FOCUS ON ENGLISH

Staff Changes
It has been wonderful to welcome back so many familiar faces as well as some new ones. This applies equally to staff and students. The English staff have remained quite stable with the addition of Ms Jo Ryan who has joined us from our sister school, Kelso High. Ms Taleb returned for the first weeks of term but has accompanied her husband to a new position in Sydney, much closer to family. Her classes are being taught by Ms Suzanne Ryan, who comes to Bathurst with thirty years’ experience in media. While having two Ryans in the same staffroom has caused some confusion with suggestions one be old and the other new, or one kind and the other evil, a student had us perplexed when he asked for “the red one”. Ms Jude Murphy is taking extended leave in 2016. Mr Mark Harlor has returned to a flexible load shared across English and Creative Arts. Proximity encouraged his proposal of marriage to Ms Renee Strickland, who accepted. We are grateful to have such excellent colleagues to draw upon and thank all new staff for their commitment and willingness to always give that little bit extra to benefit our students.

Technology and English
All classes now have a Google classroom for English and can access copies of assessment tasks as well as other important work from this room. More and more we will be using e-books, where possible and some classes have made a fantastic start in exploring this option.
Learning Journals
A major initiative in English this year is the introduction of a Learning Journal across junior years. This supports our School goal of improving writing and gives students an opportunity to reflect upon their learning or write creatively and critically. Already, Year 7 have shared their thoughts about transitioning to High (or ‘big’) School. They have given permission for me to share some of their thoughts below.

I believe this school is going to help me get places. Maddie Sufong
I feel more exposed to the world at High School, allowing me to take bigger steps into the bigger world. Arwen McLean
You have a bit more freedom. However, because of this, you need to be more responsible. Miranda Campbell
I think this year is going to be great; so far it’s been amazing. Bridget Warne
It’s great having about 200 kids your age rather than 1. Zoe Peters
I’m handling High School pretty well now: tablet working, subjects running and I’ve joined band and two clubs. Bayden Wolfe
People always say High School is much harder and that it sticks with you. Alannah Baldwin
For the first week I got lost every day. Will Hope
I got used to the schedule until I almost forgot about year assemblies after recess. Some kind teachers led me there which made me feel a bit more comfortable. Jonathan Limbrick
Day 1. All year 7 are standing in the gym awaiting their class; their destiny. Rohan Duffy
On my first day, so many things were going through my mind: Would I fit in? Could I make new friends? Ben Neary
I thought starting BHC was difficult; trying to make new friends, multiple teachers and the stairs. I like how everyone can get laptops, phones and ipads. It has been a big adventure so far. Luke Clemens

Debating and Public Speaking
Bathurst High has a long-standing and highly successful public speaking and debating culture. Our teachers train students during lunch times for entry into local and state-wide competitions. No matter what level of experience or confidence, all students are welcome to come along and join in the fun of arguing. Teams for the Premier’s Debating Competition; Lithgow Festival of Speech; CWA Public Speaking competition and the Mulvey Cup will be chosen later this term based on regular attendance at, and participation in, meetings.

Year 7-8 debaters are encouraged to join Ms Renee Strickland in H18 every Wednesday lunch to improve their debating skills.

Year 9-12 debaters and 7-12 Public Speakers are invited to join Ms Luisa Simeonidis and Ms Jo Ryan every Tuesday lunch in H21 for practice and training. Keep an ear out for information in the Daily Notices and also feel free to come and see Miss Strickland, Ms Simeonidis or Ms Ryan in the English Staffroom.
Clubs
Mr Chris Bell continues to run a Warhammer and Film Club. In the last week of 2015, these clubs undertook an excursion to Sydney, which was organised by Mr Bell to be a safe and enjoyable experience. The seniors: Felix Quinn, Tom Brunton, Shannon Furbank, Arna Lew and Annabel Meadley provided impeccable leadership and were good shepherds to younger students. Our aides, Alison and Tim were also invaluable and lots of fun.

