School Calendar
2013 Term 1

Thursday 7 March
Shakespeare - Romeo and Juliet
Year 11 -12

Friday 8 March
Shakespeare - Romeo and Juliet
Years 7-10

Monday 11 March
Year 12 Bio Excursion

Tuesday 12 March
Open Girls Netball at Taree

Thursday 14 March
U/14 Cricket vs Dungog High School

Friday 15 March
Year 8 Science Excursion to Gloucester Show

Monday 18 -20 March
Year 7 - Great Aussie Bush Camp
Second instalment due - Jindabyne

Friday 22 March
Art Express - Year 11-12

Monday 25 March
Year 10 Work Experience

Wednesday 27 March
Year 7 SRC speeches and elections

Friday 29 March
Good Friday

Monday 1 April
Easter Monday

CANTEEN - TERM 1
Phone 65589963

Monday 11 March
Elena

Tuesday 12 March
Kristie

Wednesday 13 March
Jennie

Thursday 14 March
Narelle

Friday 15 March
Elena

Monday 18 March
Elena

Tuesday 19 March
Leonie

Wednesday 20 March
No Volunteer

Thursday 21 March
No Volunteer

VICTORY SET UP A THIRD ROUND CLASH
Gloucester High School Basketball has had a successful run over the last week making the 3rd round of the Craig Shield.

Last Thursday, Gloucester High School defeated Maitland Grossman 43-25 at the Rec Centre. Jackson Davis scored 12 points, Peter Reynolds 9 points and Hadiah Virzi-Hartigan 8 points. Jack Wilson was strong under the board collecting many rebounds. This victory meant Gloucester High School were off to Maitland Federation Centre to contest the remaining Hunter Teams.

Monday 4 March the team travelled to Maitland where they were drawn Glendale High School. Point scoring was shared with Jackson Davis and Jalil Virzi-Hartigan effective on the quick break, Jack Wilson scoring plenty from under the ring and Peter Reynolds and Hadiah Virzi-Hartigan driving to the basket when the opportunity arose. An 80-22 victory set up a third round clash with Hunter Sports High. With a great start Gloucester found themselves up 5-2 early in the match thanks to some great passing from Hadiah Virzi-Hartigan and Peter Reynolds. As the game wore on, Hunter Sports’ ability to rotate players told and they eventually won 54-18.

Peter Reynolds, Hadiah Virzi-Hartigan and Ben Reynolds all had excellent games.

Photos courtesy of Gloucester Advocate
In this report, I have included clarification regarding the structure of the week for senior students. The following excerpt comes from the Year 11 Subject Selection Booklet. If you have a son or daughter in Year 11 or Year 12, please take a moment to read and digest the information below, and contact the school if you have any questions.

Structure of the Week for Senior Students
As senior students, you will be largely operating in an adult learning environment. As such, you will be required to be responsible for taking charge of your own learning, being proactive, and working in partnership with your teachers. Some obvious changes to junior school include:

Study periods – If you study at TAFE or by correspondence, you will have study periods throughout your timetable. In Year 12, you may choose to drop a subject, leaving you with study periods as well. It is your responsibility to make the most of these periods. Remember – any time wasted at school just needs to be made up at home. Study periods are a useful time to speak with teachers, complete assigned work, or work with peers in a study group.

Early finish on Fridays – For most Year 11 and 12 students, your school day finishes at 12:00 pm each Friday. Those students studying Extension courses, though, may have these classes on a Friday afternoon. For the rest of you, your options are as follows:

- Sign out of school (front office) and go home, organise some casual work, go to music lessons, etc.
- Stay at school and study in the library, see staff members for help, work on major projects, form a study group etc.
- Students who sign out for any reason must sign back in again if they return to school
- Remember that, while your school day has officially finished, your behaviour in any public place must be responsible, as is the expectation of all GHS students after school on any other day
- Students leaving the school on Friday are reminded of the rules governing travel in cars. Parental permission (from parents of all students involved) must be provided to the school in writing, along with copies of the driver’s licence, registration and insurance

As seniors, you are given greater freedoms and flexibilities. Coupled with these are increased responsibilities and accountabilities. You are all role models for the junior school, and ambassadors for Gloucester High School. Traditionally, we have had great senior groups who understand their roles in the school and embrace their own learning with both hands.

