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The Figtree THE JOURNAL OF HUNTERS HILL HIGH SCHOOL

Term 2, 2023









Term 2 started with great events including the eventful Year 11 Camp, a successful Athletics Carnival, an important Road Safety excursion for Year 11, and hosting the NSW Plain Speaking Award.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact us on 9817 4565 or huntershd-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au

Principal's Report - Term 2, 2023

At long last we are getting some improved disability access. We are a very steep site as schools go, and there are a lot of stairs. This has made it difficult for some of our parents and our students who have had injuries affecting their mobility. Anyway, the first stage of the project is well underway and has three main features. There will be a new gate that goes onto a path that leads to the administration office with a new wheelchair friendly entrance. One of the staircases that leads to N Block is being modified to allow wheelchair access via a ramp and the area behind K Block is being modified into a series of ramps to allow access to the various levels of the school. The second stage will involve lifts at the back of K and L Blocks to allow access to the library and some other specialist rooms.



This process, along with the replacement of the vermiculite ceilings in K Block, as well as the complete reroofing of L Block, will create some disruptions and room changes but the schedule allows for a period of calm around the time of the HSC.

At this point I want to thank two important people who have contributed a lot to the school. Ms Michelle Chiew-Meldrum was Deputy Principal and although she has been on family leave in recent times, she was instrumental in all those changes that were necessary back in 2018 and 2019. Our timetable and curriculum changes, the restructure of the school day, the introduction of ALARM amongst other things were central to Ms Chiew-Meldrum's role.

Secondly, we say farewell to Edwina Patten who has been running Welfare in the school and a mainstay of English and Drama. The introduction of UMatter, antibullying initiatives and a host of wellbeing activities (who can forget that tree planting day) owe their existence to Ms Patten. They are both great losses to the public education and Hunters Hill High School and we wish them well in their new and different careers.



Ms Michelle Chiew-Meldrum



Ms Edwina Patten

Year 11 and 12 reports have been available for a little while now and it is important to use them in the manner they are intended. They do provide guidance as to what areas students need to work on. There is still time before the HSC so Year 12 can still make significant improvements to their marks if they are unhappy with them. Don't forget, the Year 11 and 12 Parent Teacher night is on 7 June and all of Year 12 could benefit with a chat with Ms Polak our Careers Advisor.

Don't miss the Art Show coming up on 1 June and the Performance Evening on 29 June!

Greg Lill Principal

Hunters Hill High School Parents & Citizen's Association – Term 2, 2023

President: president@hhhspandc.org.au Secretary: secretary@hhhspandc.org.au Treasurer: treasurer@hhhspandc.org.au ABN 64 216 780 628

Things were quieter on the P&C this term in comparison to term 1. Our main focus was on Trivia Night, setting up processes for the uniform shop now it's managed in house, requesting funding proposals form teachers/staff/SRC and getting the snag list on the canteen refurbishment done.

Uniform Shop

The uniform shop is now in the second term of being run in house and continues to operate smoothly.

Opening hours are Tuesdays between 8:30am and 11:30am, we encourage everyone to use our click and collect service, where orders are placed online and picked up in store. By shopping online, orders get to be picked up without having to wait in line and to be served. Students are also not late to get to class once the bell rings.

We still provide an in person service during opening times. This service is ideal for those who are unsure of sizing and would prefer to try items on before purchasing.

As the weather starts to turn and we head into the cooler months of the year, the uniform shop has jackets, jumpers, sloppy joes, scarfs and beanies available for purchase. Sports shorts are also back in stock.

Second Hand Uniforms

Purchase of second hand uniforms can be done in person at the uniform shop. Purchases can't be made online.

We get second hand uniforms donated to the school from students who have left the school or who have outgrown what they have. If you have old wearable uniforms, you can donate them by handing them in at the school office.



Parents & Citizen's Association (cont)

Canteen

Canteen is fully operational after the refurb and it's been a much pleasant environment to work. Now the refurb is complete, the P&C is looking for a canteen coordinator.

Main tasks for Canteen Coordinator would be to:

- Liaise with canteen manager on behalf of the P&C
- Main point of contact for canteen queries between school and P&C
- Prepare and publish brief reports prior to each P&C general meeting

If this interests you or someone you know and you would like to know more about what's involved in the role, email your questions to exec@hhhspandc.org.au

<u>Flexischools</u> is the canteen ordering app and we encourage you to sign up and place orders via the app, as it helps us better estimate how much ingredients to purchase for our weekly specials.

