Welcome to 2016

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome everyone back for the start of the new school year. I hope the school holidays were a good opportunity to relax and prepare for another year. I would like to extend a warm welcome to all of our new readers of St Ives Matters, our weekly school newsletter. The newsletter is a great way of staying in contact with the school. In 2016, we are hoping to further improve our communications with the introduction of the School Stream app. You can read more about the app in this newsletter.

Term 1 is always a very full term. For Year 7, the emphasis is on settling into the routine of high school. Our peer support program for Year 7 will culminate in a camp during Week 7 of this term.

The school Swimming Carnival will be held on Tuesday 9 February at Hornsby pool while the school Cross Country Carnival, a personal favorite of mine, will be held on Tuesday 22 March. Both carnivals are compulsory school days.

Easter falls during term time this year at the end of Week 9. It is not part of the school holidays. During Week 11 of the term, Year 11 Visual Art students will be on camp. The term ends with Year 12 sitting their half yearly exams during weeks 10 and 11 of the term after Easter.

I hope 2016 is an enjoyable and productive year for you. If you have issues with your child’s education or there is a matter you would like to discuss, I am always happy to meet with you. Contact the school and make a time to come and see me.

New Staff

We have a number of new staff joining us for 2016. Mr Tim Smith is a new permanent member of the Science staff. He fills the position made vacant when Ms Julie Harrison left to take up the Science Head Teacher position at Chatswood High School. Mr Darren Stein and Ms Lesley Sheldon are both new faces in the English faculty. Mr Stein will be filling Ms Milne’s position while she is on leave this year. Ms Sheldon is filling an additional position in English. Ms Elizabeth Seares is also filling an additional part time position in TAS.

We also have two staff members who are currently on leave. Ms Broughton in TAS will be on leave for the first term and Ms Sharon Chen is filling her position. Mrs Moss in PDHPE is also on leave and is expected to return at the beginning of March. Mr Doug Hepburn will fill her position until she returns.
Deputy Principal Roles
In 2016 there will be some changes to the Deputy Principals’ roles. Mr Walker will now be responsible for Years 7, 9 and 11, while Mrs Bodley will have responsibility for Years 8, 10 and 12. If you have a matter you would like to discuss with a Deputy, please contact the Deputy looking after your child’s year group.

Year 7 First Days
After two days, Year 7 are settling in well to their new school. The students I have spoken to have all had happy smiling faces and were excited about studying at high school. At this stage it looks like the numbers in the year group will be close to 150. The uniform shop was kept busy this week serving Year 7 students and parents as well as new families in other years. A number of parents queued patiently at the Uniform Shop. Thank you for your cooperation as we get the school underway.

Tour to Spain
While we were enjoying what was a rather wet holiday, a small group of students and teachers set off on a Language excursion to Spain for the trip of a lifetime. While on the excursion, they visited Barcelona, Valencia, Seville, Salamanca and Madrid taking in the language and culture along the way. A big thank you to Ms Joynes, Mr Ryan and Ms Fraser for your supervision on the excursion.

HSC Results
We were delighted by our HSC results, which were mentioned, in our final newsletter at the end of 2015. There is so much to be proud of: the students finishing in the tops of their courses, the number of high achievers and the school ranking in the newspaper. We were also excited about the school being ranked within the top 50 schools for Mathematics results. One measure that is not normal focused upon by the media is the number of courses with results above the State average. In 2015 we had a record number of courses above the State average. Later this term we will hold a High Achievers’ Assembly to recognise outstanding performances in the 2015 HSC.

Lockers/BYOD
This year’s Year 7 will be the first year group to take part in a fully supported BYOD program. We are also purchasing lockers that will be available for Year 7 use, in the first instance. Users of lockers will pay an annual usage fee and will need to sign a responsible user agreement for the use of the lockers. It was anticipated that the lockers would have been ready for start of school this week. However, they have been delayed and we do not expect they will be operational until Week 3. More information about the lockers will be available next week.

Best wishes
Mark Watson

STUDENTS WITH SEVERE MEDICAL CONDITIONS
Please don’t hesitate to contact me if your son/daughter has a medical condition you feel the school may not be aware of. In particular we are eager to know if your child is anaphylactic, a severe asthmatic or a type 1 diabetic. Also, if we have already been in contact in 2015 and formulated an Emergency Care Plan, please let me know if there needs to be any changes for 2016.

Nathan Lawler
Head Teacher Welfare nathan.lawler6@det.nsw.edu.au

SCHOOL STREAM
School Stream mobile school app delivers information in real time, directly to parents and students on their mobile devices. We are using this app to enhance our communication between parents, students and the school. The app will also link to the school webpage.

