



# Marsden Mail

Term 4 Week 6



## Principal's report Term 4 Week 6

*Wow, this week I have so many great things to tell you. Best of all, I enjoy the collaboration of learning with my students and teachers every day. Congratulations to all for being great learners.*

**"Don't limit a child to your own learning, for they were born in another time" -Rabindranath Tagore**

**Our teachers are quality teachers.** Here are just a few examples of the special things they do. The projects below are from our wonderful science students displayed by **Mr. Sarroff**, who has inspired these students through engaging lessons to create amazing work. This is exemplary teaching and learning. They are proudly displayed to celebrate the learning and the success of our students. Congratulations students and **Mr. Sarroff**

**Ms Trish Swinkels** was the force behind the Granny Smith festival and also this week, orchestrated an amazing M.A.T.E program with Ermington Public school. M.A.T.E. stands for Marsden Alliance Transition Experiences, which builds amazing partnerships with all our community primary schools.

**Ms Laryssa Bernyk** our Year 12 Advisor has spent countless hours preparing year 12 finalisation. They have finished their exams, however she has been behind the scenes ensuring every student has the best chance to get the best result. All year 12 receive a reference, which she has individually prepared and researched. We look forward to seeing year 12 at the results Morning Tea in December.



**Linking our students to the real world.** At Marsden High, we are endeavouring to have learning in our classrooms that reflects 'student voice and choice', where students are given rigorous projects which are carefully planned, managed and assessed to help students learn key academic content, practices 21<sup>st</sup> Century skills (such as collaboration, communication and & critical thinking), and create high quality, authentic products and presentations. Our teachers are working hard to engage in project based learning through the development of the Pinnacle Project. We look forward to the products and the great learning that students



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will engage in.

**Year 9 mentors prepare to collaborate with Year 7 at Gibberagong**, environmental education centre at Bobbin Head. Year 9 students will undertake an intensive mentoring program in preparation to coach Year 7 in project based learning and innovation. They will be engaged in quality learning and the use of iPads for a huge range of experiences including Geography fieldwork, nocturnal walks, film making, scaffolds for coaching, leadership activities and team building experiences.



**Building our Global skills through Asia Literacy.**

Last week we finalized our report for our lighthouse learning Asia Literacy Project. The partnerships that have been built with our Learning Alliance Partner Primary schools have been a huge success. Our language teachers have been teaching Korean, Mandarin and Japanese to Melrose Park, West Ryde, Ermington students and next year we hope to bring in Meadowbank PS. This initiative is building a continuum of skills in our students as they progress into the high school.

The efforts of Ms Lee, Ms Mo and Ms Symons have been phenomenal in all aspects. The success is measured by the sheer fact of its outstanding sustainability and the partnerships that have been formed with our partner primary schools.

**National Curriculum is coming and we are excited.**

In 2013 all our teachers will be involved in building their understanding of the new national curriculum in preparation to begin teaching in 2014. We take this as a great opportunity to look at learning through the lens of 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills. We will focus on building our experiences to ensure the best learning for our students. Parents can view the syllabus on this website

<http://syllabus.bos.nsw.edu.au/>

**Mobile learning devices are here upon us. Let's embrace them.**

Like all learning tools, it's not the hardware, but the way in which they are used for productive learning. All students need to ensure that mobile devices are used in a respectful and productive way. Those who do not adhere to the code of acceptable 'digital Citizenship' will be dealt with through our CARE Code of Behaviours disciplinary policy. Like all good structures in the school, they are built to improve student's ability to be great citizens, both on line and off line.

**Table tennis Champions and Visitors to Parliament house get presented at Assembly.**

Congratulations to all our great students who are involved in the Table Tennis Competitions. You are Australian Champions and we have many in the making.







### Veterans visit our school to tell their stories for our Historians



I had the great privilege to spend the afternoon with my students and visiting veterans. Organised through our fabulous HSIE faculty, the Veterans came to school and told their stories to our students. Our students are now busily preparing their essays for selection to be read out in parliament by Victor Dominello, Minister for Veteran Affairs, Aboriginal, Youth and Multicultural Affairs. Victor, who also visited on this day to talk with our students, was inspired by the perceptive and engaging in manner in which our students responded to our honoured veterans. Congratulations to all the year 10 history students involved.

