Dear Parents & Carers,

Welcome back to the 2015 school year which undoubtedly will be another busy and exciting year for Kotara High School as it continues to grow with an enrolment around 1030 students. We would like to welcome the 195 students & their parents starting in Year 7 and also all our other new students across the rest of the years.

A new parent bar-be-que and tour of the school will be held at the school on Monday 16th March at 6pm. This will be followed by the Annual General meeting of the P&C.

On the staffing front, I would like to welcome to the staff Ms Gregoratos, on the science staff. Ms Gregoratos is replacing Mr Willis who retired at the end of the last year following a long career serving the students of NSW and particular the students at Kotara High School.

It is also good to welcome back Mr Mogg, Head Teacher, Teaching & Learning. Mr Mogg has spent the last 12 months teaching and setting up a school in Africa.

Unfortunately Mr Owens, Head Teacher History, will be absent for the first term due to illness. We wish Mr Owens a speedy recovery. Mr Brown will be relieving in Mr Owens position.
There has been a major change to delivery of Special Religious Education (SRE) this year. Due to the relatively small number of parents who have opted for their child to attend SRE lessons, religious education classes will be held for Years 7, 8 & 9 during Period 4 on Monday of Week B. As this will be consider study time for 10, 11 & 12, these students will be able to go home after period 3. Students in Years 7, 8 & 9 who are not attending the SRE classes will be supervised in the playground.

Please note that we have several parents enquiring about whether their students in Years 7, 8 or 9, who are not attending SRE, can go home during this time, if a parent writes a letter to the school requesting this, then their child will be able to leave school during the SRE time. The student will be provided with a note from the school which they must produce at the gate when leaving the school grounds.

Years 11 & 12 classes will finish 40 minutes later on each Wednesday to accommodate this change. SRE classes will be conducted from 1:30pm on each Wednesday for Years 10, 11 & 12.

During the Period 4 lesson on Monday, Week B, all staff will be involved in faculty professional learning team activities designed to improve the delivery of learning to our students.

As you are most probably aware for the last six months of last year, the school had been developing the School Plan for 2015 to 2017. The draft School Plan is now on the school's website for comments from the school community. I would like to thank all the staff, parents and students who have contributed to the development of the plan to this stage.

One of the major initiatives the school is working on in the first semester is the introduction of "Bring Your Own Device" into year 7 in Semester 2. In Semester 1, we will be developing appropriate policies and protocols and ensuring all staff are up to date with all relevant software, apps and technology to enhance the learning experience. Over the next year or so BYOD will be rolled out for all years. In the meantime we will be continuing to use the technology that we already have as another tool to enhance learning outcomes.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact the school on 49 433 044 to discuss the matter or to arrange an interview.

Stephen Barnett
Principal
Footwear requirements in TAS workshops

Students participating in Technology studies that are undertaken in specialised workshop environments such as food, textiles, electronics, timber and metal MUST wear the appropriate footwear. This is in line with Kotara High School and Department of Education and Communities policies.

This is limited to enclosed non slip leather footwear. Please refer to the Kotara High School website to clarify the required shoe styles. Examples of unacceptable footwear include canvas shoes and mesh topped sport shoes.

We seek your support in ensuring that students have the appropriate footwear for the workshop environments. Without the correct footwear, students will be unable to access the workshop and an alternate learning environment will be provided.

If you have any queries or require support to provide the required footwear for your child, do not hesitate to contact the TAS faculty.

We request that parents/caregivers follow these guidelines when making shoe purchases in the near future. All students enrolled in Technology subjects in 2015 received a letter during term 4 2014 to take home.

Rebecca Murphy
Head Teacher TAS

Steve Barnett
Principal

ATTENTION ALL STAFF, PARENTS AND STUDENTS

There is a drop off and pick up area, for our disabled students ONLY in the Staff car park off Corriston Cres. Please take care and use caution when driving through the car park to drop your child off OUTSIDE the school gate.

There is a 20km speed limit, for the safety of staff and students in that area.
Selected students from Years 9 and 10 have been invited to participate in the University of Newcastle’s Young Mathematicians Program. This program is a series of enrichment activities run by interested mathematicians from the University. The aim of the program is to create a small but active and vibrant mathematics community consisting of young students and interested practicing mathematicians. The full program runs for one year, starting Thursday 26th February, followed by after school sessions throughout Terms 2 and 3. Some of the workshops include sessions such as ‘Working Like a Mathematician’, ‘University Modules’ and a Showcase to be held in Term 4. The aim of the program is that students will receive an insight into the world of mathematics beyond the classroom. This experience will allow students to explore mathematical ideas not covered in the school curriculum, see how new mathematics is created and potentially create some of their own mathematics, as well as use the latest mathematical software to learn how current mathematicians think and work.

