

## WELCOME BACK NHSPA! FROM OUR PRINCIPAL

What a very busy and exciting start to 2022! After nearly two years of disrupted learning, the school is now back in full swing. So far, we have held our annual swimming carnival, Year 12 Award Assembly, Year 11 camp, SEED elections and auditions for our extensive co-curricular program. It has been wonderful to get to know many of our new students and members of our school community.

## TO THE NEWEST MEMBERS OF THE NHSPA FAMILY, **YEAR 7**

This year we have a record number of Year 7 enrolments. I would like to thank Year 7 Deputy Principal Ms Nilaufer Rajwar for her leadership of the Orientation Program as well as Year Advisors, Ms Alice Chen and Ms Rachael Holland for helping Year 7 to get to know each other and settle quickly into their new learning environment. At NHSPA we have high expectations of all our students, our staff work incredibly hard to make classrooms places where students enjoy learning and are challenged to achieve their best.

I would also like to acknowledge and thank our Year 10 Peer Support leaders under the guidance of Ms Amanda De Camillo for helping to make Year 7 feel connected to the school. This week Year 10 will be on hand to assist staff at the Year 7 camp. This is always one of the highlights of the school year and I'm sure all the students will thoroughly enjoy the experience.

## STUNNING HSC RESULTS

The school's reputation for high academic standards was evident with the release of the 2021 HSC results. Despite a turbulent year where students endured an extended period of online learning and trial examinations completed at home, our students showed enormous grit and resilience to achieve results in line with previous years and considerably higher than the state average. 60% of results were in the top two bands and nearly 90% in the top three bands. These fine results have led to the school being ranked 3rd in the list of the state's top 10 public schools (non-selective), an outstanding result!



Individual results were also impressive; congratulations to Nona Walne who achieved an ATAR of 98 making her DUX of the school and to Jessica Weinholt who achieved 9th place in the state in History Extension. It is pleasing to note that despite a very difficult

year with changes to the practical projects and no live performances, all performing and creative arts subjects were substantially above state average. Congratulations to all our HSC students and their expert teachers.

## SHOWCASE ALL YEAR ROUND

NHSPA is committed to providing all students with opportunities for creative expression whether it be stage performances, film making, art and design or technical fundamentals. With so many events on the calendar and limited venues available we have decided to spread our performances more evenly during the year. First up is a co-production with The Australian Theatre for Young People *The Chapel, the Fire and the Dead Cat* featuring Year 10 co-curricular drama students. This play written by Madelaine Nunn was the winner of ATYP's Foundation Commission (2020). The season runs for three nights from Wednesday April 6 – Friday April 8, tickets can be purchased by going to the school's website.

# VOICES FROM THE SCHOOL COMMUNITY

## WELCOME

### TO OUR NEW PARENTS

I would like to warmly welcome all new parents to the school. Unfortunately, COVID restrictions have prevented us from holding our traditional welcome event this term. We are anticipating this event will go ahead early next term and will be an opportunity for parents to meet informally with teachers and other parents.

Please don't hesitate to contact the school if you have questions, concerns or require more information. We understand getting used to a different school especially one as complex as ours can be challenging initially. Our office staff are always ready to help or refer you to the appropriate staff member such as the Deputy Principal responsible for the year group, Year Advisors, School Counsellors or the Student Support Officer.

In a school where there are so many opportunities and talented, committed students, it is sometimes difficult to keep track of all student achievement. Parents are encouraged to email the school of any achievements we may not be aware of so we can highlight these during the year.

### AND STAFF

We warmly welcome new staff members who are joining us this year: Lisa Coveny (English), Joseph Wong (Maths), Michael Anthony (Languages), Callum Eckersley (HSIE), Louisa Field (HSIE), Karen Cortez (Music), Simona Kanasugi (TAS), Jose Gonda (Drama), Angelique Mavromatis (Dance) and Colleen Cooper (PDHPE). We also have new school counsellors Anneke Porter-Heubeck and Jess Cashman. I am sure they will enjoy being at our school and quickly become part of the Newtown community.