We look forward to working with you as you begin your journey towards the HSC, further study and the workforce.

How do I get my GHS Newsletter?!
Parents can gain access to all the news and views within our newsletter in a number of ways:

If you have a Year 7 child at school, your newsletter should come home with them (every Year 7 child gets one!)

You can access the newsletter online, at the GHS website
www.gloucester-h.schools.nsw.edu.au

If you would like a hard copy sent home, just contact the front office, and we can arrange for one to be posted to you!

Cheers!
Mr Pat Cavanah

UNIVERSITY ROAD SHOW
Last Thursday 28 February, Year 11 and Year 12 students had the opportunity to attend the University Road Show. This was a great experience, helping students find the right university for them. The representatives from various universities spoke to us about courses, fees, scholarships, accommodation and campuses as well as giving us advice and helpful hints for maximising our performance in our HSC year.

Caitlin Tonelli and Elanore Latham
**MATHEMATICS CORNER**

Help is available in Mathematics. Mathsonline.com.au is available for all students at Gloucester High School. Students will be given their passwords and logins by their mathematics teacher. This resource can be used at school or at home, provided you have internet access. Your child always has homework. Revision of past topics is important.

**AUSTRALIAN MATHEMATICS COMPETITION 2013**

The Australian Mathematics Competition is open to all students and I encourage all students to enter. The competition will be held later in the year. All students will receive a certificate which they can add to their portfolio to show future employees. Gloucester High School has received some outstanding results in the past. The cost of the competition is $5 and can be paid at the front office now.

Mr Dowle

**CAREERS NEWS**

**YEARS 10, 11 AND 12**

If you are interested to know what it’s really like to work in the Health Industry in fields such as nursing, nutrition, speech pathology, medicine, pharmacy, physio, etc, there will be a Health Career Forum Wednesday 27 March in Taree. Please see Mr De Angelis for further information.

**WH & S White Card Training**

Monday 25 March, from 8.30am to 4.00pm, the white card training course will be held for all Year 10 and 11 students who are required, by law, to have this certificate to be on a work site. This is essential for many students’ Work Experience placements!!! The cost is $135 and it will need to be paid to the front office by Friday 8 March. Please see Mr De Angelis as soon as possible.

**UNE Open Day - Year 12 Students**

Year 12 students if you or your parents are interested in attending the UNE Open Day on Friday 3 and Saturday 4 May, please see Mr De Angelis in the Careers Office. A list of interested students must be created prior to registration.

**Work Readiness Presentation**

There will be a Work Readiness Presentation by Mid Coast Connect, which is compulsory for all Year 11 TVET and SVET students. The presentation will be in room 15 on Monday 8 April during periods 3 and 4. I’m happy to discuss any further details. Thanks, Mr De Angelis.

**ZONE SWIMMING**

A group of 20 Year 7- Year12 students travelled to Taree to compete in the zone swimming carnival held at the Manning Aquatic Centre on Wednesday 20 February. Competition was strong, with many students finishing in the top half of their individual races. Thank you to the parents for their support, assistance with travel and photographs. Congratulations to Brodie O’Brien and Kate Radford who were successful in qualifying for individual events at the Regional Carnival.
NIDA/ON-STAGE DRAMA EXCURSION

On Thursday 7 February, 23 students from Years 9, 10, 11 and 12 Drama travelled to Sydney to attend a physical theatre workshop at the National Institute of Dramatic Art (NIDA) and On-Stage, a showcase of the best HSC Individual and Group-devised performances from 2012. At NIDA, Australia’s premier actor training centre (Mel Gibson, Cate Blanchett and Hugo Weaving have all studied here), the workshop was designed and coordinated by an industry professional to support work currently being undertaken in the classroom. Students explored movement and physical theatre as a way into creating character and developing performance.

