Congratulations and Farewell Year 12
Year 12 Picnic Highlights
Year 12 Formal Highlights
Year 12 Presentation Assembly

Graduating Class of 2015, Family and Friends of Year 12, Members of Staff. Welcome to Year 12’s Presentation ceremony. I am delighted to see so many happy faces.

Firstly let me congratulate the Class of 2015 for successfully negotiating their way through High School. Year 12, seeing your parents/carers, family, friends and teachers here this evening is a testament to your achievements and the love and support you have received over the years from all of these people.

After 13 years, today is the fun part; however the past few years have seen Year 12 work exceptionally hard. All of us here at Galston High School very much remember the young students who started high school in 2010, looking somewhat overwhelmed by the whole experience. Your teachers over the past six years have been the lucky ones who have had the privilege of helping you with your educational growth during this time.

This week Year 12 participated in their final classes, played in the traditional student teacher soccer and basketball matches and a Frisbee game thrown in for good measure. Year 12, you gave it your best shot by ensuring that our key players of Mr Byfield and Mr Wells were put out of action, but in the end the teachers came out on top, upholding the undefeated title that they so much covet.

Today we have enjoyed sharing breakfast with you and joining in on your celebrations at the Year 12 picnic at Crosslands – even the part where you attacked me with water pistols and water bombs thrown from a giant slingshot. Tomorrow morning I look forward to hearing from the younger students at your farewell assembly as they show their respect to you as the senior students and role models of our school.

And tomorrow evening I look forward to seeing you all dressed up in your finery for your formal at Oatlands House.

We are proud of your achievements over the years, your various successes in a wide range of pursuits, from the great scholarly achievements, to the cultural pursuits of performance and music through to sport. You have willingly and enthusiastically accepted the challenge we gave you at the beginning of last year, to grasp the many formal and informal leadership opportunities on offer at Galston High School and you have had an amazingly positive influence on the student body through leading by example.

To the teachers of Year 12 – thank you for the exceptional job you have done in providing quality teaching and learning programs to our students in preparation for the Higher School Certificate exams.

To your Parents/Carers/Grandparents - You should be justly proud of the work you have done in assisting your children in preparing for the HSC and their future lives. Thank you for your support – it has been greatly appreciated by the staff of Galston High and most importantly, by your children.

On behalf of Year 12, parents and staff, I would like to personally thank Jake van Baarle for his outstanding work as Year 12 Student Adviser and the personal support he has provided to students and their families. My thanks also to Katrina Andrus who, as Year 12 Assistant Adviser was able to provide additional support and opportunities to Year 12 throughout their schooling at Galston – in particular the preparation for this evening, the picnic and formal.

Thanks also to Julia Petrulis who, as deputy principal, oversaw the welfare and discipline of this year group. Ms Petrulis has forged exceptionally strong relationships with the students individually and as a year group and I know that many parents and carers were fortunate to have had the support of Julia throughout the last 2 years.

Ms Petrulis is extremely proud of the young men and women you have become and the mature way in which you have all conducted yourselves in the senior years well, most of you..... most of the time..... (sigh from Ms Petrulis)

Over the past few weeks I have had the opportunity to speak with each of you individually about your future goals and career plans and I was delighted to see the thought, effort and research that had gone into your decision making. Congratulations to those students who have already secured an apprenticeship, employment or advanced entry to university or further training – On behalf of the Galston High Community I wish you all the very best in your future careers.

Year 12, our very best wishes go with you as you make your final preparations for the HSC and then as you take on life beyond the walls of Galston High. With considerable guidance from both home and school, you have reached this milestone with credit and integrity, well equipped for the world you now enter. If nothing else I hope you have learnt to live your lives always demonstrating our core school values of respect, responsibility and personal best.

I would like to acknowledge two students in particular who are sitting within the numbers of Year 12 this evening. Jess Vaughan and Chris Hamilton, who are the first students to attain their HSC through the HUB. Congratulations to both of you on this wonderful achievement.

Finally I’ll read you a motivational poem about how one little spark can make a great change.

Just One - Anonymous
One song can spark a moment,
One flower can wake the dream
One tree can start a forest,
One bird can herald spring.

One smile begins a friendship,
One handclasp lifts a soul.
One star can guide a ship at sea,
One word can frame the goal.

One vote can change a nation,
One sunbeam lights a room
One candle wipes out darkness,
One laugh will conquer gloom.

