From the Year Advisers

**Year 12**

I know that I say this every year but I cannot believe how quickly the boys have grown into young men. They are now proudly strutting around the grounds with their Year 12 Jerseys; a change in uniform that is indicative of the natural end of their schooling years is coming ever closer. They are cognizant of the great academic challenges that lie in front of them but with this shared jumper emblazoned on their back, they are helping support each other along this often terrifying journey of the HSC.

This cohort performed exceedingly well in their first assessment block this term but it is important for parents and guardians to acquaint yourselves with the HSC Assessment Schedule and the school’s assessment policy so you can best support your son to meet the requirements of each task and also know when they are occurring. The section on absences during an assessment is particularly important to note to ensure that your son follows the procedures. At the end of next term, Year 12 will have their Major Assessment Block which for many students is challenging and having parental support to guide them through the ebbs and flows of results, emotions and anxiety will be essential.

At school, students should be encouraged to form study groups in all of their subjects. These can happen in our newly opened library before and during school or even in classrooms. Year groups that work effectively together have proven to be the strongest performers in their HSC results. If your son is shyer, encourage him to contact a Prefect as this leadership body is helping to facilitate and coordinate the groups or contact me so I can pass it on to them. The study skills taught at Year 12 Camp will also be of great benefit to your son in

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<th>Summary of Calendar Events in Term 2, 2014</th>
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all of his classes and he should be encouraged to replicate the suggested techniques into his own study regime. Students need to maintain a balanced lifestyle as well as have a quality sleep routine to ensure that they are ready and refreshed for their school days. Mr Miller as our Careers Adviser is an expert at Yoga and willing to assist the boys in developing breathing techniques and meditation which helps in lessening anxiety and having clarity of mind when approaching their studies.

Socially, the boys have achieved impressive interschool results of late. The triumphant Crawford Shield team led nobly by Nathan Xie produced a massive win against the powerhouse that is Melbourne High. The camaraderie demonstrated by this group of Falcons was a tribute to the boys and really spurned on a terrific win for the whole group that will be hard to top. Coming off the back of this win, the boys won the first round of the Senior Challenge against North Sydney Girls. Well done to the Senior Challenge team for organising a fun event for both schools.

By now, you all know how much I value your son’s education and wellbeing. They are a delight to advise and a pleasure to know and, although this year will be challenging, they will produce fantastic results and achieve their aims if they feel supported and nurtured at home and school. If you do have any concerns regarding your son’s welfare or progress, do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours in education,

Kate Richards - Year Adviser  
Kate.Richards5@det.nsw.edu.au

Year 11

I want to congratulate Year 11 with an outstanding start to the school year. They have displayed increased maturity and ongoing commitment to the school community with many students continuing to lead and be active members of the school’s committees, musical and sporting teams. With the end of Term 1 rapidly approaching; I’m sure Year 11 have by now realised how fast the weeks fly by in the senior school. Hopefully they have also realised that their teachers expect more from them, their courses are more rigorous and there is a need to revise almost daily to keep up with the demands of the increased workload.

It is important that the students are enjoying their chosen subjects and working hard to achieve their best. It is advised that the students develop a working relationship with their teachers and begin to form study groups within their classes to help share the study load.

I encourage Year 11 to put in their best effort. I congratulate them for completing their first major assessment block. This time can be extremely stressful time but it is important for the students to develop effective study techniques and allow time for relaxation as they progress through the Preliminary HSC year.

I would like to welcome all the new students and their parents to NSBHS community. If there are any concerns about your son’s progress do not hesitate to contact me at the school. The school is here to support your son to ensure they achieve their best possible outcomes.

I wish everyone a wonderful holiday.

Melissa Bowering - Year Adviser  
Melissa.Bowering@det.nsw.edu.au
continued the excellent results.

Justin Lee has been the name on everyone’s mouth this month, not only did he lead his badminton team to victory in Crawford shield, where he was named Best and Fairest but earlier this term he represented Australia at the Australian Youth International. From all reports Justin conducted himself in an excellent manner and had very strong results reaching the semi-finals in singles and final in the doubles, congratulations Justin on your excellent results.