Jack Donlan was the photographer and Ron Shead wrote the following report:

Late December, last year, a group of roughly twenty six students from years 7 - 12, embarked on a journey via train, to Sydney. We got to Sydney early in the morning, and had breakfast. We then walked to the Games Workshop in Parramatta. There, we were given a Warhammer figurine each, and a lesson on how to correctly paint the figurines. We walked back to the food court, where we had eaten breakfast, and had lunch. From there, we caught a train to Darling Harbour and walked to the local Imax, where we watched an amazing documentary on ‘The Unseen World’. This included things too small to see, things too slow to see, things too fast to see, and things that we just can’t see such as the growth of plants and nano-sized gold particles. A rivercat transported us up the Parramatta River where we ate dinner on the platform and got back on the train. Almost instantly we got kicked into the next cabin. Apparently we had been in the ‘quiet carriage.’ Along the way we played cards, slept, listened to music, and much more. Mrs Wade was very talkative, and made friends out of quite a few people along the way. I even used my charm and powers of persuasion to politely ask an adult to move seats… and it worked! Overall, it was an excellent trip, and after all that, we were back in town by nine thirty, happy, tired and ready for bed.
The Bathurst High Literacy team has purchased a site license for all students 7-10 to be able to engage with and benefit from the WordFlyers program. It is wonderful to finally have access to a literacy program that is targeted specifically for Australian Secondary students. Students will be introduced to the site in their English classes. At home students can also access the site to improve their literacy skills and towards the end of Term 1 many other subject areas will also be accessing the site and possibly setting homework tasks on texts that relate to their specific area.

Congratulations to the following athletes from Bathurst High School who have been selected in 2016 Western Region Academy of Sport squads:

Basketball:  Ben Neary  
            Isaac Neary  
Golf:       Ben Mackey  
Rugby 7s:   Zarlia Griffiths

Photos of the swimming carnival and a report will be included in upcoming newsletters.
Welcome Back and Welcome to New Families
Welcome to all our new families and welcome back to our experienced ones. 2016 promises to be another year full of activity, learning and opportunity for the students of Bathurst High Campus.

On the staff front we welcome back Mrs Dunshea as the Deputy Principal of the Middle School but we have received the news that Mrs Stirling, our Deputy Principal in the Senior School, will be taking leave from the beginning of term 2 before retiring at the end of the term. So after 23 years of service to the students and community of Bathurst High as a teacher, head teacher and deputy principal it will be said to say goodbye. More about that in a future newsletter.

Roles for the remainder of Term 1
Last year, I was successful in applying for a position as a Flexible Principal School Leadership. This position is designed for experienced principals to be used as mentors and leaders in professional learning for other less experienced principals while remaining their schools. I have been asked to do this on a full time basis for the remainder of term 1. As a result, Mrs Stirling and myself will be co principals. Mrs Stirling is continuing to look after Year 12 but she is assuming the day to day Principal responsibilities and will be the prime point of contact for parents. I am still available for contact by parents if that is their preference and I will be still taking responsibility for the more strategic aspects of my position. Ms Alexa Barr will be relieving as DP Senior School.

Upgrades
Once again, Bathurst High has been the beneficiary of some infrastructure upgrade work. Hines Constructions have won the tender to put in three lifts and ramps so that Bathurst High will be virtually fully wheelchair accessible. The lifts will be put into the middle of the Keppel St building, the Hope St (old building) and outside the science labs. Ramps will be built near the Piper St entrance to the buildings and in the Hope St passive student area. The work will mean some disruption to classes but this will be kept to a minimum and the results will be well worth the inconvenience. The works will take about 6 months.

Bring Your Own Device
I am very pleased to see the numbers of students with devices. We have very much increased the use of these devices in class this year from year 7 through to year 12. We are also increasing the number of devices that are available for students who cannot get one and parents may be called if students have indicated they have a device but they are not bringing it. We now equate this with a student not bringing their books and teachers may keep students back to speak to them about their lack of equipment. Teachers may also ring to discuss with parents a suitable plan so that students don’t miss out on the learning through this.

