Welcome to our quarterly publication of Cooks Course. This term, like most terms, has continued to be a very busy and highly productive term for students, staff and parents.

On Wednesday, the 4th of March JCBTHS held a Year 11 parent information night for students and parents and outlined the expectations, rigours and ways parents can support their sons through the HSC preliminary course. The evening was well attended by both students and parents. The deputy principal, students, parents and myself facilitated informed discussions. The evening was also constructive to consolidate the learning partnership between school and home and to ensure that students understand their role in meeting the high expectations that have been established by the school and their parents. The school will host another parent information evening for the senior students in term 4 when they embark on the HSC course.

Open night at JCBTHS was a fabulous evening for teachers and students to showcase the wonderful teaching and learning that occurs every day and the magnificent facilities that we have on offer to support student learning inside and outside of the classroom. Teachers and students hosted lessons in Science, Art, Drama, English, Languages, PDHPE, Sport, Timber and Robotics, whilst the St George junior rugby league team trained in the weights gym and practised on the oval. The spirit of the school community was capture by the commitment of the staff and students to work together to show the public and potential students that JCBTHS is a truly wonderful place.
On Tuesday the 3rd of March I had the honour of being invited to attend the 2nd presentation of the Arabic Forum. This forum was to celebrate the success of Arabic students who achieved outstanding HSC results in 2014.

The event was held in the Coronation Hall at Arncliffe and was attend by members of the local community, The Honourable Minister for Aging, John Ajaka, The local member for Rockdale Steve Kamper and Kogarah Chris Minns. It was a pleasure to acknowledge and reward the students who had worked extremely hard to achieve their remarkable accolades and it was a wonderful opportunity to celebrate their success with a community that is deeply committed to education.

The new school planning process has been an exciting and collaborative process of surveying, interviewing and discussing the schools vision and strategic directions with students, staff and parents. On Friday the 13th March the school leadership team worked over the weekend to collegially develop, discuss and shape the school plan into an informative and innovative document that encompasses the vision and beliefs of the major stakeholders into a working plan. The process allowed the team to heighten their own understanding of the vision and clarified the purpose of the strategic directions. Further consultation and professional learning will continue with parents and staff before the document is ratified and made public on the schools website in early term 2.

Continuing on with the theme of professional learning, JCBTHS hosted the Mentoring program on the 27th of March. This event provided an opportunity for teachers in primary and secondary schools to continue to develop their own professional practice as educators and to develop expertise in mentoring and improving teacher quality within their own schools and across DEC. JCBTHS is committed to supporting the professional development of teachers through a professional learning community and looks forward to the opportunity of hosting similar events in the future.
During my first Term at JCBTHS I have been welcomed to my new school with great enthusiasm from students, staff and community members. Entering a new school is always daunting; however the support I have received has made my transition much easier.

This Term we have been working on improving the school’s technology infrastructure to support teaching and school administration. We have been successful in obtaining further cabling to be completed at DEC cost and plan to utilise school funds where further work is needed. This has resulted in over $10,000 in free improvements and a joint funding application with DEC for a further $6000 worth of work. We have been successful in becoming part of a pilot program of six high schools within the state for higher levels of network monitoring to improve network performance and stability.

This term we implemented SENTRAL, a school administration system to provide a platform for student progress and support, centralising core systems within the school for easier and coherent information sharing between teachers, students and parents. Students can now access school information like timetables, messages from teachers and attendance information from anywhere in the world on a secure link. We will be rolling out a parent portal access later in the year allowing for information like reports, marks, attendance and messages from teachers to be easily shared.

We have established a school twitter account for sharing our school’s successes with the wider community, establishing links with educators and schools around the state. We are constantly posting information and pictures of our vibrant learning community here at JCBTHS and will continue to promote the excellent work and programs our school delivers to students on a daily basis. You can follow us on twitter with your own account. Our username is @JCBTHS.

Our Twitter page can be found at: https://twitter.com/jcbths

We have deployed a school app for iPhone & Android smartphones for students, parents & staff late this term. At this stage the app provides information on events, assessment booklet information, examination schedules, information on connecting to the school WIFI and links for accessing the school information like timetables. When installed, users can receive notifications and alerts about upcoming events. We will continue to expand the available content to meet the needs of our community. Available for free from the links below:

**App Store:** http://goo.gl/yg1JM8

**Android Store:** http://goo.gl/aHriKD
A little know fact that I would like to highlight which is a benefit of public education in NSW, under the Department’s software licensing agreement each and every student has access to thousands of dollars worth of software for use on a personal device for free. Software includes the Windows 8.1 operating system, Microsoft office and Adobe products. Students can download the installations and use them on one device at school and home. Follow the link below for further information and access.

