

REFLECTIONS

From our Principal

What a year this is turning out to be! Not only have we had massive school disruption caused by COVID 19 and the shift to online learning, but we have also had to navigate our way through a staggered return to school. I am extremely proud of the way staff and students have responded to every challenge and am delighted that the school has settled quickly now we are all back together.

What has impressed me in the last month has been a new sense of calm and focus that pervades the school. With the cancellation of excursions, after school programs and other commitments, staff and students have had extra time to re-connect with each other in an authentic way. Having said this, of course we all look forward to the return of our extensive Performing Arts Program and Showcase Season.

SAYING FAREWELL IS ALWAYS DIFFICULT

Last term we farewelled Kirk Thomas, who has been Head of English at Newtown for the past seven years and has taken up a position as Deputy Principal at Granville Boys H.S. It has been an absolute pleasure working with Kirk and I know he will be very much missed by students and staff.

YEAR 12 ~ YOU CAN DO IT!



I would also like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the Year 12 cohort who returned to school several weeks ago. Despite having their learning disrupted, they have shown

themselves to be resilient, independent learners, committed to their studies and to achieving high grades. Thank you to the teachers, for supporting HSC students through this challenging period.

LET'S NOT FORGET OUR PARENTS

Our thanks to you for your support of the staff on-site with coffee and snacks during the remote learning period. Your generosity and thoughtfulness always brightened our day!



I hope you enjoy our re-vamped newsletter "The Voice of Newtown". Our aim is to present a snapshot of events, projects and other items of interest twice a term and to feature the many and varied voices of our school community.

Sharon Roberts



STAFF RE-UNITED

NHSPA staff had the opportunity to engage, for the first time, in a combined face-to-face and ZOOM meeting.

This was a chance to reconnect and engage in discussion.

NEWTOWN IN LOCKDOWN

From our Senior Students

THE CHALLENGES

Coping with the constant "hiccups" when working with technology, that always happened!

Not having that personal interaction with my teachers made me more anxious and less motivated.

I struggled concentrating on my school work with the constant interruptions from: dogs barking, neighbours knocking and mum's screeching in an attempt to create a "quiet" space for me to work!

WHAT I MISSED MOST

Definitely the social aspect: face-to-face contact and conversations with my friends, teachers and extended family that weren't just on "ZOOM".

Missed going on regular family hiking day-trips that were always followed by a nice meal at a cafe. Unable to do this, I took the opportunity to discover different walking and running routes closer to home, which allowed me to explore my neighbourhood.

CREATIVE OUTLETS

I re-discovered my love of drawing as a means to "chill-out".

I took-up painting to escape from the daily routine of study & to take my mind off my extended family's struggle to cope with the worsening crisis in New York.

I found myself watching more television: interesting documentaries like "Chernobyl" or, on the lighter side of the genre scale, "Schitt's Creek" for a laugh, as well as reading anything not related to schoolwork!

Experimenting with new and exciting ways to satisfy my "sweet-tooth", I ventured into the kitchen, a place I rarely visited, and discovered a new interest!

VOICES FROM THE SCHOOL COMMUNITY

YEAR 7 STUDENTS HAVE THEIR SAY

After a challenging start to the year, where our Year 7 students had to make their transition from Primary to High School, they were also faced with an additional, more confronting obstacle that they had to cope with. COVID 19 resulted in changes in **HOW** and **WHERE** they accessed their learning. However, this did not dampen their spirits, or stop them from being positive when expressing their initial experiences at NHSPA! When asked...**What is different between what High School is actually like compared to what you imagined?**....they had this to say...



The friendliness of the teachers and students. I thought that it would be filled with strict teachers and I was afraid that I wouldn't be able to go to the classrooms on time. The teachers are very welcoming and I have not been late to a single class.

I always thought it would be very **full-on** and scary but it has actually been very welcoming and a nice place to be.

Well, I get my predictions from American TV shows, which is a much different setting and I expected a lot more bullies but this school is beyond my expectations and it is so GREAT!!!!

