Welcome back to another great year at Normanhurst Boys High School. As most of the boys have only been back at school for a day or so, this week’s newsletter will be brief and will focus uncharacteristically just on some of the basic expectations, processes and procedures that parents need to be aware of. All of the boys have, or will be attending assemblies on their first full school day and will cover many of the following points, however, it is frequently the case that little of this information ends up being relayed to parents.

The vast majority of the school processes are stored on the school website for easy reference and I would encourage parents to browse the site when they have a moment or two.

Welcome to our newest Normo Boys and Parents: Once again another fine group of young men have become Normo Boys. While the majority looked a little nervous and daunted on their first day, they appear to be settling in really well. They did spend Thursday in “information overload” mode as our fantastic group of peer support leaders and staff leaders worked to give them all the orientation they require to enable them to know what, when and how things are done in high school. By the end of the day most of the boys looked like they needed to raid the refrigerator and have an afternoon nap. Today they have all been actively involved in further group activities at the Scout Camp to enable them to get over their nerves and get to know the boys they will be spending 6 years of their lives working and playing with. While some still appear a little unsure, it is amazing how quickly children can adapt to what is a significant change in such a short period of time.

On Monday the boys will be involved in the whole school annual swimming carnival which is held at Hornsby Aquatic Centre. A reminder to parents and students that it is best for the boys just to meet at the pool as per the information note sent home. If there are students who make their way to school rather than the pool they will be escorted down to the pool as a group. Having walked about 80% of the boys to the train after school yesterday, it appears the majority of the boys are already seasoned public transport users.
From Tuesday to Friday the Year 7 boys will be involved in a group investigation project. Once again a program developed to bond and familiarise the boys with each other and the school. From a more academic perspective Week 2 marks the beginning of academic endeavour. While the challenge elements are drawn from the English, Geography, History, TAS, Visual Arts and Science curriculum, the underlying focus will be on creativity, critical thinking, problem solving and enhancing modes of communication. Many boys find it extremely challenging to work effectively in groups and this program will begin the high school journey to build team-work and social skills that will enable the boys to thrive in what is a much more “real-life” approach to work and living.

Year 7 parents are cordially invited to the showcase events held in the Hall between 9.00 a.m. and 12.00 p.m. on Friday. Each group will be presenting their exhibitions. A paper invitation will be coming home with the boys.

Thank you to our program leaders and developers for their work on this program. Mr Virata, Ms Kshetrapal, Ms Harman, Ms Ellen, Ms Cousins, Ms Gibson-Garside, Mr Lam, Ms Ormiston, Ms Raj and Ms Venczel in particular have worked really hard to get this initiative up and running.

Some reminders for parents


Students are expected to maintain the highest standards of uniform on the way to and from school as well as during the school day. All students are expected to wear their shirts tucked in and wear their ties pulled up. Students should have their top button done up. Discomfort as a result of having the top button done up is a result of their shirt being too small. As per our uniform policy, Year 11 students will be required to wear a blazer each day during terms 2 and 3. All students are strongly encouraged to do the same. Students who represent the school at external events like debating, SRC or leadership events, etc. must wear a blazer.


Assessment Handbooks: Each student will receive a paper copy of this year’s Assessment Handbook early during the term. Year 12 already have theirs. This is often a very valuable source of information for parents to enable them to assist students establish a plan to complete set tasks on time and to a high standard. While our boys are all bright, they are not all gifted in the area of organisation. Please use the information on the timing of tasks to assist in keeping the boys on-track and avoid the preventable situations where poor time-management leads to late or rushed task completion. Year 10, 11 and 12 students, in particular, need to be very familiar with all of the rules surrounding task completion. While it may appear to some that these requirements are overly specific, all the included requirements are related to removing the potential for students to gain an unfair advantage over others. Copies of the handbook will be available for download from the [Year Group page](http://www.normanhurb-h.schools.nsw.edu.au/our-school/school-uniform1/our-school-uniform1-year-group-page) on the website under the Assessment Policy and Process tab.

Homework: While the school does not insist on particular amounts of homework being issued or completed, there is a basic expectation that students will spend time at home each night to complete unfinished work, consolidate their notes from each lesson, complete assignment work and revise past work. Parents are encouraged to support and encourage their son to devote as much time as it takes to satisfactorily complete these tasks. While many boys in Years 7 to 10 will require supervision at home to ensure a focus and effort, by Year 11 it is expected that students will be largely self-motivated and self-regulating. Having said that, it is a mum’s and dad’s duty to “nag” their son into making good decisions. Stay strong parents. In March of last year I wrote on this topic in some depth and I encourage new parents to read this item as a source of information related to school expectation ([http://www.normanhurb-h.schools.nsw.edu.au/cmsresources/normanhurst-boys-high-school/misc/2015/3/t1w6b_15_1425853603151.pdf](http://www.normanhurb-h.schools.nsw.edu.au/cmsresources/normanhurst-boys-high-school/misc/2015/3/t1w6b_15_1425853603151.pdf)).

