Welcome back to another great year at Galston High School. A warm welcome is extended to all of our returning families, Year 7 and recently enrolled families, new staff and community members.

New to the teaching staff are: Ms Mandy Barton (English), Ms Sue Groth (Science/Agriculture), Tracey Tazewell (Visula Arts) and Ms Chang Liu (Language).

2015 Higher School Certificate
Galston High School prides itself on its academic achievement and its ongoing pursuit of improvement. Our 2015 results reflect this commitment with many students achieving results at a high level.

The following is a snapshot of some of the many excellent achievements:

Annabel Manoleros – 2015 Dux, achieved an ATAR of 96.6. Annabel is also a “Distinguished Achiever” which means she gained an ATAR score of 90 or higher. She received Band 6 in Modern History, Advanced English and PDHPE. This is an exceptional achievement.

Three students attained Distinguished Achiever Status

Mikayla Stewart - major work for Industrial Technology selected for HSC works exhibition at Intech.

56% of students achieved a Band 5 (80+ marks) or greater in at least one subject.

26% of students gained a Band 5 or higher in three or more subjects.

In twenty seven subjects students achieved Band 5 or higher.

Exceptional achievements were attained by student in subjects whose mean was at or above state average – English (Standard), English (Extension 2), Agriculture, Community and Family Studies, Food Technology, Industrial Technology, History (Extension 1), Music 1, Senior Science, Construction and Hospitality.

We will be undertaking a detailed analysis of these results in the coming weeks and a report will be given at the upcoming P&C.

Again, congratulations to the 2015 HSC students, a wonderful group of young men and women who have left lasting and positive impressions.

Critical to the success of any organisation is the development and communication of a clear direction that will make a difference. Our three year strategic plan is focussing on three main areas:

The Student Learner
The Holistic Learner

During this three year period we are undertaking a number of initiatives to assist students in realising their potential and raising expectations. In 2016/17 we will:

Continue to improve literacy, with a focus on writing, through whole school strategies such as TEEL and Super Six, with a focus on improving spelling.

Continue with a whole school approach to higher order writing, particularly for senior students, using the ALARM program.

Raise the number of Band 5 and Band 6 results at the HSC through further development of the Year 12 Mentoring Program and Battle of the Bands.

Continue to expand teachers’ collaborative practices to learn from one another through classroom observations, critical reflection, professional conversations around classroom practice and teaching through the introduction of Quality Teaching Rounds (QTR).

Relaunch the BYOD program into Year 9.

Further expand our K3YS Project to enable students to develop resilience in life skills beyond school with an emphasis on encompassing our core values of respect, responsibility and personal best.

Of course these major programs will be undertaken in and around the usual day to day activities of Galston High School.

Refurbishment of School Facilities in 2016

Library – The next meeting of the Library Project Reference Group will be held next week where we have been assured that the schematic drawings will be presented for discussion. In addition, we are hoping that the insurance costings for the new library have been finalised so that the project can go to tender sometime in the coming month. Further details about the library project along with the building and furniture plans will be presented at the upcoming P&C meeting, Tuesday 16th February 2016, 7.30pm in the Waddell Learning Centre.

Science Laboratories - In January the refurbishment of two science
laboratories and a science prep room were begun. The rooms have now been completely gutted and electrical and plumbing work is currently underway. We anticipate these renovations to be completed and ready for student use by the beginning of term two. This is a State Government funded project.

Student Toilets – Another set of boys’ and girls’ toilets near the science staffroom will begin refurbishment in week three with the completion date expected to be by the end of term. This project is funded by the Department’s North Sydney Regional Assets.

Senior Courtyard – This area between the Humanities and PDHPE staffrooms has long been in need of an overhaul. Late last year the top area was levelled and a retaining wall was constructed. Over the past few weeks we have conditioned the rock-hard soil and added fertiliser and top soil. This week a path has been built and grass laid transforming the area into a tranquil and inviting place for our senior students. Existing picnic tables will also be refurbished over the coming months and the paved areas pressure washed to remove years of built up dirt. We thank the Bendigo Bank for their sponsorship of this project.

PE Change Rooms – The boys’ and girls’ PE change rooms will be renovated throughout 2016. A scope of works and quote is currently being prepared to enable us to develop a timeline for refurbishment. This project will be funded by the Department’s North Sydney Regional Assets and through school funds.

Project Based Learning Room – Ms Lamont is spearheading this project and is refurbishing one of the Humanities classrooms to enable students to work in an environment that is conducive to collaborative learning. Ms Lamont has planned the layout of the room and is in the process of purchasing furniture to suit this style of learning. This project should be completed for student use by the beginning of term 2 (furniture orders are around 8 weeks lead time) and has been funded through the school’s Resource Allocation.

Swimming Carnival...

