



Term 3, Week 2, 2022

MHS Newsletter



Principal's Report

Welcome to Term 3! Alas, we were all rather keen to see things return to relative 'normal' over the last few months, but COVID continues to plague us and infections are becoming significant across our community. As a result, I am strongly recommending that all staff and students again don their masks when inside or in spaces such as buses, where they cannot adequately physically distance. People are infectious from either 48 hours before they have [symptoms](#), or if they do not have symptoms, from 48 hours before they test positive. If you have a household member with COVID and if you test negative and do not have any symptoms, you do not need to self-isolate, but you should be aware that you are at increased risk of COVID-19 and need to take steps to protect people around you. Mask wearing is mandatory for staff and high school students returning to school as close contacts for 5 days.

Year 10 into 11 2023 Subject Choice Evening

Unfortunately, our Year 10 into 11 2023 Subject Choice Evening had to be cancelled due to the rise in COVID infections, however, our Subject Selection Interviews will still go ahead on **Monday 8th and Tuesday 9th August (Week 4)**. Year 10 parents will receive a notification today (29/7/22) through the Sentral Parent Portal.

Should any Year 10 parent or student have cold/flu/COVID like symptoms, we ask that you request a remote interview and that you do not attend school. Where possible, wearing a mask to these interviews would be appreciated.

Junior Merit Assemblies

It was a delight to celebrate together with our families, the industry, conscientiousness and outstanding attitude to learning demonstrated by our junior Merit Award recipients! There are lots of individual photos available from the school on request via school email: maitland-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au with a subject line of Junior Merit Assembly photo. Please address your email to Chantelle Fullick who is in the Front Office and they can be emailed to you. Below, are just a few highlights from the mornings:





En Avant Club

In Week 5 this Term, we launch our Avant Club! The purpose of the group is to provide a supportive study and wellbeing space with a like-minded group of peers and mentor teachers. It is well-recognised that many students find the 'leap' from Stage 5 (Years 9 & 10) into Stage 6 (Years 11 & 12) learning expectations and content density tricky to manage. Additionally, the Stage 5 or middle high school years often see a slump in student engagement and motivation noted in education systems across the world.

The Avant group will focus on effective study and organisation skills; academic writing skills; wellbeing strategies to manage stress and anxiety, or simply how to keep it all in perspective and manage senior school healthily, should things start to feel overwhelming. Activities to promote eating well, looking after our bodies and minds with exercise and movement, interspersed with laughter, empathy and camaraderie are also part of the program. The approach was developed with a small group of Year 10 students who were integral in designing the purpose, structure, space and membership prerequisites.

We have asked teachers to nominate Year 10 students to be inception members of the group. In 2023, additional students in Year 10 will join the group to form a peer supported study and wellbeing group encompassing Year 11 and Year 10 students and as a subset of the Senior Study Centre. Nominees will receive an invitation letter in Week 3 to take home and discuss with their parents/carers to approve their involvement. These 'Avanters' will meet in Z elective periods with a mentor teacher, in their new study space in the Library. They will also have access to the veranda lounge, Library toilet and Senior Student hot beverage machine. Avanters will work on effective revision and study strategies, academic writing skills, time-management and learn stress reduction practices. The principal will also have ongoing and direct contact with the group as both a mentor and workshop leader.

In order for students to join this group they will need to have the following learning dispositions, or attitudes to learning. They do not need to be top academic students

who always get As, they need to be young people in Year 10 who always do their best. They have:

- **Strong interpersonal skills** - i.e. have good teamwork skills and are able to get along with all peers
- **High Intrapersonal skills** -i.e. focused on learning with grit and determination. They have a strong internal worth ethic and demonstrate a commitment to personal best in all that they do
- **Strong cognitive skills** i.e. independent problem-solving ability and good critical thinking skills.

