

Hutt Valley High School News

Te Kura Tuarua O Te Awakairangi

Dear Parents and Caregivers

During this week, after the hurley-burley of a Monday dominated by media inquiries about the MCAT exam, I have been the recipient of a flurry of messages centred on appreciation of support for students under pressure through circumstances not of their making. A grandmother from the central North Island told me of how she was asked not to mention MCAT as her grandson – a high achiever – was so upset about the test. A young man here at school told me of his strategy, which was to accept that he was in trouble and to focus his time on the Achieved and Merit questions in the hope that he could salvage something from the test. His strategy will have been replicated by others and no adjustments to marking schedules can compensate for that. It's disappointing that a national assessment produces such responses, rather than being a scaffolded series of tasks that allows students to demonstrate what they know.

Stress on secondary students is a significant concern right across the country, and counselling services are under pressure to cope with the level of support needed. Schools are taking the steps they can, and in the case of schools in the wider Hutt Valley we have just implemented a Wellness cluster, working in concert with the Ministry of Education, to increase co-ordination and support across the region. We hosted the first meeting of that group here at school, with a good turn-out from the region. At our next meeting we will be looking at what individual schools are doing to focus on wellness and to reduce pressure on students. The issues are centred on ensuring that what every parent wants for their child – that they are happy and well – is at the core of practice.

In that respect it's worth making a comment on what is coming up in the next weeks for our students. There are two weeks of holiday prior to the school derived grade exams. These are what used to be called "mock exams" but they are not. They are held under full exam conditions and each year are the source of derived (or estimated) grades for a number of students who for some reason are unable to sit their external assessments; usually because of illness, death in the family or other high level event. For such students these exams become the "real" exams and the grades produced by them become their final results. So, they're important.

My advice to students is to take one week for yourself to rest and recuperate after the scurry of completing internal

assessments at the end of this term. Take the time to rest, to sleep, to allow the human demands of a busy term to settle. Then in the second week, work to a timetabled revision sequence that gives adequate preparation time for each of the exams to come once school resumes. Treat it as a job, with scheduled hours, including rest breaks, and the revision will be done without late night last-minute pressures and in a way that builds confidence about the exam and the readiness to perform. These are not events to approach in a "turn up and hope" fashion. That causes stress and unhappy outcomes. With a plan properly executed, exams need not be stress events, or at least the stress associated with them can move into a positive mode of grappling with a challenge and coming out on top.

As we move off to the holidays, I want to thank students and staff for the myriad of things that have made this term. We are a large and busy place, and the talent that each shares make this place work. Thanks especially to the many parents and caregivers whose volunteer efforts help us to thrive. There are many friends of the school who help us out right across the sporting, cultural and academic fronts. There are also those who support us by donations, of cash or kind, and those people too make a very real difference. When I think about the huge amount of good will upon which this school is based it is quite touching. There is a common desire to see our students happy, safe and successful, and a great number of people who could spend their talent and energy in more financially rewarding and selfish endeavour don't, because they understand that there are few things more important to our society than giving young people the best possible range of opportunities and the support and encouragement to exploit them. Done well, this builds the basis of the future health, happiness and growth of our country.

Thank you all for what you have done this term and best wishes for a time to relax and recharge.

Ross Sinclair
Principal



Congratulations to:

★ Congratulations to the following who featured in the Hutt City Youth Awards on Thursday:

Michaela Judson 12PL won the WelTec Hutt City Youth Award for Service to the Community, with a very impressive list of service of over 200 hours and representing NZ St Johns internationally at a competition and winning all events she was in.

Ex-student **Rakshana Chandrasiri** won the Westpac Hutt City Youth Award for Overcoming Adversity.

Ex-student **Jeremy Richardson** couldn't beat out Julian Dennison, aka Ricky Baker, for the Arts award, neither of them were available as they are currently performing in Europe.

Mathusha Paraneetharan 9BKTS performed a most beautiful traditional Indian dance with wonderful precision and conviction.

Sera Rawson 13DM, **Conor Lennon** 13EL, **Annabelle Sik** 13RO and **Saskia Hazlewood** 12OC performed for 45mins leading in, and also a great performance item during the awards as the HVHS Saxophone Quartet.

End of Year details for Senior Students

Monday 10 October to Tuesday 18 October
Year 11—13 school exams (timetable below)

Wednesday 19 October to Wednesday 2 November
Normal classes for all senior students

Thursday 3 November
Year 11 and 12 students - normal classes
Year 13 students - final day with a student led assembly in Spell 3 and Principal's BBQ

Friday 4 November
Year 12 Prizegiving - 9.00 am, school hall
Year 11 Prizegiving - 11.45 am, school hall

Monday 5 December
Year 13 Graduation Ceremony - 7.00 pm, Hutt City Church

Students are expected to wear correct school uniform and parents are welcome to attend. The Year 13 Prizegiving is followed by a supper to which students are asked to bring a plate. These are special occasions and we look forward to sharing them with you.

Looking Ahead

September

23 Last Day of Term 3
27 Year 9 and 10 STEM Day
28 Board of Trustees Meeting, 5.30 pm

October

10 First Day of Term 4
10-18 Senior Exams
19 HVHS Hoscars, 6.30 pm
20 Hotuwaipara Maori Awards Evening, 6.00 pm
24 Labour Day Holiday
25-26 Level 2 Health and Safety Course
25 HVHS Sports Awards, 6.30 pm
26 Board of Trustees Meeting, 5.30 pm
26 HVHS Rock Concert, 7.00 pm
27-28 Level 2 Health and Safety Course
27 HVHS Art Show, 5.00 pm
27 HVHS Gateway Function, 6.30 pm
31-1 Nov Level 3 Health and Safety Course

November

2-3 Level 2 Health and Safety Course
3 Last day for Year 13 students
4 Year 12 Prizegiving, 9.00 am
4 Year 11 Prizegiving, 11.45 am
10 NCEA Exams begin
11 Year 9 and 10 Learning Conversations

2016 NZQA Information

NCEA fee payment direct to NZQA

- Payment of NCEA fees via the school had closed
- NZQA will accept 2016 fees directly from candidates. Candidates can log in to the NZQA website and pay their 2016 fees online using the learner login.

