Welcome Back
I would like to take this opportunity to welcome everyone back for the final term of 2015. With two weeks of the term already completed the holidays do seem a bit of a distant memory. This term will be very full. The first half will be taken up with assessments for Years 7 through to 10. The second half of the term is dominated by a number of significant events such as Year 7 Water Awareness, Year 10 Work Experience, Year 10 Camp, PAU Showcase, GATs Camp, Year 6 Orientation and Presentation Night to name a few.

The last day of classes for students this term is Wednesday 16 December. I would urge you to consider carefully before deciding to take your students out of school during term time. Principals can no longer approve leave from school for students taking holidays overseas or within Australia during term time. As a result, this type of leave will be reflected in a student’s attendance calculations. Students who take leave when an assessment task is scheduled run the risk of receiving zero for the task. This is especially true for Year 12 2016 as they approach assessment tasks at the end of this term.

Term 4 Staffing
We have had some staff changes for the start of this term. Mr Andrew Shannon is a new permanent member of our Human Society & Its Environment (HSIE) staff. He replaces Mr Rice who left us at the end of the first term this year, and Mr Gemmell who has filled the position temporarily for the past two terms. Welcome to Mr Shannon and a big thank you to Mr Gemmell for his work this year. Ms Ruth Joynes returned to us at the start of the term following 12 months maternity leave. She returns as the new permanent Head Teacher of Languages, English as a Second Language and Hearing Support. She replaces Mr Percy who left us at the end of last term to take up the Deputy Principal position at Freshwater High School. Welcome back Ms Joynes and thank you to Mr Percy for his efforts over the last seven years.

HSC Examinations Begin
The HSC written examinations started on Monday this week with English as the first paper. The examination period will run until the end of Week 5 this term. In a first this year, students in Mrs Doherty’s Year 10 Hospitality class provided a surprise morning tea for Year 12 at the end of the first examination. The Year 12 students I spoke to really appreciated this kind gesture. A big thank you to Mrs Doherty and her students for the morning tea and all the best to Year 12 in the examinations.
Loud Shirt Day
Tuesday this week was Loud Shirt Day. Over $1000 was raised on the day with money going to support the Shepherd Centre, an organisation that supports families with young children recently diagnosed with a hearing loss; Sailors with Disabilities and our Support H students. Thanks go to Mr Ryan and the Hearing Support staff for organising a great fun day.

Free Study Skills Seminar
Next week, members of the Learning and Support Team will be running free 'time-organisation' and 'study' sessions for students. The purpose of these sessions will be to help students prepare for the end of year examinations. Topics covered will include how to get started when revising, how to take summary notes and how to plan one's time. The sessions will be run in the Library and students have a choice of which session to attend. Year 7 and 8 students can attend either Monday or Tuesday during the lunch break. Students in Years 9 and 10 can attend on either Wednesday lunch or Thursday recess. Students will need to bring at least one sheet of blank writing paper and a pen and can simply show up on the day.

Duke of Edinburgh Silver Walk
This week our Duke of Edinburgh students have been on a three day silver walk. The group set out on a wet Tuesday from Hornsby and by Thursday had reached Cowan Station on a glorious day. Thanks go to Ms Paterson for organising the walk and to Mr Hepburn for his assistance. There will be a full report of the walk in a future newsletter.

Chinese Language Spectacular
On Wednesday, students from 7I, 7S and the Year 8 Chinese Elective class took part in the Sydney Chinese Language Spectacular. The students rehearsed through the day at the Sydney Town Hall for a concert performance held that evening in the Town Hall. The spectacular showcased the study of Chinese Language and Culture in NSW schools. Thanks go to Ms Wang and Ms Joynes for supervising and making this opportunity available for our students.

Will you be leaving us in 2016?
Planning for the 2016 school timetable year is well underway. Many of our Year groups are reaching capacity and are only open to local enrolments. It would help our planning considerably if we knew you intend to have your child attend another school in 2016. If you do, please notify the office as soon as possible so their place can be offered to another student and timetabling can be completed.

