Welcome to 210 New Yr 7s

210 new Year 7 students commenced school on Tuesday January 31st. It was a great opportunity to explore the school, meet their teachers and make new friends.

A reminder to all students and parents—of the Yr 7 BBQ on March 5th. All of our staff look forward to meeting you.

Strong 2006 VCE Results

Mid December saw the annual release of VCE results. These were again strong results for the Northcote Year 12 class of 2006. For those who like statistics, 6% of study scores were 40+ and a further 6% were study scores of 38 and 39. The average study score overall was
29.5. 27% of ENTER scores were above 80. In addition, 99% of Northcote's students satisfactorily completed the VCE. These statistics compare very well with state averages and with other like schools. The Girl's Dux for 2005 was Eleanor Lewis, who achieved an ENTER score of 99.65. The Boy's Dux went to Matthew Elvey Price who received an ENTER of 94.70. A great set of results for our the school. Congratulations to all our students, staff and long suffering parents!

Record Tertiary offers!

The VCE group of 2006 pursued a wide range of courses at tertiary level. At the time of writing, a record 93% had received a first round offer of tertiary placement!

RMIT University  43 offers
Uni. of Melbourne  22
La Trobe University  11
Victoria University  11
Monash University  6
Deakin University  6
Swinburne Uni.  2
Aust. Catholic Uni.  3
RMIT TAFE  21
NMIT TAFE  12
VUT TAFE  2
Box Hill TAFE  2
Swinburne TAFE  4
William Angliss  1
Other Tertiary  16

Total (offers to date)  163

These figures do not include all VCE students, some of whom are still awaiting an offer (there are five more rounds to go), went directly to employment or an apprenticeship, or applied for a Tertiary Place outside Victoria. The statistics again illustrate the very strong correlation between student interests and the tertiary course they choose, clearly a result of extensive counselling over the final three years of schooling.

2006 also sees record numbers of Northcote students attending RMIT and Melbourne University. Northcote now sends more students to each of these two Universities than any other Northern suburban government or private school.

Principal’s Welcome

Dear NHS Students and Families,

“Welcome Back to School!”

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you all back to school. I want to extend a special welcome to all of our new students and to their families. You are now a part of the wonderful Northcote High School Community!

Last year we celebrated our 80th anniversary and heard the many stories of the impact NHS has had on the lives of our students. We celebrated our past students and rich traditions while we also looked forward to the bright future being created by our current and future students!

This is a very exciting time of the year for students and for parents. As a student, you may be looking forward to new experiences, new subjects, and new friends and setting new personal goals as you move to the next year level. As parents, we see our student grow in age, size and maturity. In high school, we see them develop as young adults and independent thinkers who begin to apply their academic preparation to their own personal pathway.

Class of 2006
For our VCE class of 2006, the past few weeks have brought the first round offers that provide another step down those pathways. It was wonderful to see 93% of our students receive first round offers and we look to the second round for the last few placements. On behalf of our NHS community, I also want to extend special congratulations to our Duxes: Girls Dux, Eleanor Lewis with an ENTER 99.65 and Boys Dux, Mathew Elvey Price with an ENTER 94.7. Mathew was also recognised as one of the top 25 students in Australia as an Australian Medallist in the Australian Mathematics Competition and one of the top 8 Senior Students Australia-wide.

Congratulations and best wishes to all of the members of the Class of 2006! (See Tertiary Offers Report).

2007– ALL (Achievement, Learning, Linking)

Northcote High School has a strong tradition of excellence. We strive to create an environment of respect and achievement where ALL students can learn and become confident participants in society. We want to expand the ways in which we work with students and parents to support and further develop such a culture of achievement. Last year, we expanded our Parent Teacher Conference Days, reconfigured the VCE Centre to support a dedicated study atmosphere and provided additional tutoring at critical study periods. All teachers worked with all of our students to provide important learning activities and support while promoting student study, leadership and involvement. In 2007, we will build on our improvement efforts and our partnerships with parents.

