

WELCOME TO TERM 4!

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT



Yaama and welcome to Term 4, 2021. The previous term has certainly tested the mettle of the hard-working team here at NG Central and all of our young people. Everyone has put in a mammoth effort, even while we have been forced to make do with conditions that aren't always conducive to NGC's style of hands-on, engaging, outdoorsy, in-person learning. Instead, we have had to sit down in front of a screen and google our lives away! Certainly not an easy pivot nor one we wanted to make, but as always, our amazing staff have supported each other and our young people with tremendous care and kindness. I can't thank them enough.

Despite the challenges, our doors have remained open for everyone because we believe that the gap between the 'haves' and 'have nots', the 'can do's' and the 'can't do's' must not widen. We know that not all young people have the same opportunity to learn in these conditions, whether they face personal challenges that make engagement hard or a lack of access to the resources they need, so our school has continued to be a safe environment where everyone is welcome, supported and accepted.

The strong, positive relationships we have with our young people have meant we have witnessed - even more closely than normal - the triumphs and the many, many hardships that they face when it comes to staying motivated and on track with their learning, against the backdrop of a global pandemic. These are hard times and we commend every single student who has done their best throughout this period, given what they had to give and persevered over and over again. Our school motto of Standing Strong has called us to keep going, to support each other and stand strong together.

Many thanks to all our supporters and to the Inner Wheel Club of Gosford North who helped us close the technology gap by providing Chromebooks for students. Hopefully Term 4 will provide us with the opportunity to reunite, renew and thrive.

Andrea, NGC Principal

TERM 4 DATES:

- **Tuesday 4 October** – school resumes (both onsite and online)
- **Monday 25 October** – all students expected to return onsite
- **Friday 3 December** - Year 12 Graduation (11:30am – 1:45pm) and Formal (in the evening)
- **Thursday 9 December** - Families and Community Christmas Lunch (12:00pm – 2:00pm)

Student Enhancement Team Update

To give our wonderful young people a boost and keep spirits high these school holidays, we have coordinated a few fun activities that everyone can take part in from home. There's our STEPS challenge to motivate students to stay active ([find out more on our Facebook page](#)), a play-from-home scavenger hunt on Monday 27th of September and a virtual performance and Q&A featuring rapper Kobie Dee on Wednesday 29th September. (Both the scavenger hunt and performance will be held at 11am in the 'Hangout' classroom on NG Central's Google Classroom). Plus, there are a bunch of fantastic prizes up for grabs, including a Stash House voucher! Can't wait to have you all participate.

Mark, Wellbeing Head Teacher

TEACHERS' REPORTS

Deputy Principal Update

Needless to say, this term has been full-on for students, parents, teachers and support staff. I would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who has helped a student to complete some form of schoolwork this term. We know that at times, being online can be frustrating and a pretty poor substitute for the hands-on learning we prioritise at NG Central. In particular, congratulations to Year 12 for completing your schooling and putting in the work to prepare for their HSC. We welcome you all to return on a Monday and Tuesday to complete any outstanding work and revision for your exams, which will occur later in Term 4. Year 11 students will continue their preliminary work and start their HSC year in Week 5 of Term 4. Subject selections were carried out in Term 3 with Photography, Video and Digital Imaging being the nominated elective subject for the 2022 HSC cohort.

While many students haven't been onsite, we have taken this opportunity to give the school a makeover of sorts, painting classrooms and revamping different areas so they are ready for everyone to return. Thank you to the staff who made this possible. We look forward to having students and staff back together again very soon. Until then, stay safe!

Cameron, Deputy Principal

English

Year 12 English: Term 3 was a very tough time for our Year 12 students because while it marks their last full term with us, it was dominated by lockdown and online classes. As always though, Year 12 embraced the work to be done and finished their year in excellent form, including preparing for their upcoming HSC exam. We also studied the film 'The Breakfast Club' and analysed how stereotypes are often shattered once we get to know someone. It has been a distinct pleasure working with this particular group of students, and I will truly miss them as they leave school at the end of the Term 4 and venture out into the world on their own.

Year 11 English: It was somewhat appropriate for Year 11 that our modules this term all had a digital focus, given our classes were held online. For the first half of Term 3, we studied the benefits of digital news media over print media and our students wrote a persuasive essay on the topic. During the second half of the term, we studied the Digital World, which includes social media and considering responsible and ethical behaviours online. In Term 4, we will finish up this unit and in Week 5, we will begin Year 12 with the study of Texts and Human Experiences. In a year filled with reliance on digital technology, our students will be better prepared because of the modules we have studied.