Other benefits of signing up to FlexiSchools (https://flexischools.com.au) is you'll have visibility of weekly menu and it offers and additional way to pay.

We lost a canteen staff member at the end of last term. Kris had been with us for just over 2 years, starting as a casual before becoming a permanent part time employee. We welcome Olivia and Jermina who have accepted casual positions in the canteen and started at the end of April.



CANTEEN

The P&C is looking for a canteen coordinator. This is a

volunteer position. For more information, email exec@hhhspandc.org.au

Environment

Working bee was held on 20th May.

Finger lime trees were planted in the area the goats cleared over the summer school holidays. These trees as well as others that have been recently planted around the school were funded through the Planting Trees for The Queen's Program as part of the late Queen's Jubilee celebrations in 2022.

Next working bee is on Sunday 18th June 9am to 11am.





Parents & Citizen's Association (cont)

Social activities

Trivia night was held on Saturday 6th May. We were raising funds for outdoor recreational equipment. Event was well attended, and we raised \$11,700.

The winner was decided with a tie break question and for the second year in a row, the teachers table won!



Thanks to all who donated prizes, the event organising team and special thanks to Suzanne Kimpton who has been the main organiser of all our fundraising events over the last 5 years.













Parents & Citizen's Association (cont)

School Community Charter

Public schools in NSW have a School Community Charter which outlines the responsibilities of parents, carers, educators and school staff. The purpose of the charter is to ensure learning environments are collaborative, supportive and cohesive.

It's worth having a read and discussion of the charter within our families so we all continue working together to foster a supportive environment for all. The full charter can be read at the link below.



https://education.nsw.gov.au/public-schools/going-to-a-public-school/school-community-charter

National Volunteer Week

It was national volunteer week between 15th and 21st May and we took the opportunity to call out all the wonderful work our volunteers do.

Our P&C is only able to be as strong as it is due to the commitment we get from volunteers. From those who attend working bees and P&C meetings. To those who volunteer to be coordinators and on the P&C executive committee.



Facebook

Join the P&C's private Facebook group. It's an easy and convenient place to keep in touch with canteen, uniform shop, social and fundraising activities and general school happenings.

It is the P&Cs main communication platform and is different to the FB pages the school uses.

Request to join at: https://www.facebook.com/groups/HHHS.PandC

Wellbeing Report – Term 2, 2023

Happy Term 2 and what a term this has been for our learning community! Here are a few of our highlights from the Wellbeing Team.





Years 7 and 8 participated in the interactive show *Backflips Against Bullying*. Despite the heavy themes, the students thoroughly enjoyed the acrobatic skills used to discuss the real consequences of bullying. Students learnt about identifying bullying behaviour, as well as helpful strategies to use to diminish hurtful comments. One important takeaway message was "Strength is in control".









Mr Habbouchi and Year 11 Camp

Big thanks to Mr Habbouchi who, with an amazing group of teachers, took Year 11 to The Collaroy Centre. Their days were filled to the brim with physical challenges such as abseiling, bubble soccer, giant swing and archery. The camp finished with a morning at Collaroy beach where tired bodies soaked up the glorious sunshine.

And speaking of camps ... upcoming Year 9 Camp with Mr Centurion

We wish Year 9 all the best as they head to camp at Stanwell Tops in Week 6. We look forward to hearing how they were challenged in the activities and strengthened friendships within their cohorts. Camps are a valuable educational experience where students learn to negotiate, accommodate and challenge themselves - all whilst having fun!

Welfare Programs

Our additional Welfare programs allow students to develop skills and grow their confidence. This term we have students participating in Raise Mentoring, Friends Resilience, Creating Chances, Rock and Water and Ready Set Sail. Through these programs, our students develop the necessary skills to help them navigate challenges in the world.





Wellbeing Report (cont)

UMatter

Our weekly UMatter program has a strong focus on developing social and emotional skills. These skills include Self-management, Self-awareness, Social Awareness, Relationship skills and Responsible Decision Making. Every Wednesday, our students participate in lessons which are designed to help build their capacity to cope with change, resolve issues respectfully and to develop a strong culture of learning. By encouraging our students to be positive Upstanders, rather than Bystanders, we are developing a community of tolerant, kind and empathic young people. This term, our students also participated in the Tell Them From Me Survey. This important survey provides valuable information to help schools make decisions to improve student engagement.

