From the Principal's Desk

Firstly, welcome back to students, staff and parents to an extremely busy Term 3. As always there are many exciting activities and events which will consume a lot of time and effort from both staff and students. Education Week celebrations, Year 12 trial HSC examinations, Year 11 preliminary examinations, Year 12 farewell activities, along with our school’s major performing arts production – ‘Alice and the Rabbit’ all make this term an important time for our students.

There are now less than 35 school days for our Year 12 students and all should be fully engaged in completing courses, major projects, PIPs and a regular home study and revision program. Our teachers are available to support Year 12 all the way up to the day they sit their HSC examinations and beyond. The Thursday afternoon homework centre is another support structure Year 12 can access, as well as advice from the careers advisor, Mrs Cheryl Fitzpatrick. All the best, Year 12, in your final days of secondary schooling. Make the most of what time you have left.

Please remember our second Parent Teacher Evening for 2015 will be held on Tuesday 28th July 2015. Information and booking sheets were posted home in the last newsletter. The interviews will start ½ hour after school at 4pm and conclude at 6pm. We have again separated the teachers to improve privacy and individual attention. The Mathematics and PD/H/PE staff will be in Room 9, English, LOTE and HSIE staff in Rooms 2 and 3, Science and Agriculture staff in Room 13, while the TAS staff will be in Room 28. The Principal, Deputy, Careers Advisor and tea, coffee and nibbles will be in the school library.

Our school community was saddened and shocked with the sudden loss of town Mayor Mr John McMahon. Our school had a very close association with Mr McMahon who strongly supported the youth of Oberon and always praised the work and efforts of teachers in our public school system. Mr McMahon regularly attended school functions and was instrumental in setting up the Oberon Youth Council as he felt that young people were the future; that they had important things to say and contribute.

(Principal's report continued on page 2)
Mr McMahon’s desire to develop young leaders was evident in many speeches he delivered and he always enjoyed mingling with students on the student representative council at our school. On behalf of our entire school community, I would like to acknowledge the extraordinary contribution that Mr McMahon has made to the Oberon community both as Mayor and in the background, supporting many charities and Oberon activities.

When given the opportunity to spend time with our Mayor, our students always offered him respect. Our thoughts are with Mr McMahon’s family and friends at this time and we will continue to push the values and leadership opportunities within our school to honour our much-loved Mayor.

Minor School Improvements

During the school holiday break some school improvements, which have been planned for some time, were completed. These improvements are part of our ongoing programme to improve our school and teaching areas to help make our school a more attractive environment. Over the next few years we will continue to make minor improvements and faculties have been asked to make application at the end of each year in their budgeting process. New blinds have been installed in rooms 3, 4 and 5 and these will assist students in a variety of weather conditions and also help when reading information from the board. The final upgrades to the front office are almost complete with the new bench top installed to match the new desks. Well done to the office ladies for their organisation and willingness to improve the school foyer and office area.

Oberon High School Refund Policy

In 2014/2015 some excursions and school activities have again failed to meet their budgeted costs for varied reasons. There have been many students who have received a refund for a payment where circumstances have prevented the student attending the excursion or activity. Oberon High School publishes the Refund Policy every year so that the wider community can appreciate some of the associated costs involved in organising activities. Below is the current policy:

In general, a refund will only be granted where:
• The activity is cancelled
• An incorrect payment has been made by student or parent/carer
• The student meets with serious misadventure
• The place of the student will be taken by another student

In every case, the refund will be limited to that amount not required for:
• Buses
• Money which cannot be refunded – e.g. pre-paid entry.

Where the principal determines that a student will not participate in the activity a full refund will be given. Refunds can only be made by cheque payable to the parent/carer.

(Principal’s report continued on page 3)
Oberon High School Snow Policy

Issues:
- Snow falls are unpredictable in nature, making it difficult to make decisions in relation to road closures and sending students home. Snow may fall prior to school commencing, or after school has commenced.
- A number of stakeholders are involved: Council who may close roads based on advice from their staff; the bus company; Oberon Public School and St Joseph's Catholic School, who utilise the same bus services.
- Duty of care for the Principal extends to employees and students.
- Changes to the WHS laws means that employees are no longer covered by Workers Compensation if involved in an accident whilst travelling to school and the chance of this is increased if snow or ice is predicted.
- This policy is a guide and cannot cover all situations that may arise. Decisions will need to be made on the day based on the best information available at the time and in the interests of the welfare of students and staff.
- Where there is doubt over conditions, the Principal will consider the safety of staff and students in making a decision.