From Randwick, students travelled (fittingly) to Broadway for On-Stage, where they were exposed to some innovative plays exploring a range of topics, from African slavery and polygamy to political assassination and the death of theatre. These performances and the exhibition of HSC Drama Individual Projects in the foyer provided students with an appreciation of the standard of work that is achievable in Drama.

NEWCASTLE UNI EXCURSION

On Wednesday 27 February, 17 exuberant Year 12s and 3 enthusiastic Year 11s, set off to the Newcastle University on a science excursion. We first arrived at the Anatomy Lab where our wonderful teacher, Ms Judith Pickett, once worked. We were able to examine the bodies of real people who donated their bodies to science. It gave us science students a greater understanding of the human anatomy. We then moved on to the frog lab, where a lovely lady showed us all the species of frogs they were breeding in captivity to determine how each would survive in different habitats. Chemistry students attended a Biochem lecture and Physics students were given a tour of the Engineering workshops. Meanwhile, the rest of the Biology students were left to explore the Uni Campus as it was O-Week. Many were able to discover the different clubs and societies that the University offered. Then after a short lunch break everyone boarded the bus and made their way to HMRI (Hunter Medical Research Institute).

Here we were shown through the research labs and then split into groups. We were shown how DNA data looks after it has been decoded by the process of PCR (polymerase chain reaction), shown living breast cancer cells and were told about the research being done and shown how gel chromatography is done. We then moved on to another level where we were shown through a lab where research was being done on diseases including asthma, chlamydia and pneumonia where mice are used to conduct the tests. We also discussed the impact and treatment of various viral infections and diseases. We returned to the bus feeling a little queasy and uneasy for our trip home. We returned back to Gloucester safe, happy, knowledgeable and disease free.

A big thank you to Ms Pickett and Mr McCarthy for our excursion. It was enjoyed by all.

By Kristen Yarnold,
Caitlin Johnson and Alex Wilson

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Year 10 student Amy Andrews won the National Championships in 15 to 17 year old event in Sumo Wrestling and was runner-up in the point sparring at the International Sport Karate National Finals.

Well done Amy!

GLOUCESTER SHOW EXCURSION

Year 8 students will be experiencing the Physics of the Shockwave and Octopus rides at Gloucester Show next Friday 15 March. The height restrictions are minimum 130cm for the Shockwave and 110cm for the Octopus. Black closed in shoes are required. (Canvas shoes are not allowed). Students are to pay $13 at the office and have $2 for the bus driver on the day.

LES MURRAY AT GLOUCESTER GALLERY

Gloucester Park bench Poets have invited Les Murray to discuss his unique verse novel "Fredy Neptune" at Gloucester Gallery on Sunday March 10, 2.30pm. Everyone welcome. Phone (02) 6558 7428 or email piprob@gmail.com for more information.
NEW BOOKS

NON-FICTION
GUINNESS WORLD RECORDS 2013 – Discover the answers to the world’s most intriguing questions........Who’s smaller – the new shortest man or the heaviest newborn baby? What’s the biggest killer – the largest shark or the most dangerous road?

1000 IDEAS FOR DECORATING CUPCAKES, COOKIES & CAKES is a sugar-coated feast for the eyes and the imagination. This exciting collection presents glorious full-colour photographs of beautiful, outrageous and deliciously decorated desserts of all kinds.

THREE DOORS TRILOGY
THE THIRD DOOR (Book 3) -- Rye and Sonia have faced the heart-stopping perils of the land behind the Golden Door, and the cold terrors that lurk behind the Silver Door as well. By a miracle, they have survived them both. But Weld is still under threat, and many questions remain to be answered. Rye knows what he has to do. One Door remains a mystery -- the ancient wooden Door that he has been drawn to from the beginning. All he has to do is dare to go through it...
Author: Emily Rodda

INFINITY RING SERIES
A MUTINY IN TIME (Book 1) -- When best friends Dak Smyth and Sera Froste stumble upon the secret of time travel -- a hand-held device known as the Infinity Ring -- they’re swept up in a centuries-long secret war for the fate of mankind. Recruited by the Hystorians, a secret society that dates back to Aristotle, the kids learn that history has gone disastrously off course.
Author: James Dashner