Positive recognition

Congratulations to many of our students who are receiving recognition through our Merit System. Bronze Awards are handed out twice a term at Year Meetings, and Silver and Gold Awards are presented during the Formal Assembly each term. We are so proud of their achievements.



Psychologist and Student Support Officer (SSO) Referrals

We are fortunate to have a school psychologist and Student Support Office (SSO) available Monday to Friday to support our students. The Welfare team may refer students if there are concerns about their wellbeing. Students can also self-refer by slipping a note (including name, year group, date, time) under the door. When an appointment becomes available, the student will be called for discreetly from class. If the matter is urgent, students are encouraged to see their Year Adviser, Deputy Principal or UMatter teacher immediately to seek advice.

Attendance

Attendance at school is compulsory. Consistent attendance at school is essential for students to achieve quality life outcomes. Students who are at school on time each day not only learn important life skills such as time management, but also have better relationships and have a greater chance of success. If your child is absent, you will receive a message from the school. We ask that you reply as soon as possible so we can account for their attendance.



Edwina Patten
Head Teacher Welfare (Acting)

Careers News – Term 2, 2023

HUGE NEWS FROM THE CAREERS DEPARTMENT!

I am very pleased to announce that our school will participate in the Careers NSW school trial in Terms 2 to 3 2023. The program will complement our existing careers services.



The Careers NSW school trial program aims to engage students earlier to think about their careers, discover who they are and explore who they can become. Run by Careers NSW, the trial services will be available from early May to 22 September 2023 and will provide our students, parents and carers the opportunity to engage in the following services:

- Virtual mock interview appointments for students in Years 9 -12 (outside of school hours) to build students' confidence in thinking about potential future careers
- In-person mock interview appointments for students in Years 11-12 (coordinated by the school) to build students' confidence in thinking about potential future careers
- Career development presentations tailored career development presentations around specific topics (designed and requested in consultation with the school).

I encourage you and your child to take advantage of these free trial services. If you do not wish for your child to participate in the Careers NSW school trial, please contact the school by email or phone as soon as possible, attention to Ms Polak.

A copy of the Privacy Collection Notice for all Careers NSW school trial services is available: https://www.service.nsw.gov.au/careers-nsw/careers-nsw-students-privacy-collection-noticeExternal link Careers NSW are co-designing these services in collaboration with careers and transition advisers, members of the school community, parents/carers, and students. Your feedback about the trial services will be provided to the Careers NSW school trial team and considered in the development of future Careers NSW school services.

If you are interested in finding out more or want to book appointments for your children, please visit Careers NSW Schools. If you have any enquiries, please contact the Careers NSW team at careersnsw@det.nsw.edu.au or speak to Ms Polak.

Thank you, Mr Lill and Ms Polak





Careers News (cont)

Year 10

Year 10 Careers Week will be taking place week 9 of this term. There will be different activities every day, including an excursion to Macquarie University on the Friday. For this reason, it is vital that permission notes are returned – please keep an eye on inboxes over the next week or so. This week is compulsory, and we are requesting a nominal fee to assist with payment for some events, such as bus hire, guest speakers and workshops. The timetable is still in the drafting process, but here is a sneak peek of the amazing things on offer to our students this year:

	Mon 19 June	Tues 20 June	Wed 21 June	Thurs 22 June	Fri 23 June
	Welcome! Subject selection session – Head Teachers	Choose Your Own Adventure	The Careers Department	Special guest speaker!	Day at MQ
	Subject selection Student exploration	CYOA	TCD	Special guest speaker	Day at MQ
3	Careers Hotseat	NMS - Writing		Guided Reflection/ Grandshake virtual activity	Day at MQ
4	Careers Hotseat	Sport		Guided Reflection/ Grandshake virtual activity	Day at MQ
5	NMS - Reading	Sport		NMS - Numeracy	Day at MQ

Year 12

We have already had visits from UNSW, USYD, MQ and WSU to chat with our year 12 students. Year 12 one-to-one interviews are continuing, and students are encouraged to be proactive about making appointments with Ms Polak. Please use study periods, lunch, recess, after school...any time! to come and see me rather than just waiting to be called down. Be proactive in explore your future options! The whole year group will attend the Western Sydney Careers Expo on Thursday 22/06, so please ensure permission notes are returned ASAP (these have already been issued). This will afford students the opportunity to speak with all tertiary providers, and anyone you can imagine about employment options after school. See a full list of exhibitors here: https://www.westernsydneycareerexpo.com.au/

Nikki Polak Careers Advisor

School News

Debating and Public Speaking Tournaments

This year we have had the honour of hosting the 2023 NSW Public Speaking Plain English Speaking Award Local Final at our school. We had 17 contestants from 9 schools participate in two rounds of Public Speaking. It was a display of confidence, eloquence and very well-crafted opinions and perspectives from our young participants. Two of our best speakers Charlotte Fowell and Tahlia Minassian represented our school at the finals. The competition was so intense that the adjudicator had to choose five finalists to proceed to the next level, more than the usual final four.

