

Following the footsteps of our diggers

Vincentia High School is very excited to announce that Teneisha Ross won a Premier's Anzac Memorial Scholarship to the Western Front. Teneisha is one of twenty students from across the state who will travel to Flanders in Belgium to commemorate the Battle of Hamel on July 4 2018. Other significant Australian battlefields included in the tour are Ypres Salient, Passchendaele and the Somme. Three supervising teachers and a tour historian will also accompany the students.

Teneisha's entry was based on the theme of *The Returned Soldier* and comprised of a piece of art and a short poem. She selected this theme because she wanted to highlight the mental scars of war, especially Post Traumatic Stress Disorder.

Her winning entry combined numerous elements that reflect the experiences of the returned soldier, particularly the trauma of war. The main feature of her artwork is the large eye; the eye is the window to the soul and the gateway to memories. The battle scene within the eye symbolizes the mental anguish that will remain with the soldiers forever, despite returning home from the war. The tear streaming from the eye reflects the suffering of the soldier and the fragmented pupil suggests that the returned soldier will never be whole again.

This poem was also included in her entry.

The Returned Soldier

There's no escape.

There's no escape from the constant ringing of the enemies firing bullets.

There's no escape from the terrified screams of those suffering from the wounds that end their lives.

There's no escape from the lost children's cry for help

There's no escape from the blasting colour of red.

There's no escape from the torment of war.

By Teneisha Ross.

Teneisha is a passionate Year 10 History student who is intrigued to learn more about the experiences of Australians who served our country, especially on the Western Front. We wish Teneisha all the best for her upcoming tour and look forward to her sharing her experiences with us.



Completion of Links to Learning Program

Students, parents and staff from Kiama Community College and VHS gathered on Thursday 30th November in our School Café to celebrate the completion of the Links to Learning Program 'Future Fit' for 2017. During this presentation, all students received a certificate for their positive behaviour, attendance and active involvement during semester 2. The students represented themselves, their parents and our school at the highest esteem. Every one of the students that participated in this program in semester two made notable changes to their attitude and engagement in their education and we congratulate them on their efforts. We would also like to thank the Kiama Community College for their ongoing support of our school and students. We look forward to working with the college again in 2018.



Future Fit is an engagement program for Year 9 students designed to improve their social and emotional wellbeing; their perception of the importance of education to their future; and general living, education and employability skills. Future Fit has a strong focus on enhancing confidence and self-efficacy. The program delivered in the context of fitness and outdoor recreation activities and draws upon Acceptance & Commitment Therapy (ACT) Framework-focussing on goal setting, acknowledgement and acceptance of barriers and commitment to an achievable course of action. The principles and practices of Positive Psychology used to enhance confidence and self-esteem. This framework is a strength-based approach, with key strategies used such as; mindfulness, appreciative enquiry, active gratitude and acts of random kindness - the aim is to improve happiness, resilience and motivation, which in turn improves one's sense of personal wellbeing.

SCHOOL UNIFORM SHOP HOURS FOR JANUARY 2018 ARE:

Monday	22 January 9:00AM - 1:30PM
Tuesday	23 January 9:00AM - 1:30PM
Wednesday	24 January 9:00AM - 1:30PM
Thursday	25 January 9:00AM - 1:30PM
Monday	29 January 9:00AM - 1:30PM
Tuesday	30 January 7:45AM - 10:30AM

Dear Parent/Carer

Adolescent human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination program

In early 2017 parents of Year 7 students were asked to provide consent for their children to receive three doses of HPV vaccine in the NSW School Vaccination Program.

I am pleased to advise that most Year 7 students who have received two doses of HPV vaccine are considered to be fully vaccinated and do not require a further dose.

This is based on recent international studies that show for children aged 9 to 14 years of age, two doses of HPV vaccine provide the same protection as three doses, as long as the second dose is given at least six months after the first dose. Based on this evidence, the World Health Organization (WHO) now recommends a two-dose HPV schedule, and this has already been adopted in comparable countries (i.e. the UK, Canada, the United States and New Zealand) and is now being adopted in Australia.

In 2017 Year 7 students were given the second dose of HPV vaccine at least six months after the first dose to accommodate the urgent roll-out of the Meningococcal W Response Program to Year 11 and 12 students. Year 7 students who have received only one dose of HPV this year will be offered their second dose in 2018, at least six months after the first dose.

