Tertiary pathways report 2009

For 2009, 94% of Northcote’s VCE cohort who applied for tertiary places received a "first round offer" in January 2010. (This proportion equals last year’s record) The breakdown of University and TAFE offers was

- Offer of University Studies in Victoria 132 (71.5%)
- Offer of TAFE studies in Victoria 47 (25.5%)
- Other Tertiary offer in Australia 6 (3.2%)

The breakdown of tertiary courses has changed only slightly in the last five years. RMIT, La Trobe University, University of Melbourne and RMIT (TAFE) continue to be the top four most popular tertiary providers. The following figures are for first round offers:

- RMIT University 50
- University of Melbourne 21

La Trobe University 26
Victoria University 9
Monash University 6
Swinburne University 8
Deakin University 5
Aust Catholic Uni 6
Uni of Ballarat 1

RMIT TAFE 15
NMIT 14
William Angliss 5
Victoria Uni. TAFE 3
Swinburne Uni. TAFE 5
Kangan Batman 2
Box Hill TAFE 3
Other tertiary providers 6

These figures do not include all VCE students; a further 5% are still awaiting an offer (there is another round to go) and a small group have gone directly to employment or an apprenticeship, or have applied for a Tertiary Place outside Victoria.

Strong VCE Results for 2009

December 14th saw the release of VCE results for 2009. For our Year 12, the highest ENTER score achieved was 99. Three other students achieved ENTER scores over 98. For those who like statistics, 29 of our students earned an ENTER of 90 or above, and 97 (that’s almost half the cohort) earned an ENTER of 70 or above. The median study score achieved was 29.5 Over 6% of study scores were over 40.

There were again many stories of individual success, with Nick Rickard’s outstanding result in VCE Media amongst them. Nick’s film *The Wrong Step*, will be shown as part of the VCE Season of excellence at the Melbourne Museum. Two other students—Laura Pearce and Kate Fayle were nominated for their excellent VCE textile work.

This year’s duxes will be Patricia Lee (99), left above and Ronald Nguyen (98.15) right above. Both are local students who have been with us since Year 7 and their hard work has been inspirational for the community.

Congratulations to all our students; another great year for the school!!
Welcome Back!

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

This is a very exciting time of the year for our students and their families. A beginning of the school year signals new experiences for our students who are embarking on the next stage of their personal and academic journeys. They will be looking forward to new experiences and settings, new subjects, new teachers, new (and old) friends and to setting new personal goals.

For our incoming Year 7 students and their families, the start of secondary school marks a significant and exciting beginning. As parents this year you will see your child grow in age, size and maturity. Continuing the developmental process of becoming a young adult, an independent thinker and an individual with a focus on their own future goals and dreams.

NHS has a proud and rich tradition of involvement beyond the classroom and we encourage our students to be involved. Students can pursue passions in music, performance, visual arts, international trips, social justice, environment, science, mathematics and English competitions, sport, debating, magazine production, leadership, public speaking, chess, camps, technology and fashion parades! There really is something for everyone.

Class of 2009

For our VCE class of 2009, the past few weeks have brought the first round of tertiary offers that provide another step in the realization of our students’ achieving their goals. It was wonderful to see 93.4% of our students receive their first round offers and we look with interest to the second round to see the final few placements.

On behalf of our NHS Community, I want to extend our sincere congratulations to all members of the Class of 2009 with special congratulations to our Duces: Girls Duex – Patricia Lee, with an ENTER of 99.0 and Boys Duex – Ronald Nguyen, with an ENTER of 98.15. Patricia and Ronald, like many of the class of 2009, immersed themselves in the NHS experience. They were involved in learning in our classrooms, they were involved in a myriad of school activities beyond the classroom and they were participants in community clubs, activities and events.

