Keeping In Touch

The next P&C Meeting for 2015 is on

Monday 20th July at 7pm in the LIBRARY in D Block

All Parents and Carers are welcome.

Principal’s report

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have had a very busy term at Kotara High School with many excursions and sporting contests. The History faculty visited the Jewish Museum and I-Max theatre in Sydney, the Social Science faculty took students on a field trip to Throsby Creek to study pollution controls and also to Sydney to look at urban renewal planning.

Students participated in a mountain bike challenge at Glenrock and Futsal championships were contested at Newcastle basketball stadium to name a few.

Our Aerobics teams consisting of 40 girls represented Kotara High School at the State Finals of the School Aerobics Championships with many teams and individuals qualifying for Nationals on the Gold Coast in August. The girls who qualified for Nationals include: Izzy Devetak, Morgan Anderson, Lily Skeet, Jess Andrew, Cristina Davey, Abby Clifford, Zoe Katopodis, Danika Brown, Kiara Murrel, Maddy O’Connor, Paige Kerby, Lauren Donoghoe, Paris McGinty, Sofia Davey, Amy Donnelly, Ellie Kingston-Hogg and Jenai Monz.

Congratulations to the girls, Mrs Dalton and Miss Osborne, your hard work has paid off.

Our debating teams continue to impress and have been very successful. The Year 11 (Alena Payne, Jake Rexter, Keira Hayden and Sophia Davey) debating team won the regional final of the Premiers Debating Challenge, then went on to compete in the top 8 in NSW going down to North Sydney.

Alena Payne and Jake Rexter represented the school in Model United Nations (as Germany) winning this debate and now will compete in the national titles in Canberra in August.
KHS participated in Starstruck again this year and students had a fantastic time with 40 participants. Students attended a dance camp and many Wednesday afternoons training for this event so I would like to congratulate all involved including the performers, Mr Lloyd and Mrs Threadgate and parents who supported this great event.

Year 10 students have received mountains of advice and guidance for their selection of Preliminary and HSC subject choices and will finalise these choices on line. If any parent wishes to speak to the school about this process or any decisions their children are making please don’t hesitate to contact the school.

The school administration system has expanded to include a parent portal and by now all parents should have received information about accessing this portal. When logged in you will be able to view information about your child including their school report, their timetable and soon you will also see their attendance pattern.

The end of Semester Two always brings on a range of assessments including the year 12 HSC trial examinations. Whilst this is no more important an assessment task than all other school based assessments Year 12 have to submit, it does give the students a picture of what an external HSC examination will be like. I congratulate all of Year 12 for their efforts in preparing for this task and all of their tasks this year; they have been working very hard.

The Corriston Crescent staff car park is being extended and it is now even more difficult to manoeuvre in this area especially at 9am and 3:15pm.

Could parents please avoid this area if possible until the work is completed which should be by the end of July? I would like to remind parents who pick up their children from school to not park in, drive through or double park in this area as it continues to be a problem. My suggestion is to park and wait further up the street wherever possible please.

The work on the covered walkway/bus shelter will commence next term with the Year 12 Construction students keen to get the job done. This will provide these students with very specific construction skills and also give us the much needed shelter for students who wait for buses.
I hope all students have a safe and enjoyable break. See you next term.
School starts back on Monday 13\textsuperscript{th} July with a staff development day.
Students do \textbf{not} attend. All students attend from Tuesday 14\textsuperscript{th} July.

Chris Dibben – Acting 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

Chris Dibben
Acting Principal
ATTENTION ALL STAFF, PARENTS AND

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.

CANTEEN NEWS

Attention all Parents and Carers.

The Canteen is in urgent need of volunteers if you can spare a few hours a day that would be greatly appreciated.

Please ring 49433044 or 0412557016

The canteen now has EFTPOS available. A minimum of $3.00 needs to be spent.

Katherin Owens
Canteen Manager
DEBATING

Last Friday the Year 8 debating team travelled to Gorokan High School to participate in the Regional semi-final and final of the Premier's Debating Challenge. Kiera Hayden, Alena Payne, Sofia Davey and India Bishop represented the school admirably.

The team first debated "that Australia should accept more refugees" and had to take the negative side against Wadalba Community School. Despite the difficult topic the girls were successful and made it through to the next round.

In the next round the team debated "that we should ban single sex schools". They were on the affirmative side of the argument against the Hunter School of the Performing Arts. Despite their strong arguments, they were narrowly defeated after a nail-biting wait as the adjudicator finalised his decision.

