

FROM OUR PRINCIPAL

A big welcome to our new and returning families in 2021. With an enrolment of over 1,100 the school is a very busy, vibrant place. In these past five weeks we have settled Year 7 into the school, established a new online audition system, welcomed new parents with a special meet and greet evening, conducted the first of many school tours for prospective families, held peer support and coaching training sessions, elected the SEED student leadership team, and held a camp for Year 11. All of this would not be possible without the energy and enthusiasm of our wonderful staff. My thanks to them for making the start of the year such a positive one.

IMPRESSIVE HSC RESULTS

Once again our HSC cohort performed exceptionally well despite a disrupted year. 57% of all results were in the top two bands (with a mark of 80% or above) and 83% of all results were in the top three bands- a fantastic result. All Performing and Creative Arts subjects were well above the state average, with Grace Huynh achieving a perfect score of 100% in Dance (placed third in the state). Our DUX, Otis Dhanji achieved an outstanding ATAR of 98.9 and seventy students (41% of the cohort) featured on the Distinguished Achievers' List having scored a Band 6 in one or more subjects. I would like to acknowledge the outstanding commitment of our HSC teachers who guided the cohort so expertly through a very difficult and challenging year. I would also like to thank parents for your support of your child's education. Success in the HSC is very much the result of students, staff and parents working together.

NEW STAFF WELCOME

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome our new staff: Ms Ngaire de Korte and Ms Jessica Brookes in English, Ms Susan Lever in Maths, Mr Gary Ivison in TAS, Ms Matilda Roberts in HSIE, Ms Zoe Van Munster and Ms Erica Roberts in Drama, Ms Rachel Holland and Mr Mark Johnson in PE and our new school counsellor Ms Stefanie Vianello. We appreciate the expertise new staff bring to the school and hope they will enjoy their time at NHSPA.

TEACHERS AS LEARNERS

The school year commenced with two days of professional learning for all our staff. Guided by the expertise of a representative from NESA (NSW Education Standards Authority), our teaching staff spent most of the first day analysing the school's HSC results and sharing strategies for further improvement. The focus for the second day was exploring different methods of assessment and feedback, as well as collaboration on our new Strategic Improvement Plan. A big thank you to Deputy Principal Nilufer Rajwar for her superb organisation of both days.



STUDENT VOICE

It has been such a relief to have the school return to "near normal" this year. Last week we held a full school assembly where we congratulated the new SEED Leadership Team elected by their peers. This team represents students across all years. They, alongside the Year 12 prefect team, have a number of plans to improve the school including: a breakfast to celebrate International Women's Day, Friday lunchtime concerts, Shave for A Cure and other fundraising events. Students have provided us with valuable feedback about learning and assessment and have reflected on ideas for further school improvement.

*It is a privilege to be Principal of this wonderful school.
My best wishes to the Newtown school community for a
happy and fulfilling 2021.*

SHARON ROBERTS
PRINCIPAL

VOICES FROM THE SCHOOL COMMUNITY

WORLD OF DRAMA

The Drama department is hitting the ground running this year, as we bounce back from lockdown restrictions. Aside from our full curriculum and company program, we have several wonderful partnerships that we are able to forge this year.

Firstly, with the assistance of the Performing Arts Grant, we have been able to commission new original works from 2 renowned playwrights. Lachlan Philpott and Vanessa Bates are in the process of creating work for our Drama companies to perform as part of our Semester 1 showcase coming up later in Term 2.

This will mark the premiere production of Vanessa's play "The Rats: The River" and Lachlan's work "Consent" which will be performed by our Year 9 and Year 10 companies respectively. It is such a wonderful opportunity for our students to see how the writing process works as they collaborate with professional writers and have input into the process of creating brand new work. We encourage all members of our community to book in to see these world premieres as part of our Drama showcase season.

In addition to these exciting projects, all our Drama companies have commenced rehearsals and are now in full swing and we are looking forward to seeing all our talented Drama students showcase their talents in our Semester 1 showcase.