We will continue our work on our major school initiatives. Our Leading Schools Project – Year 9 students will have an identified Year 9 teacher team and a curriculum focus built around active global citizenship and this year’s overarching question, “What does it take to change the world?” The construction and reconfiguration of 7 classrooms into a Global Citizenship Centre will take place during the first semester. While this construction will mean we are tight for space during first semester, the result will be a facility designed for the needs of Year 9 students. Success for Boys Initiative – We will further support teacher professional development in best practice strategies that not only support the needs of boys, but effective strategies for all students. Innovation & Excellence Cluster – We continue our work with our local primary schools to develop student leadership skills and promote student action teams. VCE Achievement – We will continue our focus on high achievement including work with ACER to closely analyse our VCE data and professional learning teams identifying the most effective strategies and support for achievement at all levels. Dialogue Project – Working with La Trobe University, we will continue to be a part of this exciting and important project designed to promote and support interaction and dialogue between members of our community. VELS- This year, we will be fully implementing the Victorian Essential Learning Standards and the new reporting system. Over the first term, we will update parents on the assessments and new reporting system that has been put into place for 2007.

Communication, Community, and Commitment

Our NHS school-parent partnerships are strong ones. We want to build even greater communication and parent involvement. We need your feedback as we work to expand and develop our key communication tools - our newsletter, website, parent teacher conference days, parent forums, coordinator contacts and student reports. Working together, we strive to increase the critical support for student growth and learning. We join with you in having both high expectations and strong support for your student.

We are also committed to making purposeful contributions to our students’ learning and to our community, locally and globally. At the end of last year we were granted an Australian Government Community Water Grant of over $40,000 within one of the largest community water saving grants in Australia. The $450,000 Darebin Green Precinct project includes six schools and four community sites with combined annual water saving of 14 million litres. We will be working closely with our DGP schools and community groups to not only save, reuse and improve the health of our local water resources, but also teach and model conservation and responsible water use. We want to also link to many of the other environmental projects taking place with the dedicated efforts of our parents, families and community groups.

Questions and Support Contacts

Finally, we know that at this time of the year, there are always a number of questions. We are here to support you. Some of your key coordinator contacts are listed on page 3

Again, I welcome you back to school. Northcote High School is truly a vibrant and dynamic place. It is alive with positive energy and learning. We are so glad you are a part of our
school community. These are exciting times in your student’s life and in education around the world. We appreciate greatly your involvement and support and look forward to a great year.

Gail Davidson, Principal
Gail Davidson Principal

Key contacts for 2006

Head of Middle Years (Years 7-9) – Ms Soula Bennett
Yr 7 Coordinators—Ms Lynn Delahunty, Mr Bill Neal 9488 2343
Yr 8 Coordinators— Ms Lorraine Haack, Mr Matt Woodward 9488 2320
Yr 9 Coordinators—Ms Jane Archer, Mr Martin Ramsay 9488 2310

Head of Senior Years (Years 10-12) – Ms Di Corkery (Ms Jocelyn Hill is on leave in term 1)
Yr 10 Coordinators—Ms Angela Odorisio, Mr Geoff Thomas 9488 2327
Yr 11 Coordinators—Ms Voula Kanellopoulos, Mr Michael James 9488 2312
Yr 12 Coordinators— Ms Seema Maharaj, Ms Mel Bingham 9488 2312

Our practices on the use of student images

Like most schools, at the start of each year we outline our policy regarding the use of student images.

Images in the Newsletter, Ripples and similar publications mostly for in-school circulation
At Northcote High School we celebrate the efforts of our students by mentioning their participation in school events and their achievements in this newsletter. As you would have seen, we use photographs of students and sometimes examples of their own work in this newsletter. We also use photographs and examples of their work in the school magazine Ripples, at the end of the year.

A text only version of the newsletter is put on our website. Thus the photos seen here in this newsletter are only available in the printed version or “hard copy”. (This makes the electronic version of the newsletter a little dull!)

Images on the School website, electronic publishing or in public relations material
Small group photographs of students involved in school activities and excursions are also on our website, although here we do not identify these students by name, age or form group. Where larger scale photos are used (such as on the front of our homepage or in our prospectus) or where the student could be easily identified, the school will seek parental consent before publishing information and/or photographs

Images taken by parents at Special Events
Unless special arrangements have been made, we allow parents to record school performances, as this creates a memento that can be shared with other family members. Video or audio recording is permitted at school under a copyright licence paid by the Department of Education (DET) on behalf of all Government schools (AMCOS/ARIA license). The only exception to this rule can be live performances, where use of flash photography may be prohibited, as it might disturb/temporarily blind those on stage.

