

WELCOME TO TERM 1!

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT



Happy New Year to you all. Let's hope 2021 has more pleasant surprises in store for us than the year just gone! While 2020 was challenging for all of us on all fronts - academically, physically, mentally, emotionally, politically - it ended with a joy-filled Christmas celebration where we reflected on the twists, turns, tears and triumphs. As with any tough, challenging time, it makes up only one chapter in our life story and importantly, there is always plenty to learn and take with us into the next one!

One such learning has been around the power of the NG Central community. Throughout the turbulence of 2020, it was the relationships between our staff, students, families, carers, service providers, partners and stakeholders that helped us emerge stronger than ever. When we band together, we are able to provide purposeful, practical education that our young people greatly deserve, while ensuring they have a strong, supportive foundation from which to learn and grow. This is a fitting time to introduce you to our exciting new Standing Strong with Families and Community program. The project has been funded through a private donation, along with the support of Australian Schools Plus. It aims to strengthen family and community engagement in the education of our young people, in order to improve their learning experience and outcomes. We look forward to sharing more details soon and encourage all parents, carers and family members to travel with your young person on their learning journey.

Thank you for your generosity, enthusiasm, genuine care for our students and above all your trust. May 2021 bring success, happiness, good health and peace to us and our fellow human beings around the world. See you at school on Thursday 28 January! I hope you are excited - I certainly am!

Andrea, NGC Principal

TERM	START	FINISH
1	Thursday 28th January	Thursday 1st April
2	Tuesday 20th April	Friday 18th June
3	Monday 12th July	Friday 17th September
4	Monday 4th October	Thursday 9th December



IMPORTANT TERM DATES

- White Card Training: Wednesday 3rd March
- Year 12 Work Placement: Week of Monday 22nd March
- Easter Show Rewards Day: Thursday 1st April

TEACHERS' REPORTS

Deputy Update

Before we well and truly kick off 2021, I'm reflecting on the incredible things we have achieved in the past 12 months and the enormous effort of those who made it all possible. Going from being a school where an online classroom format wasn't used to its full potential to having everyone utilise this technology full-time during parts of Term 1 and 2, it's safe to say that our teachers went above and beyond to make home learning possible. Additionally, I want to acknowledge the teachers' aides, case workers and school counsellor who helped students adapt during this challenging time.

Most of all, congratulations to the young people who attended school regularly throughout 2020. I know the past year has certainly thrown us some curve balls, but it was fantastic to see many students enjoying our Term 4 'rewards excursion' to Raging Waters and celebrating their hard work. Thanks to Rick for his organisation of these activities. We hope to see more students getting the opportunity to participate in 2021 as they focus on their attendance and show up to school as often as possible.

Cameron, Deputy Principal

Programs Update

Congratulations to all students who gave their all in Term 4. A real highlight was our music-making workshop with expert teachers from the University of New England's Department of Creative Arts and Communication. The workshop was focused on giving students an introduction to electronic music production, using professional standard equipment. They were shown the basics of the Ableton Live program and got to record their own sounds using microphones and MIDI controllers.

An extra treat for the day was a visit from hip-hop artist and multi-instrumentalist Dobby, who performed for and collaborated with our students, providing some great insights into his music-making process along the way. Big thanks to the crew from UNE for a great hands-on learning experience!

Rick, Programs Manager and School Chaplain



Mathematics

Our Mathematics students had a great end to 2020, with our Year 12 cohort successfully completing the Mathematics Standard 1 Course and the majority sitting their HSC exams. This is a tremendous achievement and your hard work, dedication and perseverance was inspiring.

We were also invited to participate in the CEC Numeracy Pilot for our Stage 6 Year 11 students. This program allowed us to focus on foundational mathematics that can be used in everyday life. The feedback we received was very pleasing and as this group of students has transitioned into Year 12, we look forward to continuing the program with them throughout the year. I am also excited to announce that 2021 will see our new Year 11 cohort completing the CEC Numeracy Pilot, while Stage 5 students will start Financial Mathematics and build their financial literacy skills.

Mark, Mathematics Teacher

TEACHERS' REPORTS

English

English Stage 5

Term 4 went so fast! Our Stage 5 students had an excellent final term in 2020, studying Social Issues in Poetry. This saw us explore contemporary topics like Black Lives Matter, bullying, social media and homelessness. Students learnt poetic techniques and applied that knowledge to an analysis of popular music that deals with social issues. They also tried their hand at writing their own poetry, using both the jigsaw and blackout methods. This unit made a great end to a challenging year and I'm looking forward to tackling our Grammar and Non-Fiction units in Term 1.

English Stage 6

We kicked off Term 4 by learning about heroes and leadership, with each student researching someone they find heroic. Our Year 11 students then transitioned into Year 12 and we began the Common Module of 'Texts and Human Experiences'. We are learning all about what it means to be human with a close study of the film Billy Elliot. We will be continuing this module during Term 1, before kicking off the 'We Are Australian!' module. I'm looking forward to watching this group challenge themselves and achieve fantastic success throughout Year 12.

Kirk, English Teacher

Geography



We wrapped up 2020 with a fantastic Stage 5 excursion to Taronga Zoo, where students learnt about a variety of native and non-native species.

During Term 4, our Geography classes also examined environmental change and management (with a focus on traditional Aboriginal land management strategies) and investigated the palm oil industry and the importance of ethical products that support sustainability and reduce the impacts of deforestation for endangered species.

In 2021, Stage 5 students will begin to examine the physical characteristics and productivity of biomes. They will analyse the impact humans have on biomes in their efforts to produce food and increase agricultural yields.