Our stage 5 Drama students have also spent a day exploring the characters and conventions of Commedia Dell'arte with industry professional Kylie Bonnacorso. Kylie came to NHSPA in week 6 to provide a workshop and masterclass for students who are studying Commedia as part of their curriculum in Drama core. We were so lucky to have her here and cannot wait to have her return to Newtown in the near future.



Commedia Workshop

Our Talented Film Studies students were also called upon to work in collaboration with "Film By..." which is a special project run by the Department of Education. The students were asked to write, produce and shoot their own video for the "Make Every Day Count" campaign which details the importance of attendance at school. Our students collaborated across all years to create this short film all in ONE day. Congratulations to Ms Macedone and the Film Students for showing flair in their creativity and organisation. Look out for the premiere of the film in the coming weeks.



Behind the scenes 'Film By...' film project

We have also embarked on a creative partnership with ATYP to bring another new work to the stage. Our Year 9 students this term will be working with emerging playwright Maddie Nunn on her new work "The Chapel, The Fire and the Dead Cat". Students will spend a whole day with Maddie and the creative team from ATYP to help develop the final draft of the script, which will then culminate in the first full production of this work in Semester 2 this year, where we will have the work staged as a co-production with ATYP in our very own studio theatre.

We are so thrilled to provide these unique opportunities for our students to collaborate with such esteemed industry professionals and have many more projects and workshops on the horizon. If any parents in our school community have connections with Industry organisations or individuals we can collaborate with, we are always happy to explore more connections. Please contact the school to let us know.



Early Bird prices end on 22 March so book in now to get your discount.

SEE THE FULL PROGRAM & BOOK

VOICES FROM THE SCHOOL COMMUNITY

NHSPA SOUNDS of Music

SAE Institute recording

Members of the Year 9 and 10 Extension Choir were recently invited to record part of an original sound-track, written by Elana Stone, for a new Australian animation.

The students, directed by Tanya Sparke, impressed producers with their professional approach. In turn, the students gained an insight into the process of recording for film.



Music Ensembles

Congratulations to all of those students that auditioned for Music ensembles this year. There will always be a very diverse range of skills and experience and the aim is to give students the opportunity to build on these skills and develop confidence. What also makes the audition process special for us is having the opportunity to come together as a music community, especially after such a challenging year.



Jazz Orchestra

All students should now be aware of which ensembles they will be part of. Please note that parents/students should have received notification from the school indicating how to accept placement in an ensemble.

Any students either not placed in an ensemble or those wanting feedback from the audition process are encouraged to come and see Music staff.



Symphonic Wind Ensemble

NHSPA VOCAL / INSTRUMENTAL

TUITION PROGRAM 2021

NHSPA provides the opportunity for all students to undertake private music tuition at the school.

The Vocal / Instrumental tuition program is open to all students at NHSPA.

The school provides tutors for private half hour lessons in a range of instruments as well as voice.

The tutors employed are all professional working musicians as well as experienced music educators.

Lessons are once a week during school hours.

Tutors will rotate the times of student lessons each week so they will not be missing the same class each week.

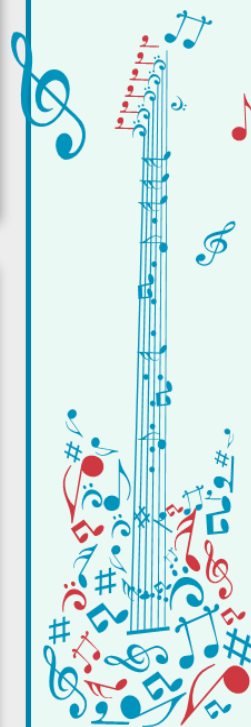
Most lessons are \$40 for a half hour private lesson.

The demand for private instrumental lessons in all areas has been high therefore many tutors are rapidly filling all their available spaces.

Expression of Interest forms can be found on the school website or are available from the Music staffroom.

If you are interested in lessons, please fill in a VITP Expression of Interest form and return it to the drop box outside the Music staffroom.

