Welcome all prospective students, parents and feeder primary schools to the inaugural 2015 Transition Newsletter.

In writing these newsletters we aim to keep you fully informed of the great work being put in place ‘behind the scenes’ by the 2015 Transition Steering Committee. The committee has staff and parent representatives and has met twice per term in 2013 to put solid organisational foundations in place, which will ensure the success of the ‘double intake’ year.

In 2015, for the first time in Western Australian Public Schools, Year 7 students will have the opportunity to enrol at KSHS alongside their Year 8 peers. This will entail KSHS transitioning up to 400 new students at the beginning of the school year. Every aspect of the change is being scrutinised to achieve a seamless transition of students from their primary school to the high school environment.

2015 Transition Coordinator
In 2013 a selection process was conducted to appoint 2015 Transition Coordinator. The successful applicant was Ms Susan Archdall. Ms Archdall is a Level 3 Teacher who has 22 years teaching experience in primary and district high schools. For the past 7 years she has specialised as a Year 6/7 teacher at Darlington Primary School and taken on an Australian Curriculum Professional Learning Facilitator role through the Hills Education Community Network. Ms Archdall has been appointed (0.6) three days per week to KSHS as the Transition Coordinator and Executive Officer of the Steering Committee. Ms Archdall also has two children at KSHS.

Ms Archdall is most approachable and happy to answer questions that parents, students or schools may have through her email: susan.archdall@education.wa.edu.au

Vision for Year 7
KSHS has a strong, focussed vision of the sense of place that Year 7 students will feel within their new school. The Year 7 classes will be housed close together with their own toilets, their own quadrangle and with easy access to the basketball courts to allow them to burn off energy during recess and lunch.

Students will have the same specialist teacher for Science and Mathematics and a separate specialist teacher for English and Society and Environment. This allows the students to have access to both subject expertise and to teachers who know them well. At the same time students will be able to embrace the full ‘high school’ curriculum by gaining access to specialist facilities not available to them in the primary school. This includes science and photography labs, home economics, woodwork and metalwork equipment, a performing arts theatre and a gymnasium.

The Year 7 Teachers will work closely with other teachers and Heads of Learning Areas ensuring that the programs offered to Year 7s prepares them for the expectations of Year 8 and beyond.
Vision for Year 8
It is essential that the Year 8s are not overlooked in this year of change. KSHS has an established reputation for their existing practices in transitioning their Year 8 students. The Year 8 Learning Team is a group of teachers who work together, across learning areas to track students through Year 8. These teachers are also allocated to the Year 8s as Mentor Teachers allowing students to get to know their teachers well and for teachers to establish strong pastoral care. Year 8s have their own area in the school to foster the feeling of wellbeing, special reward days and the Bibbulmun Challenge to help build Resilience and Pride.

Information Morning Teas
Throughout Term 1 Principal Kathy Ritchie, Associate Principal Helen Deacon, Head of Middle School Mark Pettit and Transition Coordinator Susan Archdall will be visiting feeder primary schools and hosting Information Morning Teas after primary school assemblies. It is our hope that parents will stay behind to ‘share a cuppa’ and discuss concerns or queries with us in an informal environment. This will allow us to address any issues parents raise in our early planning for the Year 7 and Year 8 transition processes. More information will become available soon on dates and venues of these morning teas.

Parent Information Evening
A Year 4-7 Parent Information Evening, which looks at the school history, facilities, pedagogy and values, is a great place to start if your family is new to KSHS. Parents will be led through the way the Year 7 and 8 teams work, the Specialist Programs available and the Academic Achievement of KSHS over many years. A few parents speak on why they chose Kalamunda for their families and there is time for a question and answer session. Most new families find this very useful.

Parent Information Evening Term 1 Wednesday 12th March 6.30pm School Cafeteria

School Open Day
School Open Days are a fantastic chance for parents and students to visit KSHS and have a look around. Families will be addressed by the Principal, Mrs Kathy Ritchie and then will be taken on a tour of the school facilities. Families who cannot make the School Open Day are welcome to book a family tour at any time during the school year.

