



KOTARA HIGH SCHOOL

We Aim High

We acknowledge the traditional custodians of this land, the Awabakal people, and pay our respects to Elders past, present and future.

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From The Principal's Desk

Welcome to the academic year for 2020.

Kotara High School has had a fantastic start to the year. Our students have come back to school in good spirits, and we have had a seamless first few weeks. Our new year seven students are settling in very well, and are making their way around the school confidently and easily. I would like to say welcome to all of our new families that accompany our new year seven cohort, as well as the new families that have come with a large number of new enrolments we have processed this year already.

Our student numbers for 2020 are extremely strong and I can say that we now have the largest stage four (years seven and eight) in the history of the school. As our community grows, so does our school, and I am expecting these numbers to grow further in the coming years. We have been challenged to room all of our classes for the 2020 academic year, and I thank the tireless work of our timetable team to make this happen. However, I can say that the department are aware of our situation and I am working closely with them to "room proof" our school in to the future.

With the increase in student enrolment for 2020, we also have accommodated another class within our Support Unit. We have been lucky to welcome students in to a new Autism Class, as well as three new students in our Hearing Impaired class. All students are settling in well and have adapted to their new school very quickly. To accommodate the new class the bottom of D Block was renovated over the Christmas Holidays and I would like to thank the Department's Asset Management Unit for their coordination and execution of this work. It was an incredible feat for such a short period of time, but they have delivered impeccably. Looking ahead at trend data and the demographics of our area I foresee more support unit classes in the near future.

With an increase in student numbers Kotara High School has also seen a number of changes, and additions, in our staffing. The 2020 academic year has meant nineteen staffing changes that are distributed across all faculty areas. We are very fortunate to have gained some amazing experience and expertise in our new staff, and I look forward to working with them in the coming years, as well as seeing them interact with our community.

In line with staffing changes, Kotara High School has also employed an additional Head Teacher Wellbeing from 2020, to work alongside Mrs Spicer-Worth. We have decided to employ a further executive in this area because our numbers have grown to such a point, that when our initial Head Teacher Wellbeing was appointed by the Department, the school was at half our current size. This model will enable each executive to work along side a deputy principal and focus upon three-year groups instead of six. I am looking forward to the implementation of this new model and the extra support it will provide for our students. Our second Head Teacher Wellbeing is Mrs Germon from the TAS Faculty.

From the Principal's Desk cont.

Mrs Germon comes to the role as an experienced classroom teacher, year advisor and with a wealth of experience in the wellbeing area of the school. Mrs Spicer-Worth will focus on years 7, 9 and 11, and Mrs Germon 8, 10 and 12, in 2020.

Our Swimming Carnival for 2020 took place in week two and I would like to thank all of the staff for their support of the event, but in particular, Mr Paterson, for his organisation and execution of the day. The carnival was well attended by students, and their behaviour and participation was exemplary. Our Cross Country and Sports Carnivals will take place later in the year.

The Best Start Year Seven testing will take place in week five of this term. This is only the second year of this testing initiative, but I can say, from last years data, that it is a very important diagnostic tool for our teachers. Best Start does not replace NAPLAN, but is a different piece of the learning puzzle, and a piece that conveniently comes to us at the very beginning of our students high school journey. Further to this, the Minimum Standards testing for year 10, 11 and 12, will start taking place shortly and information on testing opportunities will be communicated through specific year group letters. Please contact Mrs Shields at the school if you have any questions around either of these testing models.

Last year I mentioned that the department are looking to replace our retaining wall that circumnavigates our entire quad and basketball courts, and I can say that this work will happen this year. This is quite a large undertaking and will be extremely disruptive to the day to day running of the school, however, it is essential work that needs to be completed as soon as possible. The specification drawings for the work have been finalised and they look very impressive. The new design of the wall will not only be a positive aesthetic change to our school, but it will also be a practical one, as tiered seating will be built into the wall. Our year eight architecture class and Mr King have had a large hand in the design of the space which is very exciting for the students and I am looking forward to sharing the finished product with these students, the rest of the student body and the community once it is finished.

To finish I would just like to say thank you for all of your support at the start of our academic year. The feedback from our community, from both new and existing families, has been very positive this year so far. I look forward to working with everyone in our community in 2020 and ensuring that our school is the best it can be.

