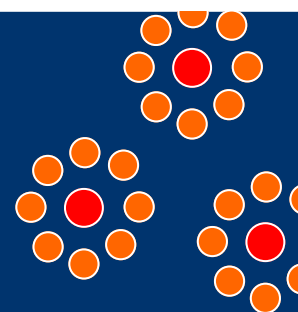




Hunter River Yarning

Quality Relationships, Quality Learning

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Issue 2

Friday, 10 February 2017

Hunter River High School P & C Association

Tuesday, 28 February 2017 at 6.30pm

Venue: School Library

Refreshments available– All Welcome

The P & C meets on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 6.30pm in the connected classroom, come along and be involved in the future of your child's school.

Hi there from the Principal!

Term 1 2017 has started with many positive changes and celebrations. Congratulating our HSC students makes me feel very proud of what we can achieve when working together. A big congratulations to the students recognised at our special assembly for their achievements this week. More information can be found later in this edition of HRHS Yarning.

New Students

This week we submitted our student numbers for 2017 and I am happy to inform our community that we have 792 students enrolled at our school with more students arriving daily. This is substantially higher than we originally anticipated, with many new families joining our school community. We warmly welcome new students and families to our school. On Monday 13 February at 5pm we have our annual **"Meet the Teachers"** get together in our Outdoor Learning Area. All new students and families are invited to attend to meet our staff and have a look around our school.

Success

As parents and teachers we all want our children/students to achieve. The school has again this year paid for ELEVATE to run sessions with students from Years 10 – 12 (see information later in this Yarning). Please encourage your child to reflect on their learning and put some of these strategies into action. All students will be more successful if they: are organised by packing correct equipment every day; revise work completed in class regularly; backward map in planning for completion of assessment tasks in a calendar or diary, ask for help when needed and take responsibility for their own learning.

To assist students to be successful we have a Learning Centre (TLC) that operates every day to help students to catch up on work, revise or do extra work in areas in which they need support with or to gain assistance with assessment tasks.

DATES FOR THE DIARY

WEEK 4: A

13 Feb Meet the teachers BBQ from 5pm
In the Outdoor Learning Area

16 Feb YEAR MEETINGS
School Photos

17 Feb Reprise Concert Excursion-
Years 11 & 12 Music Students

WEEK 5: B

23 Feb PBL LESSON
Year 7 Vaccinations

24 Feb School Photos Catch up day

WEEK 6: A

27 Feb Year 7- 2018 Information Evening

28 Feb 'NAPLAN and the HSC' Information
Evening – Library at 5:30pm

28 Feb P & C Meeting – Library at 6:30pm

The Learning Centre is now located in the mezzanine level of the Library and is accessible for all students with the permission of their classroom teacher.

Each Friday Community Tutoring also runs in G2 providing another opportunity for students to gain assistance with their work.

We all need to have high expectations of our students and encourage them to do the very best they can. Please do not hesitate to contact the school if you have concerns or believe your child needs assistance.

Yours in education,
Deb Dibley



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facebook

Deputy Principal News

Welcome back!!

To begin with I wanted to say what an honour it is to be appointed as a Deputy Principal at Hunter River High School. I have relieved for many years in this position and it is so exciting to now officially be the substantive DP in a school that I love, working with the most fabulous staff and students. Happy Days!!

For those parents who are new to the school, my role is to:

- drive the realisation of the School Plan and Strategic directions;
- facilitate and co-ordinate professional development for staff;
- support, guide and mentor new graduate teachers;
- build connections with parents and community members;
- provide informed curriculum advice to staff; and
- support the running of the school together with the Principal and DP's.



Homework

As we begin the new school year many parents/carers may have questions about high school homework, which can be very different from primary school. Individual teachers will discuss the homework expectations they have with their class, however, as a general rule the advice we provide is to ensure that your child is revising their class work regularly at home.

In 2016, HRHS began an initiative called **Focus on Writing**. One of our strongest messages to students is that, "Writing is not talking written down". Essentially this means that when students are writing for school purposes, their writing needs to become **more academic and formalised**, and therefore less conversational. With this in mind we have been explicitly teaching students how to write well using the 'Fantastic 4'.