I imagined strict teachers and mountains of homework, and I thought I would not make any friends. It is very different than what I expected and I am happy!

I thought I would have more trouble making friends and I thought there would be more bullies. Not in a mean way but in primary school the teachers were talking about it so much it was as if they were warning us in a way and because of that I got quite scared to come to high school because I thought I might get bullied but everyone is being friendly and it's been a good experience.

I'm thankful that this school has eased us into high school because I was expecting a lot of stress straight away and I didn't expect to make so many friends. High school is very different to how I imagined it being. Last year, whenever I heard the words 'High School' I thought angry teachers, hard tests, worst place on earth. But if you asked me today, I would say the exact opposite. The teachers are so nice, the work is challenging but not impossible and in fact, I can't wait to go back. I believe that most of my influence came from my friend's older siblings who slightly exaggerated their experiences and I can say that they were wrong!

VOICES FROM THE SCHOOL COMMUNITY

LISTENING TO THE VOICES OF OUR ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER STUDENTS



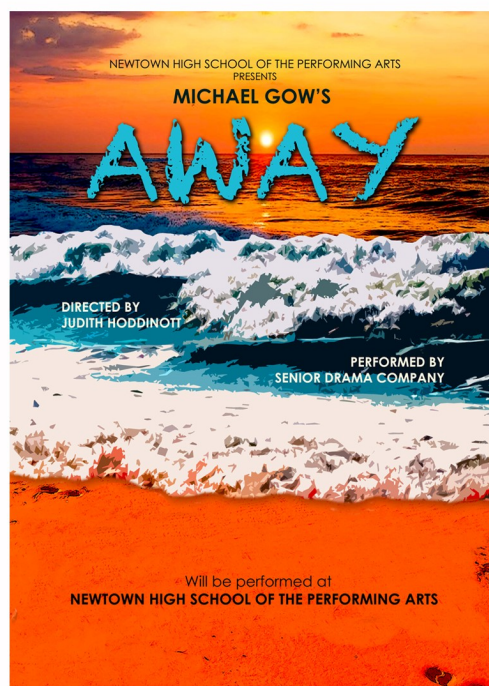
Newtown High School of the Performing Arts **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander** students addressed the **Black Lives Matter** movement in a touching film that spoke powerfully to the whole school community about the ongoing struggles Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders have and continue to face still in our country every single day.



LET NHSPA TAKE YOU AWAY

As many are aware, at the height of the COVID 19 restrictions, all co-curricular activities and mass gatherings ceased. As a result, NHSPA's production of **Away**, was cancelled!

After further discussions, all involved are delighted to have been given the amazing opportunity to at last perform the production and have it professionally filmed during Week 10 this Term. These are truly exciting times in spite of COVID-19!



VOICES FROM THE SCHOOL COMMUNITY



Year 7

Our students have shown incredible adaptability in Music over the past few months, exploring interesting ways to collaborate on-line and being ever so eager to catch-up on Zoom. There is, however, even more enthusiasm now that we are back in class.

We presently have a phased approach to returning to our ensembles, based on health advice and a wide array of research. Every Music ensemble has a Google Classroom site which is where we will continue to communicate with all ensemble students.



Jessica Smith, winner of Soroptimists Education Grant for 2020 and 2021 with proud Year Adviser Jack Taylor & Ula George at the awards ceremony.