A small number of students are still recommended to have three doses of HPV vaccine.¹ Parents of these students should make arrangements to receive these vaccines from their general practitioner (GP) or by calling their local public health unit on 1300 066 055.

Parents whose children were vaccinated in 2017 but who still wish for their child to receive a third dose of HPV vaccine can access a free dose from their GP.

More information is available on the NSW Health website at www.health.nsw.gov.au/hpv or by calling your local public health unit on **1300 066 055**.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "V. Sheppeard", enclosed within a rectangular box.

Dr Vicky Sheppeard
Director, Communicable Diseases Branch
9 November 2017

¹ Children who still need a three-dose schedule are: those who received their first dose of HPV vaccine at 15 years of age or older, and those with significant immunocompromise (those with primary or secondary immunodeficiencies (B lymphocyte antibody and T lymphocyte complete or partial deficiencies); HIV infection; malignancy; organ transplantation; autoimmune disease; or significant immunosuppressive therapy (excluding asplenia or hyposplenia)).

NSW Ministry of Health

ABN 92 697 899 630

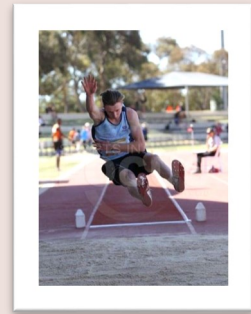
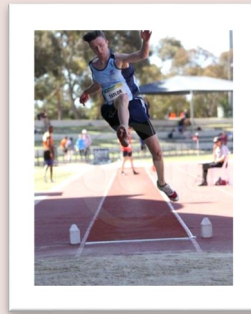
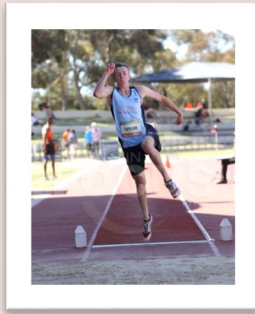
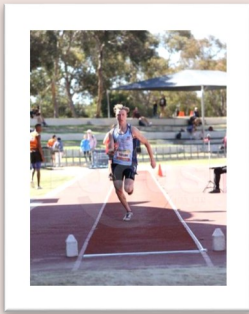
73 Miller St North Sydney NSW 2060 Locked Mail Bag 961 North

Sydney NSW 2059 Tel. (02) 9391 9000 Fax. (02) 9391 9101

Website. www.health.nsw.gov.au

Finalist in Long Jump at the Nationals for Sam Taylor!

Congratulations to Sam Taylor of Year 10 who made the final for Long Jump at the All Schools Athletics National Championships in Adelaide on Friday 8 December 2017. 16 year old Sam was competing against 18 year olds from Australia, New Zealand, China and Pakistan. Sam placed 4th in the Long Jump, came 5th overall and was the only 16 year old to compete in the finals! Vincentia High wishes Sam all the best with his sport in the future.



\$10,000 & \$5,000 Scholarship for school leavers!

Sanctuary Point & Districts Community Bank Branch are offering two scholarships to help with the cost of tertiary study for Year 12 students living in the 2540 postcode. \$5000 per year for 2 years of Bachelor degree studies is available for 1 student and \$2500 per year for 2 years for TAFE studies for 1 student. Click the link below for more information and the application forms. The Sanctuary Point & Districts Community Bank are committed to building stronger communities through sponsorship and scholarships.

<https://bendigobank.com.au/.../community/sc.../2018-scholarships>

A shout out for school uniforms

If you have school uniforms that your child has outgrown from years 7 to 12 the Support Unit would very happily accept them. They can be left at the front office or sent directly to the Support Unit. These uniforms are used by the entire school when mishaps happen and would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you.



Dear Parents and Carers

Vincentia High School will transition to the new NSW Public Schools' finance system and a new bank account on **24 July 2017**.

To ensure a smooth transition, there will be changes to the way we accept payments from parents and carers.

1. **Online payments:** Parent/Carer payments can be made online using the Department of Education's Parent Online Payment (POP) system. A button to access this new online payment system titled '\$ Make a Payment' will be visible on the utility bar on the front page of our school's website at www.vincentia-h.schools.nsw.edu.au. By selecting this link, parents and carers will be taken to a secure Westpac QuickWeb payment page from which they can make online payments.

Please note: As a Westpac-hosted solution cardholder and account details will be held securely helping to protect the school and its customers from fraudulent transactions as well as assisting in meeting the Payment Card Industry Data Security Standard (PCIDSS) compliance requirements.

