



Lighthouse

Volume 33 Number 2

3 March 2017

Dear Parents/Guardians, Students & Friends of SFX

Last year the NSW Government announced an educational reform package that would significantly change the Higher School Certificate. This has been the first major overhaul in 17 years.

Essentially there are three areas where the Reforms will have an impact upon the education of HSC students. These relate to; syllabus changes, assessment changes and the introduction of minimum standards.

Syllabus Changes

These will impact upon the delivery of Maths, English, Science and History courses. They have already progressed through a consultation phase and are now released in readiness for implementation in 2018.

Assessment Changes

The total number of assessment tasks will be capped at three tasks per course in Year 11 and four per course in Year 12 - including the Trial HSC. Also, one of the assessment tasks each year must be of a 'non-exam' type. Maths will have a 'common scale' that will be used as a comparison of students studying the different courses. These changes will be implemented in 2018.

Minimum Standards

In order for students to receive a HSC they must demonstrate competency in reading, writing and numeracy. This is done by achieving a Band 8 or better in the Year 9 NAPLAN Test or by 'passing' the online tests. This will impact upon those students who are currently and will be sitting for their HSC in 2020.

Further Information

The Board of Studies and Teaching Standards is now called the **New South Wales Education and Standards Authority (NESA)**. The NESA website contains current and relevant information in regards to the reforms. A section entitled, 'Stronger HSC Standards' provides a very useful overview and timeline of the implementation of the reforms.

Br Robert Sutton, fms
Principal

NSW SYLLABUSES
Stage 6





Year



Year 12 Mid-Course Exams

Monday, 13 March until Friday, 24 March

These exams commence on **Monday, 13 March** and conclude on **Friday, 24 March**. Students will be emailed an examination timetable and receive a hard copy. 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 10 day period.

Year



Term 2

Year 11 Mid-Course Exams

Monday, 22 May until Wednesday, 31 May

These exams commence on **Monday, 22 May** and conclude on **Wednesday, 31 May**. Students will be emailed an examination timetable and receive a hard copy. 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 8 day period.



2018 Enrolments



San Clemente High School and St Pius X High School parents will be posted their enrolment package before the end of this term.

For all other enquiries please refer to details below.

2018 Enrolments have now opened for entry to St Francis Xavier's College Hamilton.

Enrolment Form and Enrolment Payment Tax Form are available on the

St Francis Xavier's College Home Page
go to *Quicklinks* (shown at the bottom of the page)
click on *Enrolment Application*

When the **Enrolment Form and Enrolment Payment Tax Form** are completed please email to

susan.maloney@mn.catholic.edu.au

or post to **Enrolment Committee, St Francis Xavier's College, PO Box 300, Hamilton 2303**

All documentation to be returned to St Francis Xavier's College by Friday, 28 April 2017.



On Tuesday, 21 February, 2017, four students from St Francis Xavier's College were presented with an Educational Scholarship from the Mentor Support Network, originally known as the Hunter Youth Mentor Collaborative. Mentor Support Network supports organisations in the Hunter region which provide mentoring and youth development opportunities. These opportunities are delivered as educational scholarships which are used to assist students to meet their financial educational needs.



Congratulations go to (pictured from left to right) **Farzad Yaghini, Maurice Mukunzi, Yordaanos Mengistu and Elshaday Mehari.**



HSC Legal Studies Excursion

Students in the HSC Legal Studies course travelled to Parramatta Courts in Week 3 as part of their studies in the Crime topic.

Students were able to view the Drug Court as well as cases in the District Court and State Parole Authority. These observations consolidated work covered in class and will be invaluable as they prepare for the upcoming Mid HSC Examination.

Students are to be commended on their conduct and presentation on the day.

Mr A Stone, Ms P Anicich, Mrs V Finlayson



College St Vincent de Paul Society

College St Vincent de Paul Society Group

Year 11 and 12 students are invited to contribute to our St Vincent De Paul team. Our aim is to build a better community through reaching out and helping others through our initiatives such as our Easter Eggs Appeal, and our Winter and Christmas Appeals.

Year 11 students are most welcome to come to our meetings on Thursdays at lunchtime each week - bring a friend with you!

New members from Year 12 are also welcome to get involved in your last terms of the school year. This opportunity allows students to involve themselves in the SFX and broader community to make a difference.

See you there ☺

Britt Spooner and Ash Thomson

Easter Eggs Appeal

Egg-citing news from the Vinnies Group! We are launching our first appeal for the year, as we need to get cracking on our 2017 Easter Egg Appeal. Students are asked to bring in Easter eggs, which we will deliver to around 400 residents in aged care homes. We ask that students be aware that some residents have diabetes, so diabetic chocolates or sweets would be egg-cellent.

We will accept donations as follows:

Year 11: Thursday, 23 March-Friday, 31 March

Year 12: Monday, 27 March-Friday, 31 March

Thanks in advance for your generosity.