We are still building the information on this app; however at this early stage, information will include sport, school newsletter, assessment task dates, school events, changes to routine, excursion notes and P&C information. Instructions on how to download the app are on the following page. More information on how this app is developing will be in future newsletters.

Nathalie Bodley
Deputy Principal
Your school now has a **FREE app**
Receive school information, instantly and directly to your smartphone

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**How to download your FREE app**

1. From your mobile device go to the [App Store (iPhone/iPad)](https://apps.apple.com) OR [Google Play (Android)](https://play.google.com) search for **School Stream** and download the app to your phone.

2. Make sure you agree to **push notifications**.

3. Once School Stream has finished installing, open the app, type your school name into the search **THEN** select your school.


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PUSH PASSES FOR 2016

St Ives High School currently has a successful "Push Pass" travel program which is designed to assist those students travelling north of Hornsby Station to make a speedy journey home from school in the afternoons. The pass allows students to board the first buses that arrive in the afternoon heading to Gordon Station, which then allows students to catch the earliest possible north bound connecting trains. Each year a limited number of passes are issued to those eligible students.

Please note that students who wish to get an early train to travel to a casual job or to complete after school activities are NOT eligible to apply.

All students wishing to apply for a Push Pass this year will need to complete an online application by visiting the following URL:  http://tinyurl.com/pushpass2016applicationstives These application forms will only be open until Friday, 5 February, 2016 (end of week 2). Students must complete the online form and provide valid and correct information that will be verified through student records. All applicants who meet the criteria will be issued with a 2016 Push Pass by the end of week 3.

Students can use their 2015 push passes until the end of Week 3.

Megan Bond
Head Teacher, TAS

LOOKING FOR TWO WEEKS HOMESTAY FOR VISITING STUDENTS

A group of 20 students from China will be visiting our school in early March. An external company is organising homestay accommodation for the students while they are in Sydney. They pay families who host students $500 per student. A maximum of four students can go to one family. Single room or double share accommodation is acceptable. Students would be staying 13 nights from the 6 - 19 March.

If you are interested, please contact Mrs Patel in the Language Staffroom on 9144 1689 extension 117 or khushnam.patel@det.nsw.edu.au

P&C UNIFORM SHOP REPORT

2016 started with a big bang for the Uniform Shop. We had some Year 7 enrolments and had many new students eager to get their uniform on School Development Day on Wednesday, and Thursday was a busy one as well. Thank you all for your patience and understanding. A very big thank you to Mary for volunteering her time in the Uniform Shop.

The shop now returns to normal operating hours. It is well stocked with summer uniforms for boys and girls. Do note that Summer dresses are optional for Years 8 -10 and there is limited stock.

Eric Tse
Did you know? Volunteers are always welcome. No experience necessary. Please email the uniform shop direct on: sihsuniform@gmail.com

Uniform Shop Opening Hours
Tuesdays: 10:00 am - 2:30 pm (closed 10 minutes from 1:10 - 1:20pm.)
Thursdays: 9:30 am - 11.30 am

Deb Brand
Uniform Shop Manager
NSW SCHOOL VACCINATION PROGRAM

Each year NSW Health works in partnership with schools to offer the vaccines recommended by the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) for adolescents as part of the school vaccination program.

In 2016 the following vaccines will be offered to Year 7 students*:

- dTpa vaccine (Diphtheria, Tetanus & Pertussis (whooping cough)) as a single dose
- varicella vaccine (chickenpox) as a single dose; and
- human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine in a 3-dose schedule at 0, 2 and 6 months (students who commence HPV vaccination in Year 7 but do not complete the course may be offered catch-up doses at school in Year 8)

* The Parent Information Kits contain a consent form, information sheet and privacy statement that details how personal information will be collected, stored and utilised.

Parent Information Kits will be sent home to parents/guardians. To consent to the vaccination of their child, parents/guardians are advised to:

- read all the information provided
- complete the consent form, including signing their name next to the vaccine/s they would like their child to receive
- return the completed consent form to their child’s school
- ensure that their child eats breakfast on the day of the school vaccination clinic.

Parents/guardians who wish to withdraw their consent for any reason may do so by writing to the school Principal or phoning the school. The Procedure for Withdrawal of Consent is available on the NSW Health website at www.health.nsw.gov.au/immunisation.

To improve vaccination completion, students will be opportunistically offered any missed doses throughout the year where possible.

A Record of Vaccination will be provided to each student vaccinated at each clinic. Parents/guardians should ensure that this record is kept for future reference and should not assume that their child has been vaccinated if they do not receive this Record of Vaccination.