We are once again delighted with our students and their results. I would particularly like to mention that this year we had two students who achieved an ENTER of 98 and above. Congratulations also to Duan Kim 98.95 and Arum Kim - 98.6 for their excellent results. Congratulations and best wishes to all of the members of the Class of 2009. (see Tertiary Report front page and NHS website for a full report)

NHS 2010 – Learning, Participating and Connecting with our Community

Northcote High School has a proud and 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. This year we are committed to continuing to develop our focus in the classroom. This year we have a strong focus on curriculum enrichment at Years 7 and 8 and will continue our work across the school is providing high quality learning in every classroom. NHS has worked hard on developing a culture of high student achievement; which is strongly supported by our teachers, students and their parents. Each year we work to further expand the ways in which we connect and support our students as they grow and develop academically, socially and emotionally. In 2010 our improvement efforts are focused on continuing to expand the ways we support students learning in the classroom. Our teachers will be working in Faculty Teams developing instructional practices and assessment strategies that supports and extends all students. We strive to strengthen our environment of respect and achievement and our culture of caring, commitment and contribution.

This year is also the final year of our 4 year strategic plan – in terms 3 and 4 we will be participating in an external review process and developing our strategic plan for the next four years.

At both the national and international level there are calls for schools to be more responsive to the expansive changes that are taking place in our world so that students are better equipped to face the inevitable challenges that rapid change brings. At NHS literacy and numeracy remain the cornerstones of our work. But concurrently our teachers are strongly focused on our students becoming successful learners who are creative, innovative and resourceful. Supporting the development of skills in areas such as, social interaction, cross disciplinary learning and thinking, creativity and integrated use of digital media which is essential in the 21st Century workforce.

In 2010, we continue to expand and improve the learning opportunities, programs and facilities available to our students:

• Our Year 8 students will be participating in the High Resolves initiative linked with the University of Melbourne (plus four other schools in Melbourne). The High Resolves initiative seeks to motivate young people to be purposeful global citizens, through students participating in highly engaging activities and experiences. Our World, Our Choice is the key message that underpins the program. It acts as a guidepost for young people to walk a pathway of service in a complex world and to learn the skills necessary for driving constructive social change. The program will also see leadership opportunities for our Year 9s and 10s and will be lead by Jocelyn Hill, Geoff Thomas and Lorraine Haack. I encourage you to visit the High Resolves website www.highresolves.org

• The Year 9 – Global Citizenship Program and Centre continues its dynamic interactive program, linking student learning with our community locally, nationally and globally. In 2009 all our students participated in 5 day camp at Roses Gap and the City Centre Program. At the Year 9 graduation students were awarded with various levels of Global Citizenship Awards reflecting their participation and collaboration in school and community activities. The graduation was a great opportunity for students and staff to reflect on their learning and to celebrate their achievements together.

• Science Programs and Partnerships continue to be a feature of the programs at NHS. The Year 10 STELR Program in partnership with the Australian Academy of Technological Science and Engineering focuses on renewable energy, while...
teaching the principles of chemistry, physics and biology. Our students and parents can also participate in Bringing Science to the Community and Science in Schools bringing eminent scientist to our school, the Tall Poppies - Science Youth Summit, Free Radicals (VCE Chemistry), and In 2 Science Program focus on engaging our students in cutting edge science learning and research.

• Our Faculties and their teachers are planning and are preparing for the many activities and excursions that will enrich the learning experience and allow our students to be active learners. From Changing the World at Lunchtime, to Art / Technology and Multimedia events to Music Performances, to LOTE Competitions, to Environment Actions Teams and Celebrating Chinese New Year...our teachers will be working with our students to provide rich and real learning activities that stretch our student thinking and understanding and create a myriad opportunities for students to connect, lead and get involved.

• International Links – This year, once again we will be participating in a series of international links. In Term 1 our students will travel on a cultural and language study tour to France. In term 2 our Intermediate and Senior Music students head to China to play at the World Expo in Shanghai and to visit our sister school in Huaibei, flying out of Beijing 15 days later.

• Sport and Music - Our students are certainly living the word 'involvement' with our Music and Sports Program. I am sure participation in 2010 will provide many personal and team challenges and much fun and excitement. Our Sports Program continues to grow, with record numbers of students participating individually and in teams in 2009. Last year we celebrated exemplary achievements at Zone and State level. Our Music Program also continues to shine with our various performance groups and individuals winning accolades and awards from Disneyland to Generations of Jazz in Mt Gambier to South Street Competitions in Ballarat.