Ash and Britt ☺

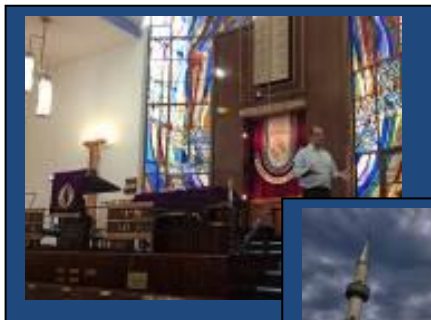


REMINDER

STUDIES OF RELIGION EXCURSION

**Wednesday, 5 April and
Thursday, 6 April 2017**

**North Shore Synagogue (to be confirmed)
Auburn Gallipoli Mosque
Nan Tien Buddhist Temple (near Wollongong)**



COST – \$160 (Includes – transport, entry, workshops,
overnight accommodation and most meals)

Contact Rev Noble if you have any questions or check
your emails for application forms and details.

A permission slip and information will be emailed
to all students, and should be returned to the
Student Office ASAP.

Payment should be made to the Accounts Office to
secure your place as places are strictly limited.

**Applications close and payments to be paid by
Friday, 24 March 2017.**

Rev. Jon Noble – jonathan.noble@mn.catholic.edu.au



From the Careers Desk



Mrs Julie McLoughlin
Careers Coordinator

P: 02 4961 2863

F: 02 4961 2384

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

On the SFX School Portal you will find a **NEW** Careers page from me. There is a lot more information that could be useful to students including:

- How to make a booking.
- How to navigate the Hunter TAFE site.
- Documents for Work Experience / UMAT PP/ Scholarship PP/ How to apply for Uni PP / Early Entry PP- these are all from 2016 and will be updated as the year progresses.
- A guide to searching successfully on the Newcastle University web site.
- Guides for searching information at most other universities.
- A copy of all the newsletters (that will contain helpful links)
- A job site that is created every Monday- particularly designed for school leavers.
- There is even a page set aside if you need help in making decisions.
- Current offers for Gap Year programs.

PCA

Business and Engineering & Technology Cadetships

Business Cadets can study at the university of their choice in Sydney and can select from degrees in Business, Commerce, Economics, and the Humanities. At the same time, receiving paid employment with leading companies. Westpac and the Macquarie Group will continue to offer Technology Cadetships.

Applications open 6 March and close 10 May.

Visit www.businesscadetships.com.au

Au pair

If you came to the Au Pair meeting last week and are still keen and would like your parents to listen to the information.

Saturday, 8 April – 10:00 am
Charlestown Library



Defence Force Recruiting information

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 15
at 6:00pm

at the Defence Force Recruiting
Centre Newcastle

528 Hunter Street, Newcastle

This is one day later than originally planned.

Please follow this link to register attendance.

<http://events.defencejobs.gov.au/event/32DOS3>



Charles Sturt University have **MYDAY** options, where they show case their degrees - these are REALLY worthwhile.

In particular, those students who would like to consider:

- Paramedics.
- A wide variety of Communication degrees.
- Policing and Criminal Justice.
- Dentistry.
- As well as many others.

Registration is essential as many of these are held in holiday periods.

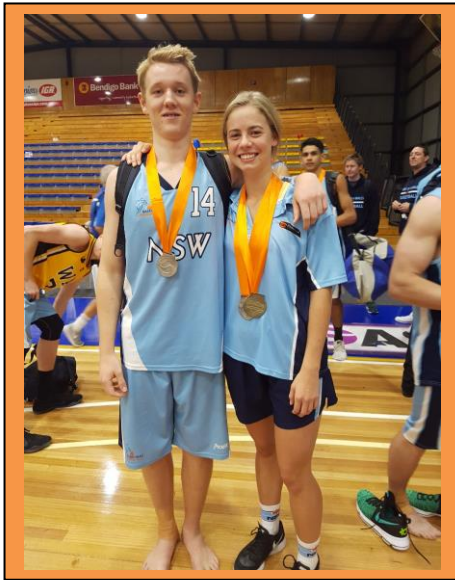
Register your interest at csu.edu.au/myday

OR infoevents@csu.edu.au

CAREERS



Australian Basketball National Championships



We at the College are very proud of **Cassidy McLean** and **Jacob Foy**, two excellent basketballers and athletes, who have recently competed as part of the U20's NSW Basketball Teams at the Australian National Championships in Bendigo in mid-February. Both are currently in Year 12 studying their HSC and balancing their training commitments.

Cassidy and Jacob were some of the youngest members in the U20's squad, however, proved themselves as key players and fierce opposition on the court. Both teams placed second overall in the competition, bringing home the silver medals. Jacob's team inflicted a shock loss to the reigning Victorian team to reach the finals and Cassidy was awarded 'Player of the Tournament' (MVP) for her stellar performance. Cassidy will now return her focus to the Sydney University Flames in the WNBL with the finals on the horizon.