Natalie Philpott
Maths Faculty
The Undergraduate Medicine and Health Sciences Admission Test (UMAT) is developed each year by ACER on behalf of the UMAT Consortium. The test is developed and used specifically to assist with the selection of students into medicine and health science degree programs at undergraduate level at the universities listed on this page.

UMAT is designed to assess general attributes and abilities gained through prior experience and learning; specifically, the acquisition of skills in critical thinking and problem solving, understanding people and abstract non-verbal reasoning. These abilities are considered important to the study and later practice of professions in the health sciences.

UMAT is an aptitude test. It is not curriculum-based and presupposes no particular subjects of study at secondary level. It does not require any knowledge or skills in mathematics or sciences, or in any other area of the curriculum. It is designed to complement your academic results, not to replicate them. It is not a personality or IQ test. UMAT is offered once a year only.

You will need a UMAT score to apply for admission to any of the following courses:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>New South Wales</th>
<th>New Zealand</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>UNSW - Medicine, Optometry</td>
<td>The University of Auckland Medicine</td>
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<tr>
<td>The University of Newcastle/ UNE Joint Medical Program</td>
<td>University of Otago Medicine, Medical Laboratory Science, Dental Surgery</td>
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<tr>
<td>University of Western Sydney Medicine</td>
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<tr>
<th>South Australia</th>
<th>Victoria</th>
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<tr>
<td>The University of Adelaide Medicine, Dental Surgery</td>
<td>La Trobe University Health Sciences (Dentistry), Oral Health Science</td>
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<tr>
<td>Flinders University Clinical Sciences/Medicine, Vision Science</td>
<td>Monash University Medicine</td>
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<th>Queensland</th>
<th>Western Australia</th>
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<tr>
<td>Bond University Medicine</td>
<td>The University of Western Australia Medicine (assured entry), Dental Medicine (assured entry)</td>
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<tr>
<td>The University of Queensland Medicine (provisional entry), Dental Science</td>
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<tr>
<th>Northern Territory</th>
<th>Tasmania</th>
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<tr>
<td>Charles Darwin University Clinical Sciences</td>
<td>University of Tasmania Medicine</td>
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UMAT 2015 Timeline

- Registrations open in early December 2014
- Registrations close at 5.00pm AEST on 5 June 2015
- Late registrations are accepted up to 5.00pm AEST on 19 June 2015 (late fee applies)
- Admission Tickets are available two weeks before the test
- Test date: 29 July 2015
- Results available in late September 2015

Please see me for more information.
Please ensure you attend all classes as your attendance is checked and the school gets a print out of your attendance. If you are absent from TAFE please bring a note to the Careers Office so it can be signed and then emailed onto the TAFE.

**Defence Forces**

The below Information Sessions will be held here at Defence Force Recruiting, 528 Hunter St Newcastle

- Thurs 12th Feb 6pm – Tri Service Trades
- Wed 18th Feb 6pm – Health

Bookings: Please email cptnewcastle@dfr.com.au or call 02 4974 542

**Careers Link Job email**

Students and parents are reminded to check the Kotara High School’s Careers website each week ([www.kotarahighcareers.com](http://www.kotarahighcareers.com)) for the Careers Link Job email. This advertises: apprenticeships, traineeships, SBATS, full time, casual and part time work. There is a link on the home page of the website.

Miss Campbell
Careers Adviser
www.kotarahighcareers.com

I've put together a new website.

It's a "One Stop Shop" for everything you need with Career Planning and help.

CHECK IT OUT NOW!

Miss Pru Campbell
Careers Adviser

UAC/VTAC/QTAC
VET
LATEST NEWS AND EVENTS
WORK EXPERIENCE
DO AN INTERESTS TEST
FIND A JOB
CHOOSE A UNIVERSITY
GAP YEAR
CREATE A RESUME
DEFENCE CAREERS
YOUTH ALLOWANCE

THE BEST WAY TO PREDICT THE FUTURE IS TO CREATE IT
Music News

Welcome to 2015! Everybody in the music department here at Kotara High has come back rejuvenated and ready to have another outstanding year. Last year ended with a bang. Two students in year 12 received a Band 6 in Music, and one of them, Tri Ton received an ENCORE invitation. This means that Tri was among the best performers of the year. Anyone who has enjoyed hearing Tri’s classical guitar work knows he is an exceptional performer and this was a fantastic achievement. He also was invited to perform at the Reprise concert at the Newcastle Conservatorium at the end of February.