Amongst the mist that was Crawford Shield, High Resolves has begun for a new year, with the boys involved hitting the ground running and selecting a challenging but very relative Community Action Plan of tackling the issue of Melanoma in Australian Youth. Being only a couple of sessions in, the boys have developed an innovative and exciting community event that will target the youth in the prevention of Melanoma, so watch this space for the further developments.

It doesn’t take long for the rumour mill to begin and whispers have begun of a possible Co-ed day with North Sydney Girls later this year. True to the character of the year group, bold ideas have been put forward by the student body, with an Amazing Race style day being popular with all 300 students involved.

I would like to wish all Year 10 a happy and safe holiday, as they rest up and recharge those batteries to come back in Term 2 ready to tackle all the challenges that come their way. I would like to thank the year in assisting me in this role and it has been an enjoyable first term.

Max Burgess - Year Adviser
maxwell.burgess1@det.nsw.edu.au

Year 9

We are less than one term into 2014 and already the year has been filled with excitement and achievements.

The annual Crawford Shield competition has just been completed with North Sydney achieving an impressive victory. I am happy to say that Year 9 students were well represented amongst the Crawford Shield participants and were instrumental in winning this year. Congratulations to Francesco Chu (Badminton), Joshua Behar (Chess), Rahul Krishna (Cricket), Hayden Kelly (Music), Ryan Krensel (Music), Ken Li (Music), Richard Wang (Table Tennis) and Joshua Tan (Tennis).

We have also recently had our school swimming carnival and I want to commend the boys for their enthusiastic participation on the day. Special congratulations go to Michael Cheng and Yves Yao for being the 14 and 15 years age champions respectively.

There is much still to look forward to this year with High Resolves starting soon and the Year 9 camp being a perennial favourite for both students and teachers alike.

Having now completed two years of high school, Year 9 students are allowed an unprecedented level of freedom with regards to what electives they choose to study. But with great power comes great responsibility, as the academic rigour of these more challenging courses demands a higher degree of organisation, initiative and independence than in junior years, but this cohort is, no doubt, more than up to the task.

A number of students are also starting senior level courses in IPT and Business Studies this year and will be sitting their HSC examinations for those subjects in 2015. We have had some remarkable achievements with the accelerated courses in the past and I am confident that the boys will work hard to continue that trend.

Unfortunately, I am writing this report in absentia as I have been away for the past few weeks with an injury, but rest assured I will be returning soon and am very much looking forward to seeing everyone again.

In the mean time, I can still be contacted through the school email.

Christopher Berry - Year Adviser
Chris.Berry1@det.nsw.edu.au
year 8, Daniel Kang who did remarkably well!
The boys have also experienced their first Crawford Shield on home soil. I was proud of the boys as they supported our teams to victory over Melbourne High School. I would like to congratulate Mike Liang for his contributions to the Crawford Table Tennis team. Hopefully we will have more boys representing the school next year when we head down to Melbourne.
The boys have received their assessment calendar which outlines their assessments for 2014. It is important for all students to have a copy of this, and if they need another copy, please come see me in the Mathematics staffroom at recess or lunchtime. Students are encouraged to see me or their teachers if they have any questions or needs points clarified.

An important note to students that bring electronic equipment, large amounts of money and other valuables to school, it is advised that they keep it with them the whole time and not to leave their bags unattended. This is especially important next term when the Bring your own Device is implemented.
The excitement continues next term for Year 8. The three day Year 8 camp to Coolendel is scheduled for early May. The boys will experience their first high school camp in tents. At last year’s camp, I was especially proud of the willingness of the boys to give every activity a go and I look forward to seeing the boys trying their hand at new activities.
So far, Year 8 has immersed themselves in everything around the school and I encourage them to keep participating!
Please do not hesitate to contact me at school via phone or email if you wish to discuss your son’s progress or welfare.