**DEC Software for students:** [http://nsw-students.onthehub.com/](http://nsw-students.onthehub.com/)

During Week 8 I was at the Inspire Innovate, a state-wide curriculum conference for educators I have coordinated for the past 4 years. The event was held at ANZ stadium and this year we had 560 delegates in attendance for the 2 days. I organised for our Year 11 boys to represent high school students at the conference working as iJournalists, interviewing international keynotes Richard Gerver, David Price and local keynote Dan Haesler.

They recorded interviews with keynotes and delegates at the conference creating video collages. They represented our school with gusto, providing a positive image that reflects our expectations of them to be global citizens and life-long learners. I’d like to thank Ms Rees and Ms Naguib who supported the boys at the conference and most importantly the boys themselves, Dion Paraskevopoulos, Justin del Prado, Mohammad Abdallah and Anthony Hudd.
The National Assessment program- Literacy and Numeracy 2015 (NAPLAN) will be conducted from the 12th to 14 May across the country. Students in Years 7 & 9 will have four tests covering numeracy, reading, writing and language conventions (spelling, punctuation and grammar). The teachers and students have been working hard to prepare for NAPLAN testing, through teaching and discussing NAPLAN style questions. Students will be rehearsing the routines of sitting in a formal test situation during week 2. Part of our move towards developing individual education plans (IEPs) for all students has involved Ms Loutfy & Ms Papanikolaou testing each Year 7 students’ ability level and interviewing parents to form a base level of information on each student within our SENTRAL administration platform. Students are also receiving homework booklets to support the development of specific skillsets addressed within the testing regime.

Information for Parents: http://goo.gl/z08WuB

Thank you to everyone for the warm welcome I have received and I look forward to working with each of you to expand the opportunities provided to each of our boys over the coming years.
At the beginning of Term 1 2015, Anthony Folasaitu was introduced to our school community as the Pacific Islander Community Liaison Officer (CLO). Anthony replaced Fred Sevealli who worked tirelessly with our Pacific Islander boys over the course of Term 4 2014. Anthony arrived with a fresh perspective but still aiming to provide our Islander boys with the same fantastic experiences that were being delivered toward the end of last year.

Anthony introduced the Infuse Mentoring Program, which is a method of educating young people to embrace their own power and potential as leaders and cultural change makers so that they are able to take ownership and responsibility for themselves and their school communities.

The program addresses life skills and youth issues in a strength based, youth-friendly manner in order to motivate, challenge and empower young people to become a positive leader within their own sphere of influence. Lessons focus around, Self-Concept, Identity, attitudes and values, relationships and leadership to mention but a few.

Over the course of the last 4 months, Anthony has engaged our boys and provided challenging and rewarding experiences that culminated in a Haka performance on Harmony Day, Friday March 20th, 2015. Many boys were exhibiting nervous energy before the performance but came through with flying colours. Anthony’s fantastic personal bonding skill has enabled him to make the positive connection that has allowed his mentoring sessions to flow seamlessly and productively.
Quick Smart Program

The Quick Smart Reading Program is operating in 2015 for students in Year 7. Quick Smart was developed by the University of New England to assist students to build their reading skills, speed and accuracy. In 2014 three James Cook Boys teachers attended in-service courses and the program was implemented successfully for many students in Year 8. There was a pleasing improvement in results for standardised reading tests for students who participated in the program.

This year all students in Year 7 have completed pre-testing for reading and students will be involved in Quick Smart on a rotational basis. Students are grouped in pairs and are withdrawn from class twice a week for thirty-minute intensive reading lessons. It is a practice program where students learn new vocabulary and undertake a series of structured reading and comprehension activities. The program can be tailored to the individual needs of students and it is designed to be a positive, motivating learning experience.

If parents would like further information about Quick Smart they are invited to contact the school and speak to Ms Rix or Ms Rees who will be teaching Quick Smart lessons throughout this year.

Learning & Support – Individual Learning Plans

At James Cook Boys Technology High School we recognise that students have a diverse range of individual interests and abilities and we endeavour to accommodate the learning needs of all students. Individual Education Plans are written so that staff can work together to tailor programs and assessments to suit individual students.

During Term 1 the parents of students in Year 7 were invited to the school for an interview with teachers and these conversations will inform the Individual Education Plans developed for Year 7 students.