DIVIDE AND CONQUER (Book 2) -- Hundreds of ships carrying thousands of warriors are laying siege to medieval Paris. The Parisians are holding their own, but the stalemate can only last so long. And that’s bad news -- especially since Dak has been captured, forced to work alongside the Vikings while Sera and Riq defend Paris from within. No matter which side wins, the kids lose!
Author: Carrie Ryan

RANGER’S APPRENTICE SERIES
THE RUINS OF GORLAN (Book 1) -- Will is small for his age, but fast and quick-witted. All his life, he has dreamed of becoming a great knight like the father he never knew, so he is devastated when he is rejected by castle Redmont’s Battle School. Instead he is apprenticed to Halt, the mysterious Ranger whose uncanny ability to move unseen is thought to be the result of black magic.
Author: John Flanagan

THE BURNING BRIDGE (Book 2) -- As the Kingdom of Araluen prepares for war against Morgarath, Will and Horace accompany the Ranger Gilan on a mission to Celtica. But Celtica’s villages and mines are silent. Only an exhausted and starving girl called Evanlyn can tell them why.
Author: John Flanagan

THE ICEBOUND LAND (Book 3) -- Will and Evanlyn are bound for Skandia as the captives of the fearsome Skandian wolfship captain, Erak. Halt has sworn to rescue Will, and he will do anything to keep his promise - even defy his King. Expelled from the Rangers, Halt is joined by Horace as he travels through Gallica towards Skandia.
Author: John Flanagan

OAKLEAF BEARERS (Book 4) -- Just as spring approaches, Evanlyn is carried off by mysterious horsemen. Will sets out after them. Halt and Horace arrive just in time for help. But the happiness of their reunion is cut short when Halt realizes these Temujai are only scouts for a massive invasion force. Can sworn enemies fight side by side to save their lives and their kingdoms?
Author: John Flanagan

THE SORCERER IN THE NORTH (Book 5) -- Five years have passed since the Skandians and Araluans made their treaty, and Will has finally become a Ranger. He soon learns that even a sleepy little island can have problems that keep him on his toes.
Author: John Flanagan

Diverse educational programs that challenge and inspire students
Diverse educational programs that challenge and inspire students

**THE SIEGE OF MACINDAW (Book 6)** -- In this desolate northern fief, where can Will find the fighting men he needs to overcome the traitorous Sir Keren and his band of criminals? Across the border, the fierce Scotti tribesmen are waiting for the signal that Castle Macindaw is in friendly hands, and the way is clear to mount a full-scale attack. Author: John Flanagan

**ERAK’S RANSOM (Book 7)** -- When the Skandian Oberjarl is taken hostage during a raid on the desert land of Arrida, his second-in-command, Svengal, asks the Araluans for help. Halt and Will must go with him to deliver the ransom and secure Erak’s freedom, but a royal presence is needed. The Princess Cassandra -- or Evanlyn, as Will knows her -- persuades her father to let her go with them. Author: John Flanagan

**THE KINGS OF CLONMEL (Book 8)** -- Will is at the annual Ranger Gathering but Halt is investigating mysterious happenings in the west. When he does finally return, it’s with bad news. Hibernia is in turmoil. A false religious cult calling themselves the Outsiders are sowing confusion and sedition, and five of the six Hibernian kingdoms have been undermined. Author: John Flanagan

**HALT’S PERIL (Book 9)** -- Halt, Horace and Will are on the trail of Tennyson and his followers. The false prophet of the Outsider cult escaped justice for his crimes in Clonmel, and Halt is determined to stop him before he crosses the border into Araluen. Author: John Flanagan

**THE EMPEROR OF NIHON-JA (Book 10)** -- Horace is missing. Months have passed since he was sent on a military mission to the court of the Emperor of Nihon-Ja but he has failed to return. Evanlyn is worried, and in company with Will and Alyss, she sets out to discover what has become of their old friend.

