

WELCOME TO TERM 1!

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT



Welcome to 2022. I hope that everyone is well and that you have enjoyed a restful holiday break! Despite all the turbulence of the past two years, I am so pleased and honoured to announce that our eleven Year 12 students crossed the finish line. At NG Central, we believe that graduation is a monumental milestone and that reaching it requires incredible commitment, self-belief, support and hard work. But it feels especially triumphant to watch this group make it to the end, knowing just how many obstacles they have had to overcome with COVID restrictions impacting both their senior years. Their resilience is absolutely evident in their results - eight of them achieved their full HSC and three achieved

their Year 12 RoSA. This has now set them up for a positive, purposeful future where they can pursue all the opportunities they desire, stand strong and feel so very proud of themselves! As you know, NG Central remained open to all our young people during the pandemic, and this meant that they could be supported in their academic progress and development. But even more importantly, it meant that they could stay connected with their peers, teachers and a place where they feel safe, accepted and nurtured. For many students, school is not simply a space for learning - it is a space for belonging and a stable constant in a personal - and broader - world that may be constantly changing. We are very aware of how school closures across the country may be affecting the mental health, wellbeing and social development of Australia's youth and how this has even more significant impacts for low-income households or those experiencing adversity at home. Hopefully, we can now put the twists and turns of the past year behind us and we are certainly looking forward to a fantastic Term 1 ahead of us! As always, our focus is making education as practical, engaging and accessible as possible for every young person, and helping them develop the skills they need to thrive inside and outside the classroom. Thank you all for being part of this journey with us.

Andrea, NGC Principal

DEPUTY PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

There's no doubt that last year was tough on all of us, as we navigated lockdown and the transition to online learning. I want to commend our staff for their perseverance, creativity and commitment to helping our students adjust to these changes. While Google Classroom didn't quite meet our need for social connection, we were still able to make great progress through the teaching and learning experiences created through this platform. Similarly, I want to thank the parents, caregivers and community members who did their very best to support our young people during challenging times. With your help, everyone was able to return to school and make a smooth transition back into the classroom during Term 4. As we look towards Term 1, I hope all our students can return to school with fresh energy and excitement for the fun, hands-on learning we have in store.

Cameron, NGC Deputy Principal

TERM	START	FINISH
1	Tuesday 1st February	Friday 8th April
2	Tuesday 26th April	Friday 24th June
3	Monday 18th July	Friday 23rd September
4	Monday 10th October	Thursday 15th December



TEACHERS' REPORTS

English

English Stage 6

We are ready to kick off a fantastic year of English Studies. Students commenced their first Year 12 unit of work - 'Texts and Human Experiences' - at the end of 2021 and we will be continuing this study, with a focus on the film Billy Elliot. Following this, we will progress onto the 'We Are Australian' unit. This will explore Australian values and what it means to be Australian, through the study of a novel. It is very exciting to have so many students working towards achieving their HSC in 2022 and I look forward to supporting you all as you challenge yourselves, consider new perspectives and enjoy some brilliant texts.

English Stage 5

Our Stage 5 students made excellent progress in Term 4 last year. They created their own graphic novel, using *The Outsiders* (by S.E. Hinton) as inspiration. Everyone chose a major event from each chapter to represent in their novel and ended up with 12 panels. I was so pleased with the effort students put into this project. Term 1 will offer new opportunities to be creative, through our study of documentaries. Students will view and analyse a documentary and write about what makes it powerful and engaging. After a tough 2021, we are all looking forward to seeing everyone back at school!

Kirk, English Teacher



Mathematics

I was very proud of the work our students completed in Term 4 last year and how motivated they were to return to face-to-face learning in the classroom. We made excellent progress, with Stage 5 exploring the topics of Statistics and Probability, our Year 12 cohort finishing their HSC and our Year 11 students wrapping up their preliminary course and commencing the Year 12 Numeracy course. It is always a massive achievement to complete a full course and I want to commend everyone for their great work. In particular, I extend my congratulations to our graduating class and remind them that learning is lifelong. Even though your journey at NG Central has come to a close, you can continue to be inquisitive, ask questions, explore the world, gain new skills and stay thirsty for new knowledge.

As we kick off Term 1, it's important to remember that mathematics requires practice and that each new concept we learn builds on previous concepts. This means attendance is key to improvement and the more you come along the class, the more you will notice yourself making progress and mastering new skills. I look forward to helping you all along the way!

Mark, Mathematics Teacher

TEACHERS' REPORTS

Science

There is so much to look forward to in Term 1! As always, we are approaching science with a 'hands on - heads on - hearts on' approach. This means we will be actively manipulating materials and conducting investigations, making connections and developing deep understanding, and acknowledging the importance of understanding the world around us in order to take better care of it.



