

WELCOME TO TERM 4!

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT



In the blink of an eye, we have arrived at the last term for 2023. It's been a great year so far and we have seen our young people immerse themselves in their learning, achieve personal goals and embrace challenges.

This photo (left) captures just one of the many activities our students enjoy in addition to their classes. We love seeing our Therapy Dog, Sunny, every Friday. The unconditional love he brings not only clears and elevates our minds, moods and memory but warms our hearts and souls.

As we begin the new term, one change that needs a mention here is the mobile phone ban across all Department schools which will come into force from the 9th October. While NGC is independent, and we believe that banning phones is not some quick fix for student wellbeing or improved learning outcomes, we also know that the disruption, drama, defiance, and bullying has become an unfair and uncontrollable problem. Incoming notifications or the mere proximity of a mobile can be a distraction, resulting in students losing focus on the task at hand. A study found that it can take students up to 20 minutes to refocus on what they were learning after engaging in a non-academic activity via devices (UNESCO), and this has profound impacts on their recall, comprehension and attention.

I agree that we need to provide our young people with strategies to develop the necessary critical thinking and self-awareness skills so they can master – rather than be controlled by – new technologies, and I've always said that we want our students to be ready for the workforce. To this end, our policy will be **NO MOBILE PHONES DURING PERIODS 1 TO 6**. However, unlike government schools, students will be permitted to use their phones during recess and lunch. This doesn't pose a significant change to our 'business as usual', but we will be enforcing it in an effort to provide a more peaceful, harmonious school environment and facilitate a consistent focus on learning and face-to-face interactions.

I look forward to seeing you all, bright eyed and bushy tailed on Monday 9th October.

Andrea, NGC Principal

2024 Term Start and End Dates

TERM	START	FINISH
1	Tuesday 30 January	Friday 12 April
2	Monday 29 April	Friday 28 June
3	Monday 22 July	Friday 27 September
4	Monday 14 October	Thursday 12 December

Term 4 Dates for the Diary

End of Year Rewards Excursion	Wednesday 13 December
School Community Christmas Lunch	Thursday 14 December
Last Day of School	Thursday 14 December



TEACHERS' REPORTS

Deputy Principal Update

Firstly, I would like to send my congratulations to all the Year 12 students who completed last term. Now it's time to study and get ready for your upcoming exams. For those students who are participating in these, you will be contacted by the school the day before each exam to make sure you will be in attendance.

As of day one of Term 4, we will bring in several changes, as directed by the NSW Department of Education.

Mobile Phones:

- Students who carry a mobile phone to school will need to hand it in during roll call to their roll call teacher. The phone will be kept safe in the classroom lockbox.
- When the period before recess is about to finish, students will receive their mobile devices and can use them during recess.
- At the completion of recess and start of period 3, students will then hand their phones to their teachers' aide on entry to be put into the classroom lock boxes. These will be returned to them at the end of period 4 to be used at lunch.
- When re-entering the classroom at the end of lunch and start of period 5, students will hand in their phones to be put into the classroom lockbox.
- Students will receive their mobile devices at the completion of period 6.

Excursions:

For excursions or school outings, students will need to hand in their mobile devices before entering the school bus. This will then be put in a school backpack which will be carried by the teacher, or the teacher's aide for the duration of the excursion or outing. Students will receive their devices back at its completion.

How non-compliance to above rules will be handled:

- If a student refuses to hand in their phone at the start of roll call, period 3 or period 5, they will have to give their device to the Deputy Principal or the Program Manager and will not receive it back until the end of the school day.
- If a student chooses to not comply with the school rules, then parents/guardians will be notified that the student will be sent home due to non-compliance. The student can return to school the next day but will need to adhere to the mobile phone policy.

Clothing for School:

As the weather gets increasingly warmer, students need to be conscious of appropriate and sun-safe clothing while attending school. On the following page, there are pictures of what students can - and should not - be wearing at school. If students are deemed to be wearing inappropriate clothing, they will be asked to change into clothes that will be provided. If a student refuses to change then parents will be notified, and the student will be sent home for the day.

TEACHERS' REPORTS

Deputy Principal Update (continued)

These clothes can be worn at school:



These clothes cannot be worn at school. Please note that shorts above the specified length, and singlets and crop tops are not appropriate and sun-safe options.



I hope to see you all, ready to work in Term 4.

Cameron, Deputy Principal

English

Stage 5 English: Stage 5 students will be studying Graphic Novels and how they differ from traditional novels. Our text for Term 4 will be *The Outsiders*, by S.E. Hinton. Students will create a graphic novel panel that mirrors the major events in each chapter of the novel.