Stage 5 English: In Term 3, Stage 5 students studied Aboriginal and Native American literature. From the first piece of writing by Bennelong to the novel Who Am I? by Anita Heiss, students studied the history of written literature by both Australian Aboriginal writers and Native American writers. Students also wrote a comparative essay to show the similarities between the two cultures, even though they are thousands of miles apart. In Term 4, Stage 5 students will be studying graphic novels, and will read the novel The Outsiders by SE Hinton. They will be making a graphic novel out of key events from the novel. I am very proud of all our Stage 5 students have accomplished so far this year and look forward to seeing what they can accomplish in Term 4.

Kirk, English Teacher

Mathematics

First of all, I'd like to congratulate all Year 12 students for completing the HSC Numeracy Course and for being the first ever cohort to complete this course at NG Central. What a tremendous achievement! I wish you all the best of luck in your exams. In Term 4, Year 11 will be finishing their Preliminary Numeracy Course and progressing onto the HSC Numeracy Course, and I look forward to watching them pass their Minimum Standards tests. Our Stage 5 students will be exploring the concepts of Probability, Statistics and Data Analysis.

Mark, Mathematics Teacher

TEACHERS' REPORTS

History

During Term 3, Stage 5 History classes studied The Environment Movement around the world, from the 1960's right through to the present. We looked at all the different threats posed to our environment and Australia's efforts to address these threats. Our online learning forced us to adjust some of our experiences with the environment (as we couldn't get outside to enjoy it). But in the end, students developed a good understanding of what we can do to help minimise our footprint. Next term, we will be studying the Vietnam War and Australia's role in it. I hope to be able to draw some comparisons between this war and the one that has currently just ended in Afghanistan, which should prove an interesting topic for students to learn about.

Kirk, History Teacher

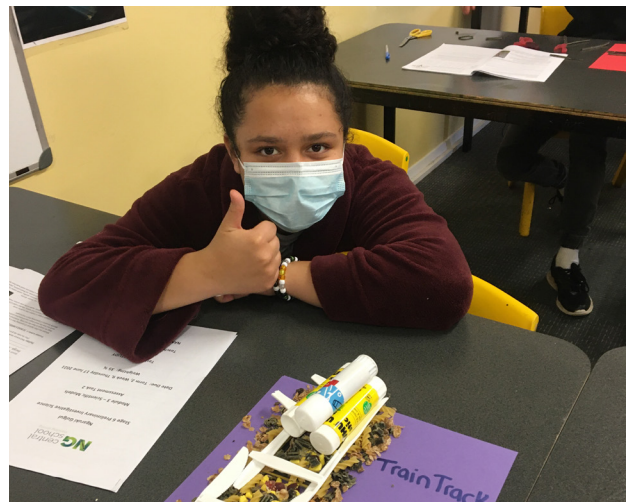
Science

Congratulations to those Stage 5 students who attended flexible learning learning for our Dynamic Earth unit. With a whole term of lockdown, many students weren't able to complete the required work and I'd encourage them to revisit this workbook on Google Classroom so they can catch up. The Assessment 3 Individual Student Research Project is a mandatory task for all Stage 5 students and this task will need to be finished early Term 4. As we move into this term, we will be investing the Diversity of Living Things. The three units within this topic are Reproduction, Genetics, and Evolution by Natural Selection and students will learn about the process of inheritance and how characteristics are passed on to future generations. The Term 4 assessment task is a Secondary Source Investigation, where students can choose a Gene Technology or Biotechnology topic to investigate.

Most Year 11 Preliminary Investigating Science students worked well during Term 3 and they are now currently progressing well through the Module 4: Theories and Laws unit. The results for their Assessment 3 Open Book Task, which was based on past Preliminary Investigating Science examination papers, were very pleasing. A few students are still to attempt the task to meet the requirements for the Year 11 RoSA. As of Week 5, students will be moving on to Year 12 HSC Investigating Science and begin their first HSC module. This is about the rapid development of new technologies and how it has enhanced industrial and agricultural processes, medical applications, and communications. By conducting practical investigations, students will investigate the appropriateness of using a range of technologies. The Term 4 HSC assessment task is a secondary source investigation on the Continuous Cycle of Technological Development, where students will produce an informative PowerPoint.