Our Equity Funding and School Priorities
One of the reforms of the current state government that has had a large impact on schools are the changes to the way that we are funded. We receive money based on the new Resource Allocation Model (RAM) and some of this money can be spent in a flexible way on programs to improve student learning outcomes. This model started in 2015 and I am now collecting data to present to the community on the results of 2015 initiatives. At the April monthly P&C meeting there will be a presentation on spending priorities for 2016.

Co curricular Activities in Full Swing
Bands, Vocal Group, Dance Ensemble, Film Club and Maths Tutoring are all activities taking place before or after school. They are available to all students who wish to participate. Please look on the school website or in the parent portal for more information on when and where they occur. I commend all these activities to you.

Geoff Hastings
Principal
Welcome to 2016!
I wish all students, staff and parents the very best for the commencement of the 2016 academic year. For those returning, welcome back! For those who are new to the Denison College community, welcome – I know that you will very quickly become part of the fabric at your local campus.

Whilst there has been some movement at the campuses, College staffing this year remains largely unchanged from 2015, although we were very sad to farewell Mrs Lesley Macready from her key role on the Online Learning Team after several years of outstanding service.

High Achievers’ Reception
This annual event was held on Tuesday, 2\textsuperscript{nd} February, at Bathurst Goldfields. Almost 200 students, parents and staff were present to see around fifty students from Years 10, 11 and 12 2015 receive recognition for their academic achievement in the HSC and school based assessment. The venue was outstanding, and we were pleased to welcome The Hon. Paul Toole (State Member for Bathurst), Prof. Jo-Anne Reid (CSU Head of Campus – Bathurst) and Ms Toni MacDonald (Director Public Schools NSW, Bathurst Network) as our special guests.

Visits to the Halls of Power, Part II
Last report I discussed my visits to Canberra in mid-November 2015 to meet with various politicians from both sides of the house to discuss the importance of a needs-based model of school funding, consistent with the “Review of Funding for Schooling” (2011) conducted by an expert panel chaired by respected businessman, David Gonksi. During our visit, I highlighted the positive impact that Gonski funding has had on students at both campuses. There have been a number of significant announcements in relation to this topic during recent weeks. I encourage all members of the school community to visit \url{www.igiveagonski.com.au} or speak to your campus principal for more information.
I would like to congratulate all the students on their very settled start to the year.

Year 11 students have attended many meetings on the requirements of their senior studies. These include:

VET student meeting – students studying a Vocational Education course at Bathurst High learnt of the requirements of all VET courses. These include a 35 hour work placement in each year they study the course. When students are on work placement it is their responsibility to submit assessment tasks on time or if necessary before they are due and complete work they miss at this time. These students also completed some mandatory units of work to support their study of their course.

Assessment Policy meeting – all students were issued with the school’s Senior Assessment Policy booklet. This details the procedures to follow to submit tasks and what to do in the case of illness. Students were also issued with a wall planner and copied all the assessments they had for the year on to the planner. They can now organise time to complete assessments by the due date. Any late submission incurs penalties. Students were trained in the use of ALARM – a Learning and Response Matrix. ALARM gives students a structure to approach extended pieces of writing for the HSC.

Some early notice of the Year 12 Mid-Course Examinations which will be held in the last two weeks of the term from Tuesday 29th March until Friday 8th April. This is immediately after Easter so please ensure students are well prepared and present for these examinations as these marks count towards their HSC school assessment. Students should only be absent from an examination if they are sick and they would need a Doctor’s certificate.

Stephen Chapman represented the school admirably in the Lions Youth of the Year last week. He had to give a prepared speech and two impromptu speeches. He also had an afternoon interview with the panel of judges. He is to be congratulated on his efforts and achievement in this event.