We are proud to announce that our very own Tahlia Minassian was one of the winners and represented Hunters Hill High School at the Northern Sydney Regional Finals.



Hunters Hill High School is also very proud of their debaters. We have three fantastic squads this year participating in The 2023 Premier's Debating Challenge. Our Junior debaters in Year 7 and 8 are soon to start their debating for the year. The Year 9 and 10 and the Year 11 and 12 squads have already started their debating journey for 2023. The Year 9 and 10 squad are in the midst of their Northern Sydney Zonal Rounds and are doing very well. Year 11 and 12 squad is now in Round 3 of the Zonal knock out rounds. We congratulate them on their recent win against Willoughby Girls High School where they made a clean sweep by winning all three arguments. We are very proud of them.

Jarita Banerjee
Debating Mentor





School News (cont)

Plant Rotations / Plant Donations – Tuesday sport is Gardening!

During Tuesday sport, Hunters Hill High School gardens and bush surrounds are attended to by teachers and students for a 'gardening' elective.

A committed group of students and teachers attend to native trees, fruit, flowers, herbs and vegetables. We ensure they are weeded, transplanted and nurtured by organic soil which has been hand turned and composted in garden beds and selected penned areas. There are many allocated garden areas growing an assortment of flowers, fruit, herbs and vegetables which Ms Karac, Ms Paris and students maintain on a weekly basis. This is in addition to what the school maintenance and gardeners do on the premises.









A long-term goal is to create a fully functional chicken coop, which will add so much value to the gardens in-so-far as the organic function to grow food we can prepare, cook and eat. The chooks will not only provide eggs, but will provide natural fertiliser and automatic weeders.

Before that happens, we request plant donations for our garden beds. Seeds, cuttings or any plant donations can be made to the front office, TAS or English staff rooms during school days. Any recyclable plants at home will be greatly appreciated as we can repurpose them into our ever-evolving school grounds.

We look forward to seeing the evidence as it continues to bloom and grow with our trees, flowers, vegetables, fruit and herbs. We would also like to thank our magnificent students for doing such a beautiful job around the school.

So when you look around Hunters Hills High School grounds, we hope you notice and appreciate the wonderful work to our very special bush grounds to date.

Donations of mulch, organic chook poo, plants, herbs, seeds, cuttings, or anything that deserves to re-grow, will be appreciated.



School News (cont)

In Concert

Hunters Hill High School years 7 and 8 students Angelina D, Opal E, Damia H, Maya L and Jade S performed at the Sydney Town Hall for "In Concert with Kate Miller-Hiedke". Our students represented Hunters Hill High School as part of the Combined Secondary Schools Choir. It was a wonderful experience for all of the students and teachers involved in this choral and instrumental music showcase. Congratulations.







International Agent's Welcome Dinner at the MCA

During this term, Hunters Hill High School hosted a tour of our school for over 30 international agents from different countries, along with staff from the Department of Education. A welcome dinner was held for the international agents at the MCA where our Strings Ensemble and Year 10 Pianist were invited to perform for those at the dinner. Congratulations to the students who performed on the night.







Glebe Community Centre

The String Ensemble and Vocal Group performed at the Glebe Community Centre for a group of grateful members. The students were able to showcase some songs they had learnt throughout Term 1. Students in the vocal group sang some solo items as well as group pieces.

School News (cont)

"Smells Like Teen Spirit Band Comp"

The music faculty put on a band competition that showcased students in the music elective classes, ensembles and a combined year 8 item. Students performed to the whole school who votes in their favourite performances by cheering the loudest. All performers embraced the opportunity to perform what they had been developing in the classrooms and in their extra curricula ensemble groups. As the event provided the opportunity for a

combined year 8 performance item, these students then formed the "Junior Rock Band".









SRC News - Term 2 2023

What have the SRC been up to?

