



The Audience

Term 4 Week 2 & 3 2016

Performing At Our Best.

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Assessment schedules can be downloaded [here](#). Stay in touch via our [free app](#) and [Facebook page](#).
Subscribe to this fortnightly Yr 7-12 newsletter via the HSPA website. Contact the office for more information.

Week 2

Mon 17/10	Big History Project Day 6 ADFAS Lecture & AGM
Tues 18/10	Lion King Jnr
Wed 19/10	Assessment: Yr 10 History Pd 3. Lion King Jnr
Thurs 20/10	Lion King Jnr Yr 7-11 SRC and Leadership Group Meetings (The Hub)
Fri 21/10	Lion King Jnr Peer Support Leadership Program

Week 3

Mon 24/10	
Tues 25/10	Secondary Schools Vocal Festival (7-12 Choir)
Wed 26/10	
Thurs 27/10	Assessment: Yr 9 Science Pd 3
Fri 28/10	Assessment: Yr 10 Maths Big History Project Day 7 - Library

From Centre Stage

"It's a beautiful school". I don't know how many times this was said to me after it was announced that I had been appointed Principal of HSPA. Of course I had some knowledge of the school through professional contacts, my teaching speciality of music and involvement with StarStruck. However, in my first week here, I am learning that there is a great deal of depth to the school. This depth is not only in providing great opportunities for students in the performing arts but also in terms of traditional curriculum.

But the qualities of the school go even deeper than this. It is evident and very obvious that there is a dominant school culture embraced by students and staff that understands that positive human relationships between students, between students and staff, and between the school and its community, are requisites for success during school and in life after school. The strong ethos of inclusion, celebration of difference, tolerance, understanding that learning can be serious fun, and a commitment to excellence, that is every day demonstrated in this school, are not always on show in Australia more generally.

These values, along with a commitment to collaborate with students, staff and parents in improving what we do and exploring new ways for students to thrive, are some of the principles that guide my leadership. It is my firm belief that these are not merely 'aspirational', but can be the real experience of a HSPA education.

I mentioned the importance of positive human relationships in underpinning success. Schooling is a very human business and it is a priority of mine know students and staff. It is also a priority to get to know you, the parents and carers of those you entrust to us each day. It may seem like a daunting task in a school of 1,150 students and however many parents/carers

there are, but I am keen to meet you and to let you know that my door is (almost) always open.

A big thank you to students, staff and parents who have been so generous in their welcome of me to the school. I am sure that it is not the experience of every new school principal to find welcoming cards and flowers on her desk from students and staff. I am very honoured ... it is a beautiful school.



On another note, I would like to congratulate Mr Khay. Mr Khay has been admitted to the rank of Fellow of the Australian College of Educators. This is a highly prestigious award and fitting recognition of his outstanding contributions to education over 25 years at an elite level. His citation includes: "Throughout his career, Mr Khay has shown dedication and commitment to high quality collaborative education and leadership. This is evident in his leadership of school teams, professional learning for principals and executives and in his passionate support of the arts and education communities." What a wonderful achievement.

Jo Gray
Principal



Topping the Charts

Dance

Well done to our HSC dancers and dance teachers - 30 nominations for CallBack! CallBack is showcase of exemplary performances from the 2016 HSC. Several students were nominated more than once for different components of the exam. Although not all students may be finally selected to perform at CallBack, a nomination is still an outstanding achievement. Well done: Jasmine Bard, Molly Carey, Amelia Denholm, Madeline Denholm, Julia Howard, Emma Lonergan, Denika Mantle, Katie Styles, Zoe Crittenden, Briahna Morton, Abbey Fuge, Caitlin Allport, Kara Hamilton, Amy Hill, Ava Mackintosh, Tyler Sullivan, Chloe Toms and Taylah Georgalis.

Music

Massive congrats to the following Year 12 music students who have been nominated for Encore, a showcase of exemplary performances from the 2016 HSC: Juliette Coates, William Boswell, Natasha Gibbs, Lily Lewis, Samantha O'Toole and Luke Bartley. Well done also to their dedicated teachers.

Hunter School of the Performing Arts presents



THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING Earnest

WRITTEN BY OSCAR WILDE DIRECTED BY KATIE TENNYSON

FRIDAY 28TH OCTOBER 11.00AM & 7.30PM
 SATURDAY 29TH OCTOBER 2.00PM & 7.30PM
 HUNTER THEATRE
 LAMBTON RD, BROADMEADOW
 PH: 4952 3355

ONLY 2 MORE WEEKS TO GET YOUR TICKETS. Come and enjoy some cucumber sandwiches and a hilarious night at the theatre with this Oscar Wilde masterpiece. Victorian England has never been so funny!!

Friday 28th October 11.00am (schools matinee) and 7.30pm,
 Saturday 29th October 2.00pm and 7.30pm.

Tickets are being sold at the school for:
 \$16.50 concession
 \$22.50 per adult.

Getting To Know...



What do you teach and where did you teach before HSPA?

Music is my specialty and I have been a HSC senior music marker and worked for the Board of Studies on the Music examination committee. Previously I was Principal of Singleton High School, and prior to that, Deputy Principal at Whitebridge High School.

Where did you go to school?

San Clemente and Francis Xavier.

What made you decide to become a teacher?

Music Education was the only music degree in Newcastle when I started at Uni. After my first prac I was hooked!

What do you like to do in your spare time?

Reading, gardening, cooking, flying, walking, spending time with friends and family.

What did you want to be when you were younger?

An author.

If you could choose to do anything for a day, what would it be?

Be the Principal of HSPA.

If you were a super-hero, what powers would you have?

Time travel.

What was the last book you read?

I read the Booker short list during the holidays and loved them all. My favourite was 'Do Not Say We Have Nothing' by Madeleine Thien

What was your first job?

Slicing bread at Proudie's Bread Shop.

What is your favourite all-time movie?

Difficult!! Perhaps 'The Deer Hunter'

What would you tell your 15 year old self?

STOP worrying about what other people think!

What is your favourite song?

I don't think I can possibly answer this...there are so many!

If you could live anywhere in the world, where would you live?

Newcastle, Australia OR Ronda, Spain.

Do you have a special talent?

Flicking tea-towels.

Do you ever wish you could be someone else, if yes, who?

I am pretty content being me! But if I had to choose... J.R.R.Tolkein or Charles Dickens.