The group will be working with the following mentor teachers: Alana Malone (English), Sally Davies (Maths), Brooke Wakeman (HT Teaching & Learning), Kirstyn Taylor and Gillian Anderson (HSIE) and Oenone Wood (Science). Thus, students will also access tutoring KLA subject specific content.

Our aim is to progressively grow these groups with more mentor teachers and student study spaces to support students in their transition from Stage 5 into Stage 6 learning. There are two more rooms in and around the Library we hope to open up over the next 2 years. Therefore, this isn't an exclusionary group, it is the forerunner of student-focused learning pods we will progressively expand as one of our permanent support practices to enable HSC achievement at 'personal best' level across the school.

MHS Teacher wins Trip to Antarctica @ Regional STEM Conference for a deserving Science student in Years 10, 11, or 12!





Congratulations to Ms Heather Bale, Science teacher at MHS who won a ticket for two to experience Antarctica in a day on a privately chartered Qantas 787 Dreamliner on November 6 2022! The trip involves a 4 hour flight to Antarctica, then 4 hours touring the landscape by air, before returning to Sydney.

Dr Scott Sleaf, pictured above with Ms Bale, presented the STEM Prize to a very excited Ms Bale! I have asked Ms Bale and the Science faculty to organise a process whereby students make a short presentation of four slides and a 3 minute presentation discussing; "Why a trip to Antarctica would inspire my future endeavours". Students in Years 10, 11 & 12 are encouraged to get further details from the Science faculty.

CONGRATULATIONS!

You have won 2 Explorer Economy Class tickets to experience Antarctica in a Day with Antarctica Flights! Departs 6 November 2022 from Sydney.

Your prize is valued at \$2,398.



Become one of the privileged few to witness the desolate beauty of this untamed polar desert. Aboard a privately chartered Qantas 787 Dreamliner, you will experience unparalleled Antarctic viewing over the vast and various landscapes of this wild continent. Enjoy Qantas International service and their award-winning inflight entertainment system.



Behaviour Expectations

The beginning of term always bring a reminder on behaviour expectations across the school. This term, students are focused on the following explicit learning behaviours to ensure their successful learning in every classroom. You will note that teachers are required to phone home if they have learning or behaviour concerns around your child. This conversation will be positively focused and will discuss with you the plan your child has made with their teacher to improve their behaviour in class. The outline on the left reflects our explicit learning and behaviour expectations which will be addressed in the first four weeks of this term. They are the expanded version of our blue Classroom Expectations which are on view in every classroom.



**Every teacher,
every student,
every classroom,
every period.**



Routine

- **Students line up quietly** and are settled outside the classroom.
- **Teachers walk the line for phones off and in bags**, no earphones in. Phone box in classrooms for student phones found in use
- **books and equipment out** on desk immediately
- Sit at desks correctly
- **'fast 5 min' recap** drill / quiz to start the lesson
- **Roll is marked** every period and after movement to another venue during the same period
- **Literacy and numeracy are important** every lesson

High Expectations

- **Getting the 'Big Idea'** and problem-solving steps are modelled by the teacher
- **Quality work** is always completed, with a focus on: neatness, correct spelling and legible handwriting.
- **Exit Slips** occur to feedback your understanding to the teacher
- **Homework** is about consolidating what you have learned through practice is the norm **at least once a week in every subject**

Consequences and follow up

- **Assessment Tasks are completed** and parents called if not completed
- **Persistent disruption is not tolerated in class. Parents called and head teacher interview every time** this occurs.
- **Anti-social behaviour is never tolerated. No bullying, no harassment.**
- Deputy Direct, Formal Caution, Suspension, Expulsion.

Equipment and books

Strange as it may seem, I also need to emphasize the importance of students coming to school with the basic equipment to learn: a book for each subject, pens, pencils and ruler as a minimum and preferably with a scientific calculator for Maths. Often when we call home, parents/carers tell us that they have books and equipment! So, if your child says they don't need to bring any because it is 'all on computers' or it's a 'practical lesson', please insist that your child packs their books because every subject requires a book and we do not exclusively use computers. It

is worthwhile having students pack their bags for the next day using their timetables and then checking that there are in fact 5 books in their bags. Checking their bookwork and commenting on their care and pride is also very valuable.