The adjudicator and teachers commended the team on their considerably improved debating skills and provided some helpful feedback for the future. I wouldn't suggest entering into an argument with these girls!

Alena Payne, India Bishop, Kiera Hayden and Sofia Davey
Careers News

There is plenty happening in Careers this term and there are many opportunities for students. Below is a list of events/excursions, courses, programs that are offered this term.

**Courses**

- **WHS Whitecard** – another Whitecard course will run at school before the end of term. This is essential for students who are planning to complete work experience or work placement in the construction industry. Register your interest at the careers office.

- **RSA (Responsible Service of Alcohol)** – suitable for Year 12 students who will be pursuing future employment in the hospitality and bar industry. This will run during Term 2 or 3. Register your interest at the careers office.

**Programs**

- **Ronald McDonald House Volunteer Program** on Thursday mornings. This program involves a small group of students cooking meals and sweets to be placed in the kitchen for families to eat while they are staying at Ronald McDonald House. I have heard very glowing reports about the students involved in this program and how well they are participating.

- **Plan It – Youth** on Thursday mornings. This program involves mentors from the community coming into the school to mentor students to help plan for their future.

- **Resume Rescue** – students are given one of one support with a teacher’s aide to develop a 2 page resume over the space of 2 periods. So far there have been over a dozen resumes created and several students have secured employment. A big thank you to Cheryl Arms and Liz Phillips who have worked tirelessly to assist students in this program and enabled it to be so successful.

**Year 10 Careers lessons**

During Term 1 and 2 Year 10 students participate in a 40min careers lessons once a cycle. The lessons cover: strengths and interests, career exploration, using the school careers website to research career information, ready for work program to have students work ready for work experience.
Work Experience

Year 10 Work Experience is to be held Week 3 Term 3 Monday 27th July – Friday 31st July 2015. Students are expected to participate in this worthwhile learning experience. Those students who do not secure a work experience placement (previously this has been a very small number of students) will be expected to attend school for the week of work experience. Students have been given a work experience pack in their careers lesson at the end of last term.

What is included in the pack:

- Introduction letter to employers (letter on school letterhead)
- Student Placement Record SPR (2 page green form)
- Parent Guide to Workplace Learning (green booklet)
- Employer Guide to Work Placement Learning (blue booklet)
- Advice to employers on filling out SPR (2 page blue handout)
- Additional information for employers (yellow handout)
- How to find somewhere to complete work experience (2 page purple handout)

The completed Student Placement Record (SPR) is due to Miss Campbell by the end of Term 2 to be approved. Please get the SPR in as soon as you have it completed as it would help me greatly – there are 187 students in Year 10 so there are 187 SPR's that I need to read and approve!

Please contact me if you are have any queries in regards to the work experience program on 49433044.

Advertised jobs – Uploaded weekly on the school careers website under the Message Board on the home page. Please check if you are job hunting. www.kotarahighcareers.com

Prue Campbell - Careers Adviser prue.campbell@det.nsw.edu.au
UMAT

The Undergraduate Medicine and Health Sciences Admission Test

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>
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<tr>
<td>UNSW - Medicine, Optometry</td>
<td>The University of Auckland Medicine,</td>
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<td>The University of Newcastle/</td>
<td>University of Otago Medicine,</td>
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<td>UNE Joint Medical Program</td>
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<td>University of Western Sydney Medicine</td>
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<td>The University of Adelaide Medicine, Dental Surgery</td>
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<td>Flinders University</td>
<td>La Trobe University Health Sciences (Dentistry),</td>
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<td>Clinical Sciences/Medicine,</td>
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<td>Vision Science</td>
<td>Monash University Medicine</td>
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<td>Bond University Medicine</td>
<td>The University of Western Australia Medicine</td>
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<td>The University of Queensland Medicine (provisional entry), Dental Science</td>
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<td>Northern Territory</td>
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UMAT 2015 Timeline

- Admission Tickets are available two weeks before the test
- Test date 29th Jul 2015
- Results available in late September 2015
**E-books** The library e-book system is operational. We have started with a small selection of e-books for students to enjoy anywhere, anytime. It is easy to access once you have downloaded the wheelers e-platform app from your device provider’s app store (Apple, Google Play, Android, etc.).

Steps for accessing e-books:

- Find your library
- Type in: *Kotara High School*
- Sign in using your username (e.g. janet.smith) and the password: *kotara1*

(Note: every student has the same password.) 😊 That's it!!