In the Grounds and in the Classrooms at NHS

Over the summer our buildings and grounds have been withering with contractors (creating havoc):

Our School is moving, yes – up, down side etc. this is a result of soil instability and we have had to down a number of areas across the school including the hall, B Block, the Music Centre and the library. This large project is almost complete, but has resulted in some areas of our school grounds looking like they have endured surgery. Rest assured when complete we will address the cosmetic issues! The remaining work will be completed within the week but will require our patience and flexibility, particularly in relation to parking and playground access.

THE HALL is currently undergoing refurbishment we are essentially renovating the main hall section including a stage extension, upgrading electrical, lighting and sound upgrade, and multimedia, and we are creating a much needed drama storage area and also 2 x small teaching spaces sound proofed and therefore suitable to be used as music instrumental spaces, has been restumped and is no longer moving towards Merri Creek! This has been a mammoth task with a large team of contractors essentially digging 3 metre deep and wide holes for new foundations, providing a secure base to 'lift' the hall.

NHS GREEN – continues to do positive work. We have applied for the Federal Government $50 000 Solar Schools Grant. We continue to grow our relationship with the Friends of Merri Creek and thank them for helping us to tend the new plants in our car park.

IT AND COMPUTERS – Our roll out of IT equipment and upgrades continues annually – last year we were assisted by the Federal Government computer grant. In addition to new desktops and lap tops we have also upgraded the benching and infrastructure in many rooms and around the school, ensuring we can support 21 century learning in our classrooms. Over the holidays we have completed a number of projects including the upgrading of rooms 5 and 6 and our media computers.

SCHOOL-HOME COMMUNICATION - We are proudly a school community. We know well the importance of working together to support our students, but also to support one another and the ties that make a strong community. Over the past few years we have worked to increase the types and quality of home-school communication and connections. We need your input and feedback as we work to expand and develop our key communication tools – our newsletter, website, parent/student teacher conference days, forums coordinator and teacher contacts and student reports. This year our particular focus is reviewing our website, which we know is a popular source of information regarding our school. Nick Murphy will be actively seeking your feedback.

SCHOOL COUNCIL ELECTIONS - We will be holding School Council elections early in the school year. The important key dates for nominations and elections are listed in this Newsletter. Information regarding school council roles and responsibilities are available from the school.

IMPORTANT EVENT Year 7 - Student and Parent BBQ

The Year 7 BBQ will be on Monday 01 March - this is a wonderful school and community event and I hope all of you can join us.

Once again I welcome you back to school and a special welcome to our new students and families Northcote High School is a vibrant and dynamic place, alive with positive energy and learning. We are delighted you are a part of our community and we greatly appreciate your involvement and support. We look forward to a great year together - Learning, Participating and Connecting with our community.

Kate Morris

PRINCIPAL
School Council Elections 2010

The process of the elections remains unchanged from previous years and like the most government school we will work to the following timeline.

There are 3 parent and 2 DEECD positions available.

Monday 15th February: Call for nominations
Monday 22nd February: Nominations close.
Wednesday 24th February: Display a list of candidates, nominators and seconder outside School Office
Monday 1st March: Distribution of ballot papers by mail if necessary

Tuesday 9th March: Close of ballot at 4:00 pm.
Tuesday 9th March: Counting of votes and declaration of the poll
Thursday 17th 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, Ms Morris

Our Practice on the use of student images

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.

An electronic (pdf) version of the newsletter is put on our website. Thus the photos seen here in this newsletter are also available in this size in the electronic version.

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

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 (DEECD) on behalf of all Government schools (AMCOS/ARIA license).

The only exception to this rule can be live performances such as the school production, 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 this case, all students and parents involved had to give their approval.

Lost property Reminder
It is very difficult to return lost property to students who do not have items clearly marked. Please make our job easier by marking all items of clothing and equipment with the students name and form.
Dear Year 7 Parents and Guardians.

The year 7 Camps are almost upon us!

The cost of the camp is $245. Please ensure the balance of the payment is made in full by 8th February 2010. Failure to do so may result in a student not being able to attend camp!! Families that have any issues paying by the due date should contact Marie de Rango on 9488 2302 or Ms Lynn Delahunty on 9488 2343.