Practical work is illegal without PPE



Students engaging in practical Technology subjects MUST have the appropriate PPE – especially leather enclosed footwear. It is illegal for teachers to allow students to engage in practical work without them and can result in a \$20 000 fine to the individual teacher if Work Safe Australia conduct a spot inspection.

Mobile Phones

No mobile phone use permitted in class

**Turn off phone and put in bag
before entering classroom**



1. No warning, **phone use in class** = **phone placed in box** on teacher's desk for **1 period**.
2. Refusal? = **principal** called, **phone locked away for whole day**
3. Principal has to **lock phone away twice?** = **formal caution** and **phone locked in principal's office every day for a week**.
4. Principal has to **lock phone away 3 times?** = **suspension** and **phone banned from school for 1 month**.
5. Rollcall? No phones. Teacher indicates timetables can be checked on phones 2 mins before end of rollcall. Sport? = Leave in classroom.

Over the past two weeks of term, we have been readying students to exercise responsible phone use at school. This means turning phones and devices off and putting them in bags before entering the classroom and not getting them out unless instructed to do so by the teacher as part of the lesson e.g. completing a Cahoot learning feedback survey at the end of the lesson. Students have had discussions with their teachers, posters are up and around and it has been addressed on Year group assemblies. We are seeking to improve focus on learning across all classes in the school and while we recognise that inappropriate phone use is a problem for young people across the world, we are



determined that our students should have their learning maximised by minimising loss of focus and learning disruption in class. Please help us to best teach your children by working with us and letting your child know that you also expect them to have their phones off and in their bags during class time.

Year 12 Trial HSC Examinations

Our Year 12 students are about to enter two weeks of Trial HSC Examinations, which also forms their last assessment task mark. I know many students are also worried about what will happen if they contract COVID during this period. Please do not worry - we have you covered!

1. Please **collect additional RATs** from Deputy Principal McKay's Office
2. **Do a RAT before any examination** if you have even mild COVID symptoms
3. **If you test positive, phone the school and register your illness with Service NSW.** Stay at home for 7 days from your positive RAT.
4. **Get a Dr's Certificate or PCR Test (Telehealth is fine)**
5. **Complete a Misadventure Appeal** form to cover all examinations that occur within the 7 day period of your absence. Send to the School's email address: maitland-h.s@det.nsw.edu.au with "Year 12 Attention Ms Schatz" in the Subject line. Forms can be downloaded from our website.
6. **Your Appeal will be upheld** and you will receive an estimated mark for your Trial Exam which preserves your rank in the course.

The Senior Study Centre

Ms Diessel, Head Teacher Senior Studies



The Senior Learning Hub was established at the beginning of Term 2 and our Year 12 students have been settling in very well. The Year 12 students were asked to collaborate on writing a list of resources they felt would aid their study habits and they did not disappoint! The space is now equipped with highlighters, large whiteboards, small whiteboards, sticky notes, HSC writing guides and many more hands-on items to assist in the development of good study habits. It has been wonderful to see the students use their new resources to

support each other in their study!



As the Head Teacher Senior Studies I am there every period that I am not on class to assist with anything senior studies related whether it be subject changes, National



Minimum Standard guidance and testing, accessing your Students Online simply provide insight, advice or a little extra support in completing assessment tasks. Mr Ben Turner, our very talented librarian is also there to guide and support our students as they approach their HSC examinations.



We have obtained and provided many of the students' requests this term, however, there is more to come! Ms Graham has secured a much sought-after hot beverage machine which should arrive next week - we will be sure to let everyone know when to pack their favourite keep-cup! We would like to thank Year 12 for their valuable input into the establishment of the Senior Learning Hub which has ensured an exclusive senior student working space equipped with everything needed to achieve their very best.