TEEEEC Paragraphs		
Topic	Your first sentence introduces the TOPIC you will be writing about in a paragraph.	Like a good hamburger, a paragraph needs 2 things to <i>hold it together well</i> . A great TOPIC sentence and a sentence at the end to CONNECT it back to the topic.
Expand	The second sentence EXPANDS upon the topic, it gives more information.	E X P A N D your topic sentence to give it more meaning.
Example	This sentence provides an EXAMPLE of the topic you are writing about in this paragraph.	Provide an EXAMPLE of your topic sentence.
Explain	This sentence EXPLAINS what you are writing about. When you explain something you may use terms such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ... this may result in; ... as a consequence; ... therefore. 	You need to EXPLAIN the point you are making on your paragraph.
Connect	This last sentence CONNECTS back to the topic introduced in the first sentence.	Like a good hamburger, a paragraph needs 2 things to <i>hold it together well</i> . A great TOPIC sentence and a sentence at the end to CONNECT it “BACK” to the topic.

Students new to our school will be taught these strategies in class. The first strategy is the **TEEC** paragraphing system. Each classroom should have a poster to guide students in developing strong paragraphs when writing.


There is a scaffold attached to this newsletter that parents/carers could use with their children to encourage them to complete their homework with or to reflect on the learning that took place during the school day.

The next strategy is Nominalisation – students may call it ‘**Noms**’. This involves encouraging students to review their writing and identify opportunities to ‘**nominalise**’ verbs. This process can improve students writing by making it more **academic and formal**, and therefore less conversational.

Please remind your children when they are completing assessment or homework tasks to make use of **TEEC** paragraphs and **'Noms'** in developing responses to questions. I will describe the remaining two strategies of the Fantastic 4 in the next newsletter.

If you would like any further information about my role, Homework or our Focus on Writing strategies, please contact me.

Christine Reilly
Deputy Principal
Teaching and Learning



NOMINALISATION

Nominalisation is the process of forming nouns from verbs.

It makes a text more "written-like", instead of "spoken-like".

For example:
 react becomes reaction
 depart becomes departure
 compose becomes composition

Congratulations!

HRHS are immensely proud of our 2016 Year 12 students and it has been exciting to watch as tertiary places have been offered to them to continue on with their academic studies. Success is something HRHS really LOVE to celebrate and at a Formal Assembly on 9 February, we had a lot to celebrate.....

Sixteen students were acknowledged for their hard work and dedication to their studies, by recognising their Band 5 and 6 accomplishments in the 2016 HSC.



Carly Annable—Band 5 Biology, Band 5 Community & Family Studies, Band 5 Mathematics General2, Band 6 PD/H/PE

Nik Armstrong— Band 5 Legal Studies, Band 6 Mathematics Extension 1, Band 6 mathematics Extension 2, Band 6 PD/H/PE and Band 5 Physics

Lateisha Croft— Band 5 Music 1

Rhiona Evans—Band 5 Music 1

Chloe Fletcher—Band 5 Community & Family Studies

Jacob Givney— Band 5 Legal Studies

Emma Hampson— Band 5 English Advanced, Band 5 Legal Studies and Band 5 Visual Arts

Sara Hollier— Band 5 Visual Arts

Johann Kucera— Band 5 English Advanced, Band 5 Geography and Band 5 Metal & Engineering

Zoe Meehan-Hele—Band 5 Music 1

Lachlan Morris—Band 5 Senior Science and Band 5 Electrotechnology

Shay Noy—Band 5 English Advanced, Band 5 Mathematics General 2 and Band 5 Visual Arts

Aleksa Schofield—Band 5 Aboriginal Studies and Band 5 Community & Family Studies

Nicholas Snow—Band 5 Mathematics Extension 1 and Band 5 Music 2

Annalise Southam—Band 5 Community & Family Studies, Band 5 English Standard and Band 5 Visual Arts