Eric Lin - Year Adviser
Eric.Lin14@det.nsw.edu.au

Year 7
It’s hard to believe the transformation that has occurred in the short period of time since the boys arrived at school on day one in their shiny new shoes. They have made the transition into high school very smoothly, adjusting to negotiating transport, reading timetables, getting to classes on time and keeping the loss of personal possessions to a minimum. They have survived being away from home for two nights on camp and embraced many new challenges with gusto. They have made new friendships which may last a life-time.
Their Year 11 Peer Support leaders have helped them to make this transition, organising games and activities to encourage bonding and discussing issues such as resilience and perseverance. They have had the opportunity to socialise with the girls from North Sydney Girls High, our sister school, at the Junior Trivia Night and competed in the pool at the annual swimming carnival. They enjoyed our recent victory in the Crawford Shield competition with Melbourne High School, and experienced the highs and lows of winning and losing.
The boys have taken advantage of the many extracurricular opportunities that the school offers, signing up enthusiastically for the Music Programs, Falcon Sport, debating and public speaking and the environment group. They have enjoyed the Healthy Breakfast initiative provided by the SRC and learnt about appropriate internet usage and cyber-safety from the workshop ‘Cybershorts’.
As the holidays approach, the boys will be handing in assessment tasks and sitting for class tests for the work they have done this term. Their results will give some indication of their time management and organisational skills. Please assist them where possible by helping them to prioritise their homework and revision for tests, and by reminding them to use diaries, phone reminders and wall calendars. An assessment notification booklet is currently being distributed for parent information on assessments throughout the year.
Please feel free to contact me with any concerns you have regarding your sons’ welfare. Support offered early can have a substantial impact on creating good practices for senior school.

Joy Henderson - Year Adviser
joy.henderson5@det.nsw.edu.au

Careers
Congratulations to the 2013 HSC cohort. 50% of the cohort achieving an ATAR of 98 or more is an outstanding result. It was very interesting to see the wide variety of tertiary institutions that students from the 2013 cohort have chosen to attend, although, this year – as in previous years - UNSW was the preferred destination followed by the University of Sydney and then Macquarie. The courses chosen were also very interesting with
Actuarial Studies being a popular choice this year.

The beautifully appointed new careers office is now ideally situated in a high-traffic, high-visibility area of the magnificent new Library building. Senior students have already been taking full advantage of this convenient new situation, dropping in for a chat about their career, tertiary study and scholarship options at recess, lunchtimes or during their free periods. Senior students are encouraged to access faculty brochures from the various universities which can be found in either the Senior Studies room or in the study room located next to the careers office.

It is vitally important that all students check their DET email intranet account on a daily basis as details of major career events and opportunities will always be advertised via email in the first instance. Information about events will also typically be posted on the school intranet and the Daily Bulletin.

Maintaining our excellent relationships with a wide variety of tertiary institutions is a priority in the career adviser’s role. The University of New South Wales (UNSW) and the University of Sydney will be presenting to Year 12 at their study camp in Week 11, Term 1. Students will be introduced to both the serious and social aspects of life at university as well as learning about the wide variety of scholarships on offer; and also about how the bonus point systems work. UTS will be presenting to senior students on Thursday 10th April. This is in addition to a recent presentation by Alister Wilkinson from Professional Cadetships Australia, an organisation who offer a study/work pathways through university through UBS and Westpac.

As the boys move into the senior years, it is very important that they start to develop a relationship with the major universities. All students should keep an eye on the ‘future students’ web page which is prominent on all the university websites. There is a lot of very good information on these sites which have been specifically designed to assist Year 10, 11 and 12 students into University. The UAC and Board of Studies sites also contain a great deal of practical and useful information.

