



Lighthouse

Volume 30 Number 2

28 February 2014

Dear Parents/Guardians, Students & Friends of SFX

I would like to congratulate our Year 11 students on the manner in which they have settled into life at St Francis Xavier's College. I have received very favourable comments from teachers about the manner in which the Year 11 students have coped with the transition to a senior school environment.

The major focus in the first few weeks of the year has been the establishment of clear goals for each student in the College. Several discussions have been held with students in both Years 11 and 12 about the importance of having well defined objectives in their studies for the year.

Fundamental in all educational goals is that mediocrity is unacceptable. All students have been challenged to achieve at their highest level. This means that significant effort will be required and sacrifices will have to be made. At the core of academic success is a student's capacity for undertaking serious study outside the classroom. It is at these times that students master their knowledge and skills.

We have encouraged all students to work collaboratively during the year. By working in groups they are able to support each other, obtain different perspectives on various topics, better realise any shortcomings in their knowledge and further develop their communication skills.

Br Robert Sutton, fms
Principal

St Francis Xavier's College 2013 HSC Students Score Highest ATARS in the Maitland Newcastle Diocese

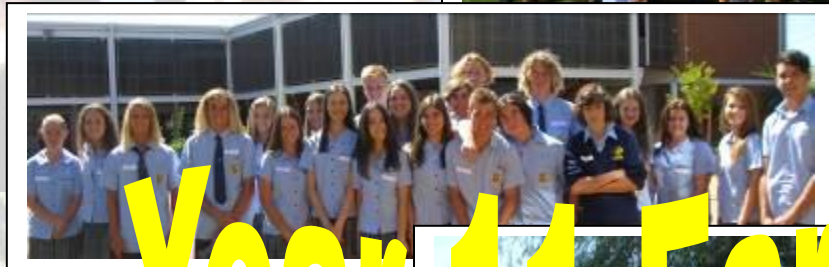
On Friday, 14 February students from St Francis Xavier's College were recognised by Mr Ray Collins, Director of Catholic Schools for their achievement in the 2013 Higher School Certificate. The four students

Jordan Velich : ATAR 99.9
Morgan Clune : ATAR 98.7
Jessica Blunt : ATAR 98.35
Alexandra Seldon : ATAR 98.3



received the highest ATARs in the Diocese of Maitland Newcastle and were presented with a plaque in front of the Principals of the Diocese and their families. We congratulate these students and the 2013 cohort for their outstanding achievements.

Mrs Patricia Hales
Assistant Principal – Dean of Studies

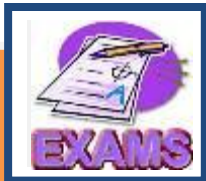


Year 11 Early Days!



Year 11 Opening Mass Sacred Heart Cathedral





Year 12 Mid Course Exams

These exams commence on Monday, 31 March and conclude on Friday, 11 April. Students have been emailed an examination timetable with venues to be confirmed closer to the exam dates. Please be advised that as per our Assessment Policy leave will not be granted during exam blocks, therefore students should carefully check commitments during this period.

Mrs Patricia Hales
Assistant Principal – Dean of Studies

FROM THE LIBRARY



It is recommended that students join the State Library NSW. All residents are eligible for **free** membership which can be obtained online, at the State Library website URL: <http://www.sl.nsw.gov.au/system/forms/selfreg.html> State Library provides online access to a large number of databases for abstract and full text articles. Students will find this service invaluable when doing research tasks.



Newcastle University also offer the Open Door Program for students at a cost of \$22 per calendar year (restrictions apply). Students under 18 years of age require signed parental/guardian permission and overdue fees are charged. Details can be found on the website URL: <http://libguides.newcastle.edu.au/highschoolstudents>



College St Vincent de Paul Society Group

For 2014, the St Vincent de Paul Society is looking to recruit new members in order to maintain and further our work for the community.

A weekly meeting on Thursdays at 11:25 am in Room B201 (above Room B116) is held to arrange our program of visiting needy families, organising food appeals, fundraising for the College and delivering Easter Eggs to nursing homes. It is a great opportunity to serve one another and directly help those less fortunate in our local community, whilst forming new friendships in the school.

We look forward to seeing lots of new faces at our next meeting.

Gemma Furuhashi

Hunter Youth Mentor Collaborative Scholarship Recipients

On Tuesday, 18 February three of our Year 11 students, **Lidya Mehari, Rachel Saidi and Lambert Sarpur** were presented with an Educational Scholarship from The Hunter Youth Mentor Collaborative. The Hunter Youth Mentor Collaborative (HYMC) supports organisations in the Hunter region, which provide mentoring and youth development opportunities. The theme for 2014 is Keeping Pace: Intergenerational Communication.