Adam Spanns— band 5 Chemistry, Band 5 Geography, Band 6 Mathematics and Band 5 Physics



Elevate Education's workshops are designed to help students improve their study techniques, increase motivation, build their confidence, and lift exam performance. On Tuesday 7 February, Elevate's presenter, Rohan addressed students from both Years 10 and 12, about how best to get the most out of their study routines. The challenge in any study skills program is getting the students to use and apply the skills they learn. The students worked with Rohan on activities that involved:

- Utilising the syllabus to organise study
- Structuring and reviewing organised notes
- Utilising practice exam papers
- Developing routines to balance study and lifestyle
- Working smart by completing high value work
- Utilising study groups to leverage time
- Techniques for overcoming procrastination

Year 12 student, Grace Waterman said, *"I found what Rohan suggested about study habits very relevant. I need to make smaller, more achievable goals for myself. It makes so much sense"*



SSS NEWS

All of the SSS staff and students are excited to be back for the start of the new year.

We have a few new faces in SSS:

- Mrs O'Rourke replaces Mr Hunt as the Head Teacher of Special Education
- We welcome Mrs Fiona Brain as a LAST and Ms Denny as a SSS teacher to HRHS
- We also have a number of new Year 7 students in Mr Chircop's St 4/5 class and Mrs Cox's MC class

The students have settled in very well and we are all looking forward to a great year of learning across the SSS classrooms.

From the LAST's (Learning and Support Teachers)

The Learning Centre:

The Learning Centre (TLC) provides support for the teaching and learning programs available at HRHS. It provides a classroom that caters for the individual learning needs of all students. TLC provides opportunities for students to receive personalised attention to complete assessments, catch-up tests, assignments, small group learning, individualised learning programs and tests that require special provisions. The Learning Centre is available for all students, including seniors, in the mezzanine level of the Library.

Community Tutor Program recommences on Friday 17 February:

This program is available to help any student in our school that needs individual help in the areas of literacy and numeracy. Tutors work with these students in G2 to improve their skills and also assist with assignments if needed. Our wonderful Community Tutors are available to work with students from periods 1-4 each Friday. Reminder that all students who wish to be involved in this program on a Friday should pick up and return their parent permission notes ASAP.

Special Provisions for 2017 HSC Students:

Any Year 12 students who are completing applications for Disability Provisions (reader, writer, extra time, separate supervision, access to food/water/medication, coloured paper, etc.) for the HSC, MUST see Mrs Olds ASAP to get applications underway. The applications need to be finalised before the end of Term 1, so time is of the essence.

Mrs Fiona Brain and Mrs Fiona Olds
Learning and Support Teachers (LAST's)



**FACS
High School
Scholarships**

Are you in Year 10, 11 or 12 this year?



You may be eligible to receive a \$1,000 scholarship to help with your school or TAFE studies in 2017.

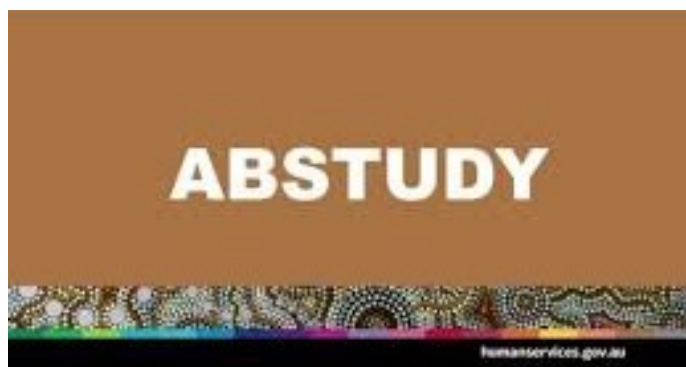


Find out more and visit www.facs.nsw.gov.au/education to apply online today.



Applications close
7pm, Friday 24 February 2017.