As always, there is great interest in the area of scholarships. Students are introduced to the concept in Year 10 career classes. At this time, students are encouraged to involve themselves in volunteer activities in their school or wider community if they haven’t already. As well as being character-building, evidence of a track record of volunteering is an important element of successful scholarship applications. Aspiring students are also encouraged to start building a significant and relevant resume. Intending senior students should also acquaint themselves with the websites of their target university and do their own research for the scholarship(s) that best fit with their intended study pathway. Applications for UNSW open in May with USyd opening rather later. Applications close on September 30th but effectively all applications must be ready for submission by the last day of Term 3 which is Friday 19th September. Students are advised to engage with the application process as soon as practicable after they open - to allow the school sufficient time to prepare the necessary reference material and supporting documentation.

Applicants, who leave applying to the last minute, may miss out. Get onto it early please!

Work experience is a valuable introduction to the world of work. Work Experience for Year 10 this year will take place in Term 4, Week 7 between Monday 17 – Friday 21 November. It is imperative that the boys start to contact prospective placements now! The positions at the high end of the market are already being sought after. If a student does negotiate a work experience placement with a very good reputation we would be able to discuss completing the work experience outside of the set time, if there are no school exams or assessments pending.

Year 10 students have already learnt about the process of securing a position in their careers lessons. When students have an agreement with a work place, the employer must complete and return the required paperwork which the parents and/or guardians need to sign. The completed paperwork must then be returned to the careers office. The DEC is very keen to support all students on their career paths. The work experience placement and school-to-work initiatives provide the students with the skills they will need for their future employment.

Last year a student spent a week at the Lucas Heights nuclear facility whilst a student this year has already organised for himself a work experience placement at the Sydney Observatory. Year 10 students are encouraged to creatively utilise their own research and negotiation skills and/or tap into family networks to obtain the best possible position. The placement may be included on their career paths. The work experience placement and school-to-work initiatives provide the students with the skills they will need for their future employment.

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Applicants, who leave applying to the last minute, may miss out. Get onto it early please!
Senior students in Year 11 and 12 are the busiest of the lot, with both the Premiers Debating Challenge and The Crawford Shield occurring late in term 1. Coaches have been preparing boys by getting them to engage in complex issues such as the situation in Ukraine, the fate of Australia's manufacturing industry and human rights and aid. We wish students the best of luck in all their debates for the rest of the term!

Overall it has been a great first few weeks. Thank you to all the students for deciding to participate in the program this year and for having such intelligent and positive contributions to call. Also thank you to all the coaches at NSB for continuing to maintain such a high standard in their teaching.

Udit Pillay - Head Debating Coach

Chess

Chess at NSBH is looking in good shape at the moment, with an impressive number of teams ready to compete in the Interschool Competition in Term 2 and a powerful win posted by the Crawford Shield chess team in the recent meet. Jason Li and his team won 11-5 in the four-board, four-round Scheveningen event. Joshua Behar was the star of the show for the North Sydney Boys team, scoring three wins and a draw, but there were important contributions from the whole team of Jason, Eric Shen, Daniel Cheng and Joshua.

There are plenty of events in the forthcoming holidays being organised by the NSW Junior Chess League, and I would encourage all the NSBH players (particularly those in Years 7 and 8) to compete. The practice will stand you in good stead for the Interschool Competition!

In other news, NSBH has again been given the honour of hosting the prestigious Terrey Shaw Shield in Term 3. This one-day competition for secondary school teams is held in honour of the late International Master Terrey Shaw, a distinguished Old Falconian who represented Australia at several Chess Olympiads and competed on level terms with some of the best in the world. I am sure that we will be entering several teams again on our home turf!

Michael Salter - Chess Co-ordinator

breathing-relaxation class every Monday after school beginning Week 2, Term 2 until the end of Term 3. As the old saying goes, an ounce of prevention is better than a pound of cure. Any student who may be feeling the pressure is invited to participate in these free classes.

There is a wonderful inclusion on the UNSW website that provides comprehensive advice for parents of students considering university options. Go to the UNSW website, click on ‘Future Student’ then ‘Domestic Undergraduate’, and on the right is the link to ‘Advice for Parents’ and ‘Parents FAQs’. It is also possible to download a UNSW Parent Information Guide. This is highly recommended, no matter which university you are considering. Finally, students are encouraged to drop into the careers office to discuss any careers concerns they might have. Parents are also invited to make an appointment with me at school if they have any careers questions or issues in relation to their son that they would like to discuss.

Robert Miller - Careers Adviser

Debating

Debating at North Sydney Boys has hit the ground running this year, with students in all years having already completed four weeks worth of classes. We have over 150 boys enrolled in the program, with 2014 being our largest cohort ever. We are extremely excited for the year ahead and are confident that this will be another successful year of debating at NSB.

In Year 7, students have been given an introduction into the principles of debating. Coaches have equipped students with the ability to formulate arguments and develop models in responses to issues such as public transport, capital punishment and high school education. By the end of Term 1, students should be ready to start engaging in formal debates thus taking the first step into their (hopefully) long debating careers.

Students in Year 8, 9 and 10 have jumped straight into it dealing with issues such as the recent Sochi Olympics, human rights and questions regarding bodily autonomy. Coaches have also provided students with more advanced debating principles such as analysis through a rights based framework, and more advanced characterisation techniques. Students have also been getting more hands on debating practice than in previous years, with an emphasis on ensuring students debate on a fortnightly basis.
The SRC had a busy start to the year, but were enthusiastic and prepared for the challenges ahead.

Early in the term we saw the completion of the student-designed SRC mural in the gym to represent falcon pride – just in time for the Crawford Shield events. The winning competition design was by Alson Lee in Year 11, chosen at the end of 2013. A great job Alson!

During the term the NSBG SRC held the annual senior trivia night at North Sydney Girls and as usual, it was a complete success. Later in the term it was then NSB's turn to host the Junior trivia night. Student support for the event was overwhelming – with the largest number of trivia teams the SRC has ever seen. It was great to see nearly 500 participants from Years 7 – 9 get involved and have a great time. A special thanks to Year 7 students and parents for so strongly supporting the event.

Week 7 saw the success of SRC “Healthy Week”, in which the SRC ran initiatives such as free fruit every day for students, a walk to school competition, yoga at lunchtime, a beep-test competition, and teacher vs student cook-off. The cook-off drew in the largest crowd, most of who came to support the student team. In the end the student and teacher judges declared the teacher team the winners with a convincing lead. The highlight of Healthy Week, however, was the Year 7 breakfast. The SRC hosted and catered a breakfast for the whole of Year 7, to show how important a healthy start to the day is for successful learning.

For the end of the term the SRC organised and funded flu vaccinations for NSB staff members. This has become an annual tradition, with the SRC strongly believing that the wellbeing of the teachers is vital for student success.

Term 2 will be just as busy for the SRC, with the main events including the Junior and Senior dances with NSG (Week 1 and Week 5). So stay tuned!

Tania Linnertson - SRC Coordinator

The start to the second year of existence for the Social Justice Committee has been a successful one, with the SJC continuing to make their mark in the minds of the students. On the 27th of February the SJC celebrated World Social Justice Day with a selection of different stalls at recess and lunch, to provide students with a taste of the issues the SJC will be promoting this year. These include: Homelessness, Indigenous Rights, Prisoners of Conscience, Fair trade/Ethical food and Refugees. Each stall had an interactive activity, to get students thinking and promote the inquisitive nature of selective students.
The term ended for the SJC with the celebration of Harmony Day on the 21st of March. To recognise the day, the SJC held a “dress as yourself” mufti day – to celebrate each individual’s own identity and difference. During recess and lunch the SJC also encouraged and helped students across the school to make 1000 paper cranes to represent peace and harmony.

Coming up in Term 2 the SJC will be promoting two vital issues – with Fair Trade week in Week 3, and World Refugee day in Week 7.

