



Newsletter

TERM 2 NO 2

Wednesday 5 May 2015



Mittagong ANZAC March

We thank the Mittagong Sub-branch of the RSL for the photo above and for their generous appreciation of our involvement in the local March and Service.



DRIZA-BONE



Zoe Young, Frensham
artist-in-residence, with baby Lucy



Boarding Schools Association (BSA) UK Heads of School Conference

I have been warmly welcomed this week by 169 colleague Heads of Boarding attending the annual UK Conference. A special feature of the BSA is that it is inclusive of primary and secondary schools, boys and girls schools, independent and government schools - with a strong, common thread - a passion for boarding as a particular, specialised educational offering. For the past two years, boarding numbers overall have grown in the UK, and the focus on preparation for life in a global community - and breadth of offering and expectation - are key themes of this year's conference entitled: *Challenge, Care and Confidence*.

Opening keynote speaker, Matthew Syed (UK journalist, broadcaster and three time Commonwealth men's singles table tennis champion) linked his personal story of 'success' to familiar research by Carol Dweck (Mindset) and Malcolm Gladwell (Outliers) to present a powerful message (also referenced in his own book *Bounce*) about aspiration and mindset. Syed's emphasis on 'right practice of significant quantity' as the means to the highest growth for students of all ages, was an attempt to demystify the ingredients essential to outstanding achievement - in any area: high expectations for grit and resilience and, great teaching.

Community Service

Student-initiated focus this week was on fundraising for the Nepalese, with Year 12 student leaders of Community Service addressing students about the earthquake disaster providing context for their request for support. The following poem, shared with staff and girls by Ms Madden, was printed last week in a local newspaper in Nepal - in response to the recent earthquakes and is reprinted here to inspire further discussion.

'Hope' is the thing with feathers—
That perches in the soul—
And sings the tune without the words—
And never stops—at all—

And sweetest—in the Gale—is heard—
And sore must be the storm—
That could abash the little Bird
That kept so many warm—

I've heard it in the chilliest land—
And on the strangest Sea—
Yet, never, in Extremity,
It asked a crumb—of Me.

'Hope' Is The Thing With Feathers



Poem by Emily Dickinson

Acknowledgement to:

- The Mock Trial Team for their success in Round 2 of the competition;
- Georgia Richardson, first School AMEB candidate for 2015, gaining Honours for Piano Grade 3, whilst also preparing for Clarinet and Musicianship examinations later in the year;
- Frensham and Gib Gate teams, competing successfully at the recent da Vinci Decathlon 2015;
- Giorgi Jardine for her recent Girdle Award (Art and Design);
- Georgina Quinn and Sally Montgomery on their presentation of the Youth Address at the Mittagong ANZAC Service; those leading hymns at the Service - Rebecca Power, Madeleine Prell and Alexandra Roach; String players - Madeleine Conomos, Alice Gillespie, Annabel Hay and Róisín Spencer, and the strong parent and staff support of students and of various aspects of organisation.

Staffing Update:

- We welcome back to Frensham in a student mentoring role, Mrