Successful Swimming Carnival 2015

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Get to know our School Captains
Emily Thompson

Lithgow High School has given me the opportunity to develop and enhance my individual and team leadership skills. Expand my public speaking ability and provide me with a diverse array of academic avenues. It has also provided me with the opportunity to develop relationships with my fellow students and educators that have enhanced my confidence.

Lithgow High School creates equal opportunities for everyone and promotes diligence, creativity and individuality. Support and guidance is made available to all students to promote and provide a diverse and successful learning environment that include academic, sporting, theatrical and musical opportunities.

As a student leader I would like to carry out the duties and responsibilities expected of me to the best of my ability and work alongside my fellow prefects to achieve the highest possible outcomes for everyone at LHS. I will provide support and guidance to my fellow students and do my utmost to uphold the excellent reputation of our school.

In the future I am considering a career in veterinary science or criminology. Aside from career paths, I would like to make a difference in whatever I choose to do.
At Lithgow High School I have been presented with numerous opportunities, most of which have already opened up several pathways in the future. I was part of the Xsel Western Region Selective school for three and a half years, which I believe benefitted my academic ability. Other things are only really minor, such as participation in Debating, Maths and Science competitions, although these have improved my skills on a whole. My most promising opportunity has been my election to School Captain, which will be more than helpful down the road.

Not only is sport an important part of our school, academic ability is also heavily focused on. LHS caters for everyone, I really like that everyone is catered for, there is something for everyone, gateways to great futures.

Although it may seem a bit clichéd, my goal as a student leader is to improve the school as a whole, this may seem as a hard ask, but with the assistance of the other school leaders, I’m sure I can make it a reality. Establishing helpful relationships between both students and staff, also would allow for more friendly and cohesive school as a whole and that’s something I aim to achieve.

After finishing the HSC at Lithgow High, I plan on going to University to study Medicine, although I haven’t yet narrowed down the specific branch I’d like a career in. “Lots of hard work ahead”.
Year 12 half yearly exams begin Monday March 2. Students should be well prepared for these assessments; they have had a range of opportunities both inside and outside of regular classrooms to prepare. The elevate study days, subject specific study excursions, tuition being offered by class teachers and support staff in the library, are all invaluable. Study must be undertaken at home. I strongly recommend all Year 12 do the following four things:

- Attend every lesson
- Complete all tasks
- Have a study plan which covers each ATAR course equally – ideally 4 hours per subject per week
- Take up the support on offer!

Do the best you can in the exams to improve on your Year 11 marks. Work hard and good luck!

All assessment timelines for year 7 -11 have now begun. They are all accessible on the school website. Relevant schedules have been emailed to each student email address.

Our new Tuesday Assembly format has begun really well. The Head Teachers are now running a faculty based assembly focussed on celebrating success as well as information. I was particularly impressed by how well the junior assembly sang the anthem in the hall. I hope the seniors can do as well!

Huge congratulations to the swimming carnival organisation team, so ably led by Mr J Dean. We were lucky with the weather and all had an excellent day. Well done.

**Family holidays during school terms – Change of Policy**

Please note that the Department of Education attendance policy no longer allows the Principal to grant an exemption for holidays and travel during school terms. To apply for leave for travel please collect an application for leave – travel form from the office. The policy change reflects the long term negative effects on student educational outcomes caused by frequent absences and therefore discourages the practice of holidaying during school terms. This is particularly important for year 12 students.

If you are going on a holiday with students during school terms please be aware that it is the student’s responsibility to collect work from teachers and to complete any assessment task due during the period of travel prior to departure.

Ann Caro
COMMUNITY LIAISON OFFICER

Year 7 students are now six weeks into their high school life. For most, the transition has been a very smooth one as they are clearly confident and ready for the atmosphere and routines of a large High School. The students are enjoying the diversity of subjects and teachers at the school. There are several key personnel at the school focused on continuing to support Year 7 students and we always welcome any feedback on your child’s progress. Don’t hesitate to call with any concerns. **Mr Guihot and Mrs Reilly** the Year Advisers are also an important contact if you have any concerns.

We also have a Learning Support Team that aims to identify any special learning needs in literacy and numeracy of individual students.

The Welcome to Year 7 BBQ was a very enjoyable evening for me. The students chatted together and have already showed a great sense of cohesion.

For the adults, it was a wonderful chance to meet parents of other students and catch up with old friends. A warm thank you to parents for attending the afternoon and making it successful.

On the Thursday 19th March, Year 7 are having visiting actors come in to perform a piece of theatre called 'Techno Bullying'. It is hoped that this will prove a creative reinforcement about personal safety and respectful ways of treating other people. We recommend you discuss with your children their impressions of the message from the play about safe and harassment-free use of social media.

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**At Lithgow High School we are:**

- RESPECTFUL
- RESPONSIBLE
- SAFE
- LEARNERS
DEPUTY PRINCIPAL CURRICULUM

Stages 4, 5 and Preliminary HSC Assessment Schedule
Just a reminder that the Years 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11 Assessment Schedule has now commenced. Assessment books can be downloaded from the schools website under the quick links tab.

http://www.lithgow-h.schools.nsw.edu.au/home

It is essential that students get themselves organised so that students know which assignments are due when. Friendly Year Advisers can assist students in getting organised and completing the assessment timetable organiser in your assessment schedules.

Phillipa Byrnes

ELEVATE STUDY SKILLS DAY

Students in Year 12, 11 and 7 had the opportunity to attend a Study Skills Seminar recently. Elevate Education has developed a different approach to study skills. Having carried out an exhaustive process of benchmarking the study habits of thousands of past students, Elevate Education have identified a number of areas where the practices of the top students differ from average or lower performing students. It is their belief and experience that any student can improve their marks by tapping into, replicating and using these study skills and techniques.

Lithgow High welcomed James from Elevate Education and over 130 students from Years, 11 and 12 took advantage of attending these excellent workshops. James shared many tips and tricks to improving personal performance at school. Mrs Cross would like to congratulate all students who attended their behaviour and participation was excellent and we look forward to providing this opportunity to more students in the future.
Information for Stage 4 and 5

The Year 7 to 10 Parent Assessment evening on the 20th of February had an excellent turn out of both parents and students. Speeches were given by Principal Ann Caro, Deputy Principal, Ms Byrne and Mrs Mawhood, Head Teacher, Teaching and Learning. The Assessment booklet was explained and we were shown how to download this from the schools website, it is very useful for students as it contains vital information for Years 7, 8, 9 and 10. Students learnt about what was needed to successfully complete the RoSA and the consequences for not following the requirements. The night was great success with many parents attending.

Japanese Student Cultural Visit

In past few years, Lithgow High School has hosted highly successful Japanese visits, with over 20 students visiting from Kita Senri High School in Osaka. The Japanese students were involved in a variety of cultural activities and excursions at the school. The highlight for the students was the chance to stay with local families and enjoy their warm and friendly hospitality. A new group of Japanese students will be visiting in 2015 for almost two weeks in mid-July. We will soon be asking for families to host these students. If you are interested, there will be information provided to students soon.
DEPUTY PRINCIPAL ORGANISATION

We have enjoyed a smooth transition into the school year with a number of great student-led initiatives have been mentioned previously. I would like to commend the organisation of the Swimming Carnival and in particular the Leadership groups and the PD/H/PE for driving such a worthwhile event. The attendance and participation for the day was well above all expectations and as a result it will be held again in 2016.

The Student Representative Council is in the process of organising a St Patricks Day themed social at the school hall on the 17th of March 6.30pm - 9.00pm.

The Tell Them From Me student feedback survey

I am delighted that this term, our school, like many others in the state, will participate in a Department of Education and Communities initiative: the Tell Them From Me student feedback survey. The survey aims to help improve student learning outcomes and measures factors that are known to affect academic achievement and other student outcomes. The focus of the NSW-wide survey is on student wellbeing, engagement and effective teaching practices.

More information about the survey is available at:


The survey is a great opportunity for our students to provide our school with valuable and quick feedback on what they think about school life, how engaged they are with school and the different ways that teachers interact with them. Schools in Australia and around the world have used the Tell Them From Me survey to help improve how they do things at school.

I want to assure you that the survey is confidential and school staff will not be able to identify individual students from their responses. The survey is conducted online and will typically take less than 30 minutes to complete. It will be administered during school hours between 9 March and 2 April. Participating in the survey is entirely voluntary.

A consent form and FAQs for parents/carers about the survey is being sent home with students. If you do not want your child or children to participate, please return the form to school by Friday 13th March. Copies of the form and FAQs are available from the website above.

Matthew Quirk
TARGET HELPS OUR BIG SISTAS

In Term 4 of 2014, Lithgow High School’s Senior Aboriginal girls from Years 10 and 11 participated in an exciting and progressive pilot program unique to Lithgow High School. The new program developed by Mrs Moore and Mrs Galloway is based on the successful SistaSpeak program which has operated in Lithgow High School for the past three years and has been highly regarded by both the Education and Aboriginal Communities. The Big Sista program builds on skills and knowledge learned in the SistaSpeak course and targets senior girls who have graduated from the junior program. Annette Campbell, the SistaSpeak facilitator, and Michelle Jacobs, SistaSpeak mentor, provided valuable assistance and direction.

Big Sista incorporates skills and methods designed to teach older girls how to be role models and mentors to younger girls with an awareness and emphasis on the issues that young girls face in our changing society. The program targets the important concepts of resilience, self-esteem and positive conflict resolution. A feature of the program was the opportunity given to the girls to learn and practice essential skills
in resume preparation, job applications, addressing job criteria and interview practice with expert advice from Mrs Leanne Walding, LHS Student Support Officer. A huge strength for the program was the enormous support provided by Target Lithgow who provided the girls with an in-store professional wardrobe workshop with the Head of the Fashion Department. The girls really enjoyed the experience and gained valuable skills in how to dress in a professional manner. Target then totally surprised the girls by generously donating a professional outfit to each participant.

The girls then wore their new clothing to a mock interview. The interview was assessed by a panel of interviewers: Ms Ann Caro, Principal of LHS, Mrs Leanne Walding and Target’s Vicki Green. The girls were then given constructive and insightful feedback into their strengths and weaknesses in interview situations.

The 2014 BigSista pilot program achieved enormous praise from the participants as well as the local community and will be developed further in 2015.

**CAN YOU HELP US BUILD A BEE HOTEL?**

In Week 8, our Year 7 Enrichment Class will be building a Bee ‘Hotel’ with UWS to attract solo native bees into our Bush Tucker Garden.

They will need lots of bamboo and lantana to fill it. If you have access to any of these products and would like to contribute to our Bee Building ‘Hotel’ could you please drop it into our reception?

The bamboo needs to have a centre hole no bigger than 3-10mm (otherwise spiders make their home inside.

We really appreciate your help.

*Mrs Galloway – Norta Norta Teacher*
## Press Club Fun Pages

### What’s Trending???

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>APPS</th>
<th>MOVIES</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Messenger</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Facebook</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>3. iTunes U</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>4. Instagram</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. YouTube</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. GONE GIRL</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. I LOVE YOU, MAN</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. FURY</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>4. THE HUNDRED-FOOT</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>5. THE JUDGE(2014)</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BOOKS</th>
<th>MUSIC</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Happenstance-Jamie McGuire</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Under the Mistletoe- Tracie Puckett</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>3. If I Stay- Gayle Forman</td>
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<tr>
<td>4. Where She Went- Gayle Forman</td>
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<tr>
<td>5. Maze Runner- James Dashner</td>
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<tr>
<td>1. FourFiveSeconds-Rhianna, Kanye West, Paul McCartney</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Cheerleader- Felix Jaehn</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>3. Take me to Church- Hozier</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Love Me Like You Do- Ellie Goulding</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Elastic Heart- Sia</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**Press Club Joke!**

**Q:** What’s Beethoven doing now that he’s dead?

**A:** He’s decomposing!!!!!
Tech Review!

App of the Week

Leo’s Fortune is a popular and highly rated Swedish video game for IOS and Android And Amazon App Store Developed by 1337 & Senri LLC. The main character is a moustachioed “Fluff Ball” rolly-polly with a thick Eastern European accent. His goal is to recover stolen treasure in the form of gold coins. The player guides Leopold through 20 Levels

Leo’s Fortune: $3:99 on the IOS and Android Market

Windows 10

Following the Previous Windows 10 event only weeks ago, we now know all the new and improved features that will be making an appearance in the upcoming Operating System, Windows 10.

Starting off with the most important Feature, All Windows 7 and Windows 8/8.1 Users will now have a completely free upgrade to Windows 10. Meaning you will not have to pay a single cent in order to upgrade your machine to the latest in Windows Technology.

Microsoft have now officially stated that they haven’t given up with Touch in the new OS. The Charms bar remains for the moment although we expect it to die if you’re using a non-touch PC.

As Many Windows 8 Users will have noticed, the start bar did not make a return to Windows 8. Although Within Windows 10, the most noticeable change is the new Start Menu, which looks somewhat like the old start menu. It brings some features from the Windows 8.1 Start Screen, Such as Live tiles, and can be resized.

Last, but not least, Windows 10 will allow game streaming to Windows 10 PC’s and Tablets. Right now, it does not look like this feature will be available on Windows Phones. Once you sync up your Xbox One with another Device, such as a Surface Pro 3, you’ll be able to stream games even console exclusive such as Forza Horizon 2.

Matthew Palmer - Press Club
HELP REQUIRED
If you have any old school uniform and would like to donate it to our clothing pool, please leave articles at the front office. Many students benefit from your kind donations.
**2015 Schools Physical Activity and Nutrition Survey (SPANS)**

This year Lithgow High is one of the 100 schools that have been randomly selected to participate in the 2015 schools Physical Activity and Nutrition Survey. The survey is managed by the University of Western Sydney and is set up to record Year 8 and Year 10 student’s weight and weight related behaviour.

During the survey students are required to complete a questionnaire asking about personal details (date of birth, gender etc.), physical and sedentary activity and food habits. They will also participate in a number of fundamental movement skills (jumping, catching, running, throwing a ball etc.). After this has been completed students are required to participate in a 20m shuttle run test (similar to the BEEP test).

The results of each test are confidential and only the team from the University Of Sydney will see each students survey. The results in these surveys are to guide government policy and designed to promote healthy lifestyles including healthy eating and physical activity.

*Alannah Stoneley and Brooklyn Mackie - Press Club*

**WESTERN REGION SCHOOL SPORTS CRICKET**

Congratulations to Joshua Kitchner, Abby Wilson and Bonnie Goodsell, these three talented students were selected into the Western Region School Sports Cricket teams last year after a very demanding trial.

The girls travelled to Armidale while Josh was a little closer to home playing in Bathurst. They all represented our school and the Western Region in the CHS tournament, with professionalism and pride. The girls were able to come away with an impressive win against Sydney East. Abby and Bonnie said, “It was an awesome experience to try a different sport and to be selected into the Western Region Team was an honour. We had lots of fun, gained loads of experience and made heaps of new friends”.

The Western boys were unlucky narrowly being defeated in most games finishing 9th on the table. Josh played outstanding and will be a name to watch in the future of local cricket, this is the 2nd consecutive year Josh has represented the Western Region.
SWIMMING CARNIVAL

On Friday the 20th February, the annual Lithgow High School house sports Swimming Carnival took place at the Lithgow Olympic Pool.

The day started with War Cries on the school oval where Oxley reigned supreme. All the students were super excited to get down to the pool and start the events. They kicked off with the Classic Cork Scramble always a fun and entertaining event to get everyone pumped and involved in the day. Some of the more competitive events were held and timed races for all age years, it was really fabulous to see kids who don’t really swim competitively much having a go.

There were also T-shirt races across the pool, Tug-o-war and Boules for everyone to get involved. It was a really fun day, and students who attended all participated with enthusiasm and house pride. The leaders did a really great job this year dressing up and getting students motivated. Lawson was crowned champions at the end of the day, with Oxley a close second, Blaxland third and sorry for Wentworth lucky last!!

Thanks must also go out to Mr Dean and the PDHPE staff, without your organisation and dedication the day would not happen. Hope to see you all next year for another bigger and better day.
## HOUSE RESULTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>House</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1&lt;sup&gt;st&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Lawson</td>
<td>885</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2&lt;sup&gt;nd&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Oxley</td>
<td>831</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3&lt;sup&gt;rd&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Blaxland</td>
<td>802</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Wentworth</td>
<td>671</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### AGE CHAMPIONSHIP:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AGE</th>
<th>BOYS</th>
<th>GIRLS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 12 Years | 1<sup>st</sup> Logan Mc Manus  
2<sup>nd</sup> Evan Brown  
3<sup>rd</sup> Louis Johnman | 1<sup>st</sup> Maya Lynes Ross  
2<sup>nd</sup> Alayah Lincoln |
| 13 Years | 1<sup>st</sup> Kory Pringle  
2<sup>nd</sup> Ryan Bird  
3<sup>rd</sup> Caleb Traish | 1<sup>st</sup> Hayley Atkins  
2<sup>nd</sup> Monique Grima  
3<sup>rd</sup> Geordie Goodwin |
| 14 Years | 1<sup>st</sup> Ethan Pringle  
2<sup>nd</sup> Austyn Lincoln  
3<sup>rd</sup> Bryson Dukes Adam Neale | 1<sup>st</sup> Bobbie Burns  
2<sup>nd</sup> Mackayla Bond |
| 15 Years | 1<sup>st</sup> Brody Mc Manus  
2<sup>nd</sup> Zac Arkley-Smith  
3<sup>rd</sup> Griffin Houston | 1<sup>st</sup> Kelsie Clarke  
2<sup>nd</sup> Rosa Lynes Ross  
3<sup>rd</sup> Emma Cross |
| 16+ Years | 1<sup>st</sup> Lachlan Stanley  
2<sup>nd</sup> Sam Gray  
3<sup>rd</sup> Slade Morley | 1<sup>st</sup> Cassie Houston  
2<sup>nd</sup> Amy Muir  
3<sup>rd</sup> Amy Hosa |
| 17 Years | 1<sup>st</sup> Blake Holmes  
2<sup>nd</sup> Jarrad Pringle  
3<sup>rd</sup> Cameron Denley Cody Godden | 1<sup>st</sup> Maddie Haddon  
2<sup>nd</sup> Laura Whichelo  
3<sup>rd</sup> Gabby Knight Beth Inzitari |
**Up Close With Mr Bawden**

**Full Name:** John Gregory Bawden  
**What is your role at Lithgow High?** Head Teacher Creative Arts  
**What is your favourite colour?** Aqua  
**What annoys you in class?** Students who have no desire to learn and try to prevent other students from learning  
**What schools did you go to?** Alberton Public (Adelaide) and Killara High School (Sydney)  
**What are your hobbies?** Building and Watching Sport  
**What are your greatest achievements?** My two children and my students  
**Describe yourself in three words:**  
1. Saved  
2. By  
3. Jesus  
**Do you have any nicknames?**  
Bawdo  
**What is your greatest fear?**  
Wasting my life and centipedes  
**How long have you been teaching?**  
I started teaching in 1983, so 32 years  
**Rate yourself on the following (1-10)**  
Driving: 9  
Sport: 2  
Shopping: 1

*Amy Muir, Ayla Shaw and Kaitlyn Trounce - Press Club*
Year 11 Parent Information Evening 2015

This year’s Year 11 students have been settling into Senior School and adjusting to the new changes that come with putting on a white shirt. With Assessment Tasks for Year 11 have now commenced, Lithgow High provided a Parent and Student information evening. This took place on Tuesday the 10th of February, where students and their parents gathered at the school library to attend this Information Night. The evening entailed very interesting talks by the Principal, Deputy Principal and Careers Adviser who spoke in detail about the transformation into Year 11 and the expectations that come with it.

The Assessment schedule was talked about in length and how being organised is one of the keys to successful HSC. Assessment booklets can be downloaded from the LHS website under the quick links tab. If you don’t have access to internet and require a hard copy please contact the school.

http://www.lithgow-h.schools.nsw.edu.au/

It was a successful night which left both parents and students very informed about subjects and the year ahead. There was some interesting statistics about attendance and expected ATAR results. These statistics, printed below, reinforced the importance of students attending school each day.

Mean UAI (now ATAR) based on unexplained absences:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Average unexplained absences</th>
<th>Average ATAR</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>20 days per year</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 days per year</td>
<td>62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 days per year</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 days per year</td>
<td>88</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Information provided to Home School Liaison Officers.
*The above shows just some of the statistics that were shown to inform parents and students about the Preliminary Course.

Zac Palmer – Press Club
Disability Provisions for the HSC Examinations
Information for Year 12 Students and Parents

The Board of Studies has a program to help students with practical support in their Higher School Certificate examinations. This practical support, known as provisions, assists students to read examination questions and to write their answers. Provisions include rest breaks and extra time. The use of any provision is not written on the student’s results.

Students may need provisions for:

- a permanent condition, such as diabetes or reading difficulty
- a temporary condition, such as a broken arm, or
- an intermittent condition, such as back pain when sitting for long periods.

It is not embarrassing to apply for or use provisions. More than 5000 HSC students apply for provisions each year. Provisions help students to show the markers what they know and can do.

To apply for provisions, the school submits an online application to the Board of Studies. This application tells the Board of Studies which provisions the student is requesting and includes recent evidence. Evidence may include medical reports, reading results, spelling results, writing samples and teacher comments.

Much of the evidence can be collected by the school, but the parents’ role is welcome and needed. Parents help by talking with the school, describing the student’s needs, and providing the school with medical or other reports.

Applications for provisions should be submitted by the school to the Board of Studies by the end of Term 1. Late applications are accepted for an emergency, such as a broken arm, until the time of the examinations.

Once the Board of Studies has made a decision about which provisions are approved or declined, a decision letter is provided to the school. The school will provide the student with a copy of the letter.

If you or the school are not satisfied with the Board’s decision, it is possible for the school to lodge an appeal. Appeals must state why the Board’s decision is unsuitable and must include new evidence to support the appeal.

If you think that you or your child may require support in completing the Higher School Certificate examinations, please discuss the matter with the school’s Year 12 Adviser, school counsellor or Careers Adviser.

George McQueen - Careers Adviser
# Why Your Child Can’t Skip Their 20 Minutes of Reading Tonight

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>James</th>
<th>Travis</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>reads 20 minutes per night, 5 times per week</td>
<td>reads only 4 minutes per night ...or not at all</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### In one week:

- **James**: 100 minutes of reading
- **Travis**: 20 minutes of reading

### In one month:

- **James**: 400 minutes of reading
- **Travis**: 80 minutes of reading

### In one school year (9 months):

- **James**: 3600 minutes of reading
- **Travis**: 720 minutes of reading

### By the end of sixth grade:

- **James**: 21,600 minutes of reading
- **Travis**: 4320 minutes of reading

Which student would you expect to read better?  
Which student would you expect to know more?  
Which student would you expect to write better?  
Which student would you expect to have a better vocabulary?  
Which student would you expect to be more successful in school and life?  
How do you think each student will feel about himself as a learner?
Compulsory School Attendance
Information for parents

Education for your child is important and regular attendance at school is essential for your child to achieve their educational best and increase their career and life options. NSW public schools work in partnership with parents to encourage and support regular attendance of children and young people. When your child attends school every day, learning becomes easier and your child will build and maintain friendships with other children.

What are my legal responsibilities?

Education in New South Wales is compulsory for all children between the ages of six years and below the minimum school leaving age. The Education Act 1990 requires that parents ensure their children of compulsory school age are enrolled at, and regularly attend school, or, are registered with the Board of Studies, Teaching and Educational Standards for homeschooling.

Once enrolled, children are required to attend school each day it is open for students.

The importance of arriving on time

Arriving at school and class on time:

- Ensures that students do not miss out on important learning activities scheduled early in the day
- Helps students learn the importance of punctuality and routine
- Give students time to greet their friends before class
- Reduces classroom disruption

Lateness is recorded as a partial absence and must be explained by parents.

What if my child has to be away from school?

On occasion, your child may need to be absent from school. Justified reasons for student absences may include:

- being sick, or having an infectious disease
- having an unavoidable medical appointment
- being required to attend a recognised religious holiday
- exceptional or urgent family circumstance (e.g. attending a funeral)

Following an absence from school you must ensure that within 7 days you provide your child’s school with a verbal or written explanation for the absence. However, if the school has not received an explanation from you within 2 days, the school may contact you to discuss the absence.

Principals may decline to accept an explanation that you have provided if they do not believe the absence is in the best interest of your child. In these circumstances your child’s absence would be recorded as unjustified. When this happens the principal will discuss their decision with you and the reasons why.

Principals may request medical certificates or other documentation when frequent or long term absences are explained as being due to illness. Principals may also seek parental permission to speak with medical specialists to obtain information to collaboratively develop a health care plan to support your child. If the request is denied, the principal can record the absences as unjustified.

Travel

Families are encouraged to travel during school holidays. If travel during school term is necessary, discuss this with your child’s school principal. An Application for Extended Leave may need to be completed. Absences relating to travel will be marked as leave on the roll and therefore contribute to your child’s total absences for the year.

In some circumstances students may be eligible to enrol in distance education for travel periods over 50 school days. This should be discussed with your child's school principal.

Lithgow High School – Excellence In A Caring Educational Environment 21
My child won’t go to school. What should I do?

You should contact the principal as soon as possible to discuss the issue and ask for help. Strategies to help improve attendance may include a referral to the school’s learning and support team or linking your child with appropriate support networks. The principal may seek further support from the Home School Liaison Program to develop an Attendance Improvement Plan.

What might happen if my child continues to have unacceptable absences?

It is important to understand that the Department of Education and Communities may be required to take further action where children of compulsory school age have recurring numbers of unexplained or unjustified absences from school.

Some of the following actions may be undertaken:

- Compulsory Schooling Conferences

You may be asked, along with your child, to attend a Compulsory Schooling Conference. The conference will help to identify the supports your child may need to have in place so they attend school regularly. The school, parents and agencies will work together to develop an agreed plan (known as Undertakings) to support your child’s attendance at school.

- Application to the Children’s Court
  - Compulsory Schooling Order

If your child’s attendance at school remains unsatisfactory the Department may apply to the Children’s Court for a Compulsory Schooling Order. The Children’s Court magistrate may order a Compulsory Schooling Conference to be convened.

  - Prosecution in the Local Court

School and Department staff remain committed to working in partnership with you to address the issues which are preventing your child’s full participation at school. In circumstances where a breach of compulsory schooling orders occurs further action may be taken against a parent in the Local Court. The result of court action can be the imposition of a community service order or a fine.

What age can my child leave school?

All New South Wales students must complete Year 10 or its equivalent. After Year 10, and up until they reach 17 years of age, there are a range of flexible options for students to complete their schooling.

Working in Partnership

The Department of Education and Communities recognises that working collaboratively with students and their families is the best way to support the regular attendance of students at school.

We look forward to working in partnership with you to support your child to fulfil their life opportunities.

Further information regarding school attendance can be obtained from the following websites:

Policy, information and brochures:
school/a-z/attendance.php

The school leaving age:

Do you need an interpreter?

Interpreting services are available on request, including for the hearing impaired. The Telephone Interpreter Service is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week on 131 450. You will not be charged for this service.

For further advice and questions contact your educational services team
T 131 536

Learning and Engagement
Student Engagement & Interagency Partnerships
T 9244 5129
www.dec.nsw.gov.au
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NSW Department of Education and Communities

If a student misses as little as 8 days in a school term, by the end of primary school they’ll have missed over a year in school
## Lithgow High School’s Important Dates to Remember

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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| Monday 2/3/15 | Year 12 Mid Course Exams begin – conclude on 13/3/15  
P&C Meeting 6.00pm – Hall foyer – All Welcome |
| Wednesday 4/3/15 | School Musical Rehearsal – 3.30pm-5.30pm – School Hall                                           |
APAG Dinner 6.00pm Z11 (Senior Study Room)                                                        |
| Wednesday 11/3/15 | School Musical Rehearsal – 3.30pm-5.30pm – School Hall                                             |
| Tuesday 10/3/15 | School Musical Rehearsal – 3.30pm-5.30pm – School Hall                                             |
| Tuesday 17/3/15 | School Vaccinations  
St Patrick’s Day School Social – 6.30pm-9.00pm  
Get your Leprechaun on!!!!!! |
| Wednesday 18/3/15 | School Musical Rehearsal 3.30pm-5.30pm – School Hall                                              |
| Thursday 19/3/15 | Year 7 Performance - Technobully                                                                |
| Monday 23/3/15 | Year 6 Parent Tour – 9.15am – Bookings Essential                                                   |
| Tuesday 24/3/15 | Prefect Meeting – Recess - Library                                                               |
| Wednesday 25/3/15 | School Musical Rehearsal – 3.30pm-5.30pm – School Hall                                             |
| Friday 27/3/15 | Newsletter Issued                                                                              |

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**Get your Leprechaun on!!**  
**ST PATRICK’S DAY THEMED SCHOOL SOCIAL**  
**TUESDAY 17TH MARCH, 2015**  
**6.30pm - 9.00pm**  
**Tickets on sale from Monday 9th March, $5.00**
The Uniform Shop
(02) 6352 3494

Uniform Shop business hours during school terms are:

**Tuesday and Thursday Mornings from 8.00am – 10.00am**
The uniform shop can be contacted outside of business hours by email - lithgowhigh@alinta.com.au.

Payments can be made direct to Alinta Apparel on the day of purchase. Alinta will take payments in the form of cash, credit card, or debit credit card.

Uniform price list & online shopping available at: www.alintaapparel.com.au

Check out our facebook page! Stay up to date with notifications, announcements and organisation of our school.

Please like and share our page with anyone who has children attending Lithgow High School.

We will endeavour to build a facebook community to ensure that school information is quick and effective for all parents.

**CANTEEN VOLUNTEERS**

Anyone interested in volunteering to be a Canteen Helper can ring Deb on 6351 2308. It is once a month, you choose your day. Time is from 10.45am-1.45pm. Parents, grandparents, carers come along have some fun. You will get to know the teachers as well as helping out our wonderful Canteen staff. You don’t not have to handle any money. There are lots of laughs and great company!
In the Community

Blast Furnace Theatre Acting Classes

The arts have long been recognised by academics as being essential for building community ideas and progress, as well as for increasing academic performance, problem solving and personal expression.

The Blast Furnace Theatre Company is offering acting tuition for everyone from the age of seven up. This is a fantastic opportunity to step out of your comfort zone and experience the amazing connection developed by a group of actors working together to create a dynamic piece of theatre. The comprehensive syllabus includes:

- An Actor prepares (Voice, Movement, Improvisation and Stage-Craft)
- Interpreting and Performing Contemporary Text
- Story through movement (Dance, Physical Theatre, Indigenous Traditions_
- Singing styles and performance (Classical, Jazz, Pop, Country, Musical Theatre, Folk)
- Self and group-devised projects
- Shakespeare and Classic text reading and interpretation & performance
- Acting for film and television
- Symbolic and Experimental Theatre
- Pantomime & Masque
- Annual Performance

Classes are held every Saturday at the historic and picturesque Eskbank House. Why not challenge yourself to a new experience?

Mr Jeffers - Head Teacher - English
LITHGOW SHOW, Friday 20th and Saturday 21st March, 2015

The Lithgow Show Society would like to invite students of Lithgow High School to showcase some of their outstanding work.

Please have a look through the schedule at www.lithgowshow.org.au

For some great opportunities to enter and receive prizes. Several classes have incorporated additional age criteria in order to make the judging process fairer and to give young people more chance to be recognised for their work.

Lithgow Nanna’s Touch A.S.D. Support

COFFEE/CHAT GET-TOGETHER

Lithgow Library, Main St,

2nd Tues, each Month 10am -12pm

(changing during holidays)

For families affected by Autism or special needs

KEEPING THE FAMILY NETWORK RUNNING SMOOTHLY

WHILE GAINING HELP AND UNDERSTANDING

— UNTIL ALL THE PIECES FIT—

For more information contact -

Sue --- 0409765601  nannastouch02@gmail.com

Facebook @ Lithgow Nanna’s Touch A.S.D Support

10Mar; 12May; 9June; 14Jul; 11Aug; 8Sept; 13Oct; 10Nov; 8Dec. 2015.
Need some driving lessons? Cruze Driving School is available for lessons, contact Gabby on 0404 644 089 to book your lesson now!

P & C Meeting - 6.00pm
Next Monday, 2nd March
in the Hall Foyer
You are all very welcome to attend.
Very informal meetings, no fundraising,
just simply come along and get to know your school, executive staff and learn what is happening at LHS.
Hope you can join us!
## For your fridge – Term 1 Calendar

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month/Week</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>March Week 1</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>2 Year 12 Mid Course Exams begin</td>
<td>3 Year 12 Mid Course Exams</td>
<td>4 Year 12 Mid Course Exams School Musical Rehearsal 3.30pm</td>
<td>5 Year 12 Mid Course Exams</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March Week 2</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>9 Year 12 Mid Course Exams APAG Dinner – 6.00pm Z11</td>
<td>10 Year 12 Mid Course Exams</td>
<td>11 School Musical Rehearsal 3.30pm</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March Week 1</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>16 Vaccinations St Patrick’s Day Social 6.30pm-9.00pm</td>
<td>17 School Musical Rehearsal 3.30pm</td>
<td>18 School Musical Rehearsal 3.30pm</td>
<td>19 Year 7 Performance - Technobully</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March Week 2</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>23 Year 6 Parent tour 9.15am</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>25 School Musical Rehearsal 3.30pm</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March Week 1</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>1 School Musical Rehearsal 3.30pm</td>
<td>2 Last Day of Term 1</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Please note –

Dates and times may be changed without notice, the dates below are only a **guide** to planned school activities.

### School Fees

School fees may now be paid on line direct debit to:

**Westpac, Lithgow High School,**

**BSB No: 032-001**

**Account No: 153 857.**

It is imperative that you put your student’s full name, Student ID number or both when paying fees in this manner.

Disclaimer: Lithgow High School will, as a service to parents, advertise community news, events & services, which may be of interest. LHS does not necessarily endorse the events and services, and accepts no responsibility for their management, organisation or quality.

If your child has represented at a high level of achievement in any vocation and you would like it acknowledged through Lithgow High School, please email the school on: [Lithgow-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:Lithgow-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au) with the relevant information.