



COFFS HARBOUR SENIOR COLLEGE

CHSC WELCOME TO TERM 4

Term 4 Principal's Message

Welcome back to the term. In the last week of Term 3, we had the privilege of celebrating the achievements of the HSC Class of 2023. It was a special day filled with pride, joy, and a sense of accomplishment. We witnessed the culmination of years of hard work and witnessed the potential that lies within each and every one of our students. We are confident that the HSC examinations will be a testament to their abilities and the exceptional education they have received.

To the new class of 2024 welcome as you enter this final year of high school, we encourage you to approach it with determination, and a growth mindset. This is your opportunity to showcase your knowledge, skills, and to make the most of the resources and support available to you. We believe in your potential and are confident that you will excel in your Year 12 studies. As you navigate this final year, remember to set goals, stay organised, and seek help when needed. Your teachers, counsellors, careers teacher and support staff are here to provide guidance and assistance whenever you require it. We are looking forward to working with the new leadership team led by Rataj Abdullah and Lily Asche.

Throughout Term 4, you will be challenged academically, but remember that challenges are opportunities for growth. Take advantage of the guidance and expertise of your teachers, engage in meaningful discussions with your peers, and make use of the various resources and study tools at your disposal.

Before we dive into the term, it is important to familiarise yourself with the Year 12 Assessment booklet. This booklet outlines the assessments, deadlines, and expectations for each subject. Take the time to review it thoroughly and ensure you have a clear understanding of what lies ahead. If you have any questions or need clarification, do not hesitate to reach out to your teachers or mentors.

To help you stay organised and manage your workload effectively, we encourage you to start scheduling and mapping out your tasks. Break down larger assignments into smaller, manageable chunks, and allocate specific time slots for each task. By creating a structured plan, you can ensure that you stay on track and meet your deadlines.

Furthermore, academic counselling will be offered to provide guidance and support throughout the year. Our academic counsellors are here to help you navigate any challenges you may face, whether they are academic or personal. They can assist with subject selection, study strategies, and overall well-being. We highly recommend taking advantage of this valuable resource.

In addition to academic matters, we have implemented a new mobile management policy. This policy aims to minimise distractions and create a focused learning environment. Please familiarise yourself with the guidelines and adhere to them during school hours. If you have any concerns or questions regarding the policy, our staff will be happy to assist you.

Congratulations to Jade Kitching who won gold in the 17 year old boys' 800m and 1500m at the NSW All School Athletics.

I would like to encourage students to participate in the final round of the Secret Scribe Flash Fiction challenge.

Regards

Sam Hutton
Principal Coffs Harbour Senior College

Important Dates

11th October to 3rd November – HSC Examinations
24th October – Year 12 Parent Information Webinar
7th November – Year 11 Awards Assembly
7th November – P&C Meeting
9th November – HSC Major Project Night
5th December – P&C Meeting
14th December – HSC Results Released
15th December – Last day for Students

Deputy Principal's Message

Dear Parents, Families and Students,

Welcome back to Term 4, it's great to have students back after a well-deserved break. We hope they had a chance to recharge and are ready to tackle the exciting challenges ahead as they begin their HSC Year. Year 11 students we hope you found the process of studying for your final Year 11 exams useful and informative, we're all very proud of your efforts. This week, teachers will be giving you feedback on how you performed in your exams during your classes. It's a great opportunity for growth, so be sure to take advantage of it and discuss how you can continue to improve and develop in the lead up to further exams through Year 12.

A big thank you to our fantastic staff who worked tirelessly to create a memorable graduation and formal dinner for our Year 12 students, particularly Julie-Ann Chivers, Brett and Melissa Croucher and Nicole Robinson. It was a very memorable event filled with pride and celebration for our great students.



To our Year 12 students, as you start your HSC this week, we wish you all the success in the world. You've got this! Remember, the NESA Illness Misadventure process for the HSC is different to the College process. [NESA HSC Exam Illness / Misadventure Procedures](#). To keep it simple, contact the College prior to the exam and we will take you through the process. The evidence for the illness or misadventure must be collected prior to or on the day of the exam. NESA does not provide any opportunity for an exam to be done on a later date.