2. **Direct deposits:** As of **30 June 2017**, we will no longer accept direct deposits into our current school bank account as we prepare to close this account and transition to the new one. Any payments made using direct deposit after this date cannot be properly allocated to a student's account in a timely manner. Please ensure you have made any outstanding direct deposits before **30 June 2017**.
3. **EFTPOS payments:** We will not be able to accept EFTPOS payments between **19 July 2017 and 24 July 2017**. Please ensure that you have made any outstanding EFTPOS payments before **19 July 2017**. From **25 July 2017**, EFTPOS payments will be accepted as before.
4. **Cash and cheque payments:** Between **19 July 2017 and 24 July 2017**, we will also not be able to accept payments by cash or cheque as we prepare to close our current bank account and transition to the new one. Please ensure that you have made any outstanding cash or cheque payments before **19 July 2017**. From **25 July 2017**, cash and cheque payments will be accepted as before.

Thank you for your patience and understanding as we transition to our new finance system. If you have any questions, please contact the school on **4441 6766**.

Regards

Steve Glenday
Principal

17th March 2017



When Karen Cunningham & Gabrielle Keogh volunteered at schools in the slums of Kampala Uganda in October one of the things that impressed them the most was the excitement and gratitude of the children when they provided them with lunch each day. They also delivered food hampers filled with essentials such as bread, rice, flour, soap & matches to families of the students. It was a surprise to them that for as little as \$25 that hamper would feed the family for 2 weeks!



KwaYa Australia in partnership with the African Children's Choir will deliver a food hamper to a family in need this Christmas on your behalf! Karen & Gabrielle personally guarantee that every cent you donate will be spent on the hamper and it will be tagged with your name on it! Christmas is a time for giving, make it count this year knowing that a family in Africa will breathe a little easier because of your generosity.

You can purchase a Humble Hamper online for \$25 at:

<http://www.kwaya.org/ACCHUMBLEHAMPERS.html>

Karen Cunningham – KwaYa Australia Volunteer



Compulsory School Attendance

Information for parents

Education for your child is important and regular attendance at school is essential for your child to achieve their educational best and increase their career and life options. NSW public schools work in partnership with parents to encourage and support regular attendance of children and young people. When your child attends school every day, learning becomes easier and your child will build and maintain friendships with other children.

What are my legal responsibilities?

Education in New South Wales is compulsory for all children between the ages of six years and below the minimum school leaving age. The *Education Act 1990* requires that parents ensure their children of compulsory school age are enrolled at, and regularly attend school, or, are registered with the Board of Studies, Teaching and Educational Standards for homeschooling.

Once enrolled, children are required to attend school each day it is open for students.

The importance of arriving on time

Arriving at school and class on time:

- Ensures that students do not miss out on important learning activities scheduled early in the day
- Helps students learn the importance of punctuality and routine
- Give students time to greet their friends before class
- Reduces classroom disruption

Lateness is recorded as a partial absence and must be explained by parents.

What if my child has to be away from school?

On occasion, your child may need to be absent from school. Justified reasons for student absences may include:

- being sick, or having an infectious disease
- having an unavoidable medical appointment
- being required to attend a recognised religious holiday
- exceptional or urgent family circumstance (e.g. attending a funeral)

Following an absence from school you must ensure that within 7 days you provide your child's school with a verbal or written explanation for the absence. However, if the school has not received an explanation from you within 2 days, the school may contact you to discuss the absence.

Principals may decline to accept an explanation that you have provided if they do not believe the absence is in the best interest of your child. In these circumstances your child's absence would be recorded as unjustified. When this happens the principal will discuss their decision with you and the reasons why.

Principals may request medical certificates or other documentation when frequent or long term absences are explained as being due to illness. Principals may also seek parental permission to speak with medical specialists to obtain information to collaboratively develop a health care plan to support your child. If the request is denied, the principal can record the absences as unjustified.

Travel

Families are encouraged to travel during school holidays. If travel during school term is necessary, discuss this with your child's school principal. An *Application for Extended Leave* may need to be completed. Absences relating to travel will be marked as leave on the roll and therefore contribute to your child's total absences for the year.

In some circumstances students may be eligible to enrol in distance education for travel periods over 50 school days. This should be discussed with your child's school principal.