The Learning and Support Team is also involved in developing Individual Education Plans for students across the school so that adjustments and accommodations to learning programs and assessments can be made. The purpose is to facilitate a whole school approach and provide all students with opportunities to work to their potential and be successful learners. The contribution of parents to the development of Individual Education Plans is encouraged and appreciated.
The Visual Arts students and staff have had a very exciting and eventful start to the 2015 academic year where students have participated in a number of excursions designed to support and enhance their classroom learning.

In February the Year 12 Visual Arts class visited the Art Gallery of NSW to view the blockbuster Pop to Popism. While the excursion was planned to enhance students understanding of the role of the art gallery in society, the exhibition itself directly linked to their current HSC Case Study on Modernism. This enabled the student to view and analyse over 200 artworks that explored the movement of Pop Art both in Australia and abroad and also to experience masterpieces such as Andy Warhol’s Triple Elvis, Roy Lichtenstein’s Look Mickey and a personal favourite of the boys’ Brett Whiteley’s poignant American Dream.

This gallery experience assisted the students in increasing their understanding of what was happening in the art scene in Australia, Europe and America during the 1950’s- 1970’s and it proved very useful when they delivered their own presentations to the class on a selected movement of Modern Art later in the term.

Year 12 and Year 9 Visual Arts students also attended an excursion to the Hazelhurst Regional Gallery in Gymea on Monday the 16th of March to view the 2015 Art Express. Artexpress is an annual exhibition that showcases some of the best HSC Visual Arts students’ work from the previous year. While this excursion was planned to build all students’ understanding of artmaking practice, it was also an opportunity for the Year 12 boys to consolidate their knowledge and visualise the level of work required for the Body of Work, which forms part of for their HSC external assessment in the subject.
The Body of Work is worth 50% of the HSC assessment by the Board of Studies for Visual Arts. It requires the students to select an expressive form such as painting, drawing, photomedia etc and create an individual self-directed major artwork that reveals both conceptual meaning and technical accomplishment. Early in term 2, the year 12 students will be presenting their progress works to a panel of visual arts teachers in order to gain valuable feedback on their works and strategies for moving their work to the point completion, ready for exhibition in the TAS and Creative and Performing Arts Showcase Evening in Term 3. More information on the TAS CAPA showcase evening will be distributed later in the year, but keep Week 2 Term 3 free as we will be inviting our school community to this event so we can celebrate and showcase the talents of our Music, Timber and Visual Arts HSC students of 2105.

**PE Co-ordinator - Mr B. Yelavich**

Here at James Cook Boys Technology High School physical education is an integral part of the year 7-12 curriculum. We have a strong history of outstanding performances in CHS knockouts, St. George Zone Grade Sport competitions and the traditional school carnivals in swimming, athletics and X-country.

**Rose Bay Aquatics Excursion**

In 2015, the PDHPE faculty is continuing to expand the physical education opportunities we offer your son. As part of the elective PDHPE course at James Cook Boys, students are required to develop movement confidence and competence in a range of physical environments. To meet these learning outcomes, the year 9 and 10 Physical Activity and Sport Studies (PASS) students recently attended an aquatics excursion to Rose Bay.

Throughout Term 1 PASS students have consistently displayed exemplary effort in their study of this subject both academically and behaviourally and were rewarded for their effort with the chance to take part in a range of aquatic activities on Sydney Harbour. Students went kayaking and stand-up paddle boarding, challenging themselves to develop a range of skills outside their normal boundaries.

All boys who attended on the day should be congratulated on the application and enthusiasm they displayed to master these new skills (to varying degrees of success), and for the manner in which they represented our school.
The PDHPE faculty in conjunction with the St. George Illawarra Dragons Rugby League Club have recently completed the upgrade of our school gym. With over $10,000 of new gym equipment purchased in the past 12 months, major building works completed to expand the gym floor area and gym grade flooring laid throughout, students now have a commercial quality gym ready to use right here at school.

Term 2 will see ALL students in years 9-12 offered the opportunity to participate in a supervised Gym Club, before and after school, and experience the various health and social benefits of participating in a variety of aerobic and strength training activities. Interested students should visit the PDHPE staff room and collect information and a permission note.

Sport Co-ordinator - Mr G. Errington

The school was able to conduct a very successful full school Swimming carnival at Sans Souci Pool at The beginning of February this was an extremely enjoyable function and all students had the opportunity to participate in novelty or swimming events. The weather was very kind to us and we look forward to a bigger event next year.

A small number of boys went on to represent the school at The Regional Carnival. The boys were Hussein Hijazi, Mohamad Hijazi, Ali Hijazi Mohammad Syah Putra, Reece Porter and Phillip Pizanis.