P&C Annual General Meeting Date Change
The meeting of the school P&C will be Tuesday 24 November at 7:30pm in the Multi-Function Space (MFS) in the Administration block. Please note that this is a date change from Thursday of that week. This meeting will be the AGM for the P&C.

Year 12 2015 Graduation Survey
A reminder to our parents of Year 12 2015 that a survey / evaluation of this year’s graduation is due to close soon. Your feedback would be most welcome. The survey is accessed by a link previously emailed to you. If you did not receive the link and you would like to fill out the survey, please email the school.
STAGE 4 PARENTS—THANK YOU

Many thanks for your valued feedback through the ‘Stage 4 Homework/Assignment Survey’. From here we have formed a focus group that will be meeting regularly in term 4 to put forth some recommendations to the school Executive. Our goal is to refine our homework and assessment procedures, leading to clearer guidance and enhanced support for our students. I’m confident there will be some positive changes that will come from this worthwhile process.

Nathan Lawler
Relieving HT Welfare, HSIE Teacher

GAME TRAINING DEMONSTRATION

On Friday 9 October Jeff Ayling from Game Training came to St Ives High to present a demonstration about creating commercial quality video games using Unity software. Years 7 and 8 were fortunate enough to attend the hour long session. Many students were inspired so much that they will return for a workshop to be conducted on Friday 16 October to get hands on experience using the software. Some of the workshop’s aims are for students to learn about 3D modelling, design a virtual world, import vehicles and characters, write simple artificial intelligence and animation code, create a commercial quality game and most important of all have FUN in the process!

Ben Yuen
TAS teacher

Congratulations

- **Kai Cryan (Year 8)** received a Minister’s Award for excellence at his community language school and contribution to the wider community. The award was presented at a ceremony held at UNSW. Over 129 students, representing 36 different language groups, received an award. Most of the recipients were dressed in their national costume and speeches were given in nine languages.
- **Nicholas Lapsley (Year 8)** competed in the NSW Swimming Multi-class Championships. He received gold medals for his age and classification for the 50m and 100m freestyle, 50m backstroke and 50m breaststroke.
- **Our Year 8 debating team,** Daniel Pavlich, Katie Farkas, Georgia Brooks, Kate Taylor, defeated Epping Boys’ High School this week. The topic for the debate was “Should voting be compulsory?” and we were the affirmative. In the next round we will face Willoughby Girls’ High School. Thanks go to Ms Milne for coordinating the team.

Best wishes
Mark Watson
Principal

2015 Term 4 Week 2
PREMIER’S DEBATING CHALLENGE - YEAR 8 DEBATING TEAM SUCCESS

On Thursday 15 October, the St Ives High School Year 8 Debate Team competed in the inter-zone finals of the Premier’s Debating Challenge in a knock-out round against Epping Boys’ High. The St Ives team, consisting of Daniel Pavlich, Katie Farkas, Georgia Brooks and Kate Taylor took the affirmative stance to present the case that voting in elections should be voluntary. The team presented a strong case for the benefits of informed decision making and the freedom of choice in a democratic society. The negative team from Epping Boys’ High countered this with a strong sense of nationalism and the importance of decision-making on a national scale. Highlighting the flaws in elections becoming a popularity contest, the negative team presented a strong case against upsetting the status quo. In what was a very tight debate, it came down to democratic rights and whether voting was an obligation or a choice, in which the St Ives team was successful in arguing for the right to choose how we use our rights and freedoms.

The St Ives team, undefeated this year, now moves on to compete against Willoughby Girls’ High School in the quarter-finals. Well done St Ives High and good luck in the quarter-finals!