The annual swimming carnival was held on Monday 1st February at Hawkesbury Oasis Leisure Centre. The house leaders decorated their designated areas and led the way in encouraging the younger members of the school to enter as many events as possible. The spirit of the day was displayed from start to finish with many year 12s entering races for the last time in their school life. The champion house of the day were the mighty Knights who sped away during the relays where the double points really made a difference. House results are:

1st: Knights
2nd: Spartans
3rd: Vikings
4th: Samurai

Three records were broken:

1) Emma Johnson broke the 13yrs girls 50m Freestyle record with a time of 31.12. The previous record of 31.19 was held by Louise Young since the year 2000.

2) Harry Trethowan broke the 50m Butterfly record with a time of 28.15. The previous record of 28.70 was held by Michael Creighton since 2005.

3) The Samurai house broke the Open Boys Medley Relay record with a time of 2.23.47. The previous record of 2.32.35 was also held by the yellow house (Macquarie) since 2010.

Age champions are:

12yrs: Jade Oldham Robbie Cullen
13yrs: Emma Johnson Ben Jeffrey
14yrs: Kate Johnson Samuel Loria
15yrs: Danielle Cook Aidan Robinson
16yrs: Sophie McDonald Callum Trethowan
17yrs+: Emily McCauley Harry Trethowan

Congratulations to all competitors.
Swimming Carnival (cont’d)…
Thursday of last week we welcomed our 2016 Year 7 students to Galston High School. What a fine group of young men and women, decked out beautifully in the new school uniforms all eager to begin their next stage in education.

To welcome our students and their parents/carers, our wonderful P&C, assisted by the 2016 Prefect Team, hosted a barbecue breakfast. The students appeared keen and enjoyed their bacon and egg sandwiches, but many parents were too anxious or nervous to eat. When the bell rang, Year 7 students farewelled their families and moved to the hall to hear about the organisation of their day.

Despite the information overload of day one, by all accounts the students have settled in very well and are finding their way around the school. This is due to the leadership of our House Leaders who played a significant role on day one with Year 7. House Leaders conducted tours of the school and led orientation activities with the students to ensure that as far as possible, the new students felt welcomed and confident in their new setting.

On Friday, Year 7 tackled reading their new timetables and attended their first full day of lessons. Monday arrived and the students were all decked out in their house colours to enjoy a day at the annual swimming carnival at Windsor. This was quickly followed on Wednesday with the three day Year 7 Orientation Camp which is a great opportunity for them to get to know each other individually and as a year group and to make new friendship groups.

Every year we marvel at how well Year 7 adapt to high school and this group is no exception. We look forward to sharing the next six years with this group of students on their educational journey.
Upcoming Events

This Week

Monday 15 February
Gold D of E

Tuesday 16 February
Gold D of E
P&C Meeting

Wednesday 17 February
Gold D of E
Year 7 & 8 Vaccinations

Thursday 18 February
Gold D of E
Boys Volleyball Trials

Friday 19 February
Gold D of E
Meet the Music - Year 11 all day

Next Week

Tuesday 23 February
SRC Induction Assembly

Thursday 25 February
Girls Basketball Trials
Year 11 Meet the Music

Still to Come

Monday February 29
Zone Swimming Carnival

Wednesday 2 March
Open Day

Thursday 3 March
Touch Trials boys & girls U15s

Friday 4 March
Castle Hill Show
Year 7 Castle Hill Show Excursion
First Aid - Year 11 SLR - Whiteman

Saturday 5 March
Castle Hill Show

Sunday 6 March
Castle Hill Show

GHS Vaccination Clinics

Visit 1
Wednesday 17th February

Visit 2
Wednesday 18th May

Visit 3
Wednesday 7th September

Application For Leave

Parents and carers who are planning a family holiday during the school term need to apply for approval for students to be absent from school.

Attendance at school is essential if students are to achieve their potential and increase their career and life options. As such, families are encouraged to plan holidays during school vacation periods. Travel outside of vacation periods is counted as an absence and will be recorded as such on the school rolls and on reports.

Where travel during term is considered appropriate for extenuating reasons, parents/carers are required to submit an Application for Extended Leave - Travel to the principal. This form can be collected from the administration office and applications must be accompanied with evidence of travel arrangements (i.e. copies of tickets) and an itinerary.

Students will need to complete all work missed whilst on holidays and all assessment tasks will need to be submitted prior to leaving or via email to the teacher on or before the due date. No extensions will be given. Please seek advice from the school regarding scheduled assessment tasks prior to booking travel.
Students from all year groups are welcome to join the Concert Band and Vocal Ensemble.

These two extra curricular groups will start here at school in Week 3.

**Concert Band**
Wednesday, Week 3
7.30am with Ms Andrus in MU2

**Vocal Ensemble**
Friday, Week 3
7.30am with Ms Fuller MU1

Looking forward to seeing you then.

You only need to turn up on the day and register your enthusiasm to be included.