Harmony Day

To celebrate 'Living in Harmony' and multiculturalism at Hunters Hill, the SRC Organized a day to wear a splash of orange and play Just Dance in the hall at lunch. An impressive number of people came to school dressed in orange accessories on the Wednesday, with teachers joining the fun and wearing cultural clothing or orange of their own. Just Dance was a huge success, with many gathering in the hall at lunch to dance and appreciate the culture of others. I mean, Dakshin and Mrs. B lit the stage on fire with their spectacular performance.





ANZAC Day Ceremony

This year, some members of the Hunters Hill SRC attended the Lane Cove ANZAC Day Memorial Service in the Canopy. Our school was represented proudly by Tyson Ho (Yr. 10), Charlotte Fowell (Yr. 12), Mia Marshall (Yr. 12) and Eliza Russ (Yr. 12). Tyson and Charlotte laid out a wreath in commemoration of the fallen ANZAC soldiers, which laid beside many wreaths from other schools and organizations. Eliza and Mia spoke on stage to further recognize and celebrate the lives of the soldiers who fought in one of the most significant battles of Australian History. Thank you to those in our community who paid their respects on this day.

Athletics Carnival

Another event supported by the SRC was the annual athletics carnival. The barbeque was a big hit! Many flocked to the TAS block side of the oval to eat the hotdogs sold, as well as get refreshing drinks after their races. Starting the day with seemingly too much bread and too many sausages, we were sold out before it even hit 1pm. We also set up polling booths around the oval for students to vote for their favorite celebrities, movies, and other things. This helped clean up the area by having more bins for cans, which were further used to fundraise for the school with our new, Return and Earn Bin Lids.

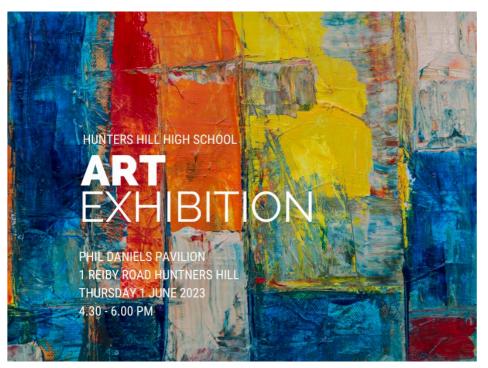


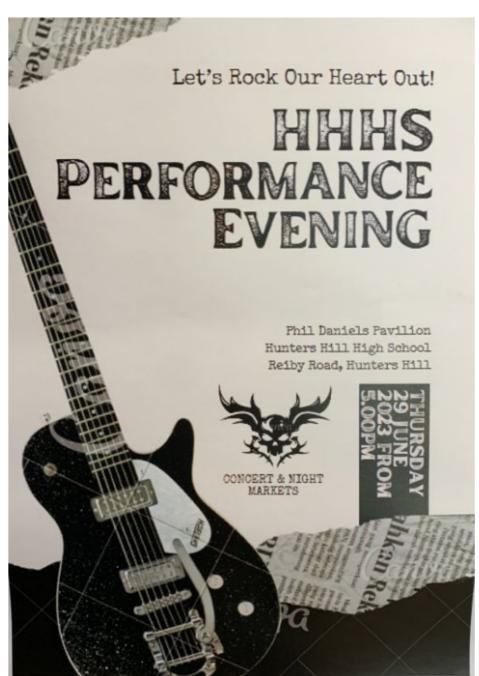


Return and Earn – Bin Lids

To clean up our school environment, the school and the SRC have funded multiple bin lids that collect water bottles and cans. These yellow bin lids scan the barcode of drink bottles, before opening a latch and allowing people to put their empty drink bottles through and into the bin. These super cool bin lids allow us to raise money for the school by helping the environment, further allowing us to use that money to better our environment. I've certainly never heard of a bin cool enough for someone to make a rap about it! Just ask Dakshin.

Upcoming!! Wellbeing Week: If you hadn't yet heard, the SRC is holding a Wellbeing Week in Week 10 of Term 2 to celebrate World Wellbeing Week. There will be a different activity or theme for each day, such as karaoke, a chalk walk, a Comfy Clothes mufti day and a bake sale. Something for everyone! Adding to the excitement of Variety Night, we will be able to celebrate our school with a little bit of fun to finish off the term. Remember to have fun!







LEARNING AND SUPPORT

Schools use their allocations of learning and support resources to personalise the learning for the individual needs of their students.

eaching and learning can be adjusted in many ways, based on every student's unique needs, to enable students with a disability and additional learning and support needs to enjoy the same opportunities and choices in their education as their peers.