**See Mrs Olds or Mrs Brain for
more details on how to apply**



Talking points for ABSTUDY

ABSTUDY

ABSTUDY helps with costs for Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander Australians who are studying or doing an Australian Apprenticeship. You may be able to get ABSTUDY if you are:

- an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander Australian enrolled in an approved course or apprenticeship, and
- not getting any other government help to study or do an apprenticeship or traineeship.

ABSTUDY payments

- **Parents or guardians of students younger than 16 and living at home** may be able to get ABSTUDY Schooling Allowance.
- **Full-time students who are 16 or older and living at home** may be able to get ABSTUDY Living Allowance. The amount you get may depend on your parents' annual income.
- **Full-time tertiary or preparatory course students and other secondary students** may be able to get ABSTUDY Living Allowance. The amount you get may depend on personal, parental or partner income.
- **Full-time Australian Apprenticeship, traineeship or trainee apprenticeship students** may be able to get ABSTUDY Living Allowance. The amount you get may depend on personal, parental or partner income.

Applying for ABSTUDY

To claim, call the ABSTUDY line on **Freecall™ 1800 132 317**. You can submit supporting documents online at humanservices.gov.au/submitdocumentsonline

If you can't claim over the phone, you can get a claim form at humanservices.gov.au/abstudy

How long it takes to assess your claim depends on how complex your situation is.

Get in early and submit your claim up to 13 weeks before you start your course or apprenticeship.

SCIENCE & AG NEWS

YEAR 9 Science

Mr Abercrombie's Year 9 Science class are currently studying 'Waves and Energy'. As part of this topic, the students were asked to build a wave machine out of tape, skewers and jelly babies.



CAREER NEWS

Find a career you will love this Valentine's Day!

Defence Force Recruiting invites you to our upcoming Careers Information Session, featuring the Specialist Recruiting Team from Women in the Australian Defence Force.

This information session will show how you can do what you love in the Australian Defence Force (ADF). Featuring currently serving personnel, this is the opportunity to discuss what life is like in the Navy, Army and Air Force and where a career in the ADF can take you - and with female serving members on hand to ask your questions about what it's like specifically for females in the ADF.

This session is open to both males and females, and for any job role you may have questions about.

We'll have yummy love inspired treats and refreshments especially for you, so don't miss your opportunity to chat to current serving military members about your future career.

**Tuesday, 14th February
at 6:00pm
Defence Force Recruiting Centre
528 Hunter Street, Newcastle**

To book your seat go to:

<http://events.defencejobs.gov.au/event/837AO6>



SchoolEnews

Have you registered online to receive our School Newsletter and important announcements yet?

You can register online via the school website:
<http://www.hunterriv-h.schools.nsw.edu.au/>

PD/H/PE NEWS

And we're off and running....

The sun is shining, the grass is lush and green, and the mosquitos are out in full force - ideal conditions to kick off the practical component of PD/H/PE. This term students will begin with the Modified Mars Assessment Task that requires them to perform in a range of athletic events in preparation for the Athletics carnival in Term 2. Each Year focuses on a set of different events. In theoretical lessons students are embarking on a range of topics.



HRHS Sports Uniforms

Year 7 - The F-Word: students are discovering that failure isn't to be feared but learnt from.

Year 8 - Health Matters: students are learning about what health is, factors that influence health and examples of lifestyle diseases.

Year 9 - Sexual Health: students are becoming increasingly aware of what is required to maintain their sexual health and relationship with others.

Year 10 - Road Safety: students are exploring the many responsibilities and risks that are associated with being a driver and passenger.

PASS

9 PASS are learning about physical activity for health.

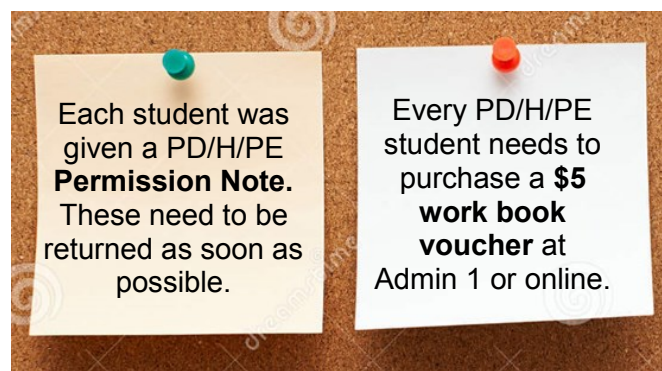
10 PASS are learning about what makes an effective coach.