School Open Day Term 1 Friday 28th March
Ring the school to book your 9.30 or 11.30 tour.

Orientation Days
These days have a great reputation amongst students who have attended them, in terms of giving them a ‘taster’ of the new school experience. The day will start with a brief assembly where they will meet the Principal, the Associate Principals, the Head of Middle School, and members of the Student Services Team.

Students attend for a full day getting the chance to meet some new friends and some of their teachers, touring the grounds, using the canteen and attending lessons in different rooms around the school. Previous students have reflected that they didn't feel as nervous on their first day having participated in their Orientation Day.

Year 8 Orientation Day Term 4 Friday 28th November
Year 7 Orientation Day Term 4 Friday 5th December
Year 8 reflections on their first two weeks:

“KSHS has great teachers. It’s easy to remember how to get around, I don’t even use my map now. There are lots of kids who are easy to get on with. The best thing is better sport!”

Chris Kirkman, Hillside College

“My classes are easier for me. I learned my way around in two days and where all my classes are in four days. I have my old friends at breaks and in classes people just asked to be friends straight away. The best part is getting into programs where you can really be yourself. You have more freedom and are treated more like an adult.”

Devone Tupper, Edney Primary School

“I was a bit nervous during the holidays but now I like high school better than primary school. I’ve made friends in just a few days and I am really enjoying my new subjects. The best part is the cafeteria.”

Kyal Chamberlain, High Wycombe Primary School

Parent Workshops
Transition Coordinator Susan Archdall will be offering parents of Year 6 and 7 students the opportunity to attend Parent Workshops. These workshops will look at specific information that parents will find useful in assisting their students through the high school years. Topics covered will include: Australian Curriculum, Setting up Study Areas, Timetables and Habits, Building Resilience, Sleep and Nutrition and Cyber Safety.

School Website
The school website contains a bounty of information from the background of the school to introducing the staff and the school uniform. It contains all application forms and information on the Specialist Programs as well as the forms necessary for enrolment. We are currently updating our school website and shall soon have a brand new platform for you to peruse. The website can be accessed at: www.kalamundashs.wa.edu.au/

Department of Education
We also encourage you to visit the Department of Education’s parent website at: det.wa.edu.au/schoolsandyou to access information on the Year 7 move to high school.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TERM</th>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>EVENT</th>
<th>VENUE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Wednesday 12th March</td>
<td>Year 4-7 Parent Information Evening</td>
<td>KSHS School Cafeteria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Friday 28th March</td>
<td>Open Day</td>
<td>KSHS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Friday 11th April</td>
<td>Closing Date for 2015 Specialist Program Applications</td>
<td>KSHS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Monday 19th May</td>
<td>Year 6/7 Academic Excellence Testing</td>
<td>KSHS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Wednesday 21st May</td>
<td>Year 6/7 Performing Arts Workshop</td>
<td>KSHS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Friday 23rd May</td>
<td>Year 6/7 Outdoor Adventure Testing</td>
<td>KSHS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Thursday 29th May</td>
<td>Year 6/7 Performing Arts Auditions</td>
<td>KSHS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Friday 25th July</td>
<td>Closing date for 2015 KSHS Years 7-12 enrolment</td>
<td>KSHS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Friday 28th November</td>
<td>Year 8 Orientation Day</td>
<td>KSHS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Friday 5th December</td>
<td>Year 7 Orientation Day</td>
<td>KSHS</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Newsletter 2**
In our next newsletter we will include information on:
School boundaries
Information on enrolment
Frequently asked questions and answers

In the meantime if you have any concerns or questions please do not hesitate to contact Ms Susan Archdall on 92936400 or susan.archdall@education.wa.edu.au

Regards,
Kathy Ritchie, Principal                         Susan Archdall, Transition Coordinator