In the Media
We sometimes invite local press and state media to school events and they are expected to follow DET and school policy on the publication of photographs of students. When a press story is about an individual or small group achievement, the school will seek parental consent before approving or passing on information and/or photographs.
If you have any concerns about how photographs of your child may be used by the school, please let us know.

Yr 10 students being photographed by the Northcote Leader in mid 2005. In this case, all students and parents involved had to give their approval.

Overseas visitors for 2007

In terms of hosting international visitors, 2006 was our busiest year for Northcote High School students and parents, with large groups visiting from Japan and China in July—August.

This year the following visit are planned:

**From China in August—for about one week**

Huaibei Number One High School delegation. Hosting an English speaking student from our sister school in China is a fantastic experience and an enjoyable way of developing an overseas friendship. The students are usually in Year 10 or 11, but quickly make friends with Northcote students of all ages.

**From France in July—for about three weeks**

The Department of Education has asked us to help host three or four Year 10 or 11 French students this year. If you are studying French and or might be interested in the 2008 school trip to France, this could be for you!

**From Thailand in July—for about two weeks**

Contacts in Thailand have been negotiating with us to bring a small group of English speaking Thai and expatriate students here in July. The students would be from an International school in Thailand. Expatriate students are the sons and daughters of company and embassy officials from around the world who work in Thailand. English would be the spoken language of many of these students.

**Homestays needed**

We will again need some families willing to host our visitors. Is it difficult? No!! Many Northcote families are pleasantly surprised by how easy it all is.

Former student Jessie Jorre wrote:

“ I was in Year 7 … (when) my mum and I decided to have two girls from Japan to stay. Mai and Aki acted like they were big sisters to me. We all taught each other our languages and about the different cultures. We took them to Luna Park, and the beach. They loved Smorgy’s restaurant. They taught me their Japanese basketball tricks and we all made fantastic Sushi together. When they left, they were both crying. It was a real pleasure to have them”

Interested? Contact Mr Murphy: nm@nhs.vic.edu.au or by phone 9488 2300

Council Elections 2007

The process of the elections remains unchanged from previous years, but like most government schools we will work to the following timeline. There are 2 parent and 2 staff positions available.

**Wednesday 31 January:** Term 1, 2007 commences
**Friday 16 February:** Call for nominations
**Friday 23 February:** Nominations close.
  - Display of list of candidates, nominator and seconder outside School Office
**Friday 2 March:** Distribution of ballot papers by mail if necessary
**Tuesday 13 March:** Close of ballot at 4.00 pm.
**Wednesday 14 March:** Counting of votes and declaration of the poll
**Thursday 15 March:** From this date the new council is able to meet.

If you are interested in being a member of School Council, please contact the Principal.
150 new lockers arrive!

YEAR 7 LOCKERS
Lockers will be allocated in the first week of the year.
LOCKS - All students will be allocated a new combination lock

YEAR 8 LOCKERS
Lockers will be allocated in the second week of the year.
NEW LOCKS - $10
SECOND HAND LOCKS $5 see Mr Erlandsen (Technology Staffroom - B Block)

YEAR 9 – 12 LOCKERS
Yr 9 – 12 Lockers will be allocated within the first four (4) weeks of the year.
ANNUAL LOCKER RENTAL FEE -
$20 per locker or $10 each if shared
NEW LOCKS - $10
SECOND HAND LOCKS $5 see Mr Erlandsen (Technology Staffroom - B Block)

STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS
A number of lockers are available for students with special needs. Please present a letter or current medical certificate to Mr. Erlandsen (Technology Staffroom - B Block Lower)

Year 9-12 Locker Allocation

Welcome back! NHS is delighted with the new locker bay completed late in 2007 resulting in approximately 150 extra lockers. Locker allocation for Years 9 – 12 will be completed by week 4.