**THE LOST STORIES (Book 11)** -- Everyone knows the legends of the Rangers of Araluen. But no one has heard the whole story - until now. Has Halt told Will the truth about how Will became an orphan? Did Gilan track down Morgarth’s lieutenant after the battle of Three Step Pass? Is there to be a royal wedding -- or will tragedy strike first? Author: John Flanagan

**CHAPLAIN’S CHAT**

**Family and School**

During my many years as an educator, counsellor and chaplain, one of the most consistent questions asked by a parent is “How can I help my child?”

A chaplain has a lot to do with students and their parents particularly when there is grief, sadness or any issue that blocks the student’s well-being, capacity for learning and/or healthy relationships within the school.

In the context of school life, it is essential that all recognise that parents are the first educators of their children. School builds upon the values and aspirations of every parent for their child. Family life is the place where all life is nurtured.

Families come in all shapes and sizes, and within every family there is of course some lack of perfection, difficulty and disadvantage of some kind. Nevertheless, building resilience in each individual is a task of both family and school.

Recently I came across this interesting article which I offer to those asking “How can I help my child?”

A recent report from the United States claims that children who were expected to sit down with the rest of the family at meal times, and who were encouraged to talk at the table, were doing better at school, had higher self-esteem, better social competence, and had better prospects of getting a job. This report confirms a study conducted 25 years ago in Melbourne, ‘Talk Up at the Table’. The author, Don Edgar, foundation director of the Australian Institute of Family Studies (EQ Australia, Issue 1, Autumn 1998) had been looking for the correlates of adolescent competence: which kids with what sorts of parents were most likely to do well. He found that on almost every outcome measure-school results, self-esteem, social competence, optimism versus pessimism, good parent-child relationships, an expectation of later success in life - the kids (whether rich or poor) who were allowed to chatter and exchange ideas at meal times scored significantly higher than those who were told to shut up and eat their meals or who sat isolated in front of the television. At the time, he interpreted the meal talk factor as illustrative of an openness on the part of parents to the free expression of ideas, mutual respect within the family, and warmth and structure combining to give children a sense of place and security in their lives. The new US study renews his faith in the efficacy of eating together and letting the meal talk flow. It may be noisy, argumentative and hard to manage, with parents and young people working different hours, but its outcomes are worth the trouble.

Eulalie O’Keefe
SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL 2013

“A kiss has the power to erupt the world but only love can take life.”

Gloucester’s Shakespeare Festival is in its fourteenth season, the festival is a mainstay on the region’s cultural calendar. This year the Shakespeare Festival is proud to be presenting a fresh and youthful production of one of the Bard’s greats, Romeo and Juliet. This production will be staged by the exciting and innovative Tantrum Theatre from Newcastle.

All students have the opportunity to see the show, Years 11 and 12 attending on Thursday March 7 and Years 7 to 10 attending on Friday 8 March. Students will return to school for the final two periods of the day.

Performances will take place at 10:00am and there will be an informative workshop session with director and actors from the play following the performance.

There will be a BBQ lunch available after the performance. For a nominal price students can purchase a sausage sandwich and/or a can of soft drink. Of course, students may also bring their own lunches should they so desire.

This is the most famous love story in English literature, and the world’s favourite, portraying the chaos and passion of being in love. In Romeo and Juliet, love is a violent, ecstatic, overpowering force that supersedes all other values, loyalties, and emotions. Their love is a brutal, powerful emotion that captures individuals and catapults them against their world, and against themselves.

Shakespeare Masterclasses
The renowned Bell Shakespeare Theatre Company will be providing three workshop-style sessions for the 2013 Festival, with a focus on Shakespeare’s comedies.

These two hour Masterclasses are a great way to get involved in an expert-led, action-packed experience. Time and time again, Bell Shakespeare Masterclasses have been proven to raise even the most reluctant participant to their feet, and add to the enjoyment of reading, speaking and understanding Shakespeare in new and exciting ways. Suitable for students and adults of all ages.