Procedures:

Snow before school:
- Council website is updated from 7am. Police advise on road closures between 4pm and 7 am. Council also advertise closures on radio stations 2LT and 2BS. Principal will contact Council or police to seek advice on closures, contact the bus company and make a decision as to whether the school is open. This decision will be discussed with the Director NSW Public Schools Bathurst and notice given via 2BS.
- Information regarding road closures can also be found using the Live Traffic App.
- Staff unable to attend school due to road closures should advise the Deputy Principal or Principal. If possible they should report to their nearest school.

Snow during school hours:
- Parents who live out of town will be requested to provide advice in writing at the beginning of the year, of an alternative home in town their child can go to, in the event of road closures and buses not being able to deliver students. The school will attempt to advise parents if buses are unable to deliver students home. Parents will also be required to advise the school in writing whether in the case of buses taking students home early, if would rather collect their child from school, or have their child go to a nominated house in town.
- Parents who live in town will be requested to advise the school if: their child is to go home on the bus; walk home or remain at school to be collected by a parent.
- In cases where students are to go home early, an assembly will be called in the school hall, where all students and staff are to attend.
- The Principal will meet with staff to ascertain which staff should leave school, and those are able to safely stay in order to provide adequate supervision for students. Where it is safe to do so, staff should remain at school until the buses have left.
- The Deputy Principal and Head Teachers will ensure that students are safely escorted from the hall to the buses as they arrive. Students who live in town will remain at school, unless the parent requests otherwise.
- Office staff will maintain a list of actions nominated by parents, with phone numbers, and call parents to advise them that buses have gone home early. The Principal or nominee will contact 2BS to advise of the situation and contact the Director NSW Public Schools Bathurst.

“Black Ice” in car park or footpaths
- In conditions where ice is likely to form in the car park, the Principal or nominee should inspect the car park. If ice is present, the car park should be closed by a tape and warning sign. Staff will need to park on the roadside.
- Should ice form on the entry footpath, this should be taped off with a warning sign and an alternative path across the lawn be marked by cones to the front entrance of the school. In these situations, students are to remain in the buildings until conditions are safe.
- In cases where staff deems it unsafe to travel to school due to dangerous roads, they should contact the Deputy Principal or Principal as soon as possible, advising them of their intentions.

Useful contacts in the event of snow or ice:
School - 6336 1606
Oberon Bus Service - Murray Fenton - 0413 001 687
Oberon Council - 6329 8100 (8.30am to 4.30pm)
Oberon Council - Roads after hours - 0428 698 036
Oberon Council website - www.oberon.nsw.gov.au

Ken Barwick
Principal
0418 629 198
Curriculum Change – Stage 6 – Compressed Model

The compressed model is a change to the way the Stage 6 curriculum is delivered to students at our school. Oberon High School has spent a great deal of time investigating this model and feel it will be a change that advantages the variety of students for which our school caters.

How does the new model compare to the current model?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Current Model (what happens now)</th>
<th>Compressed Model (what will happen in the future)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Year 11 (2015) – Preliminary Course starts Term 1, 2015</td>
<td>• Year 11 (2016)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Year 11 (2015) – Preliminary Course finishes at the end of Term 3, 2015</td>
<td>• OSC (Red) Preliminary Course starts Week 6, Term 4, 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Year 12 (2016) – HSC Course starts Term 4, 2015</td>
<td>• OSC (Red) Preliminary Course finishes at the end of Term 1, 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Year 12 (2016) – HSC Course finishes at the end of Term 3, 2016</td>
<td>• OSC (Red) HSC Course starts Term 2, 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Year 12 (2016) – HSC examinations occur Week 1-5 Term 4, 2016</td>
<td>• OSC (Red) HSC Course finishes at the end of Term 3, 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Students pick 6 subjects to start Preliminary</td>
<td>• HSC examinations occur Week 1-5 Term 4, 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Students continue with the same subjects in the HSC throughout the following year</td>
<td>• Students <strong>pick 3 subjects</strong> to start Preliminary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Students continue with the same 3 subjects in the HSC during the same year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Year 12 (2017)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• OSC (Black) Preliminary Course starts Week 6, Term 4, 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• OSC (Black) Preliminary Course finishes at the end of Term 1, 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• OSC (Black) HSC Course starts Term 2, 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• OSC (Black) HSC Course finishes at the end of Term 3, 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• HSC examinations occur Week 1-5 Term 4, 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Students <strong>pick another 3 subjects</strong> to start Preliminary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Students continue with the same 3 subjects in the HSC during the same year</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**General Comparison – no specific dates included**
Curriculum Change - Stage 6 - Compressed Model

Why do we want to change?

