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 2016.

This year the school enrolled 214 Year 7 students and they have settled in particularly well. 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 has been appointed for 2015 as the Year 7 Coordinator and 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. 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. In 2014 Ms Archdall was appointed three days per week 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
Kalamunda SHS has a strong, focussed vision of the sense of place that Year 7 students will feel within their new school. The Year 7 classes are housed close together in the L Block, 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 have the same specialist teacher for Science and Mathematics and another specialist teacher for English and Humanities and Social Sciences (HaSS). 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 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.

Please note that applications for Specialist Programs close on Thursday April 2. Outdoor Adventure Program, Performing Arts Program, Academic Excellence Program.
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 18 March 6.30pm School Cafeteria. Please ring the school to confirm your place.*

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 22 May*  
*Ring the school to book your 9.30 or 11.30 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 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 7 Orientation Day Term 4 Friday 27 November*

Year 7 reflections on the Camp:
*We walked around 5 kilometres and did some activities in Stirk Park. My favourite part of the bush walk was that I got to know lots of new people and make new friends.*

*On the Wednesday we had BYOD device day. On this day, my mentor class had a visit from Mr Cannell and Liam (the IT people) - they came to help us set our Surface Pro 3s. That day was so fun.*

*At around six in the afternoon, we all gathered around the gym with our sleeping bags ready. We had a sleepover at the school gym. For dinner we had Domino’s pizza and lemonade cordial! It was yum. After dinner, we all slipped into bed and watched the movie Cool Runnings. It was really fun.*

*Out of all the days, Friday was definitely the most eventful in my eyes. The morning was definitely quite a struggle since there were so many girls in the bathroom, trying to get ready for the day ahead, but once we got ready I was pretty excited.*

*Crate Climb: I was really proud when I got to the top because you got to squeeze the toy and you got to kick over the tower of crates.*

*Flying Fox: The platform where we had to get hooked up on was about 4-5m tall. I am very scared of heights but I managed to do it by holding on for dear life and keeping calm. When I got off my legs were shaking!*  

*Overall, the camp was extremely fun and if I could change anything it would be that we would be able to choose the groups we are in. That’s basically it, the rest was really fun. I would gladly go on it again.*
Year 7 Values Camp
Undoubtedly the highlight of beginning Year 7 in 2015 has been the Year 7 Values Camp. 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.

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/

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.
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<td>Wednesday 18 March</td>
<td>Year 4-7 Parent Information Evening</td>
<td>KSHS School Cafeteria</td>
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<td>Thursday 2 April</td>
<td>Closing Date for 2015 Specialist Program Applications</td>
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<td>Week 3: 4 - 8 May</td>
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<td>Week 3: 4 - 8 May</td>
<td>Year 6 Outdoor Adventure Testing</td>
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<td>Thursday 14 May</td>
<td>Year 6 Performing Arts Auditions</td>
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<td>Friday 22 May</td>
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<td>Friday 24 July</td>
<td>Closing date for 2016 KSHS Years 7-12 Enrolment</td>
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<td>Closing date for 2016 KSHS Year 7 Academic Scholarship Portfolios</td>
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<td>Friday 27 November</td>
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<td>Wednesday 2 December</td>
<td>Special Program Welcoming Ceremony (AESP, AEP, GATE, KPA, OAP)</td>
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**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 Ms Susan Archdall on 92936400 or susan.archdall@education.wa.edu.au

Regards,
Kathy Ritchie
Principal

Susan Archdall
Year 7 Coordinator