

Principal's Update – 19 September 2025

Dear all

Today is the last day for Year 12 before graduation. As you know I have been so impressed by these young men and women. They have been outstanding representatives of our school in so many areas including leadership, visual and performing arts, sport, academic and kindness to younger students. Hopefully the sun will shine on their graduation day.

For Year 11, today is also the last of their Preliminary exams. They have been diligent in their approach to the exams and embraced the idea of StuVac. In the first two weeks of term 4, they will be finalising their subject choices for their HSC year. For students doing extension 1 English or mathematics they will be thinking of maybe taking extension 2.

For students of a history, science or music 2, they maybe thinking of taking a 1 unit extension course. Of course students need to study 6 subjects (or 12 units) in Year 11 but only 5 subjects (or 10 units) in Year 12. So many students will be thinking about which subject they may drop for their HSC year. This is a discussion with you, as well as their teachers.

Mr Papilos Head Teacher English is also the leader of the timetable team and is working very hard behind the scenes to ensure the timetable comes together. While most students get their first choices in elective subjects, occasionally there may be a clash and a student is asked to rechoose another elective. In the main unless a student is very clear about an alternative subject the students are given options to take home and discuss with family before the final choice is made.

The wonderful John Feros is retiring. Mr. Feros has been a teacher, Head Teacher Performing Arts and Stage 4 deputy principal at Mosman High for 35 years. During this time he has had two first in the state results in drama, a second in the state and numerous other top ten positions. This year an unheard of 6 students had their individual monologues nominated for OnStage and two groups consisting of 8 students. This is an amazing achievement both for our students and their teacher. On behalf of the Mosman High community, I know you will join me in wishing John well in his retirement.

Clint Johnson, former Head Teacher of PDHPE will be replacing John as Stage 4 deputy principal. Clint has had a wealth of experience in this deputy principal role in a relieving capacity and has also worked as Head Teacher Stage/wellbeing with both Stages 5 and 6. Clint has organised and attended camps, run tests including NAPLAN and coordinated the Peer Support program at our school. Like John he is very approachable and I encourage Year 7 and 8 parents to contact Clint or Bernadette Smith (HT Stage 4) if you have any concerns.

Also a huge thank you to the P&C and of course all parents whose financial contributions continue to support our school. At the meeting last night the P&C agreed to fund the necessary computers and infrastructure for all digital examinations. I had not realised until I counted every exam that year groups sit that there were this year 28 whole school digital exams that students sat in the hall. Just for your information, NAPLAN (Y7&9) involves 10 separate exams, Check-in (Y7, 8 & 9) 6 exams, HSC All My Own Work (Y10) 1 exam, HSC Minimum Standards (Y10) 2 exams, VALID/science (Y8 & 10) 2 exams, Wellbeing survey

(Y7, 8, 9, 10, 11) 5 exams and for the HSC, science extension and computing science 2 exams.

Having the computers set up in the hall charged and ready to go, means that students simply walk in put down their bags and go to their desk. This supports student wellbeing as it reduces anxiety at the start of the exam, supports equity as not all students have the same quality laptop and supports efficiency as students sometimes forget to charge their laptop or bring it on the day.

Finally there is only one week till our visual arts students leave Sydney for Paris and two weeks of art immersion at some of the most famous galleries in the world. I am sure the experience will be one that they will remember always.

Best wishes

Susan

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