



ARNDPELL ANGLICAN COLLEGE

"News Flash"

Monday 15th November 2010



From the Headmaster:

Mr Gareth Leechman MA MEd MACE MACEL

Over the past week I have had the pleasure of being able to interview individually each of our current Year 11 students and go through in some detail their end of Year 11 reports. This experience highlighted to me some of the real strengths of our college. One of our real strengths is the high level of pastoral care that we can offer each student. This level of pastoral care is a function of our size – with cohorts of 60 – 70 students in Years 11 and 12 I have the capacity and time to meet with each of these students individually at report time. Having worked in schools where there were over 200 students in each year group the Headmaster did not have the capacity to offer the individual attention we do here at Arndell.

At each interview I am able to discuss the strengths and weaknesses of each student's performance. I can highlight to them areas where they are performing to their ability as well as have the frank discussion as to areas that need improvement. This honest discussion enables me to develop a very good rapport with each student and it can also give me the opportunity to encourage, praise and where necessary conjole. We reflect on where they are headed, what they would like to do post school and whether they are on track to achieve the goals that they have set themselves. For many it is this level of personal attention that attracted them to Arndell in the first place.

Another one of our strengths is the comprehensive nature of our student intake. I have no doubt that the vast majority of our students will academically place themselves in the top 10, 20 and 30% of the state but equally we will have several students who will find great achievement in just completing the HSC itself. Our comprehensive nature is a direct reflection of the philosophy of the college that we are here for all students and that we aim to provide a challenging experience for each student under our care.

Not only are we a comprehensive college academically but we also provide a comprehensive set of educational experiences. As I read the Year 11 reports I see that our students have had the opportunity to participate in a wide variety of co-curricular activities. Students have been involved in bands, bible studies, choirs, dance groups, dramatic productions, sporting teams and leadership development. This variety adds to the educational experience and teaches them life skills we could not have otherwise have taught them. It teaches them to be a part of a team, to have confidence in public speaking, to listen to and work with other people and to learn how to lead. It is often these activities that our students appreciate the most and want to reflect on in my interviews.

Arndell continues to offer quality Christian education and each year we seek to improve on the last. I am looking forward to seeing how our Year 12 of 2011 will go not only in terms of their academic performance but also in the way that they lead our college forward. I hope that we will not lose sight of our strengths and seek to improve; the quality of our pastoral care (the personal touch); the academic performance of our students; the choice within our co-curricular activities and improve our Christian witness.

Finally I would also like to announce the appointment of two new staff for 2011. Mr Tom Lavelle (who was an English teacher here between 2005 and 2007) has accepted the position as our new Head of English. He comes to us with a great deal of teaching and leadership experience from a variety of schools including Blue Mountains Grammar, Toowoomba Grammar and Blackheath & Thornburgh College. Mrs Karen Merrick has accepted the one year position in the Performing Arts Department. Mrs Merrick is a highly experienced music teacher and educational leader. She is currently the Head of Performing Arts at Ravenswood School and prior to this she spent sixteen years at Oakhill College as a music teacher and Head of Music. We look forward to their arrival and what they will bring to the college.

Calendar Dates

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
15 Nov	16 Nov	17 Nov	18 Nov	19 Nov	20 Nov	21 Nov
Yr 10 Camp – Waterslea Conference Centre NSW CIS Girls Waterpolo Homebush	Yr 10 Camp – Waterslea Conference Centre	Yr 10 Camp – Waterslea Conference Centre NSW CIS Boys Waterpolo Trials Homebush	Jnr. School Photography Club Yr 10 My Own Work Yr 6 Ex to Cares St Marys	Snr. School Assembly Yr 10 My Own Work Jnr. School Chapel	K. Toms Dancing Club Drama Rooms – JLPA Centre Smartsteppers Dance Studio JLPA Centre	Community Church JLPA Centre
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
22 Nov	23 Nov	24 Nov	25 Nov	26 Nov	27 Nov	28 Nov
Yr 10 Work Experience	Yr 10 Work Experience Yr 8 ESSA Science Testing Day US Tour – Parent Meeting JLPA Centre Assessments Due: Yr 9 Graphics	Yr 10 Work Experience	Yr 10 Work Experience Prefects Service St Andrew’s Cathedral Jnr. School Photography Club	Yr 10 Work Experience Yr 7 HPV (Dose 3) & Hep B (2 Dose) Snr. School Chapel	K. Toms Dancing Club Drama Rooms – JLPA Centre Lee Windon Dancers JLPA Centre Second-Hand Text Book Sale 10 am to 12pm Uniform Shop – 10am to 12pm	Community Church JLPA Centre
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
29 Nov	30 Nov	1 Dec	2 Dec	3 Dec	4 Dec	5 Dec
Yr 10 Work Experience	Yr 10 Work Experience	Yr 10 Work Experience	Yr 10 Work Experience Jnr. School Photography Club	Yr 10 Work Experience Snr. School Assembly Jnr. School Chapel Yr 12 Ext 1 English Exc – Sydney Wharf Theatre College Carols JLPA Centre	K. Toms Dancing Club Drama Rooms – JLPA Centre Second-Hand Text Book Sale 10 am to 12pm Uniform Shop – 10am to 12pm	Community Church JLPA Centre