**Giving to your town and Community.**

Legacy is a long serving charity and each year Marsden students assist in collecting and selling Legacy Badges. Volunteering and helping others is something to be proud of and we value it highly at Marsden. Our year 10 this year once again represented our school proudly. Congratulations to all students who gave of their time.



It was also time to give to Breast Cancer Awareness week. I joined my Principal Colleagues, Ms Kelly from Riverside and Ms. Norris from Ryde Secondary College. We are all proud Public School Principals who are working hard for the young people of our community.





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**The week as I saw it and the great things that keep happening and are coming up at Marsden.**

- Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Final walk
- Victor Dominello visits for White Ribbon
- Gibberagong Environmental Camp for Year 9 mentors and Year 7 Picasso
- Work Placement for VETConstruction and VET Retail
- Teachers working with Digital Guru Andrew Churches ( See link below)
- iPad techie training for teachers every Wednesday Morning

Continue to learn, grow, adapt and connect.  
Have a great week!

**Denise Lofts**  
**Principal**  
**Marsden High School**

**What was interesting for me this week.**

I spent time talking about this with my staff this week. What do parents think about great teaching and effective teaching with technology?

<http://blog.alwaysprepped.com/the-7-habits-of-highly-effective-teachers-who-use-technology/>

**Why the Question is more important than Answer.**

Students need to understand about the 'why', instead of being passive players in the game of learning. Here is a great link.

<http://blogs.kqed.org/mindshift/2012/10/for-students-why-the-question-is-more-important-than-the-answer/>

**An amazing APP for our collaboration with our world and the relationships within it.**



<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xIRFjK5qpq4&feature=related>

<http://edorigami.wikispaces.com/>

**Welcome to the 21<sup>st</sup> Century**

Andrew Churches' [edorigami wiki](http://edorigami.wikispaces.com/) is the epitome of 21st Century learning and Web 2.0 sharing and collaboration: rubrics, theory, research, practical applications and ideas, starter sheets for Web 2.0 tools; it's all there. Andrew is an experienced classroom practitioner of 1:1 laptop programs and mobile learning and has shared his practice worldwide. Andrew's work is not just about the integration of technology into the classroom...it is about shifting our educational paradigm.

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**CONTACT US**

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[www.marsden-h.schools.nsw.edu.au](http://www.marsden-h.schools.nsw.edu.au)

**Our next P&C meeting is on  
Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> November  
in the Library at 7:30pm**

**Calendar****November**

12-14 Yr 9 Geography – Gibberagong EEC  
 13-14 Yr 8 ESSA  
 14-16 Yr 7 G&T Camp – Gibberagong EEC  
 15-16 Duke of Ed – Bronze qualifying camp  
 28 11/12 Chemistry Excursion to UWS  
 28-29 Duke of Ed Bronze Final Expedition  
 29 Year 11 First Aid Examination

**December**

3 Art Exhibition Opening Night  
 3-7 Work Experience /Volunteer week  
 5 Orientation Day – Year 7 2013  
 6 Sports Assembly  
 11 PBEL term 4 excursion  
 18 Presentation Day  
 19 HSC results available to students  
 Year 12 Morning Tea  
 Last day of term for students

**Tour of Marsden High School with our  
 Principal Mrs Denise Lofts**

If you missed our Open Day please join us and contact the office to book in for our school tours on 9874 6544

Tour date Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> December  
 Thursday 4-5pm

**Year 7 Enrolments 2013**

Orientation Day 9.30am Wednesday 5th December 2012 in the Marsden High School Auditorium.

If you require any further information, please contact Sharron Walden Mon, Wed and Friday's.

**Uniform Shop News**
**New Blazer Scheme**

Blazers will be available to order term 4 (Announcements closer to order date during roll call)

The P&C of Marsden have generously decided to sponsor every blazer purchased with \$50, therefore costing the parents \$100. In addition on returning the Blazer dry cleaned and in good condition at the end of a student's school career, the school will purchase to the value of up to \$50

They may be ordered and as of December 2012 some will be stocked for purchase anytime.

**HELP NEEDED**

Orientation day for 2013 Year 7 students is Wednesday 5 December 2012. Once again I need some helpers on that day for a few hours beginning 9am.

Last day the Uniform Shop is open this year is Thursday 13 December 2012. The shop will re-open again on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> January 2013 and be open every morning 8.30am – 10.30am until Friday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2013. Normal opening hours will commence Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2013. Usual opening hours are Wednesday and Thursday 8.30am to 10.30am school days

**Deputy Principal Report**

Yr.11 reports will be arriving in the post over the next few days. Parents and carers are welcome to contact me if they have any concerns about their child's report. Ms. Symons and I will be meeting with Yr. 11 students over the next few weeks to map out their goals and see how we can support them in their last few terms.