This is a great opportunity for all students at NHSPA to get involved and to learn new skills.



VOICES FROM THE SCHOOL COMMUNITY



INNOVATION AND CREATIVITY IN TAS



It is great to be back at NHSPA in 2021 without the many restrictions of COVID-19. Last year was a difficult year for students, having to navigate around the many restraints whilst undertaking courses with design projects and major practical components.

It is a refreshing start and also exciting to see the enthusiasm of all our students as they undertake courses in Technology Mandatory, Design and Technology, Information Software Technology, Set Design and Construction, Hospitality, Food Technology, Textiles and Design, Master Designer and Master Chef.

Year 7 are well into the study of Technology Mandatory with classes undertaking their first rotation in either, the Food and Agriculture, Digital Technologies or Textile Technology units. Having students arrive early to class, hopping on the spot and keen to get in and start work is definitely a highlight for the TAS staff.

Year 11 Design and Technology students are well on their way with the undertaking of their first Preliminary Project and we are very fortunate to have Ms Milos and Mr Collings taking them through the senior course.

Mr Ivison is with us for 6 months replacing Mr McAlpin who is on long service leave. His Year 9 and Year 10 Design and Technology classes are full of energy and Mr Ivison has captured many photos of them working on their design projects. It is exciting to see their skills develop as they work independently and support each other in the workshop.

Ms Meimaris' I.S.T. class has signed up for another year in the annual GROK challenge with the Australian Computing Academy and this is stretching their skills and experience both in and beyond the classroom.

Last week 40 Year 11 Textiles and Design students attended a workshop in Textile Illustration and Drawing delivered by the Whitehouse Institute of Design. This was a great experience for all the students in preparation for future folio work in both the Preliminary and HSC courses. Congratulation to Issa Tejima and Chloe Shelsher who were selected for the Young Designer award which includes a summer intensive workshop in 'Illustration and Drawing'.

The Year 12 Food Technology class completed their first assessment this year in Food Product Development. Their innovation in developing their marketable preserves and jams were testament to their ingenuity and creativity.

There is so much more happening in TAS but for now we want to welcome everyone back and send a special welcome to all the new Year 7 and Year 11 students and families. We look forward to a happy and productive year.

Diane Aynsley (HT), Craig Collings, Gary Ivison, Angela Meimaris, Effie Milos and Olivia Saravanos



VOICES FROM THE SCHOOL COMMUNITY

Voice of ENGLISH

With flourish and fervour, debating has brought the voices of Newtown students to the lectern once again. With senior auditions complete, students and teachers are preparing for a return to face to face debating.



Our dedicated Stage 6 students have already taken part in an early morning workshop about stance, eye contact and body language conducted by Ms Foster. With their first debate against Sydney Technical High School, our students go forth with an array of tools. This year we look forward to providing all our debating students with opportunities to work with Ms Foster.

Meanwhile, our stage 5 debaters have been working on their content delivery, meeting weekly with Ms Chen and waiting eagerly for the draw. Stage 4 is the last group to start, with teams being finalised. It won't be long before our Year 7 and 8 students step fourth into the highly competitive world of the NSW Premier's Debating Challenge.

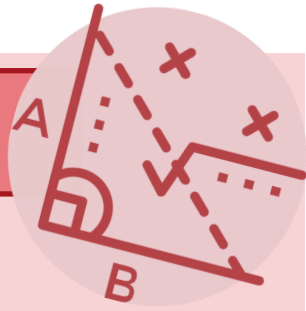
Back in the classroom, we have been excited to see our newest cohort of Year 7 students embrace all that is narrative as they explore various forms of storytelling. Crafting and refining their skills, students have been delighting themselves and their peers as they share creativity through the written word.

Finally, the English department would like to encourage our bibliophiles to join Ms Sweers and fellow students across the state in the Premier's Reading Challenge. With wide reading being enjoyed by students throughout their English classes, students are encouraged to record the works they are devouring and sign up to the challenge. The challenge opened Monday March 1, 2021 and closes Friday August 20, 2021.