Tania Linnertson - Social Justice Committee Coordinator

For the past 2 terms the SJC has been working with the NSG Women’s Collective to create a joint 'Domestic Violence Project'. The aim of the project was to raise awareness and empathy about domestic violence, particularly against women. The end result in Week 6 was a conference in which 50 NSB and 50 NSG volunteer students from a variety of year groups participated. The conference included a guest speaker from White Ribbon and a variety of workshops to engage students. The conference was highly successful and gained the attention of a range of external agencies. As a result, the NSW Minster for Health: The Hon Jillian Skinner MP, has requested a meeting with the NSGB Domestic Violence Project group to hear their thoughts on ways to deal with this issue across government.

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The 2014 Crawford Shield was the most successful exchange for North Sydney Boys High in the history of the competition. We have only won the Shield eleven times since 1972 and we defeated Melbourne High 9 ½ to 3 ½ (Debating was a draw).

The Welcome Assembly, first thing Monday morning was a pleasant affair with both Principal’s reinforcing the values of the Exchange and wishing both teams luck for the competition. The team Captains from both school’s conducted the usual banter and promised to bring home a victory for their teams. Nathan Xie (NS) and Reece Hooker (MHS) spoke very well and set up great expectations for the exchange. At the end of the first day, the matches were evenly poised, but we were hit with a big thunder storm and it looked as though we would not be able to finish a number of the events. Luckily the weather was kind to us and despite the gloomy weather forecasts, the sun came out on Tuesday and we were able to finish all of the events. Music was the first event we won albeit by half a point and Basketball was levelled up one game all early on Tuesday – this was probably the turning point as Melbourne had rated Basketball as a sure win for them. The word soon got around and North Sydney lifted and Melbourne faltered. The biggest turn around would have to be our Cricket team who only posted a meagre 106 and at one stage Melbourne were none for 32 – our boys never lost faith and bowled Melbourne out for 86 an outstanding result as Cricket is the original sport of the competition and much revered as the big prize.

I am most pleased that the competitions were played with true sportsmanship and in the true spirit of the exchange. I would like to take this
opportunity to thank the staff for supporting the exchange as this type of event in very unique to our school and it gives our boys an opportunity to make friends, share educational experiences and compete with students from another state. I would also like to thank the parents who billeted our visitors, it is a big commitment and responsibility and without your support the exchange would not continue. Special mention must also go to our staff organising team for the exchange - Mr Burgess, Ms Linnertson, Mr Williams and Mr Lin.

The challenge is now with the 2015 Crawford Shield Team who must try to defend our shield on Melbourne’s home soil. Start training now boys and bring home the victory. It has been an absolute pleasure organising this year’s Exchange and I congratulate all involved. The 2014 Crawford Shield is now folk law for North Sydney Boys and will be embellished at every reunion and last in the memories of all.

Neil Hunt - Crawford Shield Coordinator

THE MIKADO!

Tickets for The Mikado will be available for sale from early next term, so organise yourselves, neighbours, extended family and friends NOW.

Ticket prices will be:
$25 Adults and $18 Child/concession.

Over 100 students from NSG and NSB have been working enthusiastically on this light-hearted comedy to ensure a wonderful evening’s entertainment suitable for all ages.

Dates are:

- Friday 23 May 7.30pm
- Saturday 24 May 7.30pm
- Friday 30 May 7.30pm
- Saturday 31 May 7.30pm

For any questions on ordering, please contact the Entertainment Book coordinator, Madeline Yan on 0417 678 055 or madelineyan@yahoo.com.au
Congratulations

Kevin Song, Corwin Cheung, Kevin Ge and Arthur Zhao (Year 11) were awarded Third place for the Boys 16 Years 4x50m Freestyle Team Relay at the Sydney North School Sports Association carnival.

Richard Wang (Year 9) has been selected to represent Australia at the Oceania Cadet Challenge in Cook Island in May. This is the first time for Richard to represent Australia playing table tennis.

NORTH SYDNEY
Zaharias picked for convention

NORTH Sydney Boys High School's Jonathan Zaharias is one of 120 Year 11 and 12 students selected to investigate Australian Federalism, States' Rights and National Priorities at the National Schools' Constitutional Convention at Old Parliament House in Canberra from March 12-14.