Lidya, Rachel and Lambert will have the opportunity to use this scholarship to assist with the cost of senior school education.

Congratulations to Lydia, Rachel and Lambert as recipients of this wonderful opportunity.



Lidya, Lambert and Rachel with Professor Trevor Waring, Patron of HYMC.

St Francis Xavier's College
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FIELDWORK IN GEOGRAPHY



Mrs V Finlayson
Teacher



In case of an emergency it is important that students' contact details are up to date. If there have been changes to family details please have your student go to the Administration Office where an appropriate form will be issued.

Year 12

EXPLORING EARLY
CHILDHOOD
A YEAR 11 AND 12 BOARD APPROVED

Last Thursday, our Year 12 Exploring Early Childhood students visited the Kindergarten students at St Paul's Primary School, Gateshead. As part of our Assessment Task for the Topic Transition to School and Starting School, we observed the students as they were involved in a variety of activities. Students were counting to 100, singing, dancing, having 'show and tell' time, using iPads, playdough, constructive play with blocks and pattern making.

Excursion

It was an educational experience to see these Kindergarten children after only three weeks at school being so well

behaved, attentive and so keen to learn.

Sincere thanks to Mrs Vicki Whitbread who has allowed us to visit and interact with her students for a number of years now for this Assessment Task.

Tara, Hamish and Cassie
Year 12 Exploring Early Childhood Students



*Morning Tea Celebration
for Year 11 students from
Non Associated Schools*



From the Careers desk



There is no scientific answer for success.
You can't define it.
You've simply got to live it and do it!



Paramedics & Nursing

The Charles Sturt University is having an information day for their Paramedics & Nursing programs. If there are any Year 12 students interested in this area this may be an invaluable visit as they are the ONLY university to offer this in NSW. The information and registration forms can be found on the School Portal under Careers.

MN Live / The School Portal

Every week you will find on the School Portal a list of potential jobs available. Most of these are full time some are part time positions. The Portal under Careers will also contain all the relevant careers information for students throughout the year.

College Library



The Library will now offer a display of Careers Information for students to use during their study periods and breaks. There will be copy of the latest jobs available each week as well as the basic information for the

Newcastle TAFE and University, as this is where most of the SFX students attend. Each month a different institution will be highlighted. Can I ask that you refrain from taking this information as it's for all to share?

AIE Work Experience Program

The AIE Work Experience Program is in place to give students who are interested in a career in the video games, 3D animation and visual effects industries a chance to get some hands on experience. Places fill quickly so students need to apply early to ensure they don't miss out. www.aie.edu.au/workexperience

Business Cadetships

Professional Cadetships Australia (PCA) will offer these once more in 2014. Cadets study at the university of their choice in Sydney, and may select from degree programs in Business, Commerce, Economics and the Humanities. Applications are made online. They open on Monday, 10 March and close Wednesday, 14 May. Visit website for more information www.businesscadetships.com.au

2014 UMAT Exam

(Undergraduate Medicine & Health Admission Test)

You must sit UMAT to be considered for entry into Medicine at UNSW, UNE, Newcastle, BOND, UQ, Uni of Adelaide, UTAS, Monash, and Uni of WA. Also for Optometry at UNSW, Vision Science at Flinders, Dental Sciences / Oral Health at UQ, Adelaide, LaTrobe, Uni of WA, and Clinical Sciences at Charles Darwin, Flinders and Health Sciences at La Trobe.

Registrations are now open for this year's UMAT exam and close at 5pm on Friday, 6 June 2014. Exam is on Wednesday, 30 July.

I will be running information sessions on UMAT at the start of Term 2.

Don't panic....plenty of time yet.!

UMAT External Practice Testing through Private Companies.

Every year I am asked by parents and students about the value of the private companies that offer pre-testing to help with entry into UMAT. **I do not endorse ANY of these companies.** I was sent information last year from Professor Barbara Griffin who, along with other academics completed a survey of current Medical students. The details of this can be found on the School Portal under Careers. In essence it states that students are NOT better off if they have sat these preparation courses, and in some instances are worse off! Please take the time to read this if you are considering the substantial cost of these courses.

Something for Year 12 to consider....



Some of the comments I hear towards the end of Year 12 is "I wish I had spoken to you sooner" or "I wish I had known about that." Don't be one of these students. Know what's available and get all the information possible...NOW. Don't be a last minute Johnny.