Mr Snedden

Diary Dates

Term 1

4 - 6 March	Year 7 Camp
10 March	KHS Careers Expo (Year 9-12)
11 March	Whitecard Training
13 March	Pink Stumps Day (Out of Uniform Day)
16 March	Year 7 - 10 Parent Seminar
16 March	P & C Meeting
28 March	Record Fair
2 April	Cross Country
3 April	Year 7 Vaccinations
6 April	Year 6 into Year 7 2021
7 April	Parent Information Night Year 11 - 12 Parent
9 April	Teacher Interviews
9 April	Last day Term 1

Term 2

27 April	Staff Development Day
28 April	First day of Term 2
29 April	ANZAC Assembly

Homework Centre



Kotara High School Homework Centre will operate every Tuesday and Thursday morning in the school library from 8am-9am.

The Homework Centre allows students the opportunity to catch up on any school work, complete homework/assessments and seek help from our Learning and Support Teachers for any work they are unsure of.

Mathematics

Digital Resources in Mathematics 2020.

This year the KHS Mathematics Faculty is using 3 essential platforms to enhance student learning. They are:

- OneNote Notebook – an online platform used to deliver all lesson content that students can access anywhere at any time.
- CANVAS – Class OneNote's are linked to student CANVAS accounts allowing parents and students to see set homework tasks, course outlines, assessment schedules, the PDF textbook and other resources.
- Cambridge HOTmaths – Online Learning platform connected to our primary textbook. Students can access interactive resources allowing them to watch step-by-step explanations, complete concept walkthroughs and quizzes as well as complete tasks set by the teacher used to monitor student progress and development.

It is imperative that in each lesson students have a functioning device to best utilise these essential resources.

Sport - Term 1

The term started with an amazing day at the swimming carnival on the 4 February at Lambton Pool. The house captains were named in the days before and did an amazing job raising school spirit, particularly in the house relays.

Participation in the carnival was great, with over 60 students going to the Zone Carnival on 19 February at Wallsend Pool. We are very proud of all the swimmers involved and want to send a big thank you to all of the spectators that turned out on the day.

Some other interesting sporting endeavors that students have been pursuing this term include:

- Hunter Region Touch Football Trials
- Hunter Region Rugby Union Trials
- Hunter Region U15 Rugby League Trials
- Hunter Region Girls Water Polo Trials
- Hunter Region Girls and Boys Soccer Trials
- Hunter Region Knockout Volleyball - Boys and Girls
- Hunter Region Knockout Basketball - Boys and Girls
- Hunter Region Knockout Water Polo - Boys

Sport has been a big part of the first term. Hopefully this is a sign of big things to come in 2020. We have representatives in many sports throughout the year both in the Hunter Region and Statewide Knockout Competitions. Thank you to all of the teachers, parents and students who have been part of sport in any role this term.

Mr Justin Paterson - PDHPE / Sports Organiser

Canvas

Canvas is Kotara's Online Learning Management System that enables staff and students to interact in a connected learning environment. Parents have the opportunity to observe the work, assignment and quizzes that their students are completing online.

Canvas can be accessed via the [Kotara High School website](#). To observe your students work 'pair' using the following instructions - [Canvas Instructions for Parents](#).

Parent Portal

Parent Portal gives parent/carers access to a variety of information including your child's timetable, daily attendance records, reports, school calendar, etc.

Parent Portal is accessed via the school website: www.kotara-h.schools.nsw.gov.au. If accessing Parent Portal for the first time use your email address the school has on record and the access key (emailed to all new families) as the password. It is essential you keep a copy of your username and password as this will remain the same for the entire time your child is at school. Once Parent Portal is set up you can download the Sentral for Parents App to access Parent Portal via your mobile.

Sentral for Parents App - this is a free App which can be downloaded from the App Store or Google Play.

TIP: Use your Parent Portal username and password to set up the App.

TIP: The school sends out notifications/messages via this App & we recommend turning on your notifications so that you receive our messages.

TAS news

Whats new!

TAS welcomes two new permanent staff members to the TAS Faculty, Jordan Newton and John Wilkes. 2020 also sees the introduction of new Stage 5 curriculum in all Industrial Technology, Food Technology and Child Studies courses. Please stay tuned for ongoing updates about new courses.

HSC Exam Results 2019

Congratulations to the TAS students and staff who achieved outstanding results. Hospitality, Industrial Technology and Food Technology all achieved Band 6 results.

These results were also acknowledged at state level with Lauren Donoghue's 'Distinguished Achievers' accolade for 9th in the state in the Hospitality Examination.

Year 7

Congratulations to our Year 7 students on a great start in the Agriculture and Food module of the Technology Mandatory course.

A reminder that footwear is an essential component for all student's safety in the workshop environment. Please ensure that leather enclosed and non-slip shoes are worn so everyone can participate.



