Principal’s Report:
Our school community has been deeply saddened by the loss of Sarah Bambey. We remember her with love, respect and pride, as a student at the school, and later as a young adult in a working role here. Our thoughts have been with her family and friends, as they deal with the most difficult of situations.

At Northlakes High School, many students have already been involved in a range of extra activities. The Year 7 camp, organised by Mr Wilkinson, was a big success. Students were kept busy in a lot of activities, as well as engaging in goal setting and positive behaviour activities.

It was a very positive experience. The students who remained at school were also co-operative and engaged, even though they were in adjusted class groups, and with teacher they might not normally have.

Mr Boake has held meetings with our local primary school as part of our Linkages program. We are proud of our effective school community links. Staff from all four schools are working together to ensure continuity of curriculum and expectations. In 2016, this is reflected in our numeracy and literacy strategies, the implementation of AVID in Bluehaven Public School and Northlakes Public School, and many circumstances where our schools visit each other and share.

Diaries: Year 7 and 8 have been issued diaries, as part of a substantial program to improve engagement and outcomes for these year groups.
Thank you to all parents who are clearly supporting our expectations. I am very pleased with the impact of our teams approach on student learning this year.

Monday 29th February 2016: On Monday, some staff will be attending Sarah Bambey’s
funeral. We will adjust some students’ timetables for period 3 and 4, though most classes will continue as usual. Staff of senior students who will not be at school in the afternoon will have let their students know what work they can continue with. I wish to thank my Principal colleagues for their support. On Monday, teaching and office staff from Wyong, Gorokan, Wadalba and Lake Munmorah High Schools are coming to Northlakes to help my staff keep our school open. It is a highly appreciated gesture from my valued colleagues. Thank you also to Lisa Muir, Director of Schools and Jacinta Moran-Dunn, District Guidance Officer.

Yours in Public Education
Ms M Rowley
Principal

English Report
Welcome back to 2016!
It has been a busy start to Term 1 in the English faculty.
We would like to welcome Mr Lepage into the faculty and congratulate Mr Freebody on his permanent employment. We would also like to congratulate all 2015 Year 12 students on their HSC results and wish them the best of luck for their future endeavours. AVID strategies have now been introduced to all years including the use of Cornell Notes as well as our Homework Policy which means that if students do not have set homework they should be reading for 15 minutes every day. We have implemented literacy starter activities for Year 7, Year 8 and Year 9 which has already shown improvement in the areas of spelling and punctuation for many students.
Year 7 have begun the year with a unit titled ‘Me, Myself and I’ in which they are exploring their own identity and studying the novel Chinese Cinderella to learn about identities in different cultures. Their first assessment task will involve reading and writing and will occur in Week 8.
Year 8 have been studying environmental issues and concerns and reading novels in class that deal with these issues. They have undertaken research tasks and several activities to apply this knowledge to their own writing.
Year 9 have begun with a unit on the topic of ‘Survival’ and been studying either The Hunger Games or Tomorrow When the War began to explore different areas of survival.
Year 10 are studying to concept of ‘Journeys’ and reading a novel as well as responding to various other texts in order to understand this concept.
Year 11 Standard and Year 11 Advanced are both continuing to explore the Area of Study for “Identity”. Their assessment task is due on Friday 4th March. Students are advised to work on their creative writing task as early as possible and see their teachers for verbal feedback.
Year 12 Standard students have been busy studying the drama text ‘The Shoe Horn Sonata’ to analyse Distinctively Visual techniques. An excursion is currently being planned for students to attend a performance of the play which will be vital to their study. On Wednesday the 22nd June the English Teachers Association are running a HSC Modules Day for a cost of $47 at the University of Technology in Sydney. This will be an invaluable learning experience for all standard students to assist them with their studies and prepare them for the HSC examinations. They will receive resources as well as new approaches, strategies and ideas on responding to the questions in the exam. Teachers will be accompanying interested students in the form of an excursion.
Year 12 Advanced have undertaken their comparative study of 1984 and Metropolis. They have an assessment task for this module in Week 8. They will be attending a performance of Hamlet on the 17th March.

English Faculty
Creative Arts Report

I would like to congratulate student Cory Jones from Year 12 last year and his Music teacher Mrs Brimbecom on his outstanding result in Music 1, his inclusion in the Encore program for his Musicology presentation and the Premiers High Achievers list for his Music 1 result. Cory wasn’t the only outstanding result in this group, with the entire class doing very well and a number of students have been accepted in the Conservatorium of Music in Newcastle. They are Jackson Wood, Ben Saggas and Brandon Rondon, a great achievement on their behalf.

On Monday 22nd February, Mrs Brimbecom and Mr Ashley Hutchinson took ten students from Year 12 and Year 10 to see the Encore program at the Sydney Opera House. Encore is a show that selects the best performances, compositions and musicology presentations from the preceding year and fortunately Cory made it into the program this year. Students watching these performances are made aware of the work and dedication required to do well in this course.