Stage 6 English: At the beginning of Term 4, Stage 6 students will learn about the news and how modern citizens increasingly source information on the world around them through a variety of media platforms. Throughout the unit, we will investigate digital, print and social media and consider how we interact with the news differently depending on the medium.

Midway through the term, our Year 11 students will begin Year 12. We will kick off their HSC studies with our core module of Texts and Human Experiences. This will include analysing the film, *Billy Elliot*, which is always a favourite every year!

Kirk, English Teacher

TEACHERS' REPORTS

Science

Stage 5: Diversity of Living Things will be our Stage 5 Science focus for Term 4. The three units within this topic are Reproduction, Genetics, and Evolution by Natural Selection. Students will learn about the process of inheritance and how characteristics are passed on to future generations. The Term 4 assessment task will be a Secondary Source Investigation, where students will either investigate: The pros and cons of Gene Technology, issues around genetic engineering and how our knowledge of genetics will shape our future world, or The advantages and disadvantages of the use and applications of Biotechnology, including social and ethical considerations.

Preliminary Investigating Science: Our Year 11 Investigating Science students have completed the Module 3 Scientific Models unit and most of the Module 4 Theories and Laws unit, which involved comparing and contrasting Theories and Laws. Several students achieved impressive results in the Preliminary Examination, which has boosted their self-confidence and their realisation that they can achieve well when they focus on their learning experiences. The final activity for Year 11 will be a Module 4 Depth Study which will allow them to demonstrate the investigation skills they have developed during their Preliminary course.

HSC Investigating Science: In Week 5, these students will begin their Year 12 HSC Investigating Science course. In the first unit, Module 5: Scientific Investigations, they will learn that the experimental method is a dynamic process, influenced by initial observations, new evidence and unexpected results or phenomena, arising from investigation. There will be several excursions to Girrakool, where the students will make observations from which hypotheses can be formed and investigations designed. Their Assessment 1 task will involve designing a suitable investigation, which is considerate of animal welfare. They will conduct the planned investigation and collect, record, and analyse primary data, which they will present as an Investigative Report, to meet the requirements of the task.

Congratulations to the current Year 12 HSC Investigating Science students, who have completed their HSC course. In preparation for the final examination on Friday 13th of October 2023, students are encouraged to review the past HSC paper which has been provided and use their workbooks to assist their revision.



Janice, Science Teacher



Mathematics

Stage 5: In Term 4, our Mathematics students will learn about probability and statistics and how these concepts are applied in everyday life. They will practise accurately displaying this information using a variety of methods, and will design and perform an experiment that investigates how probability relates to a common scenario of their choosing. Throughout these units, students can access and utilise a range of technological tools to aid in their mastery of these mathematical concepts.

Year 11: In Preliminary Mathematics, students will continue work on Module 2 of the course, which focuses on measurement and estimation. They will also be completing a booklet that provides them with useful information about a trade, whilst simultaneously enhancing their literacy and numeracy skills specific to said trade. From Week 5, they will progress to the HSC course and begin a unit on financial mathematics.

Kat, Mathematics Teacher

TEACHERS' REPORTS

Geography

Our Stage 5 Geography students will explore what it means to be an eco-friendly city and learn about the practices that megacities employ to reduce their environmental footprint. They will also consider strategies that help to manage environmental change and enhance sustainability within urban spaces, with a focus on how this can be achieved in Australia. Students will also learn about the environmental, social and cultural benefits of caring for Country, which are embedded in Indigenous land management practices and broader traditions.

Kat, Geography Teacher

History

Stage 5 students will end their study of History this year with our unit on Australia and the Vietnam War. Students will learn about the forces that contributed to the conflict, including the Cold War and the Domino Theory, before delving into the history of Vietnam and considering Australia's involvement in the Vietnam War. For their assessment, students will be creating a photo journal of some iconic imagery from this period.

Kirk, History Teacher

Photography, Videography and Digital Imaging

In Term 3, Year 11 had a great time making their own Claymation mini film for Assessment 3. The students produced many interesting and artistic ideas. In Term 4, we will continue the Claymation unit by exploring the power of sound in filmmaking. Following this, we will begin the first Year 12 unit of work on the history and influences of the Pop Art Movement in Art Photography.

Patty, PVDI Teacher

Automotive

In Term 4, senior Automotive students will continue learning how to fabricate and weld. This will include starting their own major works, which they will submit as part of the Year 12 course in 2024. I'm looking forward to seeing what everyone comes up with, and how they combine creative thinking with their technical skills.

Our Stage 5 students will be learning the fundamentals of the motor vehicle, how it operates and what servicing can feasibly be carried out at home. Excitingly, our excursion this term will be heading to Eastern Creek Raceway to watch the Sydney Drags (and if possible, the V8 Supercars).

Cameron, Automotive Trainer