Please note, Northcote High School is not responsible for any medical or emergency costs incurred whilst your child is on camp. Any costs incurred will be the responsibility of the child’s guardians. It is recommended that every student attending camp be a member of the ambulance service or have health insurance. (also see Page 7)

Any student requiring medication whilst on camp must bring double the amount needed. One lot is to be handed to NHS staff prior to departure, the rest is to be kept by the student at all times. Students requiring Ventolin must carry it on them at all times.

Checklist:
1. Please complete all sides of the medical / permission form and return it with payment.
2. Every item on the equipment list must be brought
3. Students are also required to bring their own lunch and drink for the first day of camp.

Any questions?
If you have any queries regarding the camp, please feel free to contact me at school on 9488 2343 or email at Lynn.Delahunty@nhs.vic.edu.au.

DROP OFF and COLLECTION POINT is outside the Gym.
Don’t forget, the bus leaves at 9.00 am sharp.

School Leaders 2010

Captains
Ben Malandra and Phoebe Shui
(Below right)

Vice Captains and Senior Student executive
Varun Khatter, Alec Deasey, Zoe Garkinis and Marissa Butera

International Students
Huei Hsein (Becky) Wang
Hanh My Vu

Music
Bianca Le
Laura Venables
Luca Urson Passi

Sport
Phoebe Godfrey
Lily Potocnik
Isaac Brown
Nick Kenyon
Mary Zhang

Year 8:
Anastassia Krstevska
Oscar Peterson

Year 9:
Nayri (Kako) Black
Christian Barkho

Year 10:
Alexei Ymer Welsby
Nicoletta Marakis

Year 11
Luke Dakis-Corcoran
Azra Susic
Adanac Camp for Yr 7

Enjoy the short drive to ADANAC CVC through the beautiful Yarra Valley.

**On-Site Activities**
- Canoeing
- Flying Fox
- York Variety
- Mountain Biking
- Set Making
- Table Tennis
- Trips
- 6's Alley

**Facilities**
- Fully catered and zoned dining rooms
- Multiple bathrooms
- Function rooms
- Indoor games
- Outdoor games
- TV
- DVD

**Setting**
The 137 acres of undulating parkland with patterns of natural bush that Adanac is situated in the beautiful countryside. Nestled on a hill overlooking the Yarra Valley, Adanac is easily accessible from Melbourne via the Eastern Freeway, where the picturesque valley is nestled between the Yarra River and the mountains. Adanac offers a range of accommodation options, from single rooms to family units.

**Accommodation**
- Accommodating up to 500 guests
- Accommodation options include single rooms, family units, and camp sites
- Each room is equipped with a private en-suite facility.

The short drive ensures you can enjoy the relaxed and tranquil atmosphere of the Yarra Valley.
2010 Freeza Program

Love music? Want to produce and promote live music events? The City of Darebin Youth Services are currently looking for 10 dedicated and enthusiastic young people, aged 15 – 18 to become members of their Freeza program throughout 2010. The Freeza program is a Victorian State Government funded initiative which gives young people the opportunity to lead the planning and staging of live music and cultural events within their local communities. The one year program gives all participants hands-on experience and accredited training in the Australian music industry through extensive event management, mentoring and networking opportunities. In partnership with NMIT Performing Arts Department, all graduating committee participants will attain a unit of accreditation in “Work Effectively in the Music Industry”. For more information and application packs contact the City of Darebin Youth Services on 8470 8001 or see Ms. T. Pavlatos in Room 11. Kate Duncan from the Darebin Youth Services will be available at Northcote High School on Thursday 4th February at lunchtime for further information. Thank you, Teena Pavlatos Student Services Coordinator.

Education Maintenance Allowance Sem. I, 2010

Applications must be lodged at the School by FRIDAY 26TH FEBRUARY 2010. The Department of Education, Employment & Training has instructed that late applications will not be accepted.

Letters and application forms will be mailed to all families this week, if you fail to receive this information, forms can be collected from the General Office.