Every year, so many Year 12 students fail to take on suggestions and advice from Careers Advisers, parents and teachers regarding planning for the year and for life beyond school, and miss out on work, university and TAFE opportunities as a result.

Year 12 is a stressful time, but can be managed with the support of people around you who care, and with good time management skills. Study, part time employment, sport, family and social occasions must be carefully managed and balanced.

RSA & RCG



These external courses have been booked for the start of Term 2. Notes and details will be put out to Year 12 only, in Week 9. I do not "save" places or take names for these courses; it's a first in with the payments basis!!

Women in Aviation Week

*Saturday, 8 & Sunday, 9 March
Sydney Aviators Hangar, 276 Airport Avenue
Bankstown.*

This Open Weekend involves discounted flights over the two days, Keynote speakers, BBQ lunch and is designed to encourage women into the field of aviation. Registration for the event is essential ph 02-97938900 or visit www.sydneyaviators.com.au or www.womenofaviationweek.com

Are you teaching your child to drive?

The Roads and Maritime Services is holding a **FREE** two hour workshop in Newcastle to offer practical advice on how to help learner drivers become safer. It covers

- Understanding the new laws
- The Log book
- The benefits of supervised on-road driving experience
- The best way to supervise a Learner driver

*Thursday, 6 March & Monday, 31 March
WEA Hunter, 150 Kings Street, Newcastle.
6:00pm -8:00pm. Bookings are essential.
Phone Jenny Cummings 4925 4200*

BiG Day In Newcastle

The Big Day in IT Careers Conference is being held in the Great Hall, University of Newcastle on Tuesday 12 August. Speakers from CSIRO, WiseTech Global, NIB, Greater Building Society and more to talk about the future of careers in Technology.

Tickets are \$10 per student - the other events around the state usually sell out.

Visit www.thebigdayin.com.au for more details or Kerrie.Bisaro@acsfoundation.com.au

Hands on Engineering and IT Day for Women

On Thursday, 27 March 2014 at UTS. Students will hear from current female students, industry representatives and academic staff. There will be targeted sessions on pathways and scholarships running for students in Years 11 and 12. To register for Hands on Day please complete the online registration form at <http://uts.ac/HOD2014> or register via email to wie.it@uts.edu.au

The feedback from this event in the past has been wonderful and completely worth the effort!

*Mrs Julie McLoughlin
Careers Coordinator*

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E: julie.mcloughlin@mn.catholic.edu.au

Finance Office

Finance Office Hours

8:30 am to 3:00 pm – Monday to Friday

Phone: 4961 2863 Fax: 4961 2384

E: hml-finance@mn.catholic.edu.au

School Fees



School accounts were due on **Friday, 28 February 2014**. Thank you to those parents who have finalised the Term 1 account.

There are a number of accounts still outstanding. Your payment can be made to the College by Bpay, cash, cheque or EFTPOS (MasterCard and Visa Credit Cards accepted). For Credit Card payments, a credit card remittance slip is provided at the bottom of the Account Statement. You can complete the remittance slip and send it directly to the College or email or fax the slip.

Overdue Reminder Statements will be issued shortly.

Fee Concessions

Interviews are available, please contact the College.



Year 11 Getting To Know You Day!



Students Who Drive a Car to and from School

The following information is required as a part of the College Road Safety Policy which seeks to provide a framework of common understanding for students, staff, parents/carers and the community who interact with the College to provide a safe environment.

This information will also be used to inform students should their car need to be moved if they have inadvertently encroached upon a neighbour's driveway which prevents access.

In the event of complaints from members of the public regarding dangerous or careless driving practices, parents will be informed.

I agree to the following:

1. My car will not be used during the day to leave the school grounds without permission from the College who will seek permission from a parent/carer.
2. I must hold a valid driver's licence.
3. The car I will drive must have current registration, together with current comprehensive insurance or third party property insurance.
4. Other rules relating to parking, use of student car park during school hours, etc is at the discretion of the Principal.
5. I will drive in a safe manner and follow all road rules.
6. I agree that no student passenger will be transported in this vehicle unless permission has been given by their parent/carer.

Please complete the following information and return to your House Coordinator when you start driving to school.

Please print

Student Driver's Name

Tutor Group

Student's Licence Number

Date of Licence Issue P1

P2

Vehicle Make/Model

Registration

Insurance Details

Company

Comprehensive/Third Party

Policy Number

Parent/Carer Phone Number/s

Student Signature

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