As the end of year approaches, parents are asked to finalize their child's school fees. If any parents have difficulty paying their fees, they are asked to contact the school.

While doing playground duty recently, I noticed that the canteen was now selling Halal sausage rolls. Our students are very lucky, in that, our canteen is managed by a team that follow DEC guidelines and provide food that is both diverse and multicultural. Students are encouraged to order their food before school so that at recess they line up to collect their food. All the money that comes from the canteen comes back to the school and these funds have helped resource the school and our canteen volunteers work extremely hard every day to serve our students. Rae Butler, canteen manager, leads a wonderful team but they are always looking for more helpers. So think about it for 2013.

Ms Paczkowski

### Deputy Principal Report

It has been a busy start to term with all students completing exams. Staff are in the process of marking exams and writing school reports which will be posted to families before the end of the school year.

Year 12 students came to school on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> November to complete their final clearance and enjoy a BBQ organized by year 11 students and Ms Berynk. Many students donated items of their uniform back to the school. This is a much appreciated gesture. Year 12, 2012 students came with mixed feeling – happy to be starting a new part of their life but sorry to be leaving Marsden.

Would you like to give your child an academic advantage at school? Punctual, regular attendance at school is essential for students to maximize potential. Students who arrive at school late miss out on valuable instruction and learning. At Marsden we have introduced an SMS system to let you know as quickly as possible if your child is absent. Please let us know if your child is absent with your permission by return text and /or a brief note.

We are looking forward to welcoming our 2013 year 7 students to Marsden at our Orientation day on 5 December. Ms Swinkels and Ms Sharma are to be commended in their organisation of this event and also the visits to our primary schools to make our new students feel welcome. In addition, the Building Partnerships team have provided lessons to a range of primary students eager to experience high school life. Thanks to all staff who gave up their time to make this possible.

A reminder that this term has 11 weeks. Students will finish school on Wednesday 19 December. Year 10 students do not finish early and are expected to attend until the end of the school year. Our school presentation day is on Tuesday 18 December. I hope to see many of you at this exciting event.

Dr Vasilevska

### Study skills tip for November

#### Independent Learning

Some students take a long time to realise that there are actually two types of work in secondary school. There is the obvious work, the work your teacher specifically tells you to do and that is compulsory: homework, working on assignments, preparing for tests and assessments. But students who get good results in school take a larger measure of responsibility for their learning, this means that the nights where they do not have much compulsory work, they also do independent learning. These are the additional things you do, if you have no other schoolwork to do that night, to improve your understanding of your subjects. It is what students who get good marks are doing, they are just not talking about it to their friends!

Examples of independent learning:

- Reading
- Reviewing what you have been learning at school that week
- Extra practise on questions you find hard
- Research on an area you are interested in learning more about
- Making a mind map about what you have been learning
- Making study notes on a topic
- Improving your touch typing skills
- Reading ahead in your textbook
- Improving your study skills (you can complete units on [www.studyskillshandbook.com.au](http://www.studyskillshandbook.com.au))
- Doing work from a different textbook or study guide for one of your subjects (check the school library, local library and bookshops).

Some nights you will not have time to do any independent learning. Other nights you will have no homework and will spend the whole time allocated to schoolwork for that night working on independent learning tasks. Your teacher may even give you a sheet that has suggestions of independent learning work for that subject. If you are unsure, you can always ask. This means in secondary school you can never say 'I have nothing to do' – this really just means 'I have nothing compulsory to do at the moment!'.

One component of independent learning in high school is making your own study notes or summaries. You can learn more about how to

make study notes in the unit 'Summarising' on [www.studyskillshandbook.com.au](http://www.studyskillshandbook.com.au)

Our school's subscription details are -  
Username: marsdenhs  
Password: 181results

### Careers

A fantastic opportunity has come up for an interested student to hone their IT skills!! A local charity shop, Gifted, at West Ryde is looking for someone to design a website for them. The successful student will have the chance to use their IT experience and communication skills to work with the owner to create something that they can be really proud of. This work would also count towards a volunteering certificate for the student. Please contact Mrs Symons or Mrs Boukaseff in the Careers office as soon as possible, if you are interested.