The Australian Wood Review

Jared Horsfield was recognised nationally as the 'People's Choice' winner in The Australian Wood Review Student Awards 2019 with his 'Opulent Study Desk'.

A big thankyou to the school community for supporting Jared's entry which will now be considered for further awards. Jared's Industrial Technology teacher Anthony Ryan is also congratulated on this fine result.

We all enjoy celebrating students achievements and we hope that 2020 is another round of positive student effort, achievement and success.



Support

Support Class 2020

This year a new Autism Support Class was established at Kotara High School. Our school now has four Support Classes: two Autism Support Classes, a Multicategorical Support Class and a Hearing Support Class.

The addition of a new class resulted in an upgrade of our existing classroom spaces. Stage 1 was completed in the school holidays, Stage 2 will begin in the near future. Students and staff are very happy with the new classroom spaces that the Department has provided.



Community Access

Students from our four Support Classes participate in a fortnightly Community Access program. Students walk, catch buses or trams to various locations around our local area such as Westfield Kotara, Charlestown Square and Marketown. Community Access is a highlight of our fortnightly timetable!

Our junior Support Class students participated in their first Community Access last Friday. Students walked over to Westfield, ordered their lunches and enjoyed being within the community for the afternoon while learning valuable social and money handling skills.

Senior Support Class students will expand their Community Access program this year to include visiting historical and cultural sites to incorporate outcomes from Modern History Life Skills and Society and Culture Life Skills.

Sensory Room

Our sensory room is a therapeutic space with a variety of equipment that provides students with additional needs with personalised sensory input to help these students calm and focus themselves so they can be better prepared for learning and interacting with others.



Visual Arts

First Class Exhibition

Museum of Art and Culture, Lake Macquarie
15 February - 5 April 2020

This exhibition showcases the high standard of work produced by the HSC Visual Arts students from the Hunter and Central Coast. Seven of our Kotara High School students from the Year 12 2019 cohort were selected to exhibit their Body of Work. We would like to congratulate:

- Preston Brook
- Lauren Donoghoe
- Kaylyn Fairhurst
- Jasmmine Hammond
- Ainsley Knox
- Serena Rossi, and
- Lincoln Trevett

on their achievement in being selected into this prestigious local event.



Masters & Apprentices Exhibition

Maitland Regional Art Gallery, Maitland
8 February - 10 May 2020

Three of our current Year 12 Visual Arts students are exhibiting their work as part of the Masters & Apprentices exhibition at the Maitland Regional Art Gallery.

The exhibition comprises of 21 artworks from the Lakeview Collection of Old Masters including Picasso, Goya and Miro. To compliment these works young artist were invited to make artworks responding to the select artworks from the collection.

We would like to congratulate Lauren Hughes, Abbie Jones, and Ruby Sommers for being selected into the highly regarded exhibition. We look forward to seeing the talent of these student develop throughout their HSC studies this year.

Moran Arts Foundation Photography Workshop

A full day digital photography workshop will be run for 30 students from Year 7-12 on Tuesday, 25 February 2020.

The day is supported by the Moran Arts Foundation which is a philanthropic, non-for-profit organisation whose objective is to support the arts in Australia through the Moran Prize, Moran Galleries and the School Photographic Workshops.

The day will be run by a professional photographer and each student will be given a digital camera to use during the day to explore different techniques used in Photography, and visual storytelling. Student will also print their most successful images from the day. We are looking forward to an exciting experience!

Year 12 Visual Arts Study Day

On Friday 21 February Year 12 Visual Arts students participated in a Study Day in collaboration with Newcastle Gallery, University of Newcastle and Watt Space.

Students attended an interview with Australian artist George Gittoes and then viewed his exhibition. They also attended sessions on the role of galleries and curators and Senior HSC markers discussed what elevates a BOW submission. It was a valuable experience for students.

World Challenge Nepal

You may be unaware that every two years since 2012 students from Kotara High School have been participating in the World Challenge program. During this time over 70 students have travelled to developing countries including Thailand, Cambodia, India and most recently Nepal.

The World Challenge expeditions are student run, and require students to book accommodation in the country, organise transport, research recreational activities and work together to literally run the trip. During their expedition, students participate in a multiple day trek often sleeping in hammocks or tea houses and also work on a project. During the 8 years it has been running, students have built classrooms, walls, toilet facilities, drinking facilities and donated thousands of dollars to those who need it most. During this project phase students engage with the local community, working together to make improvements.

During the 2019/2020 Christmas holidays two groups of students from Kotara High School travelled to Nepal with Mr Blackmore and Ms Hallams accompanying them. The two groups had the same trek and project but completed their itinerary in opposite directions. And so, they parted ways and one went to Chitwan for their project and the other up to Pokhara for the trek.