Anita Milne
English Teacher

IMPORTANT CALENDAR DATES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term 4</th>
<th>Years 7-10 Assessments and Examinations</th>
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<tr>
<td>26 October - 13 November</td>
<td>Last day HSC examinations</td>
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<td>4 November</td>
<td>Vaccinations for Year 7 and catch up vaccinations for Years 8 and 11</td>
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<tr>
<td>11 November</td>
<td>Performing Arts Unit End of Year Showcase</td>
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<tr>
<td>20-21 November</td>
<td>Year 7 Water Awareness</td>
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<tr>
<td>23-27 November</td>
<td>Year 10 Work Experience</td>
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<tr>
<td>24 November</td>
<td>7.30 pm P&amp;C Annual General Meeting in D Block</td>
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<td>30 November - 1 December</td>
<td>GATs Camp</td>
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<td>30 November - 2 December</td>
<td>Year 10 Camp</td>
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<td>9 December</td>
<td>Presentation Evening</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, 16 December</td>
<td>Last day Term 4 for students</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 17 and</td>
<td>Staff present for School Development Days</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 18 December</td>
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BOOTCAMP

Bootcamp is divided into two sessions:
7.00—7.30 am and 7.30—8.00 am

You can attend both sessions or attend one session only
Join us on Friday mornings ... meet on the Quad at 7 am.

Bootcamp is open to students, staff and parents. Please remember to bring a bottle of water and a towel. It is important that all participants wear appropriate footwear and workout gear.

Any questions—contact Nathan Lawler, HSIE Staffroom 9144 1689 ext 119
CAREERS UPDATES

Year 12
A free Careers Advisory Service is available after you finish school and after you receive your ATAR to give advice to students about career options. Students normally call because they have done better or less than better than they thought they would. Visit www.cas.det.nsw.edu.au or call 1300 300 687 from 18-23 December 2015.

Year 11
The Honeywell Engineering Summer School (HESS) which will take place on the 6 - 11 December 2015. The Honeywell Engineering Summer School is an initiative sponsored by Honeywell, Engineers Australia - Sydney Division, NSW "Engineering" Universities, Engineering companies and participating Rotary Clubs. The aim of the summer school is to give NSW high school students a better understanding of what engineering is and how it works in everyday life.

Students will meet and interact with professional engineers employed by government, private companies, researchers and academics in a wide range of engineering disciplines. They will gain insight into career opportunities available to men and women in engineering. Visits to industry will provide students with a valuable opportunity to gain firsthand experience in the role of Professional Engineers in a wide range of activities including the management of major projects.

Criteria Requirements to enter the program:
- Student must be in attendance of a NSW High School currently in Year 11 about to enter their final year of High School (Year 12).
- Student must be studying 2 units (or more) of Mathematics and a form of Science at the School.
- Students have a passion to learn about the role of Professional Engineers in society and different disciplines within engineering.
- Students will be accommodated at "Dunmore Lang College". The college is located North Ryde and the students will be staying in single rooms.

Cost to attend the HESS 2015 is $750 (Inclusive of GST).

For more information visit unswo/summer-school or see Careers.

Year 10 or 11
The 2016 UNSW Mining Summer School will be held from Monday 18 January to Wednesday 20 January 2016. Students visit both the UNSW campus and mine sites. You will learn about mining careers, attend lectures, visit a 3D Virtual reality mine simulator, visit underground and surface mines and meet current mining students. Students must have a strong interest in the sciences, engineering, physics and mathematics. Applications close 31 October. Cost is $200. Visit www.unsw.to/summer-school

Year 12
Applying for university timeline
UAC guides have arrived. Collect your copy from the careers office.
5 August - Online university applications and SRS (early entry) open through UAC.
30 September - On time applications close, late fees apply after this time.
17 December - ATARs released & Year 12 BBQ at school
End January - Main round university offers released.

What’s university like?
CSU has created an online course to inform you about what university is like. Just register and work yourself through the modules. Students may register for the online course at http://www.whats-uni-like.edu.au

For more information on any of these or other careers matters visit the Careers Adviser or email Mr Holmes at neil.holmes@det.nsw.edu.au or call the school on 9144 1689 ext 116.