*On behalf of the school, I wish all our community a very happy and fulfilling 2022!*

Sharon Roberts  
Principal

## THANK YOU

We are very fortunate to have a group of dedicated parents and carers willing to offer their time and expertise to improve the school. I would like to congratulate and thank Marina Pieri who is the school's newly elected P&C President. Last year Marina was successful in obtaining a Community Building Partnership Grant on behalf of the school. This money will be used to fund a much-needed PA safety alert and an upgrade to the bell system. It is anticipated work on the installation will be completed in the next few months. A very warm welcome to the members of the new P&C executive; Steve Clarke, Meg Quinlisk and Belinda Davey. I look forward to working closely with the committee during the year

### FROM OUR CAPTAINS

#### WHAT MAKES THEM TICK?

What does being a leader mean to you?



When considering what I think makes a good leader, I always seem to come back to two words; empathy and vulnerability.

I think the most effective way to help others is not to try and solve their problems, from your perspective, but rather place yourself in their shoes and consider what is most important. From personal experience, I am more inclined to listen to those who position themselves as equal and listen to me without judgment. Demonstrating this vulnerability opens doors for mutual understanding. Stella Clarkson

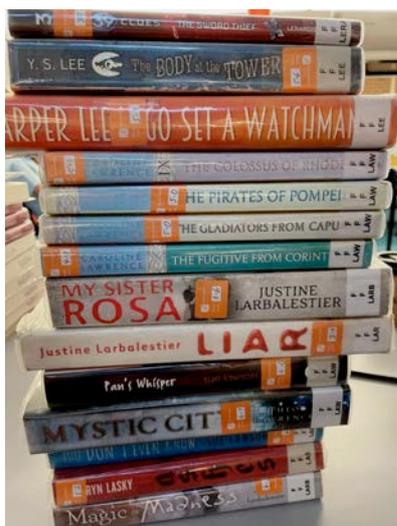
#### What are your aspirations?

It's such a big world out there with so many opportunities and different pathways. I want to continue communicating with others, keep sharing ideas, be challenged and always learn.



At present, I want to be a great leader of NHSPA, support teachers and students with my Co-Captain, Stella, and the incredible Prefect team. Newtown is a terrific school that embraces diversity and encourages the Performing Arts, so I wish to adhere to its values and support the local community in whatever ways I can. Amity Lees

# VOICES FROM THE SCHOOL COMMUNITY



## IN THE WORDS OF **ENGLISH**

The English Department is excited for the start of a new school year, a time in which anticipation and energy levels are at their highest and the desire of our students to learn is most palpable.

This year we are proud to introduce the Renaissance Reading program, with Years 7 and 8 students immersing themselves in the world of literature. The program aims to match students with books from our library based on interests and reading ability. Students are encouraged to challenge themselves, and to recognise the escapism and pleasure offered by reading. Each book is accompanied by a quiz to test understanding and vocabulary, encouraging students to build their reading ability. Our students will receive regular library sessions to promote strong borrowing habits, alongside the opportunity to read during their English lessons.

With the start of a new school year comes another year of the prestigious Premier's Debating Challenge. Our Year 12 team, coordinated by Alice Chen, has already started the season, coming up against some strong competition and being narrowly defeated by North Sydney Girls High School in the zone competition. Our Year 11 team will also be facing off against North Sydney Girls High School in the coming weeks. Stages 4 and 5 teams will be starting their campaign in the competition shortly, and we anticipate great success. We encourage all students who would like to have their voice heard, improve their critical thinking skills, and learn how to work effectively in a team to visit the English faculty and express interest in debating.



Debating Team: J. Kwan, S. Saunders  
A. Pieri, S Angilletta and T. Gledhill

## **BONJOUR** AND WELCOME

Michael Anthony, Prof de Français, who is looking forward to building up the Languages Program at NHSPA.



While Y8 have been busy learning to talk about their names, age, birthday, friends, where they live, greetings and the French Alphabet, Y10 have been learning to talk about themselves and what personality traits a friend has.

Images of Year 8 engaged in the Quizlet, Live Quiz

# VOICES FROM THE SCHOOL COMMUNITY

## A HSIE EXPERIENCE

The HSIE faculty welcomes everyone back to the 2022 school year! We aim to inspire curiosity and deep thinking in all of our subjects and in the ongoing weather and other events around us. At the time of writing I am hoping that Year 9 students recall their learning from Geography in Year 8 regarding water and the world, and the impacts of La Nina, climate change and other geographical issues and events!