These boys represented the school with distinction and they were responsible for the school finishing 7th in the Boys Competition- a wonderful effort for such a small band of swimmers

The Summer Grade Competition has been underway for 5 rounds and James Cook are very prominent in the Basketball, Mini Soccer, Volleyball, Table Tennis and Junior Touch football competitions.

At all times, the boys are representing the school with pride and passion and we look forward to the Winter Season.
James Cook Boys Technology High School continues to support the Bayside Learning Community to develop closer links between the local High Schools and Primary Schools. The Bayside Learning Community is a partnership between James Cook Boys Technology High School, Moorefield Girls High School, Brighton-le-Sands Public School, Carlton South Public School, Arncliffe Public School, Ramsgate Public School and Rockdale Public School.

As part of the Bayside Learning Community, students from James Cook Boys were selected to participate as facilitators in the Bayside Inter-School Debating Program Workshop. The students worked enthusiastically and took initiative to lead various coaching sessions for the primary school students, teaching them about debate preparations, the roles of speakers and speech writing. The aim of the program is to develop students’ skills in debating with emphasis on learning and providing enriching leadership opportunities. The workshop allowed students to form and develop public speaking, effective communication and persuasive writing skills.

To deepen and formalise the primary students’ understanding, the facilitators of James Cook Boys’ and Moorefield Girls worked collaboratively to create a demonstration, consolidating student knowledge of a debate.

This was an attempt to create an environment conducive to critical thinking and instigated a lively discussion. Through their participation in the workshops the students became individually more confident to voice their opinions and broadened their outlook.

The primary school students developed more refined communication skills, leadership capabilities and increased confidence in their role. As teams, they interacted effectively and learned the value of collaborative learning and the importance of taking responsibility for one another to achieve a common goal.
The Student Representative Council (SRC) is an organisation that encourages genuine student participation and the opportunity for students to have an active and important role in organisation, direction and decision-making within the school environment and the greater school community. Within the scope of the SRC, students will develop leadership skills and work as a team on whole school activities and events.

This term has been an active and productive one for the SRC. Representatives for the council from Years 7 to 11 were elected through a peer voting system, so that students could choose who they would like to represent them. There was an overwhelming response from students to become a part of the SRC and the school commends all students who nominated and presented to their peers.

A number of events took place this term both in school and the wider community that saw an avid participation from the SRC. At school the SRC assisted on Open Night, Harmony Day and the Breakfast Club. Year 10 Representatives attended ‘Make A Difference Day’ at Parliament, that was a discussion and workshop on democracy, citizenship and leadership. Liam St Vincent, one of the Vice Captains of the school raised money for a worthy cause, The World’s Greatest Shave, by having his own head shaved. In collaboration with the P&C, students helped raise money through an Easter Raffle with great prizes donated to the school and we sincerely thank the P&C for their generosity and we look forward to working together in the future.

Many programs are being organised for Term Two to allow SRC Representatives and other potential leaders of the school to focus on developing their leadership and team building skills. One such program is the Youth Frontiers Program, an initiative set up by the government to allow students to create a project of their own through the mentorship of older students. There will be 16 students involved from Years 8 and 9 from our school. The 2015 Future Leaders Program is another initiative that students from our school will be participating in during Term 3. Student leadership is recognised as an important aspect in the development of children and young people and this program will allow students to develop these skills in an engaging, motivating and enjoyable environment.

The SRC is a valuable organisation in all schools, and at James Cook Boys Technology High School we recognise the voice of our students and provide the opportunities for them to engage in discussion and workshops to realise their potential and their contribution to the school and the community.
On Friday 20th March 2015, we attended a special event at Parliament of New South Wales. The Year 10 students involved on this day were myself-Jayden Steele, Bahy Imam, Hussein Najm and Phi Pham. The day was called ‘Make A Difference Day’ and it was about how Australian Democracy works and about the rights and responsibilities of Australian citizenship.

We made our own way there so we were on our best behaviour travelling to the event and attending it. At the event, we learnt about how young people could make a difference in our society and help to address issues in the community. We also had the opportunity to talk with other students from different schools about how we could solve issues in the community. It was fun meeting new people and sharing ideas and things that we had in common.

A Keynote address was given by the Hon. Michael Kirby, who gave an inspiring speech about his time in Law and the issues that arose during this time. I felt he is an honourable man and was very much inspired as a student.

Overall we had an amazing time and got to meet interesting people. I hope that in the future I have the opportunity to attend more of these events as I found it to be a worthwhile and valuable experience.