Choose one, two or three sessions, each one features a different comedy classic from the Bard.
All sessions are 2.30pm-4.30pm and take place in the hall at Gloucester High School.

Thursday 07 March 2013: A Midsummer Night’s Dream
Friday 08 March 2013: Much Ado About Nothing
Saturday 09 March 2013: Twelfth Night
Cost: $15 adult; $5 school student.

Diverse educational programs that challenge and inspire students
COMING SOON!!!!
THE GHS 2013 MUSICAL

hairspray

The Broadway Musical

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Book by</th>
<th>Music by</th>
<th>Lyrics by</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mark O'Donnell Thomas Meehan</td>
<td>Marc Shaiman</td>
<td>Scott Wittman Marc Shaiman</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Based on the New Line Cinema film written and directed by John Waters

Orchestrations by Harold Wheeler

Arrangements by Marc Shaiman

By arrangement with Hal Leonard Australia Pty Ltd, Exclusive agent for Music Theatre International (NY)

VENUE
Gloucester High School Hall

PUBLIC PERFORMANCE DATES
Wednesday June 19 @ 12:00pm
Tuesday June 18, Wednesday June 19, Friday June 21, Saturday June 22 @ 7:30pm

TICKETS
$10.00 adult, $6.00 concession, $26.00 Family

BOOKINGS - Phone 6558 1605 or purchase tickets at the door
2013 Musical Profile
Who: Mrs Ingram

Role: Director/Co-Producer/ Musical Director

Musical experience: Co-Director and Musical Director of Nine past musicals at GHS, including Grease, Back to the Eighties, Great Australian Rock Musical, Charades and many other memorable shows. Many years professional experience in the performing arts industry, including performances at the Opening of the Sydney Olympics and several Opera House Concert performances

Favourite musical: My Fair Lady and The Pirates of Penzance

What are your first impressions of the play? There are many underlying great messages about tolerance and overcoming adversity within this play. The songs are catchy and the script has some excellent lines, there are also some great characters that will emerge throughout the play.

What do you think will be the challenges in staging the show? The music is extremely challenging and there will probably be some interesting moments in rehearsals. We have some great soloists who will certainly be making an impression on the audience. I think that the chorus backing groups will find the songs very challenging, however they will certainly be having a good time learning all their parts.

What are you looking forward to most? I think that one of the most rewarding moments is when we finally put the band together with the cast, that is when we start to see just how great our students are. After many weeks of preparation the moment that the cast hear the live band for the first time is always one of the best things about our musicals.

How are rehearsals going? We have been having rehearsals each lunch time to work specifically on songs as well as Monday afternoons when we work with staging etc. I am looking forward to seeing some great singing and dancing over the next few weeks.

A WIN IN THE FIRST ROUND

In the preliminary round of the Mock Trial held last week a confident team: Shelby Green (Barrister), Sarah Moore, (Solicitor), Jake Harris (Barrister), Hannah West (witness) Sophie Kingston (witness) and Glenn Bridge (Magistrate’s Clerk), set out to see justice applied to a case involving the theft of a Red BMW coupe. Well prepared and rehearsed in the legal principles of bailment, individual rights and justice, the team, The Mochas, were successful against San Clemente High School, Mayfield. The case was decided at the Gloucester Council Chambers Meeting room with Magistrate Brian Barlow in attendance. Though this was a preliminary round and will not contribute to the final score, the team were admirable in their handling of the case and will be a challenging competitor in the next round. Congratulations are well due, and Good Luck for the next round.

Ms Louise Haynes

RURAL FIRE SERVICE CADET PROGRAM

Gloucester High is pleased to announce that the successful RFS Cadet program will again be offered to interested Year 10 students during Friday sport afternoons in Term 2 and Term 3. Students will be able to complete a number of nationally recognised units of competency and a formal first aid certificate. All programs are provided free except for a $20 fee to cover the cost of the First Aid Manual. RFS personnel will be at the school on Wednesday 13 March to hold an information session for the students. Students participate in the program for one term and complete their first aid course and practical assessment at the end of each term. Interested students will be asked to submit an application form if they would like to participate in the program. Numbers are limited to 15-20 students per group, each term. It is recommended that students who will be involved in the musical apply for Term 3 positions. Please contact Sue Keirstead on 65581605 if you have any questions.
SEASONS FOR GROWTH

Seasons for Growth is a special loss and grief education program that assists young people to deal effectively with change and loss, enabling them to lead happier and more fulfilled lives.