One step must start each journey.
One word must start each prayer.
One hope will raise our spirits,
One touch can show you care.

One voice can speak with wisdom,
One heart can know what’s true,
One life can make a difference,
You see, it’s up to you!

We can’t always seek big adventures or experiences. But sometimes it’s the little things that make a great difference in life.

Year 12, I congratulate you on your achievements and on behalf of the school community I wish you a bright and amazing future.
Upcoming Events

Term 4 - Week 1

Monday 5 October
Labour Day Public Holiday

Tuesday 6 October
Students return to school

Wednesday 7 October
7X GATS Incursion

Friday 9 October
Years 7, 8 & 11 Vaccinations

Sunday 11 October
Silver D of E

Next Week

Monday 12 October
Silver D of E
HSC Commences

Tuesday 13 October
Silver D of E

Wednesday 14 October
Young Endeavour Interviews

Sunday 18 October
Bronze D of E

Still to Come

Monday 19 October
Bronze D of E
Year 7 Exams
Boys U15 Water Polo KO - Smidt

Tuesday 20 October
Year 7 Exams
P&C Meeting
Girls U16 Water Polo KO - Smidt

Wednesday 21 October
Year 8 Exams
Youth Eco Summit - Carden/Hemmings & 7X

Thursday 22 October
Year 8 Exams
Youth Eco Summit - Carden/Hemmings & 7X
Boys Cricket Trials

Friday 23 October
Year 8 Exams

Can You Please Fill In Our Survey?

On the last page are details about a survey that we would love all parents to complete. It should only take about 15 minutes.

Please help us to provide the best education possible for your child by providing us with feedback.

Click on the following link:

or go to:
www.tellthemfromme.com
Username: parent17001
Password: Gal8481
Orienteering Championships

“On Monday 3rd August approximately forty representatives from Galston High School ventured into St Ives Park and its surrounding bushland for the Orienteering Championships.

This was a great day starting off with a quick walk around the course for familiarisation. Students gathered in groups of twenty and were taught how to use a map and swipe card. The swipe cards were electronic and could tell you how long you took to get to each checkpoint and your overall time.

After the walk it was an individual run, participants in different age groups were given different maps and were let off in intervals of approximately one minute or less. Volunteers then helped orientate your map then you would have to go from checkpoint to checkpoint each time buzzing your card on electric machines.

The winner of the race was Riley Paton with a time of 15 minutes and 45 seconds. The end event of the day was a relay in teams of three. Each person having to locate 7 checkpoints on three different maps. Most teams had trouble finding certain checkpoints but they had a lot of fun. The day was success and smiles all round.

On the bus I asked participants their thoughts on the day:”

Freya Norbury “It was a fun day, but very tiring”

Chloe Anjoul “It was a great day”

Amelia Attard “I was absent on the day, but I would love to do it next year with more participants getting involved”

Maggie Clifton “I wish to thank the three hundred people who came to the day and to thank the teachers and organisers of the day”

“The Orienteering Championship was a fun and challenging experience. The area consisted of bushland and in some areas it was quite thick, but it was enjoyable to run through from checkpoint to checkpoint. The organisers of the championships were very kind and helpful and it was great to meet new people and learn new things. I strongly recommend the Sydney North Regional Orienteering Championships. Just have a go and try your best!”

“Today we had the Orienteering Championships at St Ives. It was extremely fun, testing and a good day with my mates. I was so surprised to see the final scoreboard saying Riley Paton 1st place. It was a true test, especially with a painful stitch. I’m definitely doing it next year and I can’t wait. What a day!”

By Riley Paton

It was really good, but I got lost a lot!

By anonymous

“Before coming here today, we had never done orienteering. We thought it was going to be easy and boring, but it turned out to be a very fun and challenging experience! Orienteering consists of running through bushland whilst trying to read a map. There are then checkpoints you must find in the correct order. We personally got lost quite a few times but we made it back in the end. Even though we weren’t perfect at map reading, we had fun giving it our best shot.”

By Olivia Votano & Tania Wang

“Orienteering was fun and challenging. We enjoyed it a lot even though we got lost a lot of times. It was fun because we go to hang out with our friends, definitely much better than sitting in class all day. We recommend to give it a try next year even though it might sound easy and boring it’s actually fun!”

by Jasmine Gabrielen and Lauren Mansfield
The citation for Ryan Cook is provided below.