Meet the Teacher Evening

On Wednesday 4th March, Year 7 parents were invited to school to meet with their sons’ teachers. Students were able to show parents some of the work they have been doing in their classes and demonstrate some of the skills that they have learned.

Hadi El-Chickrawe, Hussein Hijazi, Osman Sesay, Adrian Singh, William Waqanibaravi, Jamie McFarren and Jesse Phillips all did an excellent job at presenting their work from different classes. Justin Mukadana played Ode to Joy on the piano, a piece that students have been learning in Music. After the presentations, Year 7 joined some Drama students for a very energetic performance!

Thank you to all the students, parents and teachers who attended.
Year 7 Camp

February 16th – 19th Year 7, Year 10 Peers Support leaders along with Miss Jarvis, Mr Tsaridis and Mr Hadges attended the Great Aussie Bush Camp at Tea Gardens. Students were given the opportunity to participate in a range of activities that were challenging both physically and mentally. Students were able to gain skills in leadership, teamwork, and problem solving. It was a fantastic opportunity to get to know one another better outside of the normal school environment and to make new friends.

A big thank you goes out to The Great Aussie Bush Camp, Mr Hadges, Mr Tsaridis and the Year 10 Peer Support leaders – Lachlan Wilkie, Jayden Steele and Marcus Villanueva who put in a lot of hard work to ensure that everyone had a good time.
International Student Awards

Every year a group of specially selected international students are presented with an award for academic excellence that is attended by NSW's leading educational and political leaders. This ceremony acknowledges the outstanding contribution and achievements of international students in New South Wales government schools.

James Cook Boys Technology High School is very proud to announce that this year Tommy Miao of Year 12 was presented with this special award by Mr Li Huaxin, the Consul General of the People’s Republic of China in the world-class Verbrugghen Concert Hall at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music. Tommy achieved the following excellent results last year:

- 1st in General Mathematics
- 1st in Music
- 2nd in English ESL
- 96% in Spanish
- 100% school attendance

Harmony Day

This year’s traditional celebration of Harmony Day at James Cook Boys Technology High School was a huge success. Our school reflected Harmony Day’s message that “Everyone Belongs” with its wide range of multi-cultural music and dance performances, as well as artistic displays throughout much of the school. Everyone was encouraged to reflect upon the importance of respecting the diverse cultural backgrounds of all Australians and it was in fact a community celebration.

Orange is the colour that represents Harmony Day and it was evident by the colourful display of clothing and the decorations throughout the school that there was no such thing as too much orange.

The festivities began with an earlier-than-usual lunch featuring a barbeque organised by the hard-working Ms Diwakar and the SRC. Students and staff were attracted to the canteen area with its appealing selection of gelato and fairy floss. A number of visiting schools including Brighton-le-Sands Public School and St George Special School, and special guests arrived on time for the performances that commenced at 1.00 pm.
The concert was organised by Ms Lee and consisted of a selection of instrumental folk music arrangements performed by Gary Fang, Lachlan Wilkie, Jake Beloborodov and Markus Villanueva; a popular Spanish song performed by Sigrid Sinlao; a Greek dance featuring Ms Papanikolau’s Year 7 students; and our school’s Pacific Islander performing group’s presentation of a Maori and Samoan Haka. Well-rehearsed students from Granville Boys High School joined the festivities by performing a Samoan Haka and this was followed by Tommy Miao’s very popular Michael Jackson (“It doesn’t matter if you’re black or white”) impersonation. In the middle of the concert there was an inspiring speech by our special guest speaker who spoke of the need for respect and support for cultural diversity, fairness and inclusion in Australian society. Unfortunately the concert was interrupted by inclement weather that prevented vocal performances by students from St Charbels College, the Maronite College of the Holy Family and Granville Boys High School. I would like to also thank our special guests Zahwat Hoballah from the Cultural Forum and Fotu Leota from Bay City Care. Two special Year 9 students, Nicholas Alvarez and James Lelliot, greatly contributed to the success of Harmony Day by demonstrating their audio engineering skills and use of the PA system.

Our “Happy Harmony Day Face”, drawn with coloured pavement chalks, provided great fun for our junior students and the visiting students from Brighton-le-Sands Public School. Ms Dauter was actively involved throughout this activity and dedicated much of her time creating the Harmony Day badges and many of the decorations encircling our quadrangle.

Harmony Day’s success has inspired everyone throughout the school to look forward to our next special school event entitled “Multi-cultural Day”.

Ms Papanikolau with the yr 7 students who performed a Greek folk dance