

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Learning Spaces Project

Earlier this year I discussed with you our projects redesigning two of our learning spaces into flexible, future focussed learning spaces – these being the old metals workshop and the top level of the library. These projects are not well advanced in planning and costing. The next stage of this program has been released this term with faculties invited to submit an expression of interest for one of two \$10k grants to transform a learning space in their area. This opportunity has been received with much enthusiasm. What is exciting is not the idea of new furniture, but new ideas about how we use space and the ways we teach kids and engage them in the learning process.

Staff Sharing their Expertise

Two of our staff have been recognised for their expertise and have been asked to present at a broad level. Mark Macdonald is presenting to the History Teachers Association of NSW his expertise in the Ancient History HSC examination. Caroline McTeigue has been asked to speak at a state forum for Year 12 Society and Culture students. It is fantastic that we have teachers of such high capacity who are sharing their depth of knowledge across NSW.

Anzac Premiers Scholarship

Congratulations to Samantha Wardle of Year 10 who is the recipient of the Premiers Anzac Scholarship for 2016. This prestigious scholarship will see Sami travel to significant sites on the Western Front and expand her historical knowledge through direct experience.

Anzac Day Celebrations

On Friday 29 April our school held our own Anzac Day Ceremonies. These are particularly important events on our calendar, and each year it is an event in which I feel immense pride in our student body with the dignity and respect that our students show on this solemn occasion. Whilst organised by Mr Ardley, these ceremonies are student led and provide an opportunity for the Anzac legend, and all that has been fought for, to be passed down through generations; ensuring our history and their legacy remain strong in our current time.

Vietnam

Over the April holidays 32 students and 3 staff attended our overseas excursion to Vietnam. This was an eye opening and fabulous experience for our students studying history and society and culture. They travelled through significant cultural sites, experienced Vietnamese cities and villages, visited an orphanage, and met a wonderful people. Such an opportunity creates memories that will last a lifetime. Organisation of an excursion of this magnitude is an enormous task, and I acknowledge the work of Mark Macdonald in coordinating the trip, as well as Caroline McTeigue and David Ardley who gave up their school holidays to provide this opportunity.

Duke of Edinburgh

From the 5th – 7th of May eleven students participated in the first stage of their Duke of Edinburgh Silver level. This involved three days of kayaking on the Hawkesbury River, camping overnight, learning a range of new skills and discovering muscles they didn't know they had. The trip was organised and coordinated by Carly Brien and Luke Banks, and our teaching intern Augustus Banfield-Withers also attended. Huge thanks are extended to these staff for providing such a valuable experience, opportunity and support for our students.

Andrew Backhouse
Principal