Parents are also encouraged to ensure that their son has time to just “be”. Everyone needs time to de-stress. Keeping boys involved in sporting programs or special interest areas can be a very healthy approach to raising happy and high achieving boys. As well as providing another circle of friends outside of school, sport can enable boys to stay physically and mentally healthy and work off some of that energy that can make remaining focused on academic work challenging.

Mathematics Learning Programs: This year, all students will be issued with a detailed Learning Program that explains the scope and sequence of the work to be covered in Mathematics for the school year. I would like to thank Mr Lam for the massive amount of work that has gone into these resources. These learning programs have been generated to enable parents and students to gain an accurate understanding of what the required learning will be for the year. Parents who engage tutors in this curriculum area are strongly encouraged to give tutors a copy of this program. This way they can assist students by remediating or extending learning in areas that directly relate to the course being taught. If you are going to pay for additional support then this should assist you in getting much better value for money and ensuring that students are taught what is really important not what is expedient.

Extended Leave: While there are times when students will be required to miss periods of school for family emergencies, parents are reminded that I am not permitted to approve leave to students for family holidays. In the event that parents do plan a holiday during term, it is vital that the school is informed at least two weeks in advance and that the student attends the office with a note from home clearly explaining the circumstances. Upon receipt of the information related to period of leave, students will be required to complete a form and collect information from all of their teachers related to work and tasks missed. Submission of tasks in the senior school is subject to the provisions as explained in the Assessment Handbooks for each of the years.

Lockers: All of the boys will be issued a locker. Over the break all of the lockers in the school were emptied. Students will need to bring in a small lock to secure their locker. They are also encouraged to bring in a spare key (tagged with the name and number) and give it to their Year Adviser Assistant to help them in accessing their locker should they forget or lose their key. Without this spare key locks will need to be cut off if the original key is lost or misplaced.

New School App: In an effort to help parents keep informed about the events occurring in their son’s school life, we have been working on a new school App for iPhone and Android phones and tablets. This new App will provide a means of pushing out notifications to individual and groups of parents and provide a “one-stop-shop” for the newsletter, messages, emails and school documents. While the website will still remain the primary repository of resources, the App should provide parents with a very time effective way of staying informed. It is hope that this will be ready for release in about two weeks’ time. Stay tuned!
Health Care Plans: If your son has a serious health condition it is imperative that the school is provided with a Health Care Plan that has been developed in consultation with a Doctor. All anaphylactic students need to have a new plan and EpiPen in their bag AND a second plan and EpiPen provided to the front office. A blank copy of the Health Care Plans can be obtained from the following site for those who are yet to have the 2016 plan established.


A member of the office staff will be in contact with all parents of students who do not present a current plan.

Contact Information: If you have changed your address, phone number, email, emergency contact details etc. please let the office know in writing ASAP.

Student Achievements: If your son is involved in a program or endeavour which you believe is worthy of celebration please forward this information to the office. I try really hard to take every opportunity to celebrate excellence but I can only acknowledge what I am aware of. Please feel free to send photos as well. While some boys appear to shy away from public acknowledgement, most are privately “chuffed” see their efforts and excellence acknowledged.

Let the year begin! Have a great year parents.

► P&C NEWS
Mr Sade Kalasabail, P&C President

Our next P&C meeting is on Tuesday 9 February 2016 at 7.30p.m. in the school library. Our P&C meetings are held on the second Tuesday of the month (during term time). All parents are invited to attend.

Further information about P&C is available on the school website http://www.normanhurb-h.schools.nsw.edu.au, under the “P&C” tab, along with details of the previous meetings.