Our Stage 5 students will be investigating Force and Motion, using hands-on materials to make devices to explore these concepts in a practical way. We will also move onto studying various forms of energy and how it is transferred and transformed. This unit will include many investigations so students can understand how energy can be conserved.

As we progress into their preliminary year, Year 11 Investigating Science students will be discovering the core of what Science is all about. They will have the opportunity to carry out a number of first-hand and secondary source investigations where they will learn about cause and effect, and how to make detailed and accurate observations, determine variables, develop testable hypotheses and collect quantitative and qualitative data. A highlight is sure to be our hands-on research and water testing at key locations around the Central Coast, where we will investigate water quality and its impact on plant and animal life.

Our Year 12 students have already made a great start to their HSC course during Term 4 and we will be continuing our study of the Technologies unit. Through practical investigations, students will take a variety of measurements and consider the appropriateness of a range of technologies in order to do this accurately. We will then move on to completing a Depth study, which will include many excursions to a wetland, chosen by the class, and the formulation of their own scientific report.

I encourage all students to attend class regularly, as this will help them to master each new concept and build their understanding through hands-on, engaging activities. See you all at the start of Term 1!

Janice, Science Teacher

Geography

Term 4 of 2021 saw our Stage 5 Geography students study the patterns and trends in population movements and the rise of urbanisation. This included exploring strategies for designing liveable and sustainable places and proposing opportunities to be active citizens. We were able to look at megacities through Google Maps and students did a great job creating their own tour of a chosen city for their assessment task. It was excellent to see students engage with Indigenous perspectives throughout the course, as we learnt about connecting and caring for Country, and the importance of sustainable land management strategies which have been practiced by Aboriginal communities across Australia for millennia. I'm looking forward to diving into new units of work in Term 1 and having many interesting discussions in and outside of the classroom.

Jemma, Geography Teacher

TEACHERS' REPORTS

History

Our Stage 5 History students had a great end to 2021. We studied the Cold War and the Vietnam War, exploring Australia's roles in both conflicts, iconic war photography and the stories of everyday civilians. In Term 1 this year, we will continue this theme with a unit of World War I. We will consider the many factors that led to it and the impacts it had on Australians. Excitingly, our students will be able to enjoy several interactive excursions that will bring this life and give them a practical insight into Australian culture during this challenging period of our history. I look forward to supporting you all throughout the year!

Kirk, History teacher

Photography, Video and Digital Imaging



Our new HSC students are already off to a smashing start in Photography, Video and Digital Imaging. Term 4 of 2021 saw them learning about the Pop Art movement and the use of appropriation in art making. Students put their Photoshop production and editing skills to the test as they designed their own interiors, complete with all the latest pop culture trends. I'm looking forward to having everyone back in the classroom for Term 1, where we will continue the HSC course and explore more ways to comment on social and political issues through art. Let's get creative!

Jemma, PVDI Teacher

PDHPE

What a fantastic, diverse range of topics we covered in Term 4 of 2021! Our Stage 5 students considered their media usage and kept their own 24-hour screen-time diary to reflect on all the marketing and media messages that they experience on a daily basis. As a result, we had lively discussions about body image, nutrition, mental health, and gender roles and expectations. They then took everything they had learnt to come up with media strategies that would appeal to young people and promote local health services for a health condition of their choosing.

The best part was finally being able to get out of the classroom and enjoy practical lessons, including handball, badminton, cricket and basketball. Students worked together to modify the game rules to improve the experience for all players. It was fantastic to see everyone interact together and connect again after remote learning. As we move into Term 1, there will be plenty of opportunities for outdoor activities and recreation and so much fun to be had!

Emily, PDHPE Teacher

Automotive

Firstly, I want to congratulate our Year 12 Automotive class of 2021 - Dean, Thomas and Jaidyn - on the excellent work they did in their HSC year. I know the future is bright for them and look forward to hearing about their successes post-school.

To our current Year 12 students of 2022, I encourage you all to switch on that positive, motivated mindset and work through tasks to the best of your ability. You will need to complete your HSC major works by the start of Term 3, which means it's time to select an appropriate piece of work that you are interested in and know you can finish in this timeframe. As you do this, we will also be working on suspension and steering systems, with plenty of practical lessons to enjoy.

Our Stage 5 students will be learning the fundamentals of the motor industry, mastering new tools and taking on some hands-on projects. I look forward to having you all back into the workshop very soon.

Cameron, Automotive Trainer