IF YOU ARE ELIGIBLE, PLEASE MAKE SURE THAT YOUR FORM HAS BEEN LODGED WITH THE OFFICE. Teena Pavlatos Student Support Services Co-ordinator

Student Insurance Cover (camps)

The school has received information regarding Student Insurance cover. As camps can be a higher risk activity than normal school we strongly recommend that parents/guardians consider having ambulance cover or consider taking out student accident cover. One source of student accident cover is StudentCover through EBM Insurance Brokers. StudentCover is offering 12 months cover for $29. This insurance is NOT taken through the school and must be organised directly with the insurance company. The school cannot directly endorse this insurance company and parents/guardians may wish to investigate alternate insurers.

If you would like to see more about StudentCover you may visit the website www.studentcover.com.au or about EBM Insurance Brokers (among the ten largest insurance brokers in Australia) at www.ebminsurance.com.au.

Sport at NHS in 2010

Mr Price and Ms Young coordinate Sport at Northcote High School. We are both located in the Gym Office. In 2009 we had over 80 teams compete for the school with many making state finals. 2010 is an exciting year with the completion of our new Multi Purpose room attached to the gymnasium and a new Physical Education teacher Ms. Ingrid Mibus joining our team. Meeting and seeing what sporting likes and abilities our new Year 7 students have is always a lot of fun for our Sport teachers and Sporting Captains who help coach and offer new opportunities for all of our new and established students. Term 1, 2010 starts off with Year 7-12 District Cricket from 19th Feb – 10th March and a Swimming Carnival which is held at Northcote Pool all day on Tuesday 2nd March. Our local group of schools who we compete against include Reservoir, Mill Park, Thornbury, Banksia/LaTrobe, Northland, Merrilands, Lakeside and Preston Girls. Term 1 Sports we compete in include Swimming, Cricket, Volleyball, Softball, Baseball and Tennis. More news and dates will follow in the next newsletter. Students or parents can visit or ring Mr. Price or Ms. Young if they have any queries.

Da Shan (Mr Price)
Parent Teacher Meetings Term One, 2010

Parent Teacher Meetings this term will work to a new format, following extensive feedback from parents and staff.

1. Thursday March 18, 1.30-7.40 pm, for parents of students surnames A-K
2. Monday March 22, 1.30-7.40 pm, for parents of students surnames L-Z.

An online appointment booking system will operate via the school website. Further details shortly.

This means it is the responsibility of families to arrange appointments electronically.

Classes will run until 12.30 each day, but students are expected to attend interviews with their parents to discuss the report with their teachers.

Note: Several teachers will be involved in District Sports on this day. Unfortunately, this clash of event is unavoidable.

Key Contacts 2010

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:

Yr 7 Coordinators – Ms Lynn Delahunty, Mr Nhan Do, Ms Cathy Lester 9488 2343
Yr 8 Coordinators – Mr Geoff Thomas, Ms Lorraine Haack 9488 2320
Yr 9 Coordinators – Ms Sarah Green, Ms Elisabeth Lenthal 9488 2382

Head of Senior Years (Years 10-12) – Ms Helen Anderton 9488 2396

Yr 10 Coordinators – Ms Adele Fattore, Mr Martin Ramsay 9488 2327
Yr 11 Coordinators – Ms Megan Rolls, Mr David Norman 9488 2386
Yr 12 Coordinators – Mr Chris Manousopoulos, Ms Voula Kanellopoulos 9488 2396

VCE Season of Excellence

Every year Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority conduct a program celebrating the most dynamic and exemplary work created by top VCE students in the state. The VCE Season of Excellence is a great way to experience the scope and high quality work year 12 students produce. The exhibition can be seen from 27th of March to the 20th of June at the Nation Gallery of Victoria, ACMI and Melbourne Museum. Northcote High School had three students short listed in 2009.

I am proud to announce the Nicholas Rickard’s film The Wrong Step (at right) has been selected for Media. Nick spent an exceptional amount of time and energy in creating this film and he deserves all the recognition for his efforts.

Bruce McLaverty
Faculty Leader (Arts) and Media Teacher

ATTENTION YEAR 7 Parents!!

This is your ONLY HARD copy of the newsletter for the year!

All remaining newsletters for Yr 7 families will be emailed. If you have not done so already, write to info@nhs.vic.edu.au requesting the newsletter by email.