Mrs Fuller

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**Arcadia Musical Recitals**

2016 Series

**FIVE CONCERTS IN THE CHAPEL OF ST BENEDICTS MONASTERY**

121 ARCADIA ROAD
ARCADIA

**On Sunday:**

29th May, 24th July, 28th August, 18th September, 13th November

**ALL CONCERTS START AT 2.00PM**

Whole Series Bookings are the best way to secure seats.

**WHOLE SERIES TICKETS PRICES:**

- Commonwealth Pensions & Students - $170
- All others: - $190

**After March 31st**, if they are still available, individual concert tickets will be offered to the general public at a slightly higher price of **$45 for concerts A, B, C and D. Concert E tickets will be $55.**

These may be ordered by telephone from:

Margaret on 9653 3501
or
Michael on 9653 1365
Parents and Citizens Association

Chatter Over a Platter

Galston High School Common Room
(in the Administration Building)

Saturday 19th March, 2016
From 6:30pm

Meet

• Our Principal, Jillian Tourlas
• Our Deputy Principals, Julia Petrulis & Lisa Pieper
• Our P&C President
• Other Parents and Carers

GHS merchandise and produce from the farm will be on sale.

Bring a platter to share and your own drinks!

Responsible consumption of alcohol is permitted.

*This is an adult only event, participants must be 18 years or over.
Welcome back to school

The Federation of Parents and Citizens Associations of New South Wales (P&C Federation) is committed to a public education system that provides for all students equally. The Government has prime responsibility to provide an education system open to all, which is free and secular.

Today is the first day of another school year. A new group of students is entering their first step on the great adventure of education. We wish students, parents and teachers a happy and successful year.

Our students are capable of great things, and we encourage parents to work cooperatively with their child’s teacher and school to make the most of the opportunity public education can provide.

‘It is unfortunate that this special time of year is being marred by the decision of the Federal Government to break its promise to properly fund education in Australia. The Gonski reforms were independently recommended and supported by all major political parties at the last Federal Election, yet new Federal Education Minister Simon Birmingham has just walked away from the promises made to the electorate, and to the students of Australia’. Jason Vials, President of P&C Federation commented.

‘Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull talks about the need for an agile and innovative workforce, and the importance of students excelling in Science and Maths, but refuses to provide the funding our education system needs to achieve those outcomes’. Mr Vials continued.

Education funding is not a cost – it is an investment in the future of our country and its citizens, We need a Federal Government genuinely committed to a bright future for our country and its people.

The initial implementation of the Gonski reforms have been enthusiastically embraced in NSW by the State Government, by Principals, Teachers and Parents. We have seen the difference the extra funding is already making to our schools and student outcomes.

We call on the Federal Government to honour its promises, and join all of the stakeholders in our education system to ensure a bright future for the students of Australia.

Sydney, NSW, 27 January 2016
For Further Media Information Contact:

Media Contact:
President Jason Vials 0418 163 665 president@pandc.org.au

FEDERATION OF PARENTS AND CITIZENS’ ASSOCIATIONS OF NEW SOUTH WALES
Locked Bag 40, GRANVILLE NSW 2142
Telephone: 1300 885 982 Fax: 1800 655 866
Website: www.pandc.org.au ABN: 37 439 975 796
Teaching someone to drive can be a happy experience.

You can learn all the simple steps on how to teach a learner driver at a FREE two-hour workshop.

The next workshop in your area will be held:

TIME and DATE: 8.30pm to 10.30pm
Thursday
18 February 2016

VENUE: Hornsby Shire Council Chambers Building
396 Peats Ferry Road, Hornsby

BOOK NOW ON: (02) 9467 8855
Bookings Essential

Helping learner drivers become safe drivers

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West Pennant Hills - Cherrybrook - Dural - Castle Hill - Glenhaven - Galston - Kenthurst - Glenorie

TRY AFL
9AM-11AM Sun 7 FEB
westbrook.org.au

REGISTRATION
10AM-4PM Sun 7 FEB
"On Line Open Now"

Greenway Park
Mike Kenny Oval
Shepherds Drive
Cherrybrook NSW

U11 - U12
Auskick

U8 – U10

U13 – U17
Junior

 Modified

9AM-11AM Sun 7 FEB
TRY AFL

10AM-4PM Sun 7 FEB
REGISTRATION

**On Line Open Now**

Horsby Shire Council
Chambers Building
296 Peats Ferry Road,
Horsby
(02) 9847 6856
Bookings Essential

Hornsby Shire Council

Hillshawks Football Club

4.30-5.30pm Wed 10th February, Dural Park, Dural

Mid Fest
Focused on enjoyment and encouraging learning through play. 
Ages 4-10 (Year 6) - Y3

Academy League
When you are ready for G1 more

Futsal League
The fun game

Hills Hawks Junior Rugby League Club
Come & Try!

Contact WEP for a free information pack!

1300 884 733
info@wep.org.au
www.wep.org.au

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U/6’s - Over 45’s and
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