SLR

11 SLR are completing a practical and theoretical unit on Athletics.

12 SLR are learning about the many factors that influence individual performance.

PD/H/PE Notices



NRL All Stars pay HRHS a visit!

In the lead up to the big clash between the NRL All Stars and Indigenous All Stars, the players from both the Women's and the Men's sides made time to visit schools across the Hunter, including HRHS.

The students were excited and inspired by the stars visiting the school and they learnt the importance of the One Community 'Wellbeing' program which the players delivered.



Parent Information Evening NAPLAN and the HSC

What do parents and carers of Year 9 students need to know?

Students in Year 9, 2017, will be the first cohort of students who will be expected to demonstrate a 'Minimum Standard' in both literacy and numeracy in their individual NAPLAN results to be eligible for the HSC. This minimum standard is Band 8 in all areas: Reading; Writing; and Numeracy.

NAPLAN testing occurs during Term 2, Week 3, May 9-11, 2017

If you are a parent / carer of a child in Year 9, come along and find out more about this change and how you can support your child through this process. Parents of students in other year groups are also most welcome to attend.

**The Information Evening will be held on
Tuesday, 28 February at 5.30pm
in the school Library**

Please feel free to stay afterwards for the P&C Meeting at 6.30pm

More information can be found at the NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA)

www.boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au/policy-research/stronger-hsc-standards/minimum-standard.html

A flyer is also attached to this newsletter.

www.boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au/policy-research/pdf_doc/minimum-std-a4-print.pdf

Homework/Reflection TEEEC

- Topic sentence
- Expansion of the topic sentence
- Example
- Explanation
- Concluding or linking statements

TEEEC Paragraphs

Topic	Your first sentence introduces the TOPIC you will be writing about in a paragraph.	Like a good hamburger, a paragraph needs 3 things to hold it together well . A great TOPIC sentence and a sentence at the end to CONNECT it back to the topic.
Expand	The second sentence EXPANDS upon the topic, it gives more information.	E X P A N D Just topic sentence to give it more meaning.
Example	This sentence provides an EXAMPLE of the topic you are writing about in this paragraph.	Provide an EXAMPLE of your topic sentence.
Explain	This sentence EXPLAINS what you are writing about. When you explain something you may use terms such as: • ...this may result in; • ... as a consequence; • ... therefore.	You need to EXPLAIN the point you are making on your paragraph.
Connect	This last sentence CONNECTS back to the topic introduced in the first sentence.	Like a good hamburger, a paragraph needs 3 things to hold it together well . A great TOPIC sentence and a sentence at the end to CONNECT it back to the topic.

This scaffold can be used with your child as a way to reflect on learning that took place in class if no specific homework is set. It is a great way to build capacity in writing strong paragraphs AND revise classwork.

T	Today in _____ class we were learning about _____.
E	
E	
E	
C	

STRONGER HSC STANDARDS

MINIMUM LITERACY AND NUMERACY STANDARD

Set for success in day-to-day life

The minimum standard is set at a level of literacy and numeracy needed to do things like:

- ✓ follow operating instructions in equipment manuals
- ✓ interpret routine tables, graphs and charts
- ✓ write a job application

ONLINE LITERACY AND NUMERACY TESTS



Students will need to pass online reading, writing and numeracy tests to demonstrate achievement of the minimum standard.