The team this year is a fabulous group of teachers. We welcome Mr Eckersley to our team this year, joining Ms Ansoul, Mr Cole, Mr Field, Ms Field, Ms Leotta, Mr Mayerhofer, Ms O'Neill (HT), Mr Parnham, Mr Pico (DP) and Ms van Maanen. We are looking forward to a great 2022.

Take a look below at a couple of examples of the learning activities being done in Year 7 and Year 8 this term - Year 7 are investigating their History Mysteries, while Year 8 Commerce are delving deep into the world of scams and rip-offs to create educational and engaging board games.

Please do not hesitate to contact myself or any of our teachers if you have any questions or need anything at all!

Ms O'Neill  
Head Teacher HSIE



## WELCOME TO LIFE AT NHSPA IN 2022

Let's keep our fingers crossed that this year we will be able to hold Y10 Subject Selection and Careers EXPO for Years 10, 11, 12 and our parents, in Term 3, as it should be.....face-to-face!

For now, a fabulous, 'one-stop' careers website for high schools, which is available for all our year 10, 11 & 12 students to explore & seek answers to questions relating to their future study & career pathway plans. Take the time to explore what it has to offer together with the students. NHSPA's password is nhs  
It's comprehensive, fun, fast and easy!



# VOICES FROM THE SCHOOL COMMUNITY

## EXPLORING & EXPERIMENTING IN SCIENCE

Welcome back to school for 2022.

Let's hope the year progresses with a few less curve balls! We have already begun making the most of the relaxation in restrictions to get out and about again with our first excursion for the year to *Symbio Wildlife Park*, where Year 8 had a great day getting close and personal with lots of Aussie animals.



Year 7 have also launched into their science studies with enthusiasm, learning about all the specialised equipment we have in the science lab, received their Bunsen Burner licence and started to perform their first experiments.



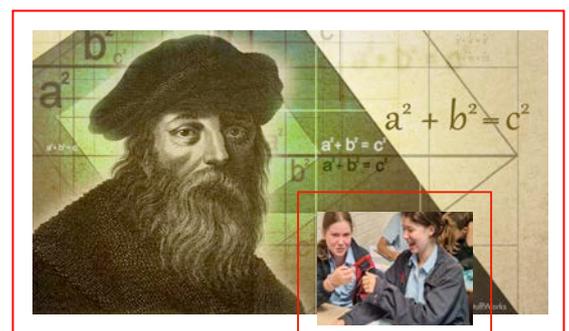
Science club has also been launched, with Mr Preston, who we are thankful for giving up his lunchtime to get this initiative started, leading the charge with lots of interesting experiments and nerdy science stuff. The students are thrilled!

We hope the face-to-face, hands-on approach will continue to prevail this year!



## UNDERSTANDING THE WORLD THROUGH MATHEMATICS

Year 8 are currently researching Pythagoras' Theorem in Mathematics, which require a combination of skills: good reading, comprehension, dexterity, mathematical reasoning, and collaboration. It also connects how his theorem is frequently used in architecture woodwork, & other physical construction projects. The task is very hands on, seeing students with drinking straws, pipe cleaners, and an A6 sheet of paper to discover what Pythagoras articulated some 3500 years ago.



Year 9 are investigating Maths in the real world through a finance assignment, calculating wages salaries, taxes and Medicare levy.

Miah and Alice working in pairs to solve some difficult worded problems in Financial Mathematics.



# VOICES FROM THE SCHOOL COMMUNITY

## PDHPE

### A WONDERFUL START TO 2022!

Congratulations to our Year 11/12 students who were elected by their peers to be the 2022 Sport Captains for 2022.



### THE SWIMMING CARNIVAL

A TRIUMPH and a fantastic turn out at Prince Alfred Park Pool with the rain not dampening the spirits of our students. Overall House winner was MUSICAL



## FILM @ NHSPA

In 2021, a number of our students' films were selected as finalists in the My State Film Festival. They were invited to be part of the live broadcast, crossing from our NHSPA film classroom to the Theatre Royal in Hobart.

In the Intermediate Category NHSPA took out BEST FILM with Indiana Thompson's (Y8), "The Call".

In the High School Category NHSPA took out BEST FILM with Asia Dunstone's (Y10), "Wandering Times".