In some exciting news – we have new School Captains! Please join us in congratulating Rataj Abdullah and Lily Asche. They've already done an excellent job representing our school during the graduation ceremony, and we know they'll be passionate and dedicated student leaders going forward.

On Wednesday of this week, we will be holding student meetings where we'll share with students what to expect for the HSC Year, sharing HSC Assessment Guidelines / Handbooks and our new mobile phone policy.

It is important for all students and parents to carefully read the HSC Assessment Handbook (available on our website and given to students as a hardcopy this week). Some important guidelines to note are:

- The use of computer generated text or other content from sources such as Bard or Chat GPT may only be used when explicit consent to do so has been stated clearly in a task notification.
- If requested, students must be able to provide evidence that their work is their own. This could include drafts, evidence of planning, a timestamped document or a version and edit history.
- If a student misses any timetabled lesson, for an unexplained reason, on the day an assessment task is due, they will receive zero mark for that task.
- If a student is not present at school the day before an Assessment Task is due their parent must submit a valid reason for the absence, which should be from an independent source (E.G. Doctor's Certificate).
- When a student is absent on the day before an assessment task is due they must have a medical certificate in the case of Illness. In the case of Misadventure or an explained absence, they must supply supporting documentation. If a student's absence the day before a task is unexplained, they will receive zero mark for that assessment task.
- The due date for Disability Provisions application forms is always the last day of Term 1 of the HSC examination year. In exceptional circumstances and with new information, students may receive permission at a later date. Please note that NESA does not approve all requests for adjustments or special provisions and there is no guarantee a student will be provided with their preferred choice of special provisions.
- Application forms for Disability Provisions are available from the Learning and Support Teacher. Any additional supports or adjustments must be arranged with the Learning and Support Teacher.

More information on the guidelines above can be found in the HSC Assessment Handbook (available on our website and given to students as a hardcopy).

We will also be sharing more information about our subject change process for students wishing to move to 10 Units in Year 12. Mentor teachers will be handing out change of subject forms in Wednesday's Meeting and asking students to indicate whether they would like to drop a subject. Students will need to take their form home and have it signed by their parents and return it by Friday (13/10). Members of the school executive will be running individual meetings with students on Friday, students must bring their signed subject change form to this meeting. Students taking on an additional extension subject will need to hold this as an additional unit until the end of Term 4 to ensure they are capable of the work required for this subject.

We're looking forward to a fantastic term ahead! As always if you require any further information or have any questions please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Warm Regards

Joshua Stewart and David Bateman

Deputy Principals Coffs Harbour Senior College

2023 Premiers ANZAC Memorial Scholarship Tour.

The Premier's ANZAC Memorial Scholarship Tour is an annual event that takes a group of Year 10 and 11 students selected from schools across New South Wales to the places where Australians have fought in wars and conflicts. It is a project of the New South Wales Office of Veterans Affairs and focusses on the history and commemoration of Australians at war. The 2023 Tour was to Singapore and Darwin, focussing on Australians in World War Two, particularly the Fall of Singapore, prisoners of war and the Bombing of Darwin. The tour took place in the recent school holidays. I was lucky enough selected as one of three accompanying teachers. We travelled with a Tour Historian, Professor Peter Stanley from ANU, who was Historian at the Australian War Memorial and is one of Australia's leading experts, the author of no less than 45 books!



We spent time at all of the important sites, such as the site of Changi POW camp, and museums that preserve the physical relics and the stories of the servicemen and women, nurses and civilians who experienced the Japanese invasion of Singapore and the Bombing of Darwin. Each student and teacher gave a presentation on a person who experienced these events. This meant that the men and women who lived these events were always with us, and their stories were kept alive, which was such a special part of the tour. The students also created and held their own special memorial ceremonies at the Commonwealth War Cemeteries at Kranji in Singapore and Adelaide River in the Northern Territory. Both ceremonies were incredibly respectful and moving. It is truly difficult to sum up the experience. As a History Teacher, I learned so much from the tour and it was a privilege to take part.