Students have access to these resources for 2 weeks at which point the e-book will automatically be removed from your device and returned to the Kotara High library.

**Year 7 Library**

The end of the term should see the completion of the Year 7 Project Based Learning assignment. Working in groups students had to select a topic, develop 5 inquiry-based questions then use both electronic and print resources to thoroughly research their topic area. Students create an e-presentation for the class using, but not limited to, programs such as Prezi, iMovie and Powerpoint.

The focus of this subject is for students to develop 21st Century learning skills through researching, selecting and analysing information from the internet; and to embrace student’s creativity by allowing them the flexibility to present their information exploring a range of ICT programs and; enhancing their social and communication skills through both group work and the presentation.

A big thank you to Mrs Goldsmith for her invaluable contribution to the library lessons throughout the first semester. I have really appreciated all the hard work she has done in supporting this program and I'm sure 7S has as well.

Tim Pulsford  Teacher Librarian.
The Hunter Signing Choir Visits Kotara High School  The Hunter Signing Choir was established in 1994 by choir director Donna Griffiths. Its main purpose was to give Deaf and Hearing Impaired students from the Hunter region the opportunity to meet and socialise. The Choir was such a success that some past members volunteer their time and effort to helping the choir function. They have performed at a variety of events, including The 2013 Asia-Pacific Special Olympics opening ceremony, the 2014 DEC Executive Conference, numerous Knights home games as well as 21 years of participating in ‘Starstruck’ and 15 years participating in ‘School Spectacular’.

On Tuesday the 2nd of June The Hunter Signing Choir performed at Kotara High’s morning assembly. Four of our Hearing Support Unit students are members. They performed two songs, “Imagine” and “I Believe”. This was a great opportunity for our HSU students to show the wider school community their amazing talents and to showcase the beautiful language of the Australian Deaf Community- Auslan.

The whole school attended the assembly and showed their support by raising a huge $770 which will help send the Choir to Sydney for the ‘Schools Spectacular’.

An enormous thank you to Kotara High parents and students. Your support means a great deal to our HSU students and staff.

Danielle Norton - KOTARA HIGH SLSO
Music News!

Hello from the Music faculty at Kotara High! We have been busy as always here working hard towards upcoming events and enjoying the music of the visiting groups this term.

In Week 6 the LOTE teachers (Mrs Fitzmaurice and Mrs Wagner) arranged a cross faculty performance enjoyed by a large number of students from the school. **Taiko Drumming** originated in Japan and the two experts that attended the school provided great performances, insight into the history and origin of Taiko Drumming, and interaction for all that attended. Demand was very high so the group performed twice, once for all year 8 students (who study Japanese) and once for all year 7 Music students, as well as all elective Music and Japanese students. The group provided several riveting performances and got students up to have a go at the complicated rhythms, with varying levels of success (see the attached pictures). However, everyone enjoyed themselves and it was an excellent learning experience.
Starstruck

Congratulations to Emma Masters, who was a soloist and backing vocalist this year at Starstruck.

We also wish to congratulate the dancers from Kotara High School, one of the biggest groups from any school participating in the event.

Coming up next term in week 2 is the Soiree, a night combining the best of the school in performance. This event should be a must see and students are already preparing to be ready for the big night. We hope to see you there!

Chris Danvers

Mathematics

Kotara High School has purchased Mathsonline, which is a very useful tool for revision and for catching up work missed. The expectation from the Mathematics Faculty is that the junior students complete the weekly revision tasks each week. All students would benefit from revising topics they have studied via Mathsonline and attempting the accompanying exercises. If your son/daughter has misplaced their login details please advise them to see their Maths teacher.
TAS Faculty - Hospitality

Thankyou to Kathy York – Human Resources Manager from the Crowne Plaza Newcastle for hosting a welcoming breakfast, tour and talk of the facilities. The year 12 Hospitality students found the excursion both enjoyable and informative. Kathy shared her extensive knowledge of career opportunities and employability skills required by the hospitality industry as well as an insight into the daily operations and key departments.
Little dresses for Africa initiative
– Term 2, 2015

Can you help us support this great initiative?

Changing lives one little dress at a time...

Little Dresses for Africa is a non-profit organisation, which provides relief to the children of Africa. Simple dresses are made out of pillow cases, and distributed through the orphanages, churches and schools in Africa to plant in the hearts of little girls that they are worthy!

How to Help:

Please donate pillow cases to the TAS faculty – Kotara High School. These can be new or used.