Any students who have been doing volunteering throughout the year should come to the Careers office and see Mrs Boukaseff for Volunteering certificates.

### Library News

This fortnight in the library the culling of old books continues and the organising of the shelves to make resources accessible is a work in progress!!!

We have announced the winner of our Book Week Writing Competition!!

Hooray!! Ursula from Year 8 is our 2012 Winner



Ursula chose her Book Prize and is enjoying her new reading adventure.

Ursula explains below her inspiration for her winning entry:

The book I chose to write about was "Then" by Morris Gleitzman. The person I chose to interview as an everyday hero was my sister, because she likes to help the environment. The book is about two children who keep running away from war and that's when their amazing adventure starts.....to learn more read this amazing book! Ursula



### eBooktrailers

Earlier in the year Saba from year 7 took up our competition challenge to create an eBook trailer. This was sent into a national competition run by the National Year of Reading 2012. We are still waiting to see how our entry went!! In the meantime we have Saba's entry playing on our new LCD screen pictured below is Saba, Rachel and playing on the screen is Saba's fantastic eBooktrailer!



Year 7 students are now very excited to be making their own eBooktrailers now that they



have seen Saba's. Get involved and put your eBook trailer in the library foyer too!!

Ms Langelaar Teacher Librarian

### Our MATEs come to Visit

On Wednesday 7th November 130 students from Years 3 & 4 came to visit from Ermington Public School as part of our M.A.T.E. programme. The Marsden Alliance Transitional Experiences (M.A.T.E.) offer students insight into what high school is like and showcase some of what Marsden has to offer.

The visiting students and their teachers enjoyed a variety of activities including archery in PDHPE; cooking some delicious orange cupcakes in Food Technology; creating volcanic eruptions in Science; learning some Chinese in LOTE; creating poetic bookmarks in English; showing off their improvisation skills in Drama; and processing their own handprint photos in the Visual Arts darkroom. Thank you Mr King, Ms De Palma, Ms Dalal, Ms Mo, Ms Hunt, Ms Rose and Mr Simaitis.

A very big thank you to the Marsden students who assisted to make the M.A.T.E. programme such a success. Thanks to our Year 7 guides - Alex G, Hugh, Jordan, Ray, David M, Lisa, Zoe, Yasmine and Jessie. In the kitchen the primary students all enjoyed working with our Year 9 and 10 Food Technology students - Kristen, Emily, Annabelle, Joanna, Vickie, Rachael, Tommy, Matthew, John, Victor, Emanoeil. Photography in the Visual Arts darkroom was made easy with the assistance of Kerryn and Jessica from Year 8.

Over the next few weeks we will be having M.A.T.E. visits from some of our other Learning Alliance partners, including Meadowbank, Melrose Park and Ermington West Public Schools.

Trish Swinkels  
Yr 6-7 Transition Co-ordinator

### Article in the Northern District Times

**Finding the drive: Marsden High Sports teams need set of wheels**

TRANSPORT can be the main barrier to getting students involved in sport, and it is one that

Marsden High School PD/H/PE head teacher Andrew King is hoping to remove. The school is in the process of creating a talented sports program but have found transport and the costs involved to be a major issue.

"Transport costs are going up and as a result of that, the costs are passed on to the students and the school," he said. "Unfortunately that puts a restriction on what we can actually do." So they are hoping the community can help the school obtain a bus. "Our talented sport students will be out and about playing in graded competition and also against other local schools in the area to strengthen the quality of our teams," Mr King said.

The school resumed playing grade competitions for the first time in 12 years this year, with huge success so far. They have won three grand finals and Mr King is hopeful they can win a couple more.

But most of all, the bus appeal and the new program aim to inspire teenagers to achieve.

"It is about getting those kids in the school, nurturing their talent and being able to point them in the right direction" Mr King said.

The P&C has been assisting with upgrades to the school oval and new goal posts. But "in terms of support from outside the community, we have only started to look at it now", Mr King said.

The school is looking for someone to provide them with a bus, for which they will cover registration and maintenance costs.

Alternatively, a club or association could loan the school a bus for games.



## **GENEROUS SCHOLARSHIPS FOR MARSDEN STUDENTS**

Two ex-students from Marsden High School have very kindly offered to support our students with very generous scholarships. Both men have had very successful working lives. John Tuckerman was a stockbroker with RBS Morgans, Newcastle and Kim Williams who is the CEO of News Limited.