CAREERS KEY DATES FOR TERM 3

AUGUST 13

UAC SEMINARS

Year 10 and 12 students and parents
Year 11 Transition to HSC ~ Workshops

AUGUST 15 - SEPTEMBER 19

Language HSC Oral Exams

AUGUST 18

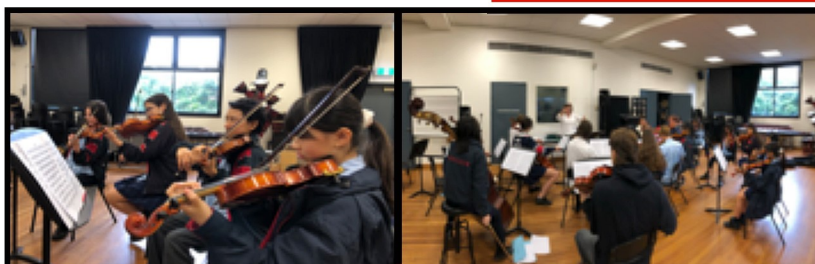
Year 10 into 11 2021
Course Information Evening

SEPTEMBER 30

UAC Earlybird Applications Due

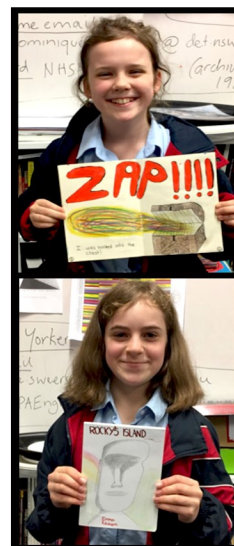
THE SOUNDS OF MUSIC

After a considerable time being unable to practise as a group, due to social-distancing restrictions, two ensembles, *Strings* and *Senior WOMP* pictured here, at their first rehearsals!



IN THE WORDS OF ENGLISH

A highlight for the NHSPA English faculty this term has been working with Year 7 on their History Mystery Picture Book Project. Students had to undertake thorough research on a topic of their choice in History, then go on to plan and construct a picture book complete with illustrations in their English classes. They exhibited great grit in undertaking this task, which was largely worked on remotely. The finished products are overwhelmingly of great quality, and a testament to the dedication of both students and their English and History teachers.

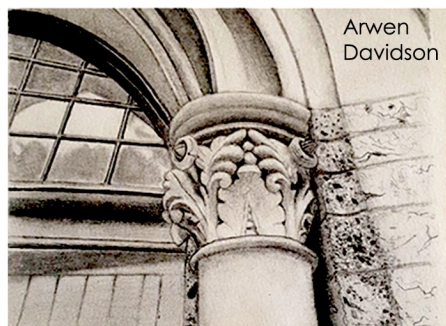


Ms Chen continues her work in debating and public speaking, with Finbar Clayton and Georgie Tinning set to represent NHSPA in the Stage 6 Plain English Speaking competition, which will be conducted by video link.

All year groups are deeply engaged with their learning and are rapidly approaching the conclusion of their respective units of work. Our Year 12 Standard, Advanced and Extension 1 English students are busily preparing themselves for the upcoming Trial HSC Examinations, while Extension 2 English students are rapidly preparing for the submission of their Major Works.

VOICES FROM THE SCHOOL COMMUNITY

In Visual Arts we have been working hard to keep our talented students engaged and motivated in these challenging times. Some units of work were replaced with projects where students were given time and support to reflect on their experiences, by creating artworks around the themes of isolation. Students have been using the materials available to them to produce works in a range of media. We are proud of the manner in which they adapted to working from home. Digital exhibition sites of students' work were created to share and celebrate their success, as well as exhibitions in our King St. Gallery