Stage 6 students attend a workshop with Ms Foster



ma+hs



Last week, Year 7 had the opportunity to have a deeper learning experience in Mathematics, facilitated by the team at Inquisitive Minds and assisted by their mathematics teachers. This incursion gave the students a chance to practice their skills in collaboration and critical thinking, whilst also boosting their confidence in their mathematical strengths. It was a joy for their teachers to see so many students change their minds about how they view mathematics, from a fixed mindset to more of a growth mindset. The students in the photographs represent just some of the outstanding participation and performances during what was a fun-filled day for all involved. We all look forward to continuing to partner with the students in developing the Learning Dispositions of interpersonal, intrapersonal and cognitive abilities throughout their time at Newtown High School of the Performing Arts, where these skills are highly valued as tools that will hold these students in good stead throughout their lives.



VOICES FROM THE SCHOOL COMMUNITY



Year 7 Ancient History Show and Year 8 Medieval History Show

In early March, Year 7 and Year 8 were both treated to truly memorable experiences, designed to add flavour and hands-on experience to the Year 7 Ancient History and Year 8 Medieval History curriculums. Both shows were presented in the Studio Theatre by history expert James Adams, who brought his big personality, van

full of replica weapons, armour and other artefacts, and a truckload of information to share with his enthralled audiences.

Year 7 were fascinated to learn about ancient technology and the connection between farming implements and weapons of war, they picked up some shields to practice defensive moves from ancient Crete, examined the difference between Japanese and Chinese plate armour and heard several stories about culture and society.

Year 8 donned different chain mail armour to create a living timeline of technological developments, tried out the stocks to learn about medieval crime and punishment, and heard about everything from qualities of a good ninja to the job description of an English court jester.

The part of the show that the students have been raving about the most was when they became personally involved in the show and were invited to handle the artefacts for themselves.

The HSIE faculty thanks the students for their enthusiastic participation and everybody involved in running the show. We are sure the memories formed at these shows will stay with the students for a long time in the future.

Collaboration in HSIE

Across all HSIE subjects, students have been developing their skills in collaboration, ranging from creating 'Scams and Ripoffs' board games in Year 8 Commerce to archaeological digs in Year 11 Ancient History. In Year 8 Commerce, students are practising techniques to ensure they actively listen and work together with focus; and are researching and creating board games to educate people about different types of scams – how to detect a scam and how to protect yourself from scams.

Year 11 Ancient History have been working in groups to plan and create an 'archaeological site' for other students to 'dig through' to interpret and analyse the sites and draw possible conclusions about them. Meanwhile Year 7 History students are embarking on their History Mystery project which is part of a cross-faculty collaborative project with English, Drama and Visual Arts. Students choose their own historical mystery to research and explore, and later communicate through story books, drama and artwork. By providing experiences such as these we are encouraging students to communicate and work together to deepen their understanding and enjoy the learning process.

Rachel O'Neill—Head Teacher HSIE



Mock Trial

The **Law Society of NSW Mock Trial Competition** is back and running in 2021. Open to students across NSW, the program aims to introduce students to the NSW judicial system by providing practical experience into the running of a court case in a true-to-life adversarial setting. Students learn advocacy, debating and problem-solving skills. The Year 11 students involved in the Mock Trial team for 2021 are being led by Mr Tyrone Rigby who can be contacted if you have any questions.

VOICES FROM THE SCHOOL COMMUNITY

THROUGH THE EYES OF ART

Faculty we have been excited to start teaching our new Year 8 electives, Sculpture and Ceramics, Film and Animation and Photo, Paint and Print.

Year 7 and Year 9 students have an exhibition hung in the King Street gallery showcasing a collection of Year 7s drawings and photograms and Year 9 student's Upcycle/Recycle collages. The exhibition can be [viewed here](#).

There have been a lot of art competition opportunities available to students; we endeavour to help facilitate students entering these and have started posting all competitions on all google classrooms. These can be found by students under the *Competitions and Invitations* heading in classwork on their Google Classrooms. A big 'thank you' to parents who have dropped off newspapers for us to collage and use for various purposes in Visual Arts- please keep them coming!