The details of the scholarships are as follows:

### **1. John Tuckerman Pinnacle Scholarships**

John Tuckerman was a dedicated student, a keen cricketer and former school captain of Marsden High School in its early years. These scholarships will be awarded as follows:

- **2 X three year scholarships worth \$500 per annum will be awarded to Year 8 students** in 2013 to follow the students into Year 9 and Year 10
- **2 X two year scholarships worth \$1000 per annum will be awarded to Year 11 students** in 2013 to follow the students into Year 12.

### **2. Joan and David Williams Scholarship**

Mr Kim Williams is an ex-student of Marsden High School and now the CEO of News Limited. This scholarship is named in honour of his parents, Joan and David Williams, who strongly supported the development of Marsden High School during the 1960's.

**One scholarship worth \$2000 per annum each, will be awarded to a Year 11 student for 2013 and 2014.**

Click on the icons for more details including an application form.  
For more information see Ms Symons in the Careers Office or Ph 9874 6544

**The closing date for both scholarships is Friday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2012.**

## 2013 Hanol Sister School Visit

**Week 4** Saturday 16 February to **Week 5** Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> February

12 nights & 13 days

24 female students + 2 female teachers from Hanol

| Date   | Day  | Evening                                | Sleep      |
|--------|--|--|------------|
| 16 Sat | Meet at airport<br>Darling Harbour & City<br>sightseeing | Dinner in the city                     | City Hotel |
| 17 Sun | Ferry to Taronga zoo                                     | Dinner in the city                     | City Hotel |
| 18 Mon | ESL Lessons MHS<br>Welcome lunch BBQ                     | Dinner with Homestay                   | Homestay   |
| 19 Tue | ESL Lessons MHS  | Dinner and Movie - Macquarie<br>Centre | Homestay   |
| 20 Wed | ESL Lessons MHS  | Korean Cultural Centre                 | Homestay   |
| 21 Thu | ESL Lessons MHS  | Dinner and Shopping<br>Parramatta      | Homestay   |
| 22 Fri | Milson Island Camp                                       |  | Camp       |
| 23 Sat |  |  | Camp       |
| 24 Sun |  |  | Homestay   |
| 25 Mon | ESL Lessons MHS  | Dinner with Homestay                   | Homestay   |
| 26 Tue | ESL Lessons MHS  | Korean restaurant with billets         | Homestay   |
| 27 Wed | ESL Lessons MHS  | Dinner with Homestay                   | Homestay   |
| 28 Thu | Depart 5:30am  |  |            |



Each week **Single with Children** provides fun and exciting activities for single parents and their children.

(Many activities are subsidised or free)

**It's a great way to meet and get to know people in your area.**

**To find out more and get a FREE copy of our social calendar**

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**1300 300 496**

Or check out our web site: [www.singlewithchildren.com.au](http://www.singlewithchildren.com.au)



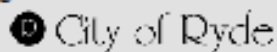


Cultural Festival begins with food at 6 pm and cultural dances from around the world  
Free event for everyone!

**Friday, 16th of November** at Marsden High School, 22a Winbourne St, West Ryde

\$15 registration fee per band, register at: [www.younglife.org.au/both](http://www.younglife.org.au/both)

Guest judges include: **Steve Henderson**: Singer/Songwriter/Producer, Ensemble coordinator at AIM;  
Marsden's own **Panapa**—Big Guy of X Factor Australia Fame with a guest performance!  
& **Liz Elleson**, music blogger



# Community Services EXPO 2012

*A project of the Holroyd Parramatta Multicultural Network in collaboration with the Hills Holroyd Parramatta Migrant Resource Centre.*



## Featuring:

- ❖ Over 50 Information Stalls
- ❖ Information sessions on Centrelink Payments and Services, How to hold a safe party, Healthy lifestyles and Energy Efficiency
- ❖ One-to-One career advice
- ❖ Entertainment
- ❖ Free sausage sizzle



**Date: Wednesday  
21<sup>st</sup> November, 2012**

**Time: 10am – 3pm**

**Venue: Parramatta Town Hall  
Church Street Mall  
Parramatta**

For more information, contact:

Aurelia Rahman – 9687 9901  
arahman@thhpmr.org.au  
or  
Rosemary on: 0402 316 586

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# Roselea Public School Fete 2012