Seasons for Growth is an educative process where young people can explore and understand what happens when they experience significant change/loss in their lives, e.g. parental separation, divorce, death of someone close, living with disability/mental illness/terminal illness, moving, living in foster care, pet loss. Participants are able to gain the skills needed to manage the effects of loss, to more effectively manage their emotions. Participants develop an integrated sense of self that supports their ability to build effective relationships with peers and family, and engage more enthusiastically in learning and classroom activities.

Gloucester High School offers this program to all students who are experiencing any of the above life/family situations. A qualified and experienced Companion/Facilitator conducts the program. Students meet for one hour every week during class time for 6 weeks. If you would like your child to be part of the SEASONS PROGRAM please sign the permission note below and return it to the school as soon as possible so that resources can be prepared.

Dear Ms O’Keefe and Mrs Edman,

I give permission for my son/daughter ____________________________ to participate in the SEASONS PROGRAM for 6 weeks in Term 2 -2013.

Name __________________________________________

Signature __________________________________________________

Date ________________________________________________________
National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy 2013

LETTER TO PARENTS

In May 2013 the National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) will be completed by all students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 in all government and non-government schools. NAPLAN has the support of all State and Territory Education Ministers and will assess the literacy and numeracy learning of students in all Australian schools.

The results of the tests will provide important information to schools about what each student can do, and will be used to support teaching and learning programs. Parents will receive a report indicating their child’s level of achievement. Each student’s level of achievement will be reported against the national minimum standard.

Background information (student name, gender, date of birth, language background and Aboriginality) will be collected as part of the National Assessment Program. This information is treated confidentially and held securely to ensure that every student’s right to privacy is maintained.

The tests will be conducted across Australia for all students from 14-16 May 2013.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TUESDAY 14 MAY</th>
<th>WEDNESDAY 15 MAY</th>
<th>THURSDAY 16 MAY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Language Conventions (Spelling, Grammar and Punctuation)</td>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>Numeracy (Number, Algebra, function and pattern; Measurement, chance and data; and Space)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In the Numeracy tests students do not require any measuring tools such as rulers or protractors. In Years 7 and 9 there will be two Numeracy tests: one where a calculator is allowed and one where calculators are not to be used. For the calculator test, the student should use the calculator that they currently use at school.

Friday 17 May – A ‘catch-up’ day is scheduled for students who missed a test or were absent on a test day.

Students may be considered for exemption from the tests if:

- they are newly arrived in Australia (less than one year before the test) and with a language background other than English, or
- they have significant intellectual disability and/or significant co-existing conditions which severely limit their capacity to participate in the tests.

All other students are expected to participate in the tests. Disability adjustments which reflect the student’s normal level of support in the classroom may be provided. Large print, Braille and black and white versions of the tests are available for students with vision impairment.

Access to disability adjustments or exemption from the tests must be discussed with the school Principal, and a parent or carer consent form must be signed. Students may be withdrawn from NAPLAN by their parent or carer. This is a matter for consideration by parents and carers in consultation with the Principal. If you wish to withdraw your child from the tests you must sign a parent/carer consent form. Consent forms are available at your child’s school.

Please make an appointment with the school Principal if you would like further information about your child’s participation in NAPLAN.

Additional information about NAPLAN can be found at:

SCHOOL VISION STATEMENT

Gloucester High School aims to develop a supportive learning environment that engages all students, teachers and community in the pursuit of excellence.

Principal | Mr Pat Cavanagh
Deputy Principal | Mr Mike King
Address: 129 Ravenshaw Street, Gloucester NSW 2422
Telephone: 6558 1605 Fax: 6558 1229
Email: gloucester-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au