- This structure will increase the number of subjects that we can offer. This will increase the breadth of curriculum choices to better cater for all students.
- Students remaining only due to the 17 years leaving age rule will now study three subjects and complete them prior to leaving. This will allow them to complete VET subjects and gain full accreditation in these courses prior to leaving school (rather than having to complete qualifications over two years).
- Students will complete three of their HSC exams in their first year of senior school. This is viewed as an advantage as students can then complete the final three subjects in the following year.
- Students only have to concentrate on three subjects in each cycle which means they can focus more closely on these subjects.
- Turns the “down time” of Year 10 during Term 4 into constructive time as they commence Stage 6 work.
- Post exams each year it can be hard to motivate students from Year 7-9 as they believe the year has ended. The roll over will mean they start a new year and new work, hence, the end of year will be more meaningful and more productive.
- The change offers more time for Year 6 transition to acclimatise students before starting high school.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Current Student</th>
<th>Future Student</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Preliminary (Year 11)</strong></td>
<td><strong>OSC (Red) (Year 11)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Standard English (Prelim)</td>
<td>Standard English (Prelim)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hospitality (Prelim)</td>
<td>Standard English (HSC)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Maths (Prelim)</td>
<td>Hospitality (Prelim)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Society and Culture (Prelim)</td>
<td>General Maths (Prelim)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biology (Prelim)</td>
<td>General Maths (HSC)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PDHPE (Prelim)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>HSC (Year 12)</strong></td>
<td><strong>OSC (Black) (Year 12)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Standard English (HSC)</td>
<td>Society and Culture (HSC)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hospitality (HSC)</td>
<td>Society and Culture (Prelim)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Maths (HSC)</td>
<td>Society and Culture (HSC)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Society and Culture (HSC)</td>
<td>Biology (Prelim)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biology (HSC)</td>
<td>Biology (HSC)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PDHPE (HSC)</td>
<td>PDHPE (Prelim)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Oberon Senior College Information

Curriculum Change - Stage 6 - Compressed Model- Questions and Answers

Are students in Year 11 ready to study at a HSC Level?
Oberon High School has offered early start VET courses in the past which has led to Year 11 students sitting their HSC early. Results from these students in the past have shown that Year 11 students can be successful at HSC level. The experience of other schools has been that Year 11 students do perform on par with top students in each course. They have also found that the experience of the 1st cycle helps students significantly in completing the 2nd cycle.

Can Year 11 and Year 12 student effectively work together in the same class?
Students at our school are used to working in classes with students from different year groups as we already have staged electives and sport in Stage 5. In the compressed model Year 11 and 12 students could be in the same classes, but there may also be classes that have just all Year 11 or all Year 12 students. This will depend on student choices which drive the construction of the curriculum each school year. We do expect once the model is in full operation (2016/2017) that all classes will have students from both Year 11 and Year 12. We see mixing Year 11 students in their first cycle with Year 12 students in their second cycle is a ready-made, peer mentoring opportunity which can help Year 11 acclimatise to senior school.

If a student is absent will it mean they miss a lot of work?
If a senior student is absent at the moment they are missing work in six subjects. Under the compressed model they will miss work in three subjects. As the students are completing the entire course in half the time any absence is magnified. Encouraging senior students to minimise absences is already an important issue that we continually address. We have identified this as a key area for students completing the HSC within the compressed model and will continue to educate them on the benefits of maximising their attendance.

Can staff and students complete the course in the time available?
The school had to seek approval from the Board of studies, Teaching Educational Standards to introduce this system. The school had to clearly identify the time allocated for course completion ensuring that mandatory time requirements would be met. The amount of time allocated in the compressed model is therefore the same as it is currently. The only difference is that the total time for Preliminary and HSC course completion is compressed into 3.5 terms rather than 7 terms as it is now. Doubling the number of periods allocated for a 2 unit course from 8 periods per fortnight (as it is now) to 16 periods per fortnight allows each course to be completed in half the time.

Will all subjects be available each year?
Each new cohort will be given a chance to undertake the subject selection process. We cannot guarantee that any particular course will run as curriculum is based on student selections. It is important to remember though that the compressed system will give students greater choice. This was one of the factors driving our school to embrace this change.

What effect will this model have on junior classes?
The experience of other schools that run a compressed system is that it reduces the staffing needed to run a diverse senior curriculum. They have therefore been able to increase the staffing available for the junior school curriculum. This would allow for increased Stage 5 elective offerings or allow for the introduction of alternative subjects into Stage 4 to increase diversity.

Can you still do VET courses in this model?
VET is an important part of our senior curriculum at the moment and this will not change when the new system is in place. If students undertake a VET course in the first cycle they will complete the whole course before they enter Year 12. This means that students who are seeking employment at this stage will have completed an entire VET course to Certificate II level and be 12 months ahead of other candidates undertaking a traditional model.

