can also be found on the P&C page of the CHS web page - found under the Our School tab as well as on the school calendar. You will also find our constitution documents and past minutes for 2016 and 2017 on the web site.

P&C Meeting Dates for 2018

Term 1:

Tuesday, 20th March 2018

Term 2:

Tuesday, 8th May 2018 / Tuesday, 19th June 2018

Term 3:

Tuesday, 31st July 2018 &

Tuesday, 11th September 2018 Annual General Meeting following by General Meeting

Term 4:

Tuesday, 23rd October 2018 / Tuesday, 4th December 2018

P&C meetings are held on the 2nd & 8th week of term (apart from Term 1 which is Week 3 & 8)

7.00 pm – 8.30 pm - Staff Common Room (above front office). All members and non members welcome

P&C Volunteers

The P&C is made up of many wonderful fellow parent/carers volunteers and there are many ways to be involved in your P&C not all requiring too much time and many of which can be done from home. For those that are interested, we will be publishing in future copies of the newsletter a list of these tasks as well as ways in which volunteers can be involved in events that bring us together such as the Harmony Day P&C run cake stall in March.

Volunteer Call - P&C Auditor

At present, we are looking for a parent /carer volunteer to take on the audit role for the next CHS P&C end of financial year (end June 2018). The details of the role from the P&C Federation are as per below. This is a great role for those who wish to be involved but would prefer a once a year, defined task to complete. You will be supported in this role by the Treasurer and can talk with and reference our previous auditor.



P&C NEWS continued

The auditor does not need to be a qualified professional. The auditor must possess appropriate skills and experience in auditing and financial record management together with an appreciation of the issues of probity as they relate to the role of association auditor. The auditor must not have or appear to have any conflict of interest arising, for example, from a personal or business relationship with an Officer of the association and must be prepared to swear that the records are a true and correct statement of the information provided by the Treasurer.

Please email us as per below if you are interested with many thanks.

In the meantime and for further information, please do not hesitate to contact us by emailing :
concordhighschool@pandcaffiliate.org.au

Uniform Shop News

The Uniform Shop returns to normal trading hours from this coming Monday, 26 February which are:

Monday and Wednesday 10.30 am – 1.30 pm.

Please note at recess (10:35am – 10:55am) and lunch (12.35pm – 1.15pm) students are given priority – parents welcome after recess and before or after lunch.

The cotton jumpers and wet weather jackets have arrived for purchase. Limited stock available at present.

You can contact Mae on 0434 169 203 or email school_s_in@yahoo.com.au .

Finally, very best wishes to all CHS students, families and staff from your Concord High School P&C.





***Congratulations to the students listed below, who were awarded a Merit last week.
Well done!***

STUDENT	AWARD
Bailey TRIGAR	Faculty Award: Faculty Award
Nazir HAMMOUD	Year Adviser Award: Year Adviser
Kisha CHABO	Year Adviser Award: Year Adviser
Nourah MANGERAH	Year Adviser Award: Year Adviser
Ava LINTON	Year Adviser Award: Year Adviser
Grace KIEFER	Year Adviser Award: Year Adviser
Grace CHENG	Year Adviser Award: Year Adviser
Efraim BOLOS	Year Adviser Award: Year Adviser
Joe ARTESE	Year Adviser Award: Year Adviser
Marc-Anthony FERRO	Year Adviser Award: Year Adviser
Adam ROBERTSON-HODDER	Year Adviser Award: Year Adviser
Daniel SAMUEL	Year Adviser Award: Year Adviser
Benjamin COMER	Year Adviser Award: Year Adviser
Grace ROSIER	Year Adviser Award: Year Adviser
Jeremy KWOK	Year Adviser Award: Year Adviser
Jack BAKKER	Year Adviser Award: Year Adviser



Upcoming Dates

VARIATIONS TO ROUTINE TERM 1 WEEK 5 26 FEBRUARY – 2 MARCH 2018 WEEK A

26 February o Knockout Open Boys Basketball 9am -3pm	27 February o Prefects Afternoon Tea 4:00pm-6:00pm	28 February o
1 March o	2 March o Year 7 Vaccinations o Y11 and Y12 Food Tech 9:45am-3:00pm	

A LOOK AHEAD 2018 Term 1 Weeks 6, 7 & 8

B TERM 1 WEEK 6	5 March o Zone Swimming Carnival	6 March o Open Night o Prefects Afternoon Tea 4:00pm-6:00pm	7 March o	8 March o GATS Open Night 5:30pm-6:30pm	9 March o
A TERM 1 WEEK 7	12 March o Year 11 Geography Fieldtrip	13 March o Prefects Afternoon Tea 4:00pm-6:00pm o GATS online applications close	14 March o School Photo Day o International Students Parent/Carer night 4 – 5 pm	15 March o Year 12 Hospitality catering for Japanese visit 9:00am-2:00pm o Kozoji High School visit o Selective HS Placement Test	16 March o
B TERM 1 WEEK 8	19 March o Chinese New Year celebration o Year 12 Biology excursion	20 March o GATS placement test	21 March o Harmony Day	22 March o	23 March o