Speaking of the Reprise concert, senior students will be attending on the 20th of February. This is the first time the concert has been held and will proved the students with a variety of performers from the local area who achieved top marks in their HSC, giving the students inspiration going into their own studies.

The KHS Concert Band also has a large number of new recruits and new music to perform. These students are mentored by existing members and before you know it they will seamlessly join the fold. Their first performance this term will be at the upcoming Quality awards. There will also be an Elective concert at the end of the semester, featuring the best of the current students. Be sure to attend as there are always new students getting their first taste of performance and a few surprises.

As you can see we have a busy schedule already, but we are always keen to get input from students, parents and the community. Join us at a concert or other school event throughout the year. See you soon!

ChrisDanvers
Year 12 Food Technology

Year 12 Food Technology students visited Goodness Me Organics and Slice Gourmet Pizza at Adamstown as part of the HSC unit Australian Food Industry in the last week of school in 2014. Students had two very informative talks, the opportunity to sample some organic products and to be involved in the manufacture of their own pizzas.
Welcome back to the 2015 school year. The Technology Faculty has had a colourful start in the textile technology workshop.

Thank you to parents and care givers for supporting student safety by following the faculty shoe guidelines for the workshop environments.

Industry standard work wear (long sleeve shirt and pants) has been introduced into the Vocational framework courses – Metal & Engineering and Construction in 2015. Students can wear the pants to school as part of the uniform.

We look forward to providing you with regular updates throughout the year.

Rebecca Murphy HT TAS
FREE FAMILY INFORMATION EVENING FOR Kotara High School STUDENTS AND SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE IN 2015

Student Exchange Australia New Zealand is a not-for-profit organisation that is registered with all state and territory Departments of Education around Australia and with the Ministry of Education in NZ. We are the first and only secondary exchange organisation in Australia and New Zealand to be certified to ISO 9001 (Quality Management System) and we ensure the highest standards of care and support to our participants.

We would like to invite your students and families to a FREE Information Evening in Newcastle on Wednesday, 18 February. The session is being held at the Wallsend District Library, 30 Bunn Street and starts at 6:30pm.

Students can find out more about our exchange programs to over 25 countries, listen to former exchange students share their experience and learn about our scholarships and discounts on offer in 2015.

We offer scholarships and discounts worth over $100,000 to students each year. These include 5 x Language, 2 x International Affairs, 2 x Indigenous and 3 x Digital Video Scholarships.

"You come back a different person, with so much more confidence & you feel that you can conquer the world"
Jessica, Semester Program to Italy

We would appreciate if you could please mention our upcoming information session in your newsletter or place a notice on a study room noticeboard, or perhaps in your career advisory office.

FREE STUDENT EXCHANGE INFORMATION EVENING IN NEWCASTLE
Hear from returned students, find out more about discounts and scholarships available and ask questions.

Wednesday, 18th February - 6.30pm
Wallsend District Library
30 Bunn Street
WALLSEND

Visit www.studentexchange.org.au
or call 1300 135 331 for more information

Student Exchange Australia New Zealand Ltd
PO Box 1420, Mona Vale NSW 1660 Australia
T: (02) 9997 0700 F: (02) 9997 0701
W: www.studentexchange.org.au

Suite 2590, PO Box 83000,
Wellington 6440 New Zealand
T: 0800 440079 F: 0800 440077
W: www.studentexchange.org.nz

ABN: 49 101 489 356

We are the first and only student exchange organisation in Australia and New Zealand to be certified to ISO 9001 (Quality Management System).
FAMILIES REQUIRED IN LATE MARCH

In March next year 15 students and 2 teachers from our sister school, Ube High School, will be visiting Newcastle for one week. The group arrive around lunchtime on Sunday 22\textsuperscript{nd} and depart on the morning of Sunday 29\textsuperscript{th} March.

The visitors will require a bed for 7 nights (can be a shared bedroom for students), meals and a way of getting to and from school, if not within walking distance. They will be attending school and workshops at Newcastle University.