Late fees and reminders

- Any NCEA and New Zealand Scholarship payments made after 1 December 2016 will incur a late fee of \$50
- NZQA will send a letter to all affected candidates by late October reminding them they have unpaid 2016 fees.

Admission Slips to the Nov-Dec NCEA Exams

- Students will receive their NCEA Exam Admission Slips after they complete their school exams in weeks 1-2 of Term 4
- These slips will have the exams that students are entered into, the date and the time.

Winter Sports Photographs now online

The Winter sports photographs are now available:

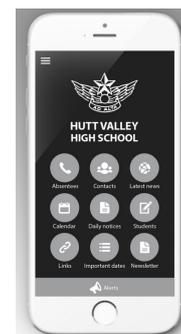
[Inphotography.co.nz/store](http://inphotography.co.nz/store)

The password is HVHSSPORT

You may download the photographs for your own electronic record keeping or professional printing purposes. Or if you would like prints delivered to your door simply add them to your cart.

HVHS APP

HVHS now have a Mobile App for notices, events and other important School messages. To download the app for free on iPhone or Android click this link. <http://onelink.to/w5btdp>



Practice Examinations October 2016 (Double check the start times)

Practical sessions for Arts and Technology subjects will be running most days from 2.00 pm, check with your subject teacher for details

Date	NCEA L1	NCEA L2	NCEA L3
Monday 10/10 8.45am start	Science	Accounting German	Geography Spanish
Monday 10/10 11.30am start	French Spanish	English	Statistics German Music
Tuesday 11/10 8.45am start	English	Media Studies French Music	History Japanese
Tuesday 11/10 11.30am start	Economics Maori	Mathematics Mathematics & Statistics	Biology
Wednesday 12/10 8.45am start	Maths	Physics	Drama Economics French
Wednesday 12/10 11.30am start	Accounting German	Biology Maori	Physics Maori
Thursday 13/10 8.45am start	Classics Geography Music	Chemistry	English English Language
Thursday 13/10 11.30am start	Business Studies	Classics Economics	Business Studies
Friday 14/10 8.45am start	History	History Japanese	Chemistry Media Studies
Friday 14/10 11.30am start	Japanese	Business Studies Spanish	Classics Accounting
Monday 17/10 8.45am start	Physical Education & Health	Geography	Calculus
Monday 17/10 11.30am start		Drama	Art History
Tuesday 18/10 9.30am start			English Language

Library closure

The Library will be closed on Monday 10 and Tuesday 11 October - the first two days of Term 4.

This is due to it being used for Senior Exams.

Student Contact Details

Are your contact details changing over the holidays?

Its easy to forget to advise the school when you move house, change cell phones etc, but parents/caregivers are asked to contact the school and advise us of any changes to caregivers/address/phone/emergency contact details. As we move to more use of email, it is important we have your correct email address. Please update us either by phone or on the email address below:

Phone: 566 4584 or

Email: to principal@hvhs.school.nz

Office closed during holidays

Please note the school office and the Resource Centre will be closed for the holidays.

Normal office hours will resume on Monday 10 October.



Term dates - 2017

Term 1 Monday 30 January - Thursday 13 April

Term 2 Monday 1 May - Friday 7 July

Term 3 Monday 24 July - Friday 29 September

Term 4 Monday 16 October - Tuesday 12 December

YEAR 9 AND 10 AWARDS - TERM 3

We enjoy acknowledging the successes of students as they strive to achieve their best. Each term we present awards to two students from each form class to reward them for aspects of their learning.

For Term Three we focused on the most valuable form class member. Congratulations to the following students on receiving an award:

Year 9		Year 10	
9BAPR	Alexander Lewis Cayla McFadden	10BEPA	Peter Hazeldine Hannah Moffat
9BKTS	Eleanor Humphrey Nina Simmons	10CHGR	Dylan Benson Zara Lee
9GOFL	Margaret Hunter Maneil Ravji	10EDVI	Thuvaraka Arunthavathas Andrea Stead
9HABL	Madison Dye Oliver Pickering	10FEHD	Jordan Hunt Mark Tredrea
9HSHR	Hannah Kells Aidan Robins	10FRBV	Simran Gaundar James Ropati
9HLYN	Helena Cvitanovich Jackson Taylor	10GEKL	Thomas Aldridge Alex Hawke
9HYGW	Bradley Durie Romilly Potter	10HURG	Thomas Langley Alani Sherrard
9LANV	Max Abbot Eva Wagner	10OABT	Jhansi Hawkins Paige Thistoll
9MXTM	Liam Coffey Paige Schroder	10SKTJ	Megan Cussins Donald Persigas
9PMDM	Katie Barr Dane Pearce	10VEDY	Gwen Clayton Ridge Studd
9SPPF	Max Hahn Luka Robinson-Davis	10WDST	Charlotte Earp Lucy Vannisselroy
9TANB	Aaliyah Churchill Jackson Zhou	10WSPN	Daniel Langdon Brydon Wyatt
9TVDR	Imali De Silva Zachary Langridge		
LSU	Dean Smith Amber-Maraea Crawford Lamb Platt		