Dedicated faces of Public Education



This week, featuring Ms Tedd and Ms Taylor

En Avant
Paula Graham
Principal



**New South Wales
Aboriginal Education
Consultative Group Inc.**

Canteen Menu



NEW CANTEEN PRICE LIST 2022

Sandwiches, Rolls & Wraps

SALAD	\$3.00
CHICKEN /SALAD	\$4.00
CHICKEN/ LETTUCE / MAYO	\$3.50
CHICKEN/CHEESE	\$3.50
CHICKEN	\$3.00
CHICKEN/TOMATO	\$3.50
HAM / CHEESE /TOMATO	\$3.50
HAM/CHEESE	\$3.00
HAM / TOMATO	\$3.00
HAM/ SALAD	\$4.00
EGG	\$3.00
HAM/PICKLE	\$3.00
EGG/LETTUCE /MAYO	\$3.50
EGG /SALAD	\$4.00
CURRIED/EGG	\$3.00
CHEESE	\$2.50
VEGEMITE	\$2.00
VEGEMITE / CHEESE	\$3.00
SALMON	\$4.00
SALMON/LETT/MAYO/ONION	\$5.50
CHEESE/TOMATO	\$3.00
ROAST BEEF & TOMATO	\$3.50
ROAST BEEF & PICKLE	\$3.50
ROAST BEEF	\$3.50
ROAST BEEF /SALAD	\$4.00

Hot Food

CHAR GRILLED CHICKEN BURGER	\$5.50
HAMBURGER	\$5.50
VEGE BURGER	\$5.00
CHEESE ROLL	\$4.00
LASAGNE (WINTER ONLY)	\$4.00
FRIED RICE	\$4.00
SATAY CHICKEN (WINTER ONLY)	\$4.00
CHICKEN FRIED RICE (WINTER ONLY)	\$4.00
CORN ON THE COB	\$1.20
PIES PLAIN, C&B	\$5.50
PIES POTATO	\$5.50
SAUSAGE ROLLS PLAIN	\$4.00
SAUSAGE ROLLS C&B	\$4.00
CHICK BREAST NUGGETS (5)	\$3.00
CHICKEN GOUGONS (5)	\$3.00
HOT DOGS	\$3.00
GARLIC BREAD	\$3.50
CHICKEN TENDERS GF	\$1.50

Drinks

WATER	600ML	\$2.00
ORCHY 250ML	ORANGE	\$2.50
ORCHY 250ML	APPLE	\$2.50
ORCHY 250ML	PASSIONFRUIT	\$2.50
FLAVOURED MILK 250ML		\$3.00
FLAVOURED MILK 500ML		\$4.00
PLAIN MILK 600ML		\$2.00
UP & GO CHOCOLATE		\$2.50
UP & GO VANILLA		\$2.50

JUICE BOMBS CAN	\$2.50
(RASPBERRY, GRAPE)	

CHILL ICE TEA	NO SUGAR 500ML	\$3.50
(PEACH, BLACKCURRENT, RASP)		

WATERFORDS LITE & FRUITY	NO SUGAR 475M	\$3.50
(BLACKCURRENT, RASPBERRY,)		

ICED OPTIONS

TWISTED FROZEN YOGHURT	\$2.00
(STRAWBERRY. CHOCOLATE)	
Frozen Fruities	\$1.00
ICE CREAM CUPS	\$1.20

SNACKS

RED ROCK DELI CHIPS 28G	\$1.20
(HONEY SOY & SEA SALT)	

FRUIT IN SEASON

BANANAS, APPLES, ORANGES	
MANDARINES.	\$1.00

MUFFINS	\$3.00
CHOCOLATE , BLACKCURRENT	

PRICES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE
& AVAILABILITY OF GOODS THROUGHOUT
THE YEAR