**Things to Do!**

- Thrilling Rides
- Petting Zoo
- Pony Rides
- Face Painting
- Crazy Hair
- Fabulous Kids Crafts
- Wizard Workshop
- Cupcake Decorating

**Things to Buy!**

- Toys & Games
- Pre-loved Books
- Plants
- Lolly Stall
- Pre-loved Clothes
- Raffle & Silent Auction
- Chocolate Wheel
- Showbags & Novelty Gifts

**Things to Eat!**

- Sushi
- Asian Food Stall
- Home-made Cakes
- Coffee & Tea House
- Sausage Sizzle
- Gelato & Slushies
- Fairy Floss & Donuts
- Hot Chips



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Just Cuts Carlingford

## Fun for all the Family!



**Saturday 17th November 2012 10am till 4pm**  
**549 North Rocks Rd, Carlingford 2118**



## 'Independent Learning' in High School

In High School there are two types of work:

| COMPULSORY WORK  | INDEPENDENT LEARNING   |
|--|--|
| <i>These are the things that your teacher specifically tells you to do:</i>  | <i>These are the additional things you do, if you have no other schoolwork to do that night, to improve your understanding of your subjects. For example:</i>  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Homework</li> <li>- Assignments</li> <li>- Preparing for tests</li> </ul> <p>Note: If you have a huge amount of homework for a subject and it will take more than 20 minutes for just that subject, complete 20 minutes of work then have your parents write a note in your diary to your teacher telling them you did 20 minutes on that subject. Your teacher needs to know if the work they are giving you is taking too long!</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Reading</li> <li>- Reviewing what you have been learning at school that week</li> <li>- Extra practise on questions you find hard</li> <li>- Research on an area you are interested in learning more about</li> <li>- Making a mind map about what you have been learning</li> <li>- Making study notes on a topic</li> <li>- Improving your touch typing skills</li> <li>- Reading ahead in your textbook</li> <li>- Improving your study skills</li> <li>- Doing work from a different textbook or study guide for one of your subjects (check the school library, local library and bookshops).</li> </ul> |

Here's how it works in high school. You don't just do the things your teacher tells you to do like you did in primary school. In the first year of high school you should be aiming to do on average around an hour of schoolwork a night on most nights including weekends.

This is what you do in this hour:

1. Do homework first. Not every subject will give homework every night.
2. Then work on any assignments you have or tests that are coming up.
3. If these two things take less than an hour to complete, then use the rest of that hour to start independent learning work.

Some nights you will not have time to do any independent learning. Other nights you will have no homework and will spend the whole hour allocated to schoolwork working on independent learning tasks. Your teacher may even give you a sheet that has suggestions of independent learning work for that subject. If you are unsure, you can always ask. But one of the biggest components of independent learning in high school is making your own study notes or summaries. You can learn more about how to make study notes on this website: [www.study-skills-handbook.com.au](http://www.study-skills-handbook.com.au)

## How to Study for a Test in High School

There are many different types of assessments in high school. One of the types that you may not be familiar with is a topic test. This is more than just learning a list of spelling words or having a test on what you have been learning in Maths.

A topic test may be testing you on a few weeks' worth of work, and may even cover more than one topic! You will have material in your exercise book to learn, worksheets, your textbook – all sorts of things that you did on that topic over a number of weeks.

Unfortunately many students do not know how to study. They think you just read through your book a few times and hope you remember everything. That is not an effective way of studying.

*So here's a big secret to success in high school:*

Reading is the SLOWEST most INEFFECTIVE way you can study. It will work if you are pretty clever, but it will take much longer to learn everything. And here's the thing, it definitely does not work in the senior years. There is way too much content to just read it through and remember it. So you may as well learn how to study properly now!

We all learn in different ways and within each of the following steps there is much scope for individual learning differences. The way to find out what works best for you, is to try as many different techniques as you can during the early years of high school.

*Here's the short version of how to study for a test:*

1. Make study notes.
2. Learn the notes by testing yourself on them.
3. Do lots of questions as practise.

But you need a bit more explanation than this! So when you are told about a test or exam, follow the steps below.

### 1. FIND OUT EVERYTHING YOU CAN

Find out everything you can about the test. What topics are being tested, what types of questions there will be (multiple choice, short answer), how long the test will be, how marks are allocated.