Adjustments are made in close consultation with students and their parents and carers and are regularly reviewed to assess their effectiveness and to identify any need for changes.

The first point of contact is the school's learning and support team. Learning and support teams include key personnel involved in supporting students with disability and additional and learning and support needs.

> **Learning and Support Teachers** Jess Austin (R H/T) - Year 7 & 8 Kathryn Zerk - Year 9 & 10 Jessica De Santis - Year 11 & 12



BEYOND THE BELL

Every Monday afternoon after school teachers volunteer their time to support students with their homework, assessments and in establishing positive revision habits. Students identify and work towards achieving SMART Goals for each session to reinforce good study practice.

EAT YOUR WORDS

Every Tuesday before school and Wednesday after school our Learning and Support Team provide guidance for study, proofreading and general feedback for students during a student's preparation for assessment tasks and exams. Students come prepared with their task outlines and drafts as they learn to refine their researching and editing processes.

SENIOR STUDY GROUP

Students in Years 11 and 12 are invited to participate in a study group that is facilitated by the Learning and Support Team on Tuesdays between 1:10pm-3:00pm and on Thursdays from 3:10pm-5:00pm. Students participate in independent study, discussion sessions and collaborative learning supported by teachers and SLSOs.

THE LIVING ROOM

Positive relationships are foundations for success. To support the building of successful social relationships and interpersonal behaviours, the Learning and WellbeingTeam invite students to attend the Living Room from Wed-Fri during lunch. Students engage in board games and creative activities in order get to know each other and staff.

LEARNING PROGRAMS SUPPORTING ALL STUDENTS AND THEIR LEARNING

WHO DO I CONTACT? **ABOUT WHAT?** HOW?





I!ents, concerns about learning specific to subject s!o via: school phone or email

s e tI m atssments, change of subjects (Years 9-12), syllabus

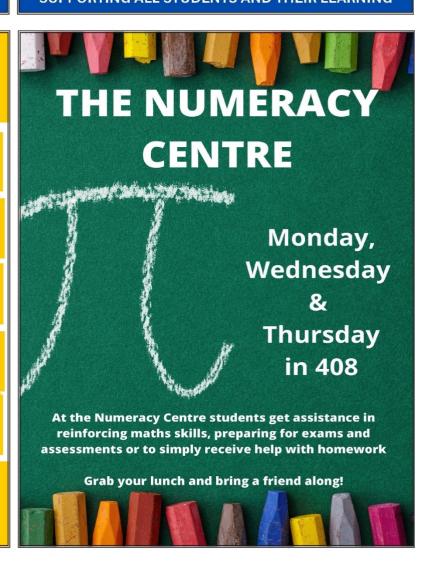
via: school phone or email

! e in i! !:a - cr u iilm!a 1! cle social/emotional concerns, counsellor referrals via: school phone or email

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OTHER INFO? FACEBOOK PAGE, CLOSED FACEBOOK GROUPS, INSTAGRAM AND SENTRAL PORTAL

HUNTERSHD-H.SCHOOL@DET.NSW.EDU.AU





with new friends!



IF YOU FEEL WORRIED OR SAD YOU CAN TALK TO: your **UMatter Mentor WE CARE ABOUT YOU!**



Year 7 Ms Reynolds



Year 8 Ms Guo



Year 9 Mr Centurion



Year 10 Ms Hutchinson Mr Habbouchi Ms De Santis



Year 11



Year 12

YEAR ADVISERS -Each year group has one - you will find them in their classroom or staffroom.





We are Rebecca Hanson, and Sidra Hameed. We are school psychologists and we are here to help you. You can find us in Rooms 400 and Room 415. Monday through Friday. Come and

say hello.





A/HEAD TEACHER WELLBEING Ms Patten



STUDENT SUPPORT OFFICER



CAREERS ADVISER Ms Polak



LITERACY & INCLUSION COORDINATOR



R/HEAD TEACHER **TEACHING & LEARNING** Ms Austin

#hhhsgreatnessbeginshere

HHHS WEBSITE

The HHHS website is updated regularly! Please take the time to go to our site for updates, important information about our school, photos, videos, upcoming events and important dates.

> www.huntershd-h.schools.nsw.edu.au **CONTACT US**

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Email: huntershd-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au Web: www.huntershd-h.schools.nsw.edu.au 'Like' us on Facebook