Ryan epitomises the term “service to the community”.

Ryan is an outstanding leader and role model at Galston High School, as an active member of the school and local community. Galston is a semi-rural area with many features of the typical “country” life. He has grown up in an environment nurtured by his local community and from a young age, it was clear he was always going to give back to that local community.

Ryan has received several awards which recognise his community contributions; Dural Rotary Club Service Awards, Reuben F Scarf award for Commitment & Dedication to school and community.

Ryan is an exceptional student and mentor, who displays dedication, empathy and is passionate about making a positive contribution to his school and the wider community, without seeking recognition, affirmation or accolades, of any kind.

Ryan is involved in local charity work for the local sporting clubs offering coaching services. He also offers his expertise in stage, sound and lighting where he donates his time to set up and present many of our local community events. He also assists the elderly at the local community retirement village doing odd jobs and yard work.

Most recently he has been involved in training with the local Rural Fire Service. His Captain at the Arcadia RFS highly commends his dedication to his training and assistance he provides to and for the RFS. In the recent storms during May and April, Ryan's services were requested in many of the cleanup operations due to his enthusiasm, passion and desire to help others. All whilst continuing to balance his high school studies and continue in his leadership roles in the school as a House Leader and mentor to students in stage and lighting for school events.

As is evident, Ryan is an impressive young man with enormous capacity to give of himself, making a significant contribution to the school and wider community.

Ryan is the quintessential “quiet achiever in his local community” and Galston High School, takes pleasure in recommending Ryan as a most worthy recipient of The Certificate of Commendation for Service to the Community.

Congratulations Ryan Cook Awarded
THE JOHN YOUTH COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD
Order of Australia
You’re invited to participate in the Tell Them From Me (TTFM) Partners in Learning survey designed for parents and carers. This survey complements the TTFM student and teacher surveys, which focus on student engagement, wellbeing and effective teaching practices. Our students completed the student survey at the end of term 2 and we have found the results to be invaluable in our planning.

Why should I participate?
Parents and carers are an important and valued part of the school community. Schools can use survey feedback to make practical improvements and inform school planning.

What does it involve?
This online survey takes about 15 minutes to complete. It is anonymous and voluntary. If you have more than one child at this school, and feel that your children’s experiences differ, you can complete the survey more than once.

How can I participate?
You can access the survey in your own time, up until 16 October 2015. Follow the link below on your computer or tablet:

More information on the Partners in Learning survey can be found on the NSW Department of Educations’ TTFM website: http://surveys.cese.nsw.gov.au/
Is it a safe place for our kids?
A guide for parents.

As a parent or carer you play an important role in making sure your kids are spending time in places that are safe. This guide will help you look out for ‘child safe’ places.

What is a ‘child safe’ place?
Child safe means making sure the place where your kids spend time is safe from neglect, physical, sexual or emotional harm or abuse. A child safe place will have rules that are set up to make sure your kids are kept safe.

Parents have a right to know who is working with their children.
It is your business to know who is working with your children. Every day kids are with adults outside of their home. This could be at places like a parents club, youth group centre, or an after school service. As an adult you need to understand what organisations should be doing to keep your child safe.

It is the job of people who work with your children including teachers, nurses, coaches and counsellors to have a current Working with Children Check. However, there is much more an organisation can do to keep kids safe.

Understanding the Working With Children Check.
In NSW all people who work with your children (as well as a number of volunteers) need a current NSW Working with Children Check clearance number.

Some people don’t have the chance to get a Working with Children Check number, such as a parent that volunteers in an activity that involves face to face child contact, a sports coach. The Check provides either a clearance or a letter to work with children.

It is a crime for a person with a bar to work or volunteer with children.

How do you know they have a Check?
Parents and guardians are now able to ‘verify’ if the person working with their child (under 18) has a Working with Children Check. When you say ‘verify’ we mean parents can check online.

By checking online you will instantly see if the person is allowed to work with your child. Also they become a ‘known’ person so we will let you know. You will however need to know their details, including name, birth date, job title, application or clearance number.

What parents and volunteers can do.
Employers and organisations can check if a child is being supervised in an activity that involves face to face child contact, a sports coach. The Check provides either a clearance or a letter to work with children.

To find out more about child safe organisations go to:
or contact us on (02) 8219 3600

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