



2016 YEAR 7 TRANSITION

NEWSLETTER 1: March 2016

Welcome all prospective students, parents and feeder primary schools to the first 2016 Transition Newsletter.

In these newsletters we aim to keep you fully informed of the great work being put in place 'behind the scenes' by the Year 7 Team in preparation for your students transitioning to high school in 2017.

We currently have 165 Year 7 students and they have settled in very quickly and are now well and truly beginning their high school journey. A dedicated team of staff worked hard to prepare the students for high school during the transition program and orientation days last year. Students participated in a camp early in the term to form friendships and build positive relationships with staff and students. This has been invaluable in helping these students feel part of the Kalamunda SHS community.

Year 7 Coordinator

Ms Susan Archdall is continuing in her role as the Year 7 Coordinator and a Year 7 teacher. She is teaching English and HaSS to two Year 7 classes. Ms Archdall is a Level 3 Classroom Teacher who has 23 years teaching experience in primary and district high schools. And also has two children at KSHS.

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

Parent Information Evening

A Year 4-6 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 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 16 March 6.30pm School Cafeteria. Please ring the school to confirm your place.

Please note that applications for our Specialist Programs in Outdoor Adventure, Performing Arts and our Academic Excellence Program close on April 8.

New Specialist Program for 2017

In 2012, the school commenced the Kalamunda Performing Arts program. This has gone from strength to strength and from 2017, will include a specialist music stream. When applying for the program, students will be able to nominate either a General (Drama/Dance/Music) or Specialist Music (instrument or voice) stream. This will allow those students who are passionate about music and/or part of the School of Instrumental Music (SIM) program to continue with their music program

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 2 Friday 20 May 2016

Ring the school to book your 9.30am or 11.30am tour.

Transition Days

Students in feeder primary schools will be given the opportunity to visit KSHS with their Year 6 class and teachers to experience 'a day in the life of a high school student'. They will have a school tour, attend some classes, use the canteen and get to know their high school.

Orientation Day

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 7 Orientation Day Term 4 Friday 25 November 2016.**

Year 7 Values Camp

Undoubtedly the highlight of beginning Year 7 in 2016 has been the Year 7 Values Camp. It is a fantastic opportunity for students to establish strong, positive relationships with both their new peers and their teachers in a risk taking environment removed from the academic forum. Students and teachers have reflected on the great 'flow on' into the classrooms and the establishment of a great 'bond' in the Year 7 Team.

Year 7 Student Reflections on the Camp:

Rafting: We all had to work as a team to go anywhere and I found it really hard.

The Vertical Challenge was the hardest but I couldn't wait to push myself hard enough to get to the top of all of the climbing things.

Having the courage to go on the Flying Fox (since I'm afraid of heights) but in the end I was one of the few that hung upside down on it.

Having the courage to do activities that you did not think you had the courage to do.

The hardest part of camp for me was leaving. So many good memories!

My group's first activity was the flying fox and to be honest the thought of flying on top of the water gave me anxiety. After watching my group members zip to the other side, I built courage to go on. At first I refused to let go of the harness because I was scared that I might fall. After going on it one more time I hung upside down. Even though I found it extremely difficult at first, it was an awesome experience.

Canoeing was a lot of fun and I enjoyed having a swim before going out on the water in the boats. I was in a canoe with two other people and we won the Bickley Challenge. It was just good to get wet. We capsized our boat trying to reach the instructor. We had burgers for lunch and they were really good.

Team Building! Definitely my favourite. The teacher was one of those psycho scientists that everyone likes. He was super nice though I can't remember his name. We did 3 activities. The mine field where you direct your blind folded partner around toys, Chocolate Lake, a simple but hard strategy about crossing a river, and a game with no name. You have to put out pieces of square carpet out and your teacher makes a secret trail you have to figure out. I won't go into detail, for it is so hard to explain, but I will say it was simply the best.



School Website

The school website contains a wealth 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. The website can be accessed at: www.kalamundashs.wa.edu.au

Important Dates Calendar

TERM	DATE	EVENT	VENUE
1	Wednesday 16 March	Year 4-6 Parent Information Evening	KSHS School Cafeteria
	Thursday 8 April	Closing Date for 2015 Specialist Program Applications	KSHS
2	Week 3 : 16 - 20 May	Year 6 Academic Excellence Testing	KSHS
	Week 3 : 16 - 20 May	Year 6 Performing Arts Auditions	KSHS
	Week 3 : 16 - 20 May	Year 6 Outdoor Adventure Testing	KSHS
	Friday 20 May	School Open Day Tours 9.30am and 11.30am	KSHS
3	Friday 22 July	Closing date for 2016 KSHS Years 7-12 Enrolment Closing date for 2016 KSHS Year 7 Academic Scholarship Portfolios	KSHS
4	Friday 25 November	Year 7 Orientation Day	KSHS
	Wednesday 30 November	Special Program Welcoming Ceremony (AESP, AEP, GATE, KPA, OAP)	KSHS

Newsletter 2

In our next newsletter we will include information on:

School boundaries

Information on enrolment

The Bring Your Own Device (Computer) program

In the meantime if you have any concerns or questions please do not hesitate to contact Mr Mark Pettit, Head of Middle School on 9293 6400 or Mark.Pettit@education.wa.edu.au or Year 7 Coordinator, Ms Susan Archdall at Susan.Archdall@education.wa.edu.au .

Regards,

Kathy Ritchie
Principal

Mark Pettit
Head of Middle School