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FROM THE TEAM LEADERS



'Honour your relationship by developing listening skills.' Allan Lokos

This term I have found it interesting having informal conversations with our Year 12 cohort about KAIs, plans for after their HSC year and generally how they are travelling. Their goals and ambitions have been interesting and unique to each individual boy. More

often than not, I am surprised with some of their goals and dreams. I always remember how vital it is to respond appropriately when hearing new ideas and goals for the first time that might sound strange coming from our boys.

The skill of listening is an admiral human trait. To selflessly listen to another person without thought or judgement is not an easy task. But for our boys who are going through a time of growth and increased responsibility, at times this is all they require. Someone to just hear them out without judgement or trying to solve the problem for them. Young men of 17 and 18 is an interesting and challenging group to work with. They are still under the age to vote but we are expecting them to grow, excel and become the men they have been growing into. So it is vital for us to listen and support their goals and ambitions.

I wanted to give a quick shout out to Michael Griffiths and the Year 12s involved in the 'Twelve Angry Men' Drama production. From the lighting, sound effects and costumes to the intense dialogue and acting, you were all amazing and I wanted to say thank you for putting on such an enjoyable professional performance!

ANDREA WIFFEN YEAR 11 ASSISTANT TEAM LEADER

UPCOMING EVENTS

Friday 16 November 2018

- Christmas Markets - Great Hall - 4pm- 8pm

Tuesday 27 November

- Volunteer Thank You Celebration - WSA Terrace - Weeks Senior Academy 7-9pm - [RSVP](#)

Saturday 1 December

- Knox in Concert - Great Hall 6.30pm

Thursday 6 December

- Presentation Day - Great Hall 1pm
- School concludes at 3.15pm.

See the full calendar in [Parent Lounge](#)

CONTACT

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[Year 12 page on the Portal](#)

FROM THE STUDENT ADMINISTRATION OFFICER



At Year Meeting this week, Mr James came and spoke to the students about the word 'courage' and what it means. He also spoke about how well our boys are doing at showing leadership around the School.

Road Safety Calendars have been delivered to my office. If you are interested, would you please come and collect one.

Ernest Lam represented the NSW Fencing Centre and won a gold medal for the Under 17 Cadet Team beating Sydney University, 45-36. Well done, Ernest.

On Thursday we had the whole School Assembly where WPS, Knox Prep and Knox Senior School combined to celebrate Christmas. Wahroonga Prep sang beautifully and should be congratulated on their performance. During Assembly, 'special' Reindeers welcomed in Santa to a very joyous roar.

Have a great weekend.

PAMELA HITCHCOCK YEAR 12 STUDENT ADMINISTRATION OFFICER

'COURAGE IS THE MOST IMPORTANT OF ALL THE VIRTUES BECAUSE WITHOUT COURAGE, YOU CAN'T PRACTICE ANY OTHER VIRTUE CONSISTENTLY.' MAYA ANGELOU



FROM THE STAGE 6 ACADEMY TEAM

With the KAI interviews commencing last week and coming to a close over the past few days, we would like to take this opportunity to commend the boys on how they have responded to the feedback that has come from these meetings. On Tuesday during Year Meeting, we addressed the boys with a focus on how they use the feedback of the meetings to lift their performance and ensure they are maximising their time and effort in all subjects. Their ability to manage their time over the coming year and develop this crucial skill set will to some extent determine their final result and whether they achieve to their potential. The importance of English in their suite of subjects was also mentioned. Thought must be given to how study

is structured and for most boys, English should be the first addressed when they sit down in the afternoon. If their performance in English can be improved, the rest of their subjects will often follow. The boys can certainly leverage off their KAI if they ensure they feedforward and consult with their Academic Mentor on a regular basis.

In summary, some of the key points the boys should consider:

- Don't focus so much on the KAI range, but use the feedback to strategically plan day to day study and prepare for assessment tasks;
- If the KAI was not in the expected range, don't become disheartened. Use it for motivation and set goals more in line with improving ranks from task to task, especially in consultation with the class teacher;
- Remember the KAI is an indicator NOT a predictor of ATAR. It is a tool that can assist with how each subject is viewed with respect to quantitative performance and what can be done to lift performance.

The KAI interviews would not be possible without the selfless efforts of the Academic Mentors. This role is voluntary and the 62 staff participating give their time without question and ensure their mentees receive the attention and guidance that most certainly helps the boys aim for their personal best. This relationship has the potential to be positively reinforced in an ongoing way if each student proactively seeks assistance from the mentor.