For Semester 1 Showcase 2021 the Visual Arts Faculty is proud to announce that we will be holding an Alumni Exhibition of past, practicing artists of NHSPA. The exhibition will be open from **May 17 through to June 11 2021**, with an official opening TBA. Please feel free to extend this invitation to any past students of NHSPA who are practicing artists and have them contact me directly, francesca.heinz@det.nsw.edu.au. If past students/artists are in Sydney, we are having a meeting in the King Street gallery on **Wednesday 24 of March at 4pm**.

Please keep an eye out for upcoming masterclass opportunities. There will be a ceramics, slip casting masterclass run by contemporary Australian artist Yasmin Smith in Term 2, further details to follow.



Year 8 Sculpture and Ceramics

Students in Sculpture and Ceramics are learning hand-building techniques. They have already created their own pinch pots and are currently designing Totemic Story Spheres, which will involve both individual and collaborative work.

Year 8 Film and Animation

Students in Film and Animation have been working on a variety of things so far this term. They have been studying the book 'The Invention of Hugo Cabret' by Brian Selznick which was developed into the film *Hugo* by Martin Scorsese and have analysed how to translate written narrative into film imagery using storyboarding and shot types. Students have also been learning how to manipulate and handle a DSLR to film a 6 shot narrative sequence.



Year 8 Photo, Paint and Print

Students in PPP have been working towards developing a Collection of Works based on their bedroom, personal items and theoretical study of Surrealism. Students are learning how to draw with refinement, use a DSLR camera and then create a digital collage of their work using Photoshop. Students will select their favourite image to turn into a print in the darkroom by the end of the term. Check out these great artworks!



VOICES FROM THE SCHOOL COMMUNITY

ART continued...

Year 9 Startstruck

Students of Startstruck have been working hard developing their technology skills, learning how to use a DSLR, set up photography and lighting equipment and edit their work using Photoshop. The students have proven that they all have a wonderful eye for composition and are emerging as keen photographers. Students' work can be viewed on our class website [CLICK HERE](#)

Tuan Moreau 'Finn'

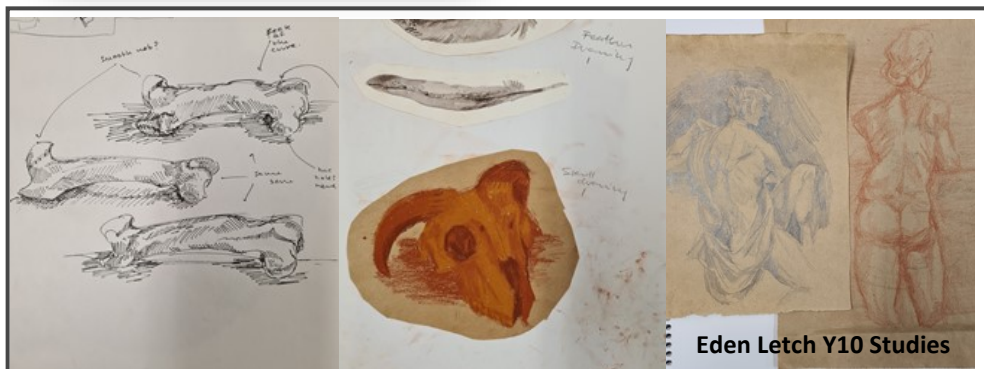


Armita Goleij '1922'