**My child won't go to school.
What should I do?**

You should contact the principal as soon as possible to discuss the issue and ask for help. Strategies to help improve attendance may include a referral to the school's learning and support team or linking your child with appropriate support networks. The principal may seek further support from the Home School Liaison Program to develop an Attendance Improvement Plan.

What might happen if my child continues to have unacceptable absences?

It is important to understand that the Department of Education and Communities may be required to take further action where children of compulsory school age have recurring numbers of unexplained or unjustified absences from school.

Some of the following actions may be undertaken:

- Compulsory Schooling Conferences

You may be asked, along with your child, to attend a Compulsory Schooling Conference. The conference will help to identify the supports your child may need to have in place so they attend school regularly. The school, parents and agencies will work together to develop an agreed plan (known as Undertakings) to support your child's attendance at school.

- Application to the Children's Court – Compulsory Schooling Order

If your child's attendance at school remains unsatisfactory the Department

may apply to the Children's Court for a *Compulsory Schooling Order*. The Children's Court magistrate may order a Compulsory Schooling Conference to be convened.

- Prosecution in the Local Court

School and Department staff remain committed to working in partnership with you to address the issues which are preventing your child's full participation at school. In circumstances where a breach of compulsory schooling orders occurs further action may be taken against a parent in the Local Court. The result of court action can be the imposition of a community service order or a fine.

What age can my child leave school?

All New South Wales students must complete Year 10 or its equivalent. After Year 10, and up until they reach 17 years of age, there are a range of flexible options for students to [complete their schooling](http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/studentsupport/programs/attendance.php).

Working in Partnership

The Department of Education and Communities recognises that working collaboratively with students and their families is the best way to support the regular attendance of students at school.

We look forward to working in partnership with you to support your child to fulfil their life opportunities.

If a student misses as little as 8 days in a school term, by the end of primary school they'll have missed over a year of school.

Further information regarding school attendance can be obtained from the following websites:

Policy, information and brochures:

<http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/studentsupport/programs/attendance.php>

The school leaving age:

<http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/leaving-school/index.php>

Do you need an interpreter?

Interpreting services are available on request, including for the hearing impaired. The Telephone Interpreter Service is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week on 131 450. You will not be charged for this service.

For further advice and questions contact your educational services team

T 131 536

Learning and Engagement

Student Engagement & Interagency Partnerships

T 9244 5129

www.dec.nsw.gov.au

© February 2015

NSW Department of Education and Communities

Term 4, 2017

Thursday 14/12/2017

- ☞ Whole School Colour Run & BBQ/
Wellbeing pds 3-6 Mrs Greyling & Mr Ryan
- ☞ Sailability on Shoalhaven River Nowra

Friday 15/12/2017

- ☞ Gumbari Bushcare/Parkcare Regeneration
Group - Shoalhaven Council Reserves

Tuesday 19/12/2017

Last day Term 4

Term 1 2018

Monday 29/01/2018

- ☞ Staff Development Day Staff Only

Tuesday 30/01/2018

- ☞ First day for Years 7, 11 and 12 Students

Wednesday 31/01/2018

- ☞ First day for Years 8, 9, and 10 Students

SCHOOL CONTACTS

P Taylor	Principal (Rel)
A Newton	Deputy Principal Stage 4 (7 & 8) Rel
P Raftery	Deputy Principal Stage 5 (9 & 10)
S Clark	Deputy Principal Support & Special Programs
F Loupos	Senior School (11 & 12)
J Oxley	School Administration Manager
S Fuz	Careers Advisor/VET (Rel)
P Greyling	Head Teacher WellBeing
M Meehan	Head Teacher Teaching & Learning Literacy/Numeracy
K Newton	Head Teacher Teaching & Learning
M Swanson	Head Teacher Admin
G Keogh	Head Teacher English (Rel)
J Povolny	Head Teacher Mathematics (Rel)
T Borg	Head Teacher Science
L Ryder	Head Teacher CAPA
E Salahi	Head Teacher HSIE
B Warner	Head Teacher TAS (Rel)
J Wright	Head Teacher PDHPE (Rel)
B Sauvao	Head Teacher Sport
M Goerlach	Head Teacher Support (Rel)
J Scott	Head Teacher Gumbari Facility
A Glenday	Head Teacher Learning & Support
K Lane	Head Teacher Ganya Garindja
P McKenzie	School Counsellor
A Hall	School Counsellor
P Charlton	School Counsellor

**Merry Christmas
and a Safe and
Happy New Year**