Can you still do a Distance Education course in this model?
Dubbo Distance Education offer courses in the compressed format. An application needs to be made to Dubbo Distance Education as is currently the case with the final decision for enrolment their prerogative.
**Oberon Senior College Information**

*(Compressed Curriculum Questions and Answers continued)*

**What happens if a student leaves OHS to enrol at another school OR a student wishes to enrol at our school after senior courses have commenced?**

There is no doubt that this is potentially a problem. The majority of schools follow a traditional model, even though this model is increasing in popularity. This decision was made to benefit our students and improve their outcomes when they complete their entire HSC pattern. We have very few students who leave or enrol after commencing senior studies. Each new enrolment will be taken on its merit and it must be said that even in our current traditional model the enrolment of students mid-way through their senior studies cannot always be accommodated and alternative solutions to HSC completion have to be made.

**Will there be an evaluation of the new structure?**

It is essential that the change to a compressed model will be evaluated carefully over the first few cycles. We are expecting modifications may need to be made as with any change, however, we are confident that the compressed model will be a positive move for our students in senior school.

---

**Brand New Bay**

To celebrate the arrival of the new bay ends in the library, library staff invited students to participate in our “Brand New Bay” competition. To win, students had to decorate a bay end celebrating a book, author or genre. The competition will close on Friday 24th of July, but over the last two weeks library staff have been intrigued by the artwork, craft and ‘things we don’t know what they are yet’ that have been appearing on bay ends.

The pictures show the bay end decorating in progress. As soon as the judges make their decision, winners will be announced.

---

Above: bringing ‘Lord of the Rings’ into being  
Left: Roald Dahl’s quirky words  
Top: building ‘Paper Towns’  
Centre: detail from “Ballet”  
Bottom: detail from ‘Arts & Literature’

---

**Craig Luccarda, Deputy Principal**

0419 405 338

---

**It’s Happening in the Library!**
OHS celebrates NAIDOC

We will be celebrating NAIDOC on Tuesday afternoon, 28 July 2015. Students from the junior school will participate in a number of activities such as dot painting, bush tucker, face painting and games based on indigenous themes.

The purpose of this event is to increase the awareness of indigenous culture in our school and community.

Contact Miss Bec Corby for more information.

The Great Australian Spelling Bee

At Oberon High School, we place particular importance on providing opportunities for students to participate in experiences beyond the classroom. Year 7 and 8 students were lucky enough to be involved in an excursion to Fox Studios in Moore Park, Sydney on June 18th, thanks to the generosity of Shine Australia Productions. The entertainment company provided 50 free tickets for our students to view the recording of the brand new Channel 10 television program “The Great Australian Spelling Bee”.

It was a very early start leaving at 6am and travelling to Moore Park by bus. Forty students were accompanied by Mr Grantham, Mrs Francis and Mrs Eggins. Students got to experience being in a recording studio, viewing the production of the show and participating in the audience recording. There was a lot of clapping to do as well as audience reactions such as excitement, disappointment and surprise. Our students were excellent actors. Some of our students were given a lesson from the camera operator. We were very surprised to see the large amount of crew needed to produce a program.

We spent 4 hours in the studio and learnt a lot about television production. It was exciting to be so close to celebrities Grant Denyer and Chrissie Swan. Students commented on how small Grant Denyer was in real life. And yes…. there was lots of spelling.

The contestants were put through rigorous spelling games with very long and complicated words. Our students were very impressed with the quality of the contestants who ranged from 8 to 13 years. Perhaps next year some of our students could apply for the show.

After the obligatory Maccas stop at Eastern Creek, the students settled in for the remainder of the trip. All exhausted from a huge day of learning. A special mention should be made about the exceptional behaviour of our students. It is heart-warming to be able to take such a large group of kids away and have a great day with exemplary behaviour from all students. In fact, one of the parents of a contestant who was sitting with us in the audience commented to Mrs Francis on the Oberon students being the best behaved group she had seen so far.

If you are interested in watching “The Great Australian Spelling Bee”, it airs on Channel 10 on Monday 3rd August at 7:30 pm. You might learn a few new words as well as see some familiar faces in the audience.

Thanks to all the students for a great day as well as Mr Grantham and Mrs Eggins for supervising the students.

Mrs Nicole Francis
Head Teacher HSIE / English

Alice and the Rabbit

Here’s a very important date for your calendar! Don’t be late!

**Thursday, the 3rd of September** is when Oberon High School presents Alice and the Rabbit for our Showcase this year.

The spring spectacular will feature performances in dance, drama and music from both students and staff, highlighting the variety and high standard of local talent in our school.

There will be two performances - matinee and evening.

The matinee performance is designed for local primary aged students and selected guests. Parents and other community members will be able to purchase tickets for the evening performance from the school - $5 per person or $20 for families.

Tickets will go on sale on the 3rd of August from the school office.