Visit my free careers website at http://www.careeradvicensw.com to view career videos, take career tests, view subject selection resources, links to all universities on bonus points, scholarships, elite athletes schemes, alternate entry to university, the job market, SRS and more. The site is available 24/7.
SIGN UP FOR ORIENTATION DAY — UNIFORM SHOP VOLUNTEERS

Orientation for Year 7 2016 is on Thursday, 3 December. This year the P & C are trialing some new options with extra days for uniform sales and pack up. This can only run successfully with the help of volunteers.

We're now using VolunteerSpot (the leading online signup and reminder tool) to organise our volunteers for Orientation Day. Thank you to the people who have already signed up.

Here's how it works in 3 easy steps:

Step 1: Click on this link or copy it to your browser to go to our invitation page on VolunteerSpot: http://vols.pt/baTxMv

Step 2: Enter your email address: (You will NOT need to register an account)

Step 3: Sign up! Choose your spots - we will send you an automated confirmation and reminders. Easy!

Note: VolunteerSpot does not share your email address with anyone. If you prefer not to use your email address, please contact me and I can sign you up manually.

Eric Tse
Email: sihsuniform@gmail.com

OCTOBER WORKING BEE

Time to sharpen those axes and shears for our October Working Bee on Sunday 25 October 9am-12pm. We plan to continue the work done around the Yarrabung Road entrance and the Hall to spruce up the school in preparation for Orientation Day. So Up Tools and Head to the school on the 25th!

Eric Tse
STUDENT ABSENCES
There is a dedicated email address and a telephone number for student absences.

When your child is absent from school you can either -

send an email to stives-h.admin@det.nsw.edu.au stating student name, roll class and reason for absence
or
telephone 9144 1689 and press the number 6 for Student Absences stating student name, roll class and reason for absence.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Hornsby RSL Pipe Band
Hornsby RSL Pipe Band is looking for new members. The band accepts all players: whether experienced, or those who have never picked up an instrument. All that is required is a keen attitude and dedication. Joining the band is a chance to learn a unique instrument, without the pressure of deadlines or competitions; all for a low yearly payment, which includes tuition. If interested, email hrslpb@gmail.com

Free Practical Workshop for Learner Driver parents and supervisors
Ku-ring-gai Council and the RMS (formerly RTA) are running another free practical workshop for learner driver parents and supervisors on how to help learner drivers become safer drivers on Thursday, 12 November 2016 at 6.30 pm at the Ku-ring-gai Council Chambers. Attendees receive a useful information kit including a ‘Guide to the Driving Test’ booklet. A light dinner, tea and coffee are provided. Road User Handbooks will also be on sale. Early bookings are essential  Contact Council on 9424 0798

Ku-ring-gai Youth Services  - Meditation Workshop
Free meditation workshop to learn some great techniques to focus during the HSC on Wednesday, 21 and 28 October and on Friday 23 and 30 October. All sessions 2.30—3.30 pm at the Gordon Library, Meeting Room 1, 799 Pacific Highway, Gordon. Bookings 9424 0981 or email youth@kmc.nsw.gov.au or go to www.kmc.nsw.gov.au/ youth
MAINTAINING YOUR SMOKE ALARM

1. Test your smoke alarm batteries every month by pressing and holding the test button for five seconds. Replace batteries every 12 months.
2. Vacuum dust off alarms every six months.
3. Replace smoke alarms with a new photoelectric alarm every ten years or earlier, if specified by the manufacturer.

For more information on smoke alarms, visit: fire.nsw.gov.au and planning.nsw.gov.au

BE PREPARED BY MAKING A PLAN OF ESCAPE

- Draw a floor plan of your home, including two ways of escape from each room. Plan an escape route and ensure everyone knows how to get out.
- Blocked exits are a hazard. Keep exits clear.
- Keep door and window keys in or next to locks so they can be opened easily.
- Decide on a meeting place outside e.g. the letterbox. Provide alternatives and someone to assist for anyone with a disability.

In case of a fire, get out, stay out and call triple zero