Year 12 work placements are early this year and some students are already completing these as a requirement for the HSC. Please support your child in completing these in the designated week and also completing any assessment tasks due.

Year 10 students will be completing their junior schooling this year and planning for their senior years. This is a really important year to encourage the completion of all assessment tasks on time and to a high standard. Students should get assistance from teachers if they need it and parents should keep in contact with teachers if they are concerned about their child’s progress. Students who do not complete work may not satisfactorily complete their year 10 Record of School Achievement. Ongoing communication is the key to success!!

I would like to take this early opportunity to wish all students a happy and successful year in 2016.

Jenny Stirling
Deputy Principal
Senior School
It’s great to be back at Bathurst High! Teachers have been getting to know their new Year 7 students and visa versa. Meet The Teacher Evening for Year 7 parents is on the 23rd at 4pm in the Theatre off Piper St. Parents of Year 7 students are invited to enjoy time hearing about each subject and meeting class teachers so a face can be put to a name. Rocky will be sizzling his famous sausages throughout the event – so look forward to a sausage sandwich for afternoon tea.

It is very exciting to see the number of students already booked and organized for the Yr 7 camp (9th-11th March). Lake Burrendong is a wonderful venue with so many activities. Our Year 7 students form friendships at the camp and really enjoy the challenges and fun of the events. If assistance is needed in the form of a payment plan, please contact me.

Years 7, 8 and 9 have all been trained to access Google Classroom where learning materials from their classes can be shared. As well, students know how to use Google calendar where their homework can be found. Mr Hamilton is the contact person regarding the Google learning environment.

Student advisers have been working very hard to make sure all students are settling happily and are focused on their academic studies. They can be contacted by calling or emailing the school office.

Student advisers:
Year 7 Ms Strickland and Mr Gillmer
Year 8 Ms Cloherty
Years 9 Ms Hennessy and Mr Lawler.

Gaye Dunshea
Deputy Principal
Middle School
Senior School College News

High Achievers Reception
Over 200 people attended this year’s celebration on Tuesday 2nd February at the Bathurst Goldfields. We were very pleased to honour our high achievers from Years 10, 11 and 12 (2015). Special guests included The Honourable Paul Toole, State Member for Bathurst, Ms Toni McDonald, Director, Public Schools, Professor Jo-Anne Reid, Charles Sturt University Head of Campus, Bathurst, Mr Geoff Hastings, Principal of Bathurst High Campus and Mr Michael Sloan, Principal, Kelso High Campus.
The evening was a wonderful success, with many families enjoying the opportunity to visit the Goldfields and celebrate the success of our students.

High Achievers 2015 were:

These are the HSC High Achievers who gained a band 6 in one or more subjects:
Shaun David-Wilgathgaumuwa in Mathematics Extension 1 and Physics
Breezy Jacobson in English Advanced, English Extension 1 and Legal Studies
Emilie Jeffreys in Visual Arts
Cameron Jones in Physics
Samantha Leckie in English Advanced, English Extension 1 and Ancient History
Jessica McLeod in Society and Culture
Grace Monamy in Visual Arts
Saxon Nichols in Music 1
Sarvin Sadrzadeh in English Advanced
Danika Smith in Music 1
Jacob Stocks for first in the State in the Electrotechnology Examination
Bradley Stratton in English Advanced
Mackinlay Tikoft in Biology

Year 11:
Annabel Tremain, Emma Warburton, Thomas Scott Palmer, Stephen Chapman, Cynthia Lautaru, Kieran Lindsay, Boadicea Nicholls, Georgia Browett, Sophie Ryan and Abigail Scarborough.

Year 10:
Brenna Nichols, Molly Peters, Eve Currie, Sourin Sadrzadeh, Grace Finlayson, Edward Lui, Jacob Zammitt, Scarlett Elliot, Nick Johnson, Thomas Lindsay, Ella Purser and Harriet McLean