ANDREW WEEDING AND GREG NUNAN - STAGE 6 ACADEMY TEAM



FROM THE HEAD OF POSITIVE EDUCATION

This term I have had the opportunity to work with the Year 12 2019 mentor team with a focus on the content and delivery of their programs. Capitalising on the commencement of the HSC year in Term 4, the various demands it places on the boys and the heightened awareness of achievement that is common to this year, I wanted to engage the mentor program in a way that might assist our boys. In understanding the developing research on the role of non-cognitive skills in success and wellbeing central to Positive Psychology is a key focus. This term in mentor I am delivering a two-part masterclass understanding two key theories in Positive Psychology: Angela Duckworth's 'Grit' and Carol Dweck's 'Mindset'. In these masterclasses, I am giving our boys an overview of these theories and how they could directly relate to their experiences

in Year 12. While I do believe understanding the research can be beneficial for our boys now and into the future, neither of these two theories is a silver bullet to a successful HSC experience. This unit is meant to coach students to become aware of the increasingly evidence-based movement away from 'talent' as being the sole determiner of success. My goal is that my presentations can be the entry point to conversations that the boys will have with their mentors both as a group and individually about their non-cognitive skills and how they help or hinder them to achieve success in their lives.

MATT CAVALERO, HEAD OF POSITIVE EDUCATION

CRUSADERS YOUTH GROUP

Crusaders, or 'Cru' is a Christian centred and student-led group where boys from Years 7 to 12 can come together and explore what faith is and how it can impact on them. Held every Wednesday lunchtime in Room 24 (in the Main Building), Cru provides boys with the opportunity for them to be part of a community where they can be supported and develop in their faith. Likewise, boys who may not have experienced Christianity or would be interested in learning more are strongly encouraged to attend, regardless of their background. As a current Year 12 student, I can comfortably say that my faith has been tremendously helpful throughout my time at Knox, and has supported and reassured me in a way I personally believe nothing else can.

SEAN RINGROSE – SENIOR PREFECT FOR FAITH AND SPIRITUALITY

AROUND THE GROUNDS



In Year 12 Engineering Studies, students as part of their unit on Civil Structures mixed and poured two concrete beams. One was reinforced with steel and the other without. After it has set for about a week they will test the relative strength of each beam



Angus Hindmarsh, Oscar Cheal and Tim Barrie with their fathers at the Father Son International Breakfast.



Trent Muskens with his father at the Father Son International Breakfast



Harry Kyrikos with his father at the Father Son International Breakfast



Students receiving awards for NSW Schools Titration Competition



Michael Shi, Dharun Gandhi and Borty Oung who placed 38th out of 420 teams in the NSW Schools Titration Competition



Austin Thomson and Daniel Se with Mr Henskens (Masada teacher) at Masada College on Remembrance Day

MOVEMBER AWARENESS DAY

Next Friday student will take part in Movember Awareness Day through an interactive presentation during Student Assembly. Student will also be able to show their support by purchasing a 'stick-on mo' from the Social Justice portfolio leaders. Student and parents are encouraged to support this great cause by providing a gold coin [donation](#) or by [donating](#) to the Knox Movember team.



THE ANNUAL SONY FOUNDATION ABBOX OF FUN CAMP FOR CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

Food / Baking Donations needed for Saturday 8 December 8 to Tuesday 11 December

This year marks the 11th annual ABBOX Camp- the Sony Foundation Holiday Camp for Children with special needs.

The camp offers fun times for the campers and much needed respite time for the families.

The children are cared for by a large number of our wonderful Knox and Abbotsleigh Year 12 student volunteers and staff.

We need food donations and parents to help us at morning and afternoon tea times during the camp.

Please [click on the link](#) for more detail.



CHRISTMAS APPEAL

The Christmas season is approaching and each year Knox supports those for whom Christmas is a difficult time. Knox supports two agencies at this time, the Wesley Mission Christmas Food Hamper Appeal and the STARTTS Organisation. Please consider donating a small gift for children who may not receive any other gifts at Christmas. If giving gifts, could they please be wrapped and indicate whether they are for a boy or girl and their age. All donations can be delivered to the Knox Senior Centre.



Shoes for the Philippines – the reality that NO shoes means NOT going to school in some countries!



Each year we collect school shoes and trainers in good condition and polished please! Please would you drop off donations to Room 19 or to the WLF office?

These donations make a life changing difference to the children who live in the garbage tips of Manila. Without shoes these children are not permitted to attend school.

CHRISTMAS WHOLE SCHOOL ASSEMBLY