On Saturday the 28\textsuperscript{th} they will spend time with host families. They can join in your usual family activities or you can do some sightseeing if time permits.

Hosting is a wonderful opportunity to learn about the Japanese culture and to share Australian culture and lifestyle.

If your family can host one or more of the visitors, or if you have other relatives, friends or neighbours who can host, could you please email the following teachers and indicate whether you can take a student or teacher and if you have a preference for male or female or either.

We need to make the homestay arrangements before the holidays so that we can inform the organising teachers in Japan.

Thankyou for your support,

Mrs L. Fitzmaurice liza.fitzmaurice@det.nsw.edu.au
Mrs J. Wagner jill.wagner@det.nsw.edu.au
TAKE HOME A BIG BROTHER OR BIG SISTER!

LET’S GET ORGANISED EARLY!

Give your children the wonderful opportunity to have an international big brother or big sister by hosting one of our exceptional international students arriving in Australia in February 2015 for their 5 or 10 month programs. Our international students from France, Germany, Italy, Austria Japan, the U.S.A and Canada will live as a local, attend a local secondary school, arrive with their own spending money and comprehensive insurance cover – all arranged by Southern Cross Cultural Exchange. Call your local coordinator today on: 0429406126 to request some student profiles, and capture the spirit of family and friendship!
Lend us your ears, and we’ll read you the world!

Do you or anyone you know have difficulty holding or reading newspapers, books or magazines?

2RPH is at your fingertips to read the daily newspapers, books and over 35 magazines per week!

We broadcast a dedicated children’s program weekly, Junior Journal! Junior Journal is a 30 minute program with stories, movie and game reviews, especially for kids!

The last 10 minutes of each Junior Journal program is dedicated to readings from the 10 Minutes a Day program, a partnership with Newcastle Region Library!

Be listening on Saturdays at 6:30pm to read along!

Tune in to the 2RPH radio reading service each day on 100.5FM, 2RPH Digital, or stream live at www.2rph.org.au!
Charlestown District Cricket Club, a not for profit community organisation, is providing cricket coaching sessions at Kahibah Oval this season. The sessions will be by two current 1st Class players who are contracted to CDCC this season.

**Callum Jackson:** Contracted professional with Sussex CCC who made his 1st Class debut vs Australia in 2013. The Newcastle Herald Player of the Year in the 2013/14 season. Specialist wicketkeeper/batsman.

**Roscoe Thattil:** Plays for Burgher Recreation Club in the Sri Lankan Premier League and made his 1st Class debut in 2012. All rounder.

Hourly coaching sessions will be available Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 4.00 pm, 5.00 pm and 6.00 pm on the turf wicket practice facility at Kahibah Oval. All skills including specialist wicketkeeping are available in the following formats and costs.

Rates: $20/hr (3:1 ratio) $30/hr (2:1) $50/hr (1:1)
All rates are based on a booking for 5 sessions.
For 1 session you pay an additional $10 ie $30/$40/$60.
For bookings and/or further information call:
**Chris Oliver** 0419 270 911 4920 6350 chrisoliver66@hotmail.com
Bookings available now for sessions from Monday 27 October.
Can Saver Plus assist you with high school costs?

Join Saver Plus and match your savings, dollar for dollar, up to $500 for educational costs including:

- school uniforms and textbooks
- computers, laptops and tablets
- excursions and camps
- sports equipment, uniforms and lessons
- music tuition and instrument hire.

You may be eligible if you have a Health Care or Pensioner Concession Card, are at least 18 years old, have some regular income from work (you or your partner) and have a child at school or studying yourself.

Contact Cynthia Culhane, your local Saver Plus Worker:
(02) 4927 8385 / 0418 699 646
or cynthia.culhane@thesmithfamily.com.au

Saver Plus was developed by ANZ and the Brotherhood of St Laurence and is delivered in Newcastle by The Smith Family. The program is funded by ANZ and the Australian Government.
## DATES TO REMEMBER FOR 2015

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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| **Monday 16th February** | P&C Meeting 7pm  
School Library D Block  
(All Parents and carers Welcome) |
| **Wednesday 25th February** | **-** |
| **Friday 27th February** | Year 7 Camp Kincumber |
| **Wednesday 11th March** | **-** |
| **Thursday 12th March** | School Athletics Carnival at Hunter Sports Center Glendale |
| **Monday 16th March** | Year 12 Parent/Teacher Interviews  3pm - 6pm |
| **Monday 16th March** | P&C Meeting |