► CALENDAR

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<td>Year 7 GAT Challenge</td>
<td>Year 11 HSC SAC Assessment</td>
<td>School Assembly</td>
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<td>Swimming Carnival</td>
<td>Year 11 Students Return</td>
<td>Year 11 Preliminary HSC SAC Assessment Evening</td>
<td>Year 12 English Advanced Assessment Task</td>
<td>Whole School ID Photos</td>
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<td>Year 11 Students Return</td>
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<td>P&amp;C Meeting, 7.30 p.m.</td>
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<td>Year 12 English Advanced Assessment Task</td>
<td>HSC High Achievers Assembly</td>
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<td>Year 12 Parent Teacher Evening, 4.00 p.m.</td>
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<td>WEEK B</td>
<td>Year 7 Transition to High School Information Evening, 5.00 p.m.</td>
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<td>Year 7 Maths Fun Day Open Morning</td>
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<td>Open Morning</td>
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<td>Year 12 History Extension Assessment Year 12 Team Normo Parent Meeting, 7.00p.m.</td>
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<td>Zone Swimming Carnival Year 11 HSC Society and Culture Buddhism Excursion</td>
<td>Year 11 HSC Society and Culture Buddhism Excursion World's Greatest Headshave</td>
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<td>Year 11 Preliminary Biology Field Study Year 10 Commerce Assessment Task</td>
<td>Years 7, 9 &amp; 11 Study Skills</td>
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<td>Year 10 Commerce Assessment Task</td>
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NORMANHURST BOYS HIGH SCHOOL

BEARE & LEY UNIFORM SHOP TRADING HOURS

Final trading day for 2015: Monday 14 December

JANUARY 2016

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SCHOOL TERM TRADING HOURS THROUGHOUT 2016

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SCHOOLWEAR OFFER

$50 OFF
NORMAL PRICE

SCHOOL BLAZERS

NOTE:
OFFER VALID FOR 4 WEEKS!
12TH JANUARY TO 12TH FEBRUARY

LOWES

Exclusive stockists of premium quality Beare & Ley Schoolwear

A $50 non-refundable deposit is required with order if size not available at time of purchase.

PS: EXTRA 5% DISCOUNT FOR EZY-WAY CUSTOMERS
Boys in Years 10, 11 and 12 should be aware of the university bonus points. A number of students in Year 12 2015 gained a main round offer into a particular university course using either subject, regional, EAS or Elite Athlete & Performer’s bonus points.

Many of the boys also received a scholarship and/or cadetship offers. This was a reflection not only of their academic ability but also their involvement in the school and their community. I could go on forever.

It was certainly a pleasure working with these wonderful young men as their Careers Adviser and I know I join all in wishing them the best in their tertiary studies.

I am now looking forward to an equally exciting year with the current Year 12.

**Year 12 – 2016**

UMAT

Registration is open now and closes 5pm AEST 3 June 2016.

UMAT date 27 July 2016 Details later in the year.

[www.umat.acuer.edu.au](http://www.umat.acuer.edu.au)

**Careers & HSC EXPO**

Western Sydney Olympic Park – Fri 17 June 2016

Year 12 has already had a year meeting with Mr Anderson, Ms Harman, their Year Adviser Mrs Cousins, Mr Randall and myself reminding them of what to expect and what is required in Year 12. Our Welfare Head Teacher, Ms Thomas also outlined the support they can access within the school.

The **lunchtime Guest Speaker Program** will be happening again this year.

**Toolbox Information sessions** will be running for Year 12 this year on Wednesdays 11.50am – 12.30pm in the library. Toolbox will commence in March. The boys will be given tools to assist with making the most of this year and a positive transition from school.

The boys already have had the professional resume format, school reference information pages and the ‘undergraduate bonus points’ pdf emailed to them before the holidays. They have their online Careers Folder to accumulate information. They need to be scanning documents into their e-portfolio and storing hard copies in a safe place.

I am currently organising the Year 12 **Community Service Program** with Bowden Brae Nursing Home. Unfortunately, due to the renovations of Greenwood Nursing Home the boys will not be able to access it this year. Once the timetable is finalised and the nursing home gives me the periods they have available I will email the current Year 12 with a meeting time.

There will be a school **Information Evening for Year 12 and their Parents on Thursday 25 February 7pm**. Details will be in a later newsletter.

**Years 11 & 12**

**The Law Admission Test (LAT)**

Combined with the ATAR for entry into the UNSW Law Registration opens early 2016

Test Date 26 September 2016

For more information – law.unsw.edu.au/LAT

Results hold for 2 years.

**Year 11 – Year Meeting first day back**

Year 11 will be having a Year Meeting period 1 on Tuesday 2 February in the library.
Year 11 Information Evening
There will be a school ‘Information Evening’ for Year 11 and their parents next Thursday 4 February 6.30pm – 8.30pm in the hall. Mr Abas as emailed the details to year 11 parents/carers.

