

## **PRINCIPAL'S REPORT**

### **New Staff**

I would like to welcome a number of new staff.

- Mr Kingsley Hunt is our new Head Teacher of Mathematics and Science;
- Ms Cassandra Thrussell joins us in PDHPE;
- Ms Crystal Reynen joins us in TAS; .
- Mr Daniel Quilty joins us in English;
- Mr Matthew Reece joins us in Mathematics;
- Ms Tarley Hawke joins us in Middle School; and
- Mr Dan Rogers and Ms Melanie Gould are in Student Services.

We are excited to have such a strong array of new staff join our fabulous school and outstanding team committed to the education of our students.

### **Outstanding HSC Results**

Our HSC results in 2015 provided exciting and outstanding outcomes. The band 6 results (over 90%) were more than 7% of our total results – this is the highest number ever achieved at Henry Kendall high school. On top of this 29% of all results were in the top two bands (80% or higher) – again the highest achieved at this school; 63% of our results were in the top three bands (above 70%); 10 courses had more than 20% of students in the top two bands (above 80%); 21 courses had more than 50% of students in the top three bands, and 10 courses had every student in the top three bands.

For students seeking admission to university (many of our students will take this path) the ATAR provides another measure of academic achievement. The highest ranking was 98.9 by Ashleigh Arkell, who also achieved 6 results in the 90's and was placed in the State All Rounders List. Our highest individual examination result was 98% by Ashleigh Arkell in English Extension 1, which placed Ashleigh as fourth in the state for this course in one of the most academically challenging courses. Ashleigh also achieved 96 in both Drama and PDHPE, and Courtney Muir achieved a 95 in PDHPE. Many students achieved ATARs well above 80, providing them with an array of opportunities and choices for university study.

Congratulations to the students of the 2015 Year 12 cohort, and to the fabulous teachers who have taken them through. In the past two years we have consecutively attained the strongest HSC results in the school's history, and have been placed as the top comprehensive school on the Central Coast in the HSC for the past two years – an achievement we are very proud of.

### **P&C Project 2016**

This year we are intending to continue our revamping of the school hall with acoustic panelling and new speakers. Last year we also started replacing the stage curtains. In 2016 we would like to continue with this upgrade to stage curtains and request P&C assistance in financing part of this project.

### **4,5,6 Night**

Tomorrow night is our information evening for the parents of our years 4,5,6 students. It is also the night where we launch our Young Achievers Program for 2016. This is an important night where we showcase our school, and this year one of our outstanding students from last year's HSC will be attending to promote what we do, along with many staff who will present aspects of our school to prospective parents.

**Numbers 2015**

School numbers in 2016 is 791 (2015 was 757). This is 11 students higher than our anticipated return, and leaves the school in a very good position.

**Change of date for our Term 3 School Development Day**

Our School Development Day in Term 3 is annually our combined professional learning day with our partner schools. As such it is a very important event on our calendar and an opportunity for our schools to attract presenters of the highest calibre. Unfortunately this year the speakers we are aiming for are not available on the first day of term, however are able to work with us on the Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> of July – the end of the first week of term.

I am therefore seeking P&C approval to proceed with a change of date to accommodate this important opportunity.

**New Newsletter Format**

We are continuing to develop our community engagement and professional image, and as such this year we will be trialling a new electronic newsletter.

Andrew Backhouse  
Principal