*Congratulations Cassidy and Jacob!
We look further to hearing more of your on-court success!*

Upcoming Sport Events

There are some Representative Sport opportunities for NSWCCC and Diocesan Sport

- Diocesan Swimming Carnival (March 7)
- NSW CCC Cup- Rugby League (March 29)
- NSWCCC Swimming & Diving Championships (March 31)
- Diocesan Football Trials (April 6)

Open for Registration via NSWCCC website

<https://www.csss.nsw.edu.au/nswccc-home.aspx>

- NSWCCC Tennis
- NSWCCC Hockey
- NSWCCC Volleyball
- NSWCCC Basketball
- NSWCCC Netball
- NSWCCC AFL (Boys & Girls)

SURFEST

NEWCASTLE AUSTRALIA



On Tuesday, 14 February and Wednesday, 15 February, four boys' teams and one girls' team contested the Maitland and Port Stephens Toyota High Schools Challenge as part of the Surfest Festival. This is a very interesting event where teams of three surfers contest a 20 or 25 minute heat against three other teams in a tag-team format. Each surfer can catch a maximum of three waves (though rarely do), with only one wave to score before returning to shore to sprint up the beach to tag their next surfer. Bonus points are awarded for locking in three scores before the heat hooter sounds – so there is plenty of tactical excitement involved.

Each team surfs two rounds, then progression into later rounds is decided based on cumulative points gained. On Day 1 rough and windy onshore conditions necessitated a move to Nobbys Beach where the waves on offer were short, messy and challenging. Unfortunately, none of our boys' teams accumulated sufficient points to reach the quarter finals. Our girls' team, consisting of Ruby Voyzey, Montanah McCormack and Gemma Chircop scraped through to the final in fourth position. Conditions allowed a move back to the central Surfest site at Merewether on Day Two and the girls' surfed well in clean conditions to finish third overall in the final behind Tumbi-Umbi Campus, the team from St Pius X, Adamstown and ahead of Tomaree High School.

Congratulations to all involved and well done on the way in which you represented our College.

Chris Henry – Team Manager



St Francis Xavier's College

Phone Number: 02 4961 2863

Facsimile Number: 02 4961 2384

Student Office Phone Number: 02 4961 2110

Email: admin@hamilton.catholic.edu.au

Web Site: www.hamilton.catholic.edu.au

Student Services

Hours: 8:00 am until 3:10 pm

Telephone: 4961 2110

Email hml-studentservices@mn.catholic.edu.au

All student related phone calls can be made directly to the Student Office. If the phone is unattended please leave a message.



From the Finance Office

College Fee



Finance Office Hours

8:30 am to 3:00 pm – Monday to Friday

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

REMINDER

Your Term 1 statement was issued on 14 February. Statements were sent home by email, the subject was 'St Francis Xavier's College Term 1 Fee Statement', sender details:

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

Please ensure emails from the College do not go directly to your spam account. **It is your responsibility to ensure you receive the statement.** If you have not received an email please contact the Finance Office immediately.

Payment of your account is required by 7 March 2017, unless you are making regular payments by direct debit or BPAY. Please note accounts must be finalised no later than end of Term 4, 15 December for Year 11 students and end of Term 3, 22 September for Year 12 students. If you are making regular instalments a calculator has been provided [St Francis Xavier's College Fee calculator](#) to enable you to check your payments will finalise your account by the required date. Alternatively please contact the Finance Office to assist you in calculating a weekly, fortnightly or monthly payment or if you are unable to finalise your account by 7 March.

Diocesan Pastoral Contribution

Please return the letter indicating your decision regarding the voluntary contribution. This item is notarised on your statement **BUT IS NOT** included in the amount owing.

		Paid (\$)
Amount owing	939.36	
Voluntary Contribution	50.00	
Total including Voluntary Contribution		

If you have elected to contribute please return the letter which was sent on 7 February to ensure voluntary contributions are correctly recorded. In the absence of a letter confirming this we are unable to determine whether payments made include the contribution.

Method of Payment Options



QKR is now our preferred option to receive school fees

Details of which are available on our website [St Francis Xavier's College website](#). **Please take the time to read the information and download the App as this provides a secure method of paying for excursions, activities and fees.**



Alternatively payments can be made by BPAY, the Biller Code and Reference Number can be found on your statement.

Excursions and sport payments cannot be paid via BPAY but can be paid using the QKR app.



Credit Card / EFTPOS: The College accepts **Mastercard or Visa only**. Please be aware that if you are paying by credit card you can email, fax, post or telephone your credit card details to the College. An authorisation slip is provided at the bottom of your statement each term.

In Person: Parents are welcome to pay directly at the Finance Office between 8:30am and 3pm. Students can only pay before the start of school and in their lunch and recess breaks.

Direct Debit: Please contact the Finance Office.

Receipts will be

E-MAILED