Year 10
Mr Anderson, Ms Harman, Mrs Raj, Ms Thomas, Mr Randall & I spoke to year 10 today about this year’s expectations and requirements today. I outlined the year 10 Careers Program and its importance for each student’s year 12 reference and course (including scholarship, pathways and early entry) applications. This is a year of work but also many enjoyable extracurricular activities including the UTS Business Enterprise Week with Hornsby Girls.

All of Year 10 will be involved in Work Experience from 8 to 12 August 2016.

I will be having lessons and issuing the boys with their first pack including their paperwork over the next couple of weeks.

Most of the universities will be having Year 10 parent/student information evenings from May to assist with HSC subject selection. Keep checking the calendar and I will keep you informed in the newsletter.

OTHER NEWS
University of Sydney: ATAR Advice – Follow Your Passions
This article discusses how it’s better to study a degree at university in something that you’re passionate about, rather than basing your decision on an ATAR alone. http://sydney.edu.au/news/84.html?newsstoryid=12861

Hobsons Course Finder: Top 5 ATAR Questions Answered
This article aims to answer the 5 most commonly asked questions in regards to ATAR’s. http://www.hobsonscoursefinder.com.au/Latest-news/Top-five-ATAR-questions-answered

Lost on Campus iOS App
This free application for your iPhone or iPad has detailed maps and information on a range of universities and campuses around Australia. The app includes detailed information on rooms, locations of ATMs, water bubblers, vending machines, car parks and much more. To download the app search for “Lost on Campus” in the Apple App Store. It is also available on Android. http://lostoncampus.com.au/

All of the information is emailed in good faith and it is the responsibility of the reader to confirm all details with the appropriate institution. Make sure you look at any relevant websites.

Don’t hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

START OF YEAR STUDENT INFORMATION

- Office hours 8.00 a.m. – 3.30 p.m. only
- Foyer/Front Door Reception Area access – students are not to use these access points for arriving at or departing from school or for moving around the school during the day.
- Parents are requested to park in designated visitor parking areas only and not to enter the main school area to drop off or collect students.
- Students are required to carry their Student ID Swipe Cards at all times.
- SMS messages are sent out to parents when students are absent or late to school. Please reply via SMS OR send a note on his return to school.
- Late students must report to the Front Office to swipe on prior to attending class.
- Senior students with Permitted Late Starts must report to the Front Office to swipe on at least 10 minutes prior to the start of their first class.
- Early leaver requests must be submitted to the Front Office BEFORE Recess.
- Non-sport requests must FIRST be approved by the Sports Master and then submitted to the Front Office BEFORE Recess on Sport Days. Students are not to attend Non-Sport without prior approval.
- Sick students are required to report immediately to the Front Office. Please do not phone parents direct to collect you from school if you are sick. The Administration Staff will do this if necessary and log your attendance in Sick Bay.
- Payments: all payments must be for the exact amount and be placed securely in the locked brown wooden money box located on the Front Office counter PRIOR TO the end of recess. Money will not be accepted after this time.
- Payment envelopes: all payments must be submitted in a sealed envelope.
- Blank envelopes can be purchased from the Front Office at a charge of 5 cents.

Details on the front of the envelope MUST include:-
  - Full Student name (given names and family name)
  - School Year
  - Reason for payment
  - EXACT amount enclosed
  - Method of payment (cash; cheque; credit card for amounts over $50 only)

NOTE: Change is not provided by the School Office. Please ensure exact money is submitted.
- Lost Property – please enquire at Front Office. Items are only held for a limited time before being disposed
Change of Information

Date of Change of Address: ..............................................

If any contact details have changed since you enrolled at this school, please complete the following information in the appropriate spaces below regardless of changes or not:

Student’s Name: ___________________________ Roll Call Class (eg 7 WAR) ______________________

Date of Birth: ________________

Old Home Address: ___________________________ Postcode: ______

New Home Address: ___________________________ Postcode: ______

Phone Numbers: Home: ________________________

Mother’s Mobile: ____________________________ Father’s Mobile: ____________________________

Mother’s Work: ____________________________ Father’s Work: ____________________________

Emergency phone number & name of contact: (If parents are not available) ____________________________

Parent email address: ____________________________

Payment Voucher

Student’s Name: ____________________________ Year: ________ Amount: _______________________

I wish to pay for _____________________________________________________ (fees, excursion, books etc.)

by cash/cheque/money order/card (Card payments only accepted for amounts of $50 or more)

If making a Card payment please complete the following details:

Mastercard/Visa No.: ____________________________

Cardholder’s Signature: ____________________________ Expiry Date: ______________

Cardholder’s Name: ____________________________