Year 9 Core, Upcycle/Recycle Unit

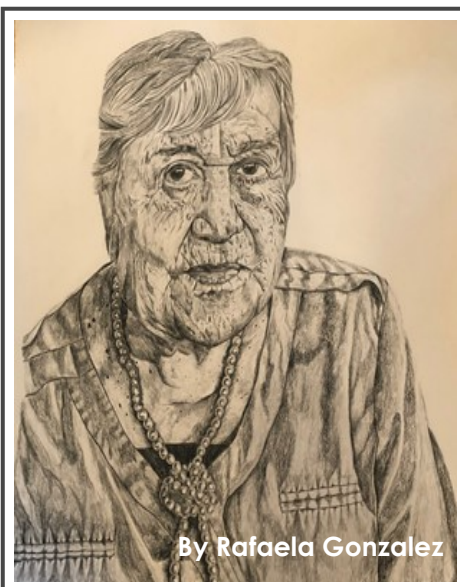
Year 9 Visual Arts students have been inspired by the work of Dadaist Hannah Hoch and contemporary Australian artist Rosalie Gascoigne to create a suite of collage works, exploring a range of different techniques and subject matter. Their portraits and woven juxtapositions can be seen on display in the King St gallery windows.



Eden Letch Y10 Studies

Year 10 Core, Idealism/Realism

Students in Year 10 have been studying *Idealism and Realism* in art. They are developing a drawing-based Collection of Work from their investigation of bones, anatomy and feathers while studying artists Da Vinci, Rebecca Warren, Michelangelo and Ron Mueck. Check out these amazing drawings.



By Rafaela Gonzalez

HSC Intensive Studio Practice |
Tues 6 – Fri 9 July & Mon 20 – Fri 24 Sept
Applications closing soon!

Designed to provide an opportunity for Year 11 students in Visual Arts to enrich and extend their study within a choice of seven specialised disciplines. Applicants who are achieving at the highest level of excellence can be nominated by their Visual Arts teacher. Find out more [HERE](#)



School Parade,
Marrickville, NSW, 2020

A big congratulations to our resident expert photographer and teacher Cassandra Vollmer, who has been selected as a finalist for the annual ZART-National Teacher Artist Prize.

You can [vote here](#)

Year 12 HSC

Our HSC students are very busy. They have been studying *The Art World*, working with Kaldor Public Art Projects exploring their archives and developing a collaborative curatorial project with the Kaldor Future Curators education program as well as making headway on the development of their Body of Work.

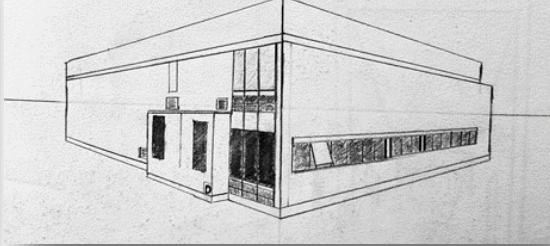
VOICES FROM THE SCHOOL COMMUNITY

ART continued...

Year 11 Visual Arts, Places and Spaces

The students have been engaging with their environment investigating forms of drawing perspective as well as working en-plein-air to capture various buildings at school.

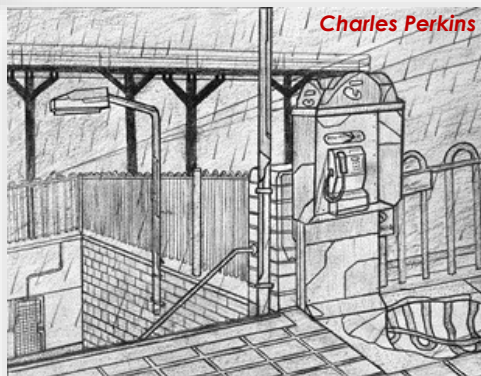
Xavier Strickland



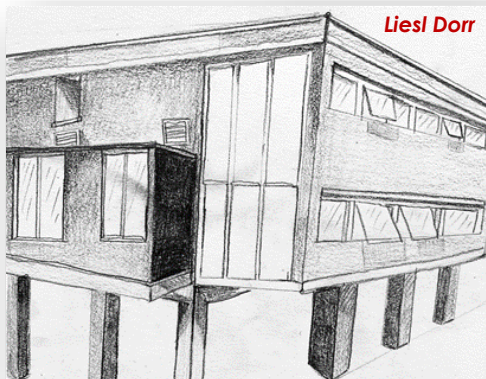
Astrid Davis



Charles Perkins



Liesl Dorr



SCIENCE REPORT

Things are starting to ramp up in Science – literally! Year 8 have been experimenting with forces and using ramps with toy cars to explore the effects of friction. This will lead into their machines project, issued this week, culminating in the Machine Expo at the end of Week 4 next term. The new Year 8 science elective, CSI, is also in full swing. Students are now completing their second YouTube video and hoping to publish them soon. If you have not sent back permission slips, please ensure you do so.