Arwen Davidson

View more wonderful work by our students on Digital Exhibitions Sites



Thomas Keogh



Talanan Paki



Lily Hackett



Sopla Angilletta



Milly B-D



Mia Bocalatte



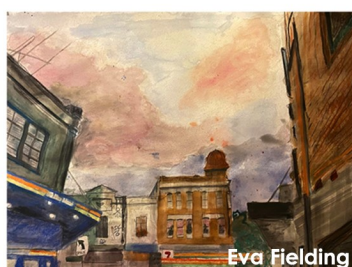
Sasha Platonova



Zara Sfibbard



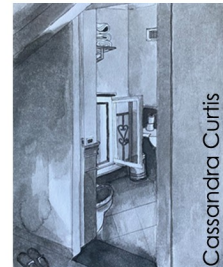
Vana Strakhova



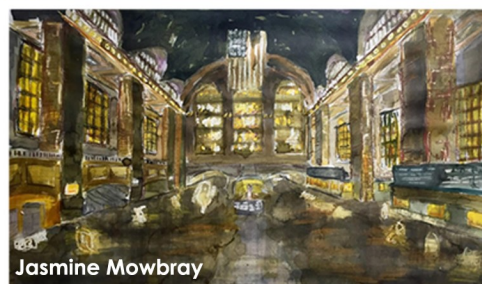
Eva Fielding



Rafi Gonzalez-Malcom



Cassandra Curtis



Jasmine Mowbray



Mannix Thomson

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<https://sites.google.com/education.nsw.gov.au/8vax2/isolation-drawings>
<https://sites.google.com/education.nsw.gov.au/placesandspacesexhibition/home>

HIP HOP UNIFORM SHOP

The Uniform Shop is located on the 3rd Floor of F Block on school grounds.

Open every Thursday: 8am-1.30pm
 Thursdays only: 9565 4958

Price lists and order forms for both Junior & Senior Uniforms are available on the website.

Orders can be made by email to:

Linda Jones

hiphopclothing@bigpond.com

Online MATHS TUTORING

Available via ZOOM

(GROUP PRICES ~ MAX 6 Students)

YEARS 7/8/9 ~ \$45/Week for 1.5 HRS

2 X 45 Minute Sessions

YEAR 10 ~ \$70/Week for 2 HRS

Email: elly@polymathtutoring.com.au

Telephone: 0451 844 047

B Adv Mathematics, Hons 1 in Statistics, UNSW



FROM THE LIBRARY

WONDERFUL NEW RESOURCES!

Aesthetica

Art Monthly ~ Australia

Griffith Review

Inside Film (IF)

Selvedge

The New Yorker

New Philosopher

DIGITAL MAGS

Available NOW!

Check your email and Library signage for login details

REVAMPING OUR SCHOOL

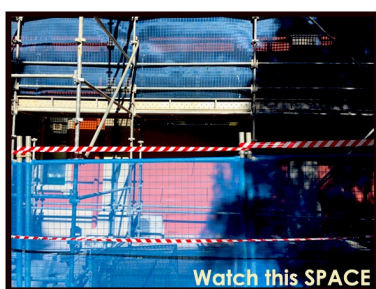
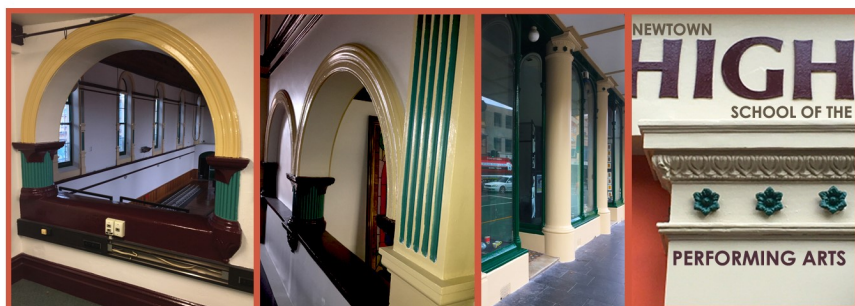
A BURST OF COLOUR AND LIFE!

With most of our staff and students engaged in remote learning, we carried out some much needed renovations and refurbishment around the school. Classrooms, stairwells, doors and walk-ways have been painted.

The garden has been rejuvenated!



Painters have been hard at work rendering, repainting, and restoring both the interior and exterior of St. George's Hall to its former glory. The more vibrant look gives the venue a new lease on life. We are also commencing plans to re-develop the interior into a performing arts, events and entertainment space for NHSPA, under the direction of our new Technical Production Manager, Sean Hartley.



This term we welcome our newest member of the NHSPA family ~ Chris Alexopoulos
"THE KEEPER OF THE GREENS"



The
"Garden of Herbs"
is thriving, thanks to the care and attention given by Declan Crane in Year 11.

