



Meetings in Library

6.00pm Canteen Committee

6.30pm P & C Meeting

Principal's Report

Welcome back to a new school year. We are looking forward to another productive year, and moving forward with many initiatives to further improve the school for the students and the community. So, let's begin with what is new:

Students

We welcome our intake of Year 7 students, and hope to build positive relationships with each student, their family and the community. We also look forward to the leadership of our 2020 School Captains and Prefects:

Andrew Coleman and Breeana Smith as Captains
Alex Loder and Meagan Dampney as Vice Captains
Sara Charles, Alyssa Ford, Caitlyn Ford and Jesse Strong are the Prefects.



Staff

There have been some staff changes with a list on the last page providing a summary.

Unfortunately, we begin the year with three unfilled vacancies in Maths, Agriculture and Art. In addition, we are unsure of the return date of Mr House, and therefore cannot get a replacement teacher.

We are looking forward to working with our new staff.

Physical changes

Over the holidays some painting took place in the blocks that have received the new air conditioning-A Block, Science/Library block and the Ag room. The new air conditioning is working very well!

Calendar

February 2020

- 4 Staff Development Day
- 5 Term 1 starts for Years 7, 11 & 12
- 6 Term 1 starts for Years 8, 9 & 10
- 27 Twilight Swimming Carnival

April

- 9 End of Term 1
- 10 Good Friday (Public Holiday)

Minor changes have been made to the Admin foyer, which will allow a staff member to be present when you enter the office.

HSC results 2019

Once again Narrabri High School has achieved some outstanding HSC results. Overall, our students achieved 14 Band 6 (top 10%) marks, and another 10 received Band 5 marks. The standout student was Emily Stiller who achieved five Band 6 results and one Band 5. She was closely followed by Matt Nash with three Band 6s and one Band 5, and Jenna Baxter with two Band 6s and a Band 5. Alexander Loder of year 11, was accelerated in Mathematics, and he did his HSC in this course, achieving two Bands 6 results. James Madden and Layten Smith achieved a band 6 in Music.

In terms of KLAS (Key Learning Areas), six areas taught students who received one of the top two bands, with our best subjects being Mathematics extension and Music.

In general, the majority of the students achieved the expected results, with some of the students indicating that they had received better marks, in comparison to their Trial HSC performance. Most students will be pleased with their HSC results, as it will allow them to pursue their future pathway in a variety of vocational and academic ways. The school and individual KLAS will now begin their evaluation of the HSC marks, in conjunction with software which indicates the questions that our students did very well in, and the ones which indicate areas of improvement. With this in

mind, the school will make some changes to the delivery of HSC courses to assist the next cohort of students.

A new year begins, let's start with positive habits.

A new year means a fresh start, and for most students that means continuing to work hard and follow the right procedures. In the first few weeks we want to make school a positive learning experience and we will be concentrating on a few small things, which set the tone for achievement:

Uniform – There are not any changes to the uniform, or the policy, but I would ask parents to continue to support the school in this area. As always, please contact us if you are having difficulty acquiring the uniform. I have heard that there has been great support for the purchase of the uniform, so much so that there may be a shortage of stock in some areas. As always, please let us know if this is the case so that we are aware and can act accordingly. Later in the year I would like to look at creating a set standard for socks.

Equipment – It is vital that students have the right resources as quickly as possible. Please let us know if there are any issues with the supply of equipment, and we can help. The canteen provides backpacks for year 7 and 8 and has exercise books and lots of other resources, with the small profit going back into school funds for our students. It is very important that every student has a bag, each day – this indicates that they have the necessary equipment and that they are ready to start each day on the front foot.

Punctuality – It is difficult to get up in the morning after a long holiday, but it is very important that students are organised and on time. Furthermore, except for Year 7 students, and new students to the school, there is every reason to expect that being on time to class is the norm. Punctuality is an expectation in the workplace and it is important to establish this habit.

Mobile phones – A research project on the use of mobile phones in school was conducted by the Department of Education at the end of last year. We are awaiting their recommendations, and no doubt, there will be significant consultation with the local community. They are an essential tool in the modern world, but also a significant distraction. There has not been a change to the policy yet, but this will happen in the light of the research project. On the one hand students need to be taught tolerance, but on the other hand, the reality in most jobs is that staff are not permitted to access their personal mobile phones.

Communication – Apart from the traditional means of contact, don't forget that we have a Facebook page, which has been very well utilised since its inception in November 2017. The school website has a lot of information, and by midway through Term 1, will have an outline of each course in each year to enable you to have more of an idea of the students' study pattern. The schoolbag app is available for Android/Apple, free of charge. It will have an outline of each course in each year to enable you to have more of an idea of the students' study pattern.

The School Plan – 2018 to 2020

The last three terms of 2018 were devoted to discussion and evaluation, gathering data and establishing strategies for each of the plan areas. All staff are involved in the plan and play a key role in ensuring that all stakeholders are consulted, and that positive change is affected. The three broad areas are:

The full plan is available on our website. I would thank the many parents, community members and students who provided us with vital and authentic feedback. This has shaped our thinking and will lead to change which is supported by as many people as is possible.



Welcome Year 7 2020



