**Celebrating Achievement**

Henry Kendall High School has a proud tradition of academic achievement. We embrace an educational philosophy that sees a broad and engaging curriculum for all students as the keystone for success, both at school and in later life. We celebrate this success in various ways and are proud of our reputation for developing independent, lifelong learners. In recent weeks, many members of our school community attended assemblies to acknowledge and celebrate the sporting, cultural and academic success of students during the 2012 school year.

The most public measure of educational and academic success, however, is the New South Wales Higher School Certificate. As the results come out so late in the year, our success in this most competitive of areas is sometimes overshadowed by the approaching holiday period. For this reason I have decided to write to you to make you aware of some of our achievements in the HSC this year. In keep with our tradition of academic success, the results of the 2012 HSC cohort are outstanding. Across the HSC courses, 21 band 6 results were achieved (band 6 is the highest performance band). These results place Henry Kendall High amongst the highest achieving Comprehensive High Schools and Senior Colleges on the Central Coast.

For students seeking admission to university (many of our students will take this path) the ATAR provides another measure of academic achievement. This year we had at least 4 students achieve ATARs above 90. The highest ranking was 98.4, a result which indicates achievement in the top 1.5% of for that 70,000 students eligible for the HSC this year. Many students achieved ATARs well above 80, providing them with an array of opportunities and choices for university study. We will follow their choices with interest and will profile a number of these students and the university pathways that have opened up for them in our school newsletters in 2013.

We are very proud of the success of our HSC students in 2012 and congratulate them on their achievements. However, educational success in whatever way it is measured is a shared enterprise. We would also like to recognise the contribution and dedication of our teaching staff for the opportunities that they provide. The essential and highly valued support provided by parents, families and other members of our school community are also a crucial aspect of our success.

Achievement in the Higher School Certificate is only one measure of the great variety of opportunities and challenges provided in Public High Schools. However, it can be seen as an indicator of the success on long term educational plans. It is the work done throughout the junior school to inculcate habits of mind, ways of reasoning, methods of problem solving, standards to evaluate information, and to think critically and independently - tools that are transportable and not reliant on context – in order to take advantage of opportunities provided in the senior years that is the foundation of our success. The rounded education provided at Henry Kendall High School and the expectations that we have that all students can achieve, summed up in the school’s motto “Persevere”, makes achievement and success a genuine goal for all.

We wish all students and their families a safe and happy holiday period and we look forward to another highly successful year in 2013.

Andrew Backhouse

Principal

On behalf of a very proud and happy Henry Kendall High School Staff