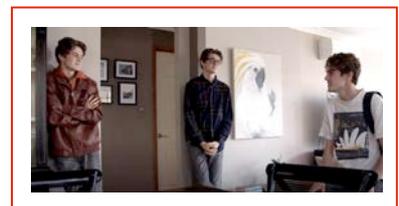
At the Bloodfest International Horror Film Festival our students took out the following categories:

BEST STUDENT FILM - "Green Smoothy" Alyson Rudlin (Y11) who won the coveted Gold Skull Trophy, a film lighting set and 2 lapel mics for the school's Film Department!

MOST OUTSTANDING PERFORMER - "Stuck" Nic Naumov (Y11) also won a Go-See with a prestigious Sydney Casting Agent for the film industry.

Elodie Kliendienst's (Y10) film "Check Mate: Flat Mate" was selected as a Finalist for the International Flickerfest Film Festival, 'FlickerUp', Bondi, NSW.

James Doust's film "The Right Choice" has a place in the official selection for the 2022 Atlanta Children's Film Festival USA.



# VOICES FROM THE SCHOOL COMMUNITY

## DANCING with the NHSPA STARS

Congratulations to all the dancers who auditioned for a place in the co-curriculum program this year. Rehearsals have commenced and choreographers and students alike are enjoying getting to know each other and beginning to work on their performance 'works' for mid-year showcase 2022.

## OUTSTANDING

### HSC PERFORMANCE!

We also congratulate the 2021 HSC graduates on excellent achievement in the Dance and Classical Ballet courses. Their ability to persist and overcome a constantly changing situation was admirable and all their hard work paid off with 95% receiving marks in the top 2 bands.



## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Dance Classwork Showcase

Tues 7<sup>th</sup> Wed 8<sup>th</sup> June, 7pm – St Georges Hall

Lighthouse Dance Project

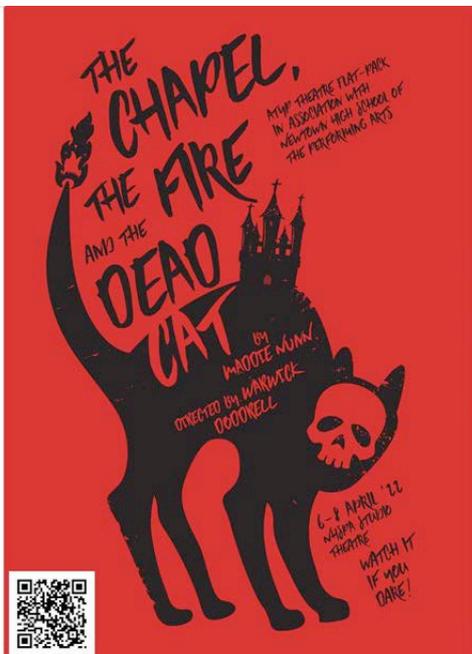
Thurs 9<sup>th</sup> and Fri 10<sup>th</sup> June - Seymour Centre

In The Spotlight Dance Festival

Tues 14<sup>th</sup> June – Fri 24<sup>th</sup> June – Seymour Centre

NHSPA Dance mid-year showcase

Sat 18<sup>th</sup> June 7.30pm – Seymour Centre



## DRAMA

It feels like such a long time since we have been able to celebrate all the wonderful performance opportunities we are able to offer our students at NHSPA. This year the Drama faculty has been looking at new and exciting ways to provide learning opportunities to extend our students and showcase their talents. With Term 1 already in full swing, the Drama department is looking forward to being back in business in full power mode with new and exciting projects on the Calendar.

Junior companies will spend time working together, skill building in workshops with their directors as well as participating in Master classes with professionals.

Year 9, 10 and 11 will perform in our Drama Showcase Semester One, and our Semester Two showcase will be devoted to our junior companies who will be given more time to develop and rehearse their work with their directors throughout the year.

In Term 1, our year 10 students will perform in a co-production with Australian Theatre for Young People, *The Chapel, the Fire and the Dead Cat* by Madeleine Nunn, in the Studio Theatre. This is a public season that was work-shopped, auditioned and cast in 2021 and had to be postponed due to the pandemic. We are thrilled to finally bring this production to NHSPA and be partnering with ATYP and hope to have many more of these co-productions in the future.