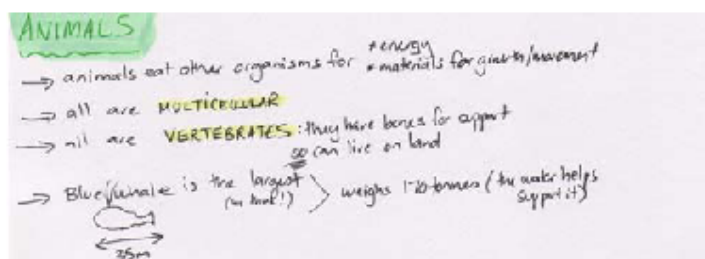
### 2. ASK IF UNSURE

If you are not sure what you need to study or how to study make sure you ask your teacher until you are clear. If the opportunity arises, then ask in class, otherwise ask your teacher if you can see them before or after class sometime. If you are still not clear, ask your parents to give your teacher a call to clarify things.

### 3. MAKE SOME STUDY NOTES/SUMMARIES

As you begin to study for a test or exam in secondary school one of the first things you need to do is to make some study notes or summaries.

- Get some paper, ruled or blank is ok.
- Look through your exercise book, your textbook and any sheets.
- For each heading or section, start making point form notes about the main things you will have to remember for the test.
- Don't write great big long sentences.
- Try and keep the points short and put things in your own words.



The reasons we make study notes/summaries are:

- When you just read through things they don't stay in your head very well. Even if you read through them over and over this is a very inefficient way of studying.
- By thinking about what is important and how you can write it down in a condensed form the info starts to move into your memory.



- This also helps you ensure you understand what you need to learn. When you start trying to reduce information to the key points you will quickly discover when you don't understand something.
- Sometimes the information will be spread out over many many pages in your textbook and also be spread across a number of different places like sheets and exercise books. Making summaries allows us to reduce the amount of pages we have to keep reading over by bringing everything we need to learn together in one place in an organised and easier to learn way.

#### 4. ASK FOR HELP

If you came across things you did not understand or were not sure of when making your notes ask your teacher or parents for help. You may also like to show your teacher and parents the notes you have made to get some feedback from them about what you could do to improve.

#### 5. LEARN THE NOTES

The next stage is to start getting the information into your memory.

*Don't just read the notes. Don't just read the notes. Don't just read the notes. Don't just read the notes. Don't just read the notes. Don't just read the notes. Don't just read the notes. Don't just read the notes. Don't just read the notes. Don't just read the notes. Don't just read the notes.*

Do you get what we are saying here???? The biggest mistake students make is they think study is just reading things over and over until hopefully some of it sticks in your head. The right way to study involves extra steps after reading. What you do is read a section of your notes then TEST YOURSELF on what you have just read.

You could test yourself in the following ways:

- Seeing what you can write down without looking at the notes and then checking to see which bits you got wrong.
- Seeing what you can say out loud without looking at the notes and then checking to see which bits you got wrong.
- Getting someone to test you.
- Making flashcards on things you need to learn in your notes and testing yourselves on these.
- Writing a list of questions as you read your notes then seeing if you can answer them after you finish reading.
- Remember this great technique: look, say, cover, write, check!

*Which is correct? When studying.....*

- Just read your notes over and over.
- Don't just read your notes, test yourself on them!

#### 6. REPEAT STEP 5 OVER AND OVER AND OVER

Repetition is the key to remembering things. So test yourself over and over and over on your notes until you find that you are starting to remember the information easily. This is why it is a good idea to start early and spread your study out over all the time before the test.

#### 7. DO LOTS OF PRACTICE

This mean you need to do as many different questions as possible to see if you can apply what you have learnt to different types of questions.

Ways you can practice:

- Your teacher may give you a revision sheet or a past examination paper to do.
- You could go back in your textbook and pick out questions to re-do, particularly ones you found hard.
- Your school library may have another textbook in a different brand or a study guide for that subject and you can do the questions in that book.
- You can re-do any exercises or activities you did during the topic.
- Some schools will put extra revision activities up on the school website for you to download.
- Some textbooks come with a CD with extra questions or a supporting website with extra questions.
- If you feel you have nothing to practice from ie no questions to do to see if you understand the work ask your teacher or even ask your parent to buy you a book you could use to do questions from - most of the big bookshops will have an educational section.

#### 8. ASK FOR HELP

Throughout this whole process, anytime there is something you don't understand you must ask for help. Don't ignore any problems, or let them build up, see your teacher and ask about them as quickly as possible.



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