Depth studies for all senior courses have been issued or will be shortly. As these are ongoing major tasks, it is very important that they are working on them continuously and do not leave them to the due date.

All junior year groups have had assessments over the past few weeks with Year 9 involved in a problem-solving group assessment about electricity in the home and Year 10 playing chemical detectives to solve a murder mystery. Year 7 have been learning how to be scientists, completing their first experiments and gaining their Bunsen burner licences.

VOICES FROM THE SCHOOL COMMUNITY

Innovative Teaching and Learning

Communication - Collaboration - Creativity - Critical Reflection

At Newtown High School of the Performing Arts, we are constantly looking at ways to further develop our teaching and learning practices across the school. We believe that students need to be equipped to meet the challenges facing them in our increasingly complex society. There is much research to show that the current model of schooling, designed, conceived & structured for a different age (the enlightenment and the industrial revolution) is no longer preparing today's students for the world they will inhabit tomorrow.

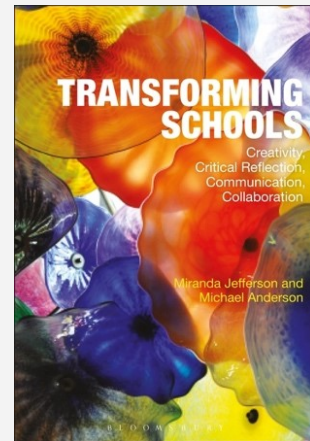
Sir Ken Robinson, PhD (internationally recognised author, speaker and leader in the development of creativity, innovation and human resources in education) has spoken of changing the paradigm (model). "We have a system of education which is modelled on the interests and image of industrialisation. Schools are still organised on factory lines, ringing bells, separate faculties and specialised subjects, we still educate students in batches... the most important thing about them is their date of manufacture. I know students who are better than other students at different disciplines, or at different times of the day, small groups, larger groups or solo work. Essentially it's about conformity, standardised testing and curriculum. Don't start from this production line mentality. I believe we need to go in the opposite direction - that's what I mean about changing the paradigm."

Robinson believes that it is within our power to change the status-quo. Robinson argues that we are all born with an insatiable desire to learn, driven by a burning curiosity to discover and interact with the world around us. The education system needs to harness and foster this, not limit and squash it under a model that is geared for mass production, conformity and compliance.

At Newtown High School of the Performing Arts we are working to shift the paradigm and develop a deep culture of learning, aiming to prepare students with the skills they will require to be successful & engaged members of our increasingly chaotic, complex and contradictory society. Our staff are engaged in developing innovative classroom practice to facilitate deep learning and using the 4C's (creativity, communication, collaboration and critical reflection) to reimagine all components that make up our school.

Our 4C approach is based on the work of Dr Miranda Jefferson and Professor Michael Anderson. More detailed information can be found in their book "Transforming Schools" or their website

<https://www.4ctransformativelearning.org/>



I look forward to sharing more information about the ways we are further developing a culture of deep learning and shifting the paradigm at Newtown in future newsletters.

Giovanna Trenoweth


Head Teacher Learning & Innovation

200 Years A Celebration of Greek Music

Dimitris Basis
together with students from Newtown High School of the Performing Arts
present

Songs and music from different periods of Hellenic history - from the Revolution and the War of Independence in the early 19th century, through to the modern era, including music from Smyrna and Rebetika.
Conducted by Emlyn Lewis-Jones, with orchestrations by George Doukas.

TUESDAY 8 JUNE | 7PM
St George's Hall, 354 King St Newtown
\$50 + bf

 200yearsofmusic.eventbrite.com.au