Yr 9 – 12 LOCKER ALLOCATION GUIDELINES
- Students may request a shared or individual locker
- The annual locker rental fee ($20) must be paid in full prior to locker allocation
- Shared lockers will be allocated first and will have preference for top and middle lockers
- Individual lockers will be allocated after the shared lockers
- If a ballot is necessary shared lockers will be given priority

HOW DO I REQUEST A LOCKER?
Add your name to the LOCKER EXPRESSION OF INTEREST SHEET
- Year 9 & 10  B BLOCK Notice board (Ground Level)
- Year 11 & 12 VCE Study Centre Notice board
If requesting a Shared Locker ensure you write both you and your partner’s name

Securing a locker
- Complete the Locker Allocation Form (see below)
- Bring both your Annual Locker Rental Fee and Locker Allocation Form to:

WHERE: ROOM B6
TIME: 1st half of LUNCHTIME
WHEN: TUESDAY 06 FEBRUARY to TUESDAY 13 FEBRUARY
Looking at www.nhs.vic.edu.au

Parents! Tired of finding the fortnightly newsletter scrunched up at the bottom of the school bag?  
Don’t really know when the next parent teacher meeting is?  
Want to know when the next overseas trip is planned?

It’s all here at  
www.nhs.vic.edu.au

You can use our website to access
The latest newsletter (text only version),
See all the school dates,
See the timetable
And work out who you need to contact at school,
As well as a host of other things!
The web site is regularly updated, the front page (at right) every 4 weeks!
Like to see something else on the website? We’d love to hear from you!

NHS Open Day 2007

Do you have friends and neighbours who want to know more about Northcote High School?  
Every year Northcote welcomes some 400-500 primary school parents and students at its Annual Open Day. In 2007 this will be held on

**Wednesday May 2nd, from 2-6.45 pm.**

A parent information session will be held at 7.00 pm.
The Open Day is designed for Grade 5 and 6 students and their parents, but of course, all prospective primary schoolparents are welcome.
Further information will be posted directly to Primary Schools. But in the meantime, please spread the word!!
(formal classes finish at 12.40 on the day)
Parent Teacher Meetings

Last year, after extensive feedback, we modified our parent teacher meetings to provide more time for discussion.

The first Parent Teacher Meetings will be on Thursday March 29th, the second last day of Term One. The day’s interviews will commence at 10.00 am, and conclude at 8.00 pm. An appointment system will operate as currently, with staff taking breaks for meals at various times (to be advertised). Classes will not run on the day, but students are expected to attend interviews with their parents to discuss the report with their teachers.

First Parent Teacher Meeting for 2007
Thursday March 29th

- All day meeting program (times TBA)
- Appointment system & allocated “drop in” time
- Interpreters available
- Students attend with families to discuss progress

Other Parent Teacher Meetings for 2007
For Years 11 & 12 students & parents
Wednesday August 15th, times TBC
For Years 7-10 students & parents
Thursday September 20th, times TBC

Dobsons Uniform Shop Opening Hours

OPENING HOURS PH. 9488 2317
FRIDAY 8.30 - 11.30 AM
TUESDAY 12.30 - 4PM

We are located in the main building, up the stairs, first door on the right. We remind parents that we do NOT accept cheques except for payment of accounts. If you would like to set up an account please ask for an application form at the uniform shop. You can arrange for us to do credit card transactions over the phone if necessary. We also have EFTPOS facilities.

We incorporate SECONDHAND UNIFORMS. We accept only CLEAN items in good condition. The seller receives 70% of the selling price. 24% is donated to NHS Student Services and 6% retained by Dobsons for processing fee. Items should be dropped off at the uniform shop. If we are closed you may leave them at the front office BUT make sure you fill in the 2 Forms provided and attach to the bag.

Sellers of 2nd Hand uniforms who nominate to be paid directly into their bank accounts need to bring in their BSB and account numbers.
Community Mail Bag

VCE Private Tuition English, ESL, Literature, History
I am an experienced VCE teacher of English, ESL, Literature and History offering private tuition in 2007. I am registered with The Victorian Institute of Teaching. I am currently teaching VCE English and VCE ESL and am familiar with a wide range of current VCE print and film texts. Tutoring to lower Year Levels is also offered.
For further information or to arrange a tutoring session, please call Jan on 0414 584 599 or 9489 2490.
Referees are available if required.

EDUCATION MAINTENANCE ALLOWANCE - SEMESTER 1, 2007.
Applications must be lodged at the School by WEDNESDAY 28TH FEBRUARY 2007.
The Department of Education, Employment & Training has instructed that late applications will not be accepted.
Letters and application form will be mailed to all families this week. Forms are also available from the General Office.
Ms Deborah Pyke, Student Support Services Coordinator