We plan to colour and print designs on some of the dresses.

“We’re not just sending dresses, we’re sending HOPE!”

OPPORTUNITY FOR STUDENTS TO EXPERIENCE ANOTHER CULTURE, MAKE NEW FRIENDS AND IMPROVE THEIR LANGUAGE STUDIES AT HOME
In late June - early July we will be receiving exchange students from Argentina, Bolivia, Denmark, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, Norway, Switzerland, Sweden and the USA. Our new arrivals will live with a host family and attend a local school for 3, 5 or 10 months. As we plan for their arrival, we are keen to hear from suitable families who might be interested to host a student.

Host families come in all shapes and sizes, backgrounds and ages. To this end, we would be grateful if you would place a notice in your newsletter or mention it on your website. You can download the newsletter notice here in Word format or as a PDF.

Hosting an exchange student can be a truly rewarding experience. It allows a family to experience a foreign culture first hand, be exposed to a new language and pass on a bit of our own culture. They might even make a friend for life!

All students have at least basic levels of English, would attend a school in your local area and live the life of a local. Below is a sample of students who will be arriving.

17 year old Argentinian student, Paula, is very outgoing and active. She has just undertaken a course in flying trapeze and enjoys outdoor activities, such as horseriding and sightseeing. Sport is essential to Paula’s life and she loves animals. Paula’s parents describe her as friendly, sensible and responsible.

Sixteen year old, Mathias, is passionate about soccer and enjoys playing the guitar, computer games and hanging out with his friends. He has an older sister and two younger sisters who are twins. He looks up to his older sister who is at University and the inspiration for his dream of coming to Australia, she travelled to Australia and couldn’t stop talking about it. Mathias wants to improve his English and hopes to enjoy some sailing and scuba diving while in Australia. He helps his family by cleaning the house, doing the dishes and helping with his younger sisters. He describes himself as open-minded, engaged and always smiling and happy.

French student Enzo, aged 15, has been studying English for 5 years, plus he speaks Italian in addition to his native French. Enzo lives in the mountains of Chamonix, so skiing is a natural choice of sport. He trains regularly and participates in a number of competitions. Hence, he would love to visit the snow fields, whilst in Australia. Enzo is also a keen surfer, as he visits the Atlantic Coast during the summer months. Tennis is also on his agenda during summer. As is practising on his drum kit. His parents describe him as sociable, funny, who has many friends.

Jesse, aged 16, from Germany is very active, enjoying bike riding and fitness training. Jesse also speaks Latin and names history and informatics as favourite subjects. He likes to hang out with friends and participate in sport. Jesse describes himself as polite, co-operative and patient. His aim is to improve his English, meet new people, and experience a different culture to where he lives now.
When you read Katalin's profile you can only think wow. What an ambitious and talented young lady. Only 16, and from Hungary, Katalin (also known as Kata) enjoys volleyball, baking cakes, photography, reading and calls herself a 'musicaholic'. Kata describes baking and travelling as her true passions. Although volleyball consumes a lot of time, as she trains three times per week, plus runs regularly. Australia is close to her heart as her parents visited Australia whilst on their honeymoon. Kata's parents describe her as warm hearted, clever, tolerant with a great sense of humour.

Chiara, aged seventeen, has a younger brother and strikes you as a very bubbly and interesting person. Chiara describes herself as radiant, an optimist, willing, patient, quiet and athletic. She enjoys going to school, practising karate, studying Japanese and going out with her friends. Chiara can speak Italian, French and Japanese and would like to improve her English whilst in Australia.

Chikashi, aged 17, from Japan enjoys listening to music, dancing and studying English. He would like to do activities that involve nature and maybe get the opportunity to interact with some native animals. His goal is to speak fluent English and learn how to convey his feelings and thoughts in English along with learning how to cook Australian meals. Chikashi has three older siblings and helps his family by cleaning the house, washing dishes, doing laundry and making dinner. He describes himself as considerate and cheerful.

Tessa, aged 16, from the Netherlands is very active, enjoying outdoor pursuits such as horse riding and softball. She also enjoys Thai-kick boxing and going to the gym. Whilst in Australia, Tessa would like to try surfing. She describes herself as independent, honest, social, creative and sporty. From the age of 14, Tessa had a desire to visit Australia. To expand her horizons and to find out more about herself.