The trek saw students walk 5-8 hours a day up to Annapurna Base Camp. Mr Blackmore's group experienced snow storms, continuous rain and negative 17 degree temperatures whilst Ms Hallams groups had much milder weather and clear days. During this time, students had time to reflect and play plenty of card games with each other.

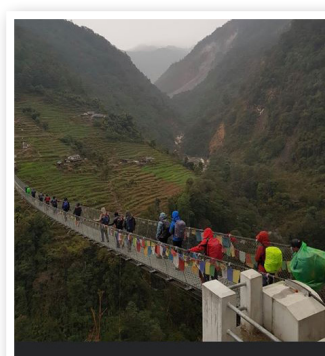
The project saw us help a rural school just out of Chitwan. We built a wall to surround their school, painted murals on lifeless school buildings and dug trenches for future works. Students engaged with the locals during the work process and in the afternoon during regular soccer games.

Between the trek and the project phase students also had the opportunity to visit the Chitwan National Park to see rhinos and monkeys, and to visit various cultural landmarks. They also spent some time shopping and eating delicious local cuisine.

Overall, the expedition was a huge success as students showed dramatic personal growth and independence throughout the trip. They had many times to reflect on their life back home and see how other people live with much less. As a teacher who went on expedition, it was an amazing opportunity to be around such inspirational students and be a part of the learning experience. How many people get to say that they were there to literally see a persons perspective on life change forever.

Keep an eye out for future trips to be run at Kotara High School. You and your kids won't regret it!

More photos on the [Kotara High School website](#)



Careers

Careers has got off to a busy start to the year. Students in years 11 and 12, who applied to undertake a Tafe course, commenced in Week 3 and the feedback from students has been very positive.

School Based Apprenticeships & Traineeships (SBATs)

We have a number of students continuing their SBATs this year as well as two new students to the program.

- Olivia Inja is completing a Cert III Business through NAB
- Ella Baartz is completing a Cert III Retail at KFC

Three SBATs have been nominated for the SBAT of the Year Award through NSW Training Services. They are Siobhan Snedden and Elias Wabomba of Year 12 and Samantha Wheeler of Year 11. Congratulations must go to these students on this wonderful achievement. We wish them well.

Mini Careers Expo

Kotara High School is hosting a mini Careers Expo on Tuesday 10 March during periods 1, 2 and recess. Years 9 - 12 will be invited and encouraged to attend. Representatives from Tafe, University, MEGT, Novaskill, the Police Force plus many more will be available.

This is an opportunity for students to seek information and advice on various career options. The KHS Careers Team will also run an excursion to the Newcastle Careers Expo being held in May.

Local Industries, Local Jobs

An information evening is coming up for parents and students to learn more about local industries and local jobs. It will be held on Tuesday 17 March at NEX City from 6 - 8.30pm. To register: [Local Industry Local Jobs](https://www.trybooking.com/book/event?eid=587420&) (<https://www.trybooking.com/book/event?eid=587420&>)

Unique Student Identifier (USI)

Year 10 Careers lessons have commenced and students are required to bring a fully charged device and a folder to each lesson. The students have been asked to bring a photo of their birth certificate, passport or Medicare card so that they can apply for a unique student identifier (USI).

This is required if the students undertake any training such as Tafe, White card or First Aid. Students can log on to www.usi.gov.au to complete this process at home if they wish.

Careers website

We encourage students to log on to the Kotara High school careers website: www.kotarahighcareers.com. To complete registration go to the Student tab and drop down to Student Secure Area. There is a lot of useful material available.

Careers Department Website

The Careers Department website is a new resource subscription available for students in Years 10-12. All students in these years have been sent an email explaining how to register. (www.thecareersdepartment.com)

Careerlink

Every Monday students in Years 10 -12 will be emailed a copy of the job guide from Careerlinks. This email lists both full-time and part-time positions available in the Newcastle area.

Whitecard Training

A White card training course will be held in the Library on Wednesday 11 March. This is a nationally recognised course that must be completed if a person is to work on a construction site.

The course is run by an outside training company at a cost of \$99. Permission notes can be collected from the Careers office.

Career Planet App

Career Planet is a new FREE resource that shares information regarding available apprenticeships, jobs resources and career related news.

To get started, simply download the app:

1. Go to App Store or Google Play Store and type in Career Planet
2. Download Career Planet from the App Store or the Google Play Store
3. Fill out the basic sign up info and click submit



KOTARA HIGH SCHOOL

We Aim High

50 YEARS

Celebrating

PUBLIC

EDUCATION