Congratulations to the current Year 12 HSC Investigating Science students, who have completed their HSC course of work. In preparation for the final examination on the 2nd December 2021, students are encouraged to regularly log into Google Classroom and use the workbooks provided, to assist them with their revision during the weeks leading up to the examination.

Janice, Science Teacher



Geography

In Term 3, Stage 5 have been examining the patterns and trends in population movements and the increasing urbanisation of countries. We have been discussing the reasons for internal and international migration patterns and the consequences of population movements, including the increased concentration of populations within countries. Students worked well in completing an urbanisation comparative study of Australia and India and created online visual infographic documents.

In Term 4, students will be exploring strategies to create liveable and sustainable urban places and proposing sustainable solutions for the future. I am very much looking forward to having all our Geography students back in the classroom!

Jemma, Geography Teacher

Standing Strong (and Being Mindful!!)

This year, a key focus of our wellbeing support program, Standing Strong, has been Mindfulness. Mindfulness means maintaining a moment-by-moment awareness of our thoughts, feelings, bodily sensations, and surrounding environment, through a gentle, nurturing lens. One of its most important benefits is helping to build strength in our executive function (situated in the frontal lobes of our brain) which determines our ability to self-regulate.

So, what is executive function and self-regulation? Executive function and self-regulation skills are the mental processes that enable us to plan, focus our attention, remember instructions, and juggle multiple tasks successfully. Just as an air traffic control system at a busy airport safely manages the arrivals and departures of many aircraft on multiple runways, the brain needs this skillset to filter distractions, prioritise tasks, set and achieve goals, and control impulses.



As parents, you control the executive function in your children (the CEO to the brain function) when they are young. As they develop, you begin to share this responsibility with your teachers, and eventually we all want to see them become the CEOs on their own, with some guidance along the way. (N.B. certain mental health conditions have deficits in the executive function that directly benefit from these practices.)

Sources: <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1750-8606.2012.00241.x> // <https://developingchild.harvard.edu/>

Damian, School Counsellor

Vocational Education and Training

We are exceptionally proud of Year 12 student, Peter Zammit, who won an award in the First Nations category for his exceptional work placement performance (pictured on the next page).

TEACHERS' REPORTS

Sports Lifestyle and Recreation

Term 3 has presented some unique online learning opportunities for SLR students, who have completed a First Aid and Fitness unit (which will continue into next term and involve everyone planning their own program). Congratulations to those students who completed their assessments on time. Once the Fitness unit is completed, we will finish up the Sports Lifestyle and Recreation subject, as it will be dropped for the 2022 HSC cohort (to be replaced by PVDI).

Industrial Technology Automotive

The Auto crew bids goodbye and good luck to Year 12 students who will be completing their HSC exams in Term 4. Our remaining students will be taking on new projects upon return to school, including fabrication and welding skills. I encourage everyone to get excited to work on a vehicle that has kindly been donated by Dean Cooper.

Cameron, SLR and Automotive Teacher

Photography, Video and Digital Imaging

Our lovely and creative Year 12 students worked hard on their final HSC Individual Projects during Term 3. They have created an array of different works, including self-portraiture, video productions, sci fi digital art, heavy metal album designs and landscape and nature photography. Students chose themes in their works that were important to them, some reflecting personal transformation throughout their schooling journey at NGC, some exploring individual expression and the importance of self-love, and some using the social struggles of life in lockdown as their inspiration, recognising the power of optimism, humour and strength during hard times. Well done Year 12, you should be so proud of your efforts over this past term and completing your HSC.

In Term 3, Year 11 students were introduced to practice and techniques of video. This field and closely related fields such as film and television are highly relevant to students' lives and play a significant role in how they perceive the world. Time and time again, cinema is mindlessly dismissed as 'escapism'. But whilst films are predominately created for entertainment purposes, it would be a mistake to reject their 'world-changing' potential because films can have an impact far greater than we might assume. Year 11 improved their smartphone photography and production, and refined their camera work through focusing on the use of different angles, movements, composition and sound. It was great to see a wide range of videos, slideshows and stop-motion productions, all made from smartphones at home! It was certainly a challenging term, but those who managed to stay engaged should be congratulated for their efforts. Well done!

Jemma, PVDI Teacher