You can view more profiles of students arriving soon from our website. Please note that this is just a handful of the students who will be arriving. If families would like a selection of student profiles sent to them to review and decide which student may fit into their family best, please contact us or reply to this email.

The Stuart family were thrilled to have Danish student Simon stay with them for 8 months. As commented by host mum Victoria, "it has been a fantastic experience. Simon has been an awesome role model to our two young children, he has been like an older brother to them." Victoria continues, "the experience has benefited us too, as it has allowed us to have greater free time and flexibility as
family. I was very impressed with Simon, as within the first couple of days he was here, he asked what should his chores be?”

“Just give it a go, the benefits will surprise you. I highly recommend it”, mentions Australian Host Dad Andrew, from the Stuart family. “Not only do your children benefit, but the benefits exist for the parents too.” Host Dad, Andrew continues, “We are so lucky to have Simon come stay with us. He is a fantastic student, easy going and not very demanding. He has fitted into the Australian way of life so easy. He even obtained his Bronze Medallion. We are so proud of Simon.”

The Stuart family talk about their hosting experience further and discuss the ups and downs of hosting, why they hosted and the benefits of being a volunteer host parent. Please check out their video here. You can also watch a selection of videos of the Cain family from our host family testimonials page on our website.

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. You can find out more about our organisation by visiting www.studentexchange.org.au.

If your students, families or language teachers have any questions about hosting an exchange student or would like to view profiles of students arriving from other countries, they can respond to this email, call our office on 1300 135 331 or visit our website. Our staff members will be happy to discuss which student might be best suited to their family. No obligation.

Yours sincerely,

Sandra Harders
Hosting Coordinator
We are the first and only student exchange organisation in Australia and New Zealand to be certified to ISO 9001 (Quality Management System).

IMPORTANT NOTICE: This transmission may contain confidential or privileged information and is intended for the use of the addressee only. If you are not the intended recipient, you are notified that any use, copying or dissemination of this transmission is strictly prohibited. If you have received this transmission in error, please notify me immediately by return email or the telephone number above and delete all copies of this transmission together with any attachments.

WEP Student Exchange – Learn and Discover the World!

WEP Australia is a not-for-profit student exchange organisation registered with the Education Departments in NSW, QLD and VIC. Applications for short and long-term programs commencing from November 2015 onward are open now. Students can choose from over 25 countries to live with a volunteer WEP host family and attend an overseas high school for a summer, semester or year. To request program information for your family, visit www.wep.org.au, email info@wep.org.au or call 1300 884 733.

We look forward to hearing from students, interested in this wonderful experience. If you have any questions about our programs or would like to request brochures for your school, please don’t hesitate to contact us.

Judith Ortmann

Learn and discover the world!

World Education Program Australia Limited

PO Box 260, Black Rock Vic 3193 OR 479 Hampton Street, Hampton Melbourne Vic 3188

Phone: +61 (0) 3 9598 4733 In Australia only: 1300 88 4733

Fax: +61 3 9598 4233

Email: judithortmann@wep.org.au
We are a not-for-profit student exchange organisation registered with the education departments.

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**Health NSW Government**

**Hunter New England Local Health District**

**Does Your Child Receive Regular, High Quality Dental Care?**

Hunter New England Oral Health provides comprehensive dental care for children under 18 years of age, completely FREE of charge.

**For more information, phone 1300 651 625**

**Our Clinic Locations:**
- Armidale
- Beresfield
- Cessnock
- Forster
- Glen Innes
- Gunnedah
- Inverell
- Maitland
- Moree
- Muswellbrook
- Narrabri
- Nelson Bay
- Newcastle
- Raymond Terrace
- Scone
- Singleton
- Tamworth
- Taree
- Toronto
- Wallsend
- Windale
DATES TO REMEMBER FOR 2015

JUNE –

Saturday June 28th –
Sunday July 12th

SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

JULY –

Monday July 13th

SCHOOL RESUMES - PUPIL FREE DAY

Monday July 14th

ALL STUDENTS RETURN

Monday July 20th

P&C Meeting 7pm
School Library D Block
(All Parents and Carers) Welcome

Tuesday 21st July

Musical Soiree in MPC
7pm
For students in all Years

Monday 27th July and
Friday 7th August

NAPLAN Testing

Monday 27th July –
Friday 31st July

Yr 11 Jindabyne Trip

AUGUST –

Friday August 14th

Medieval Day MPC
Yrs7- 8 History
Students

Monday August 17th

P&C Meeting 7pm
School Library D Block
(All Parents and Carers)
Welcome