From 2018, these tests will be available for students to sit at least twice a year in:

- ✓ Year 10
- ✓ Year 11
- ✓ Year 12
- ✓ for up to 5 years after starting the HSC

TIMELINE

2017

Courses and support material for Year 9 and 10 students who are identified at risk of not demonstrating the minimum numeracy standard by the end of Year 10 published

Consultation on exemption policy

Minimum standard rules and guidelines published

Online reading, writing and numeracy tests piloted

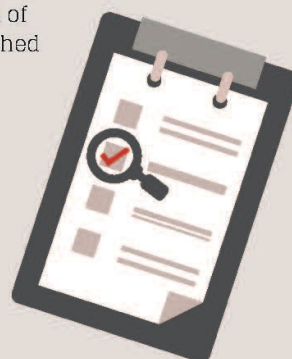
Schools Online and Students Online websites updated

2018

First Year 10 students sit online reading, writing and numeracy tests

2020

First HSC students required to meet minimum standard



WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW



From 2020, students need to demonstrate a minimum literacy and numeracy standard to be eligible for the HSC



There will be multiple opportunities to pass online reading, writing and numeracy tests before and after the HSC



Early identification and support for students most at risk of not achieving the minimum standard is available under the NSW Literacy and Numeracy Strategy



Students with Band 8 or above Year 9 NAPLAN results in reading, writing and numeracy will not need to sit the online tests



Some students, including those studying Life Skills courses, will not need to meet the minimum standard to be awarded the HSC

STAY UP TO DATE



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**Department
of Industry**
Resources & Energy

Support to Pay Electricity and Gas Bills*



**Help is available to pay
your energy bills.**

**For information on
rebates and emergency
assistance go to:**

**[www.resourcesandenergy
.nsw.gov.au/rebates](http://www.resourcesandenergy.nsw.gov.au/rebates)**

**or phone Service NSW
on 137 788**

* eligibility criteria apply

YOU COULD BE ELIGIBLE FOR ONE OR MORE OF THESE REBATES/ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

Family Energy Rebate* – \$150 or \$15 per year – If you are the electricity account holder in your household, have dependent children and receive a DHS payment called Family Tax Benefits (Part a or B), you could qualify for this electricity rebate. Information on application deadlines is available from our website.

NSW Gas Rebate* – \$90 per year – If you have natural gas or use LPG for cooking, heating or hot water, you could qualify for this gas rebate. To be eligible you will also need to be the gas account holder and have a DHS or DVA Pensioner Concession Card, DHS Health Care Card or a DVA Gold Card marked with WW, TPI or EDA.

Medical Energy Rebate* – \$235 per year – You could qualify for this rebate if you, or someone living with you, have an inability to self-regulate body temperature which is often associated with medical conditions such as Parkinson's disease and Multiple Sclerosis. The electricity account holder in your household must have a DHS or DVA Pensioner Concession Card, DHS Health Care Card or a DVA Gold Card.

Low Income Household Rebate* – \$235 per year – If you are the electricity account holder in your household and have a DHS or DVA Pensioner Concession Card, DHS Health Care Card or a DVA Gold Card marked with WW, TPI or EDA, you could qualify for this electricity rebate.

Life Support Rebate* – If you are required, or have someone living with you who is required, to use approved energy-intensive medical equipment at home, you could qualify for this electricity rebate. Information on approved equipment and rebate rates is available from our website.

EAPA* – Energy Accounts Payment Assistance Scheme – helps people experiencing a short term financial crisis or emergency to pay their electricity or natural gas bill. The scheme helps people stay connected to essential energy services during a financial crisis. EAPA is not means tested and you do not need to hold any DHS or DVA concessions cards to access this scheme.

HOW CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION AND WHERE DO I APPLY?

The Department of Industry website has all the information you will need to determine if you are eligible for an energy rebates or emergency assistance. Go to www.resourcesandenergy.nsw.gov.au/rebates for further information.

If you do not have access to the internet you can call Service NSW on 137 788 and talk to a customer service officer about your circumstances. Service NSW can also post you application forms.

If you have an electricity or natural gas account with an energy retailer you can call them to apply over the phone for the Low Income Household Rebate and NSW Gas Rebate. Your retailer can also provide you with application forms for other rebate programs.

REMEMBER

If you have a DHS (Centrelink) Health Care Card you could qualify for the Low Income Household Rebate and/or NSW Gas Rebate.