Vicki Greer

Students use of Mobile Phones in Schools Management Plan Term 4 2023

In Brief:

- Coffs Harbour Senior College supports the restrictions of mobile phones in accordance with the NSW Department of Education: Students' Use of Mobile Phones in Schools policy
- All mobile phones will be switched off and left in students bag or locker during the day.
- There may be students who have a medical, wellbeing or learning need which will require them to access a mobile phone as defined in this plan.
- Teachers may give permission to use mobile phones for an approved learning activity.

Rationale and Objectives

Coffs Harbour Senior College supports the restrictions of mobile phones in accordance with the NSW Department of Education: Students' Use of Mobile Phones in Schools policy (<https://education.nsw.gov.au/policy-library/policies/pd-2020-0471>).

Mobile phone use in schools can impact student learning and wellbeing. Restricting mobile phone use at school aims to increase focus in classrooms, remove distractions and promote positive social interaction, while reducing the potential for online bullying.

Coffs Harbour Senior College has strong teaching and learning practices to support students in the classroom using various forms of appropriate technology, which maximises the benefits and minimises the risks of digital environments and prepare students for life beyond school. We foster a safe learning environment which supports and enhances each child's social and emotional health through our wellbeing and learning support teams.

Coffs Harbour Senior College recognises that we have a unique student population as a Senior Secondary College in NSW. Senior Secondary Principals can use their judgement around the application of the mobile phone ban in our settings to make sure students' individual needs are effectively addressed and supported.

Coffs Harbour Senior College has elected to use the following approach:

All mobile phones will be switched off and left in their bag or locker during the day.

This is an approved NSW Department of Education option and will limit unnecessary distractions and complement our ongoing approach to ensure every student maximises their learning and social growth in a safe and supportive environment.

Exemptions

Coffs Harbour Senior College understands there may be students who have a medical, wellbeing or learning need which will require them to access a mobile phone as defined in this plan. In this case the Deputy Principal will meet with each student and their parents and carers/the learning and support teacher will contact parents and carers, in order to determine where an exemption will be applied for on behalf of a student, as well as the adjustments to any college-based practices and procedures. Only noise cancelling earphones, that have been approved through an approved learning and support plan can be used in class.

Within the classroom, teachers may instruct, or allow students to use mobile phones to support curriculum implementation and feedback. This means that students can only use their phone if given explicit permission from the teacher for an approved learning activity such as documenting a work sample or accessing an educational application and must return their phone, switched off, to their bag at the end of the specified activity.

Students are encouraged to use our break times to socialise with their peers and engage in physical activity outside of the classroom. If necessary, students can access their phones briefly for urgent calls or messages during this time.

During study periods, students using communal areas such as the grounds, the learning centre, the library, and cafeteria must refrain from using their mobile phones, and instead should make use of other digital tools (such as laptops) to support their learning.

Depending on the type of excursion, activity, transport, and location mobile phones may be used.

As with all valuable items, CHSC cannot accept responsibility for the loss, theft, or damage to such items, including mobile phones. These items are brought to college at your own risk.

Contacting students

Coffs Harbour Senior College understands there will always be emergencies when parents need to get in contact with students or vice versa during the school day. We try to keep this to a minimum, except for emergencies, to avoid disturbing the students' learning. Parents and carers can contact the school through the school office on (02) 6659 3054 and students will also be able to contact parents or carers through the school office if urgent.

Consequences for inappropriate use

First Incident: Students who are in breach of the policy where devices are seen and heard will be referred to their Deputy Principal and the phone will be confiscated for the remainder of the day. The student will receive a verbal warning from the Deputy and parent/guardian will be notified. Students must collect their phones after the conclusion of the day.

Second Incident: Mobile phone will be confiscated by Deputy Principal. Parent and or Guardian will be notified, and the phone will only be released to the Parent or Guardian. Parent must meet with the Deputy Principal or Principal to discuss why their child is persistently refusing to follow College Rules, and they are issued a formal caution of suspension.

Third Incident: Same procedure as first incident followed by interview with Principal and suspension. Parents and or Carers formally notified as part of the suspension process.