Miss Koteczy and Miss Smith have taken excursions to both Callback and Onstage. These performances showcase the best Drama and Dance from the 2015 HSC course. Exposure to these works will hopefully support our students to do the very best, and is an integral part of our program in the Creative and Performing Arts area. Year 10 are currently working on Sculptures for the Sculpture on the Greens exhibition to be held at Kooindah Waters at Wyong in early April. Sculptor Col Henry, co-ordinator of this exhibition has already visited and will pay a second visit to help with their sculptural works. Excursions are also being organised to see Artexpress at the Art Gallery of NSW, and a Photo workshop at Brooklyn for Year 10, 11 and 12 Photography students. Colby Clarke portrait has been selected for Central Vision exhibition at Gosford Regional Gallery.

Science Report

The Science faculty would like to welcome back all students and wish them a productive and successful year. We would also like to welcome Mrs Benton who is replacing Mr Bryant in the faculty.

Parents are reminded that students in Years 7 through to 10 will be completing their first assessment tasks over the next few weeks. The assessment tasks are compulsory and are an important component of the students’ final mark.

Year 8, 9 and 10 Science students have spent the last few weeks studying experimental design. In this topic they learn how to design the perfect experiment, a fair test.

Students have been testing a number of questions, including "Which material makes the best plane?", "Which type of string is the best track for a balloon rocket?" and "How does dropping height effect the bouncing height of a tennis ball?" Students should know the difference between independent and dependent variables. This topic relates to the first assessment in each year with a Student Research project in Year 10, and practical exams for Years 7, 8 and 9.

Parents are reminded that students will need a book for each subject that they do, not one for all subjects. There are booklets with holes in the side for folders and the students can use the folders to carry all of the books they need.

Our Science club is happening again this year, thanks to Mrs Fulwood. It is held on Tuesdays in Lab 1 during the big break. If your child has an interest in Science please encourage them to participate. We have acquired a fish tank and filled it with gold fish and another with yabbies and the students have the responsibility to look after them.

Our agriculture students have attended their first show for the year at Maitland. We would like to congratulate the team for a very successful day, with wins for champion water fowl and Australorp.
The senior science students will be carrying out a water watch survey later in the term where the results of monitoring Charmhaven wetlands will be placed on the water watch website. The Science staff strive to provide opportunities happening in Science this year all we need is for the students to get involved and participate. We hope to see this happening in all years and we hope that all students have a productive year.

Science Faculty

**HSIE Report**

The Year is progressing well in the HSIE department. All Junior classes are studying History and will be into the second topic. Senior students are settling in well. Please ensure that your student comes every day when healthy as a day off really sets them back.

**Assignments**

A reminder that the major Research Task for Years 7 – 10 is **due on Friday 4th of March by 3pm** to the HSIE staffroom. The crashing of computers and the running out of ink are not valid reasons for an extension. In fact Years 7 – 9 are required to handwrite their written responses because we received far too many assignments that were simply downloaded and printed. Please make sure your student completes both written and creative parts to their assignment if required. We use the topic studied in the last term as the basis of the assignment so that we can report on this topic. It is are worth 30% of the final mark.

**Starter Sheets**

At the beginning of each lesson Year 7 – 10 complete a 2 sided Starter handout with metalanguage and reading activities. This **must be finished as homework** and kept as the teacher will collect these periodically for marking. They are worth 30% of the final mark.

**AVID**

The HSIE department is working hard to incorporate AVID learning strategies into our lessons. In particular the use of Cornell Notes and would ask parents to remember to revise and summarise their notes each afternoon. Also remind your students to bring their **diaries** and use them at school and at home.

**Website**

All assignments, permission notes, starter sheets, handbooks, photos from excursions and extra homework activities can be found on the [Northlakes High Website](https://www.northlakeshigh.com.au) under Faculties – HSIE – History and then the Year.

HSIE Faculty

**Sport Report**

As is always the case, Term 1 is an enormous term in school sport. All three of our major sporting carnivals will be completed this term, along with a range of inter-school knockout competitions progressing along. Already we have held our Swimming Carnival, and the Zone Swimming Carnival will be completed by the time of print.

There was a healthy spirit of competition on display throughout the swimming carnival, with Panamuna again being the champion house of the pool. Well done to all competitors, and a big well done to the enthusiastic spectators who also earned valuable points for their houses.

Age champions for the Swimming Carnival were:

- 12 years William Ashburner & Katie Arnold
- 13 years Adam Cartwright & Ella Murphy
- 14 years James Taylor & Jemma Justin
- 15 years Blake Langton & Tamara Puxty
- 16 years Joshua Gray & Lillian Johnston
The next big event for the whole school sport calendar is the Athletics Carnival, to be held on the adjacent Northlakes Oval on Monday 14th and Tuesday 15th March. This is very soon, and students are currently all practicing in a range of athletics events in their PDHPE classes. Parents are more than welcome to come and spectate and add to the spirit of the carnival.

A range of CHS Knockout tournaments are underway, including Touch Football, Basketball, Football and Cricket. Students are encouraged to listen on morning assemblies for opportunities to represent in these teams, and many more coming up. The majority of representative teams at this stage of the year are for the Open age group, with most U/15 competitions commencing in term 2.

Students can also represent the Sydney North region in CHS Knockout sports, by nominating and trialling for a range of teams. Announcements are made on a regular basis for any upcoming trials, and don’t hesitate to come and see me if you have any questions.

M. Mansfield
Sport Co-ordinator