Jemma, Geography Teacher

History

I was very excited to start teaching History from the beginning of Term 4 and it proved to be a real pleasure teaching our amazing Stage 5 students. These budding historians studied Progressive Ideas and Movements, with a focus on the Enlightenment and how it changed the way people viewed the world around them. We incorporated timely issues such as Black Lives Matter and Women's Liberation, as well as current trends in traditional and social media.

We will begin Term 1 2021 with a study of Human Rights and Freedoms. Looking forward to seeing you all back in class!

Kirk, History Teacher

TEACHERS' REPORTS

Science



Welcome to the new year. Our Stage 5 students can look forward to a term full of practical Science through the study of Physics. In the Applications of Energy unit, students will gain an understanding of how electricity is generated and the huge role that electricity plays in our modern-day lives. They will apply that knowledge as they build a working traffic light model. We will then move on to the Energy Transformations unit, where students will make a whirling water wheel and construct a model of an energy efficient home. They will be discussing the uptake of renewable energy and debating the viewpoints that need to be considered when making decisions about the use of non-renewable energy resources.

In Stage 6, Year 11 Preliminary Investigating Science students will discover the core of what Science is about; the scientific investigative progress. Through a number of first-hand and secondary source investigations, they will explore the importance of accurate observation, formulating testable scientific hypotheses and the collection of quantitative and qualitative data. Students will engage in research and water testing as they investigate the quality of water and its effect on plant and animal life in various locations around the Central Coast.

Our HSC Investigating Science students have been working on their first unit, Module 5: Scientific Investigations. They have completed their Assessment 1 task which involved designing, carrying out and reporting on an investigation that is considerate of animal welfare. By Week 4 of Term 1, students will be working on the Module 6 Technologies unit. They will investigate how the rapid development of new technologies enhances industrial and agricultural processes, medical applications and communications.

Janice, Science Teacher

PDHPE

Thank you for a wonderful 2020 Stage 5! We finished off the year with an exploration into mental health and how stigmas can affect someone and prevent them from seeking help. In our practical classes, we had a blast playing badminton, tennis and volleyball as part of our 'Net Sports' module. Moving into 2021, our new unit of work is called The Next Chapter. Within this unit, students will explore ideas of resilience and learn about taking the next steps in life, such as seeking out a job or gaining their driver's licence. In practical classes, students will participate in a range of modified games and design their own fitness lesson.

Emily, PDHPE Teacher

Photography, Video and Digital Imaging

Our Year 12 students are off to a great start as they progress towards their HSC in Photography, Video and Digital Imaging. In Term 4, they explored Pop Art and the work of selected artist Richard Hamilton. Students created digital interior designs in Photoshop and appropriated Hamilton's work through humorous symbolic imagery that reflected current affairs and the ordeals of 2020. It was fantastic to see so many creative and thought-provoking designs. Coming into 2021, students will investigate the ways ideas and images can be meaningfully constructed from different points of view. They will develop their artistic practice through the mastery of different photography and digital imaging techniques, tools and input and output devices. Students will be studying the work of Aboriginal digital artist Wayne Quilliam and the abstract arrangements of David Hockney.

Jemma, PVDI Teacher

TEACHERS' REPORTS

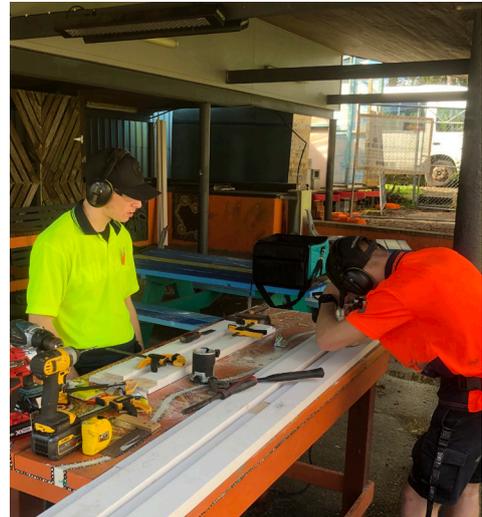
Vocational Education & Training / Career & Transition

Welcome to 2021! For our Year 11 students, this marks the beginning of your preliminary HSC year and the commencement of your vocational (VET) qualification in Horticulture, Hospitality, Construction or Retail. So, what does this actually mean?! VET courses are accredited by the NSW Educational Standards Authority (NESA) and count towards the Higher School Certificate. They also have some characteristics that make them different from other courses you'll study.

VET courses are:

- are based on national training packages that are designed to meet industry training needs
- lead to the achievement of nationally-recognised qualifications within the Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF)
- provide opportunities for practical, work-based learning that will assist you in developing the knowledge and skills you need for work and further study
- are written and assessed in competency-based terms.

HSC students are expected to complete 35 hours of work placements in Year 11 and the same again in year 12. If you know of any employers that would be interested in hosting students at their workplace, please get in touch!



We've got some exciting things in store for Term 1. Horticulture students will be working on planting their winter vegetable garden, Construction will be finishing off the demountable toilet block, Retail will be working on visual merchandising and salon skills and Hospitality will continue to prepare and present simple (and delicious) dishes.

Our Stage 5 students will have the opportunity to select their VET elective for the term and learn hands-on skills in our amazing onsite facilities. We are looking forward to a fantastic year, see you back in the salon, kitchen, workshop and garden!

Nareeda, VET Manager

Automotive

2021 is going to be a big year for our Automotive crew, with 4 students delivering their HSC major works right up until the end of Term 3. I have no doubt you are all capable of rising the challenge, but it will require applying yourselves and diligently undertaking a large amount of theory and practical work. Keep your eyes on the finish line!

During Term 1, our Stage 5 students will be working on smaller projects like welding toolboxes, fabricating wind chimes and repairing different forms on our much-loved school car Betsy. I hope to see you all refreshed and ready to take up the opportunities that are on offer in the Auto shed!

Cameron, Automotive Trainer