# VOICES FROM THE SCHOOL COMMUNITY

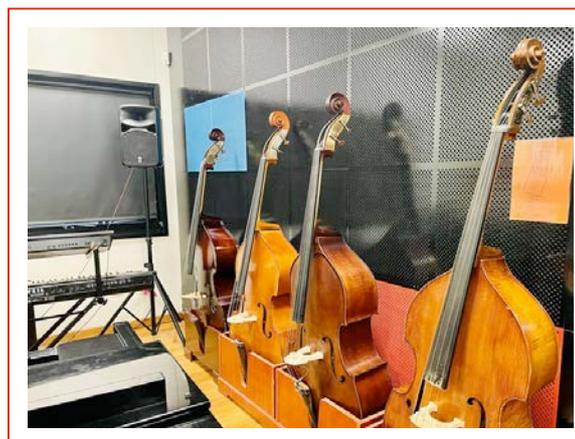
## THE SOUNDS OF MUSIC

We return to the full running of the Music Co-Curricular Program with energy and a great sense of reunion in forming our ensembles and choirs. The meaning of ensemble is "together, to produce a single effect" and our excitement to return to a strong NHSPA sense of musical togetherness is running at an all time high!

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Big Night Out Music Concert Series  
Tue 24 and Wed 25 May, St Georges Hall  
With senior ensembles performing for two grand evenings of music for the heart and soul.

Vivo Music Concert Series  
Tue 31 May and Wed 1 June



## VOCAL AND INSTRUMENTAL TUITION PROGRAM

Private music lessons in a chosen instrument or voice are available through this program, with lessons already underway with a positive sense of energy.

## THROUGH THE EYES OF THE VISUAL ARTS



HSC Visual Arts 'Top Works' exhibition opened to a private audience during Week 4, demonstrating the exceptional standard of creative work of our 2021 cohort. Whilst we weren't able to host a full opening due to COVID-19 limitations, we hope you will be able to enjoy the show through the NHSPA King St Gallery windows closest to Corelli's cafe.



Congratulations to Etti Davis (Y8), who was shortlisted last year for the Young Artist Creative Awards Competition in the Inner West Council 2021. She was the youngest shortlisted student with her beautiful animation "Northern Lights", based on the Northern Lights book series.

# VOICES FROM THE SCHOOL COMMUNITY



## NEWS UPDATES ACHIEVEMENTS AND CONTACTS

NHSPA P&C is committed to actively contributing to the education of our kids, so please come along and join us at our meetings at 6.00 in the common room, or on zoom every 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month, except school holidays to find out about events, issues, policies and general news of the school.

### HAVE YOU RENEWED YOUR MEMBERSHIP FOR 2022?

To join, please transfer \$10 annual membership to:

NHSPA P&C Association BSB: 062-212. Account No: 00904422

Please include your email address in the reference field

Also, donations are the P&C's main source of funding so we would greatly appreciate a donation of \$50 per family or any amount you wish to donate. Donations may be made to the bank account details above.

### 2021 ACHIEVEMENTS

Last year we all had to deal with many challenges because of COVID.

However, this did not stop the P&C from achieving the following:

Successfully gaining two grants for the cost of installing a safety intercom, PA and bell system in the school as follows:

- \$31,547 from the NSW Government's 2021 Community Building Partnership Grant program through our local MP Jenny Leong
- \$10,000 from the WestConnex Community Grant Program
- Supported the school with a parent representative to approve spending of the St George Trust funds
- Supported the school with parent representatives on staff selection panels and the uniform tender panel
- Provided input into School Strategic Improvement Plan 2021-2024
- Supported the 2021 Year 7 welcome event
- Subsidised the cost of the drug and alcohol workshop given to parents
- Ran the first semester showcase cafes and staffed the Art Gallery exhibition
- Provided graduation cupcakes for the Year 12 Graduation
- Supported teachers in their fight for better pay and working conditions
- Provided thank-you vouchers for each school staff member for Bourke St Bakery.

**CONTACTING THE P&C:** Please don't hesitate to contact us with any issues or enquiries that you may have at [newtownhighschoolperformingarts@pandcaffiliate.org.au](mailto:newtownhighschoolperformingarts@pandcaffiliate.org.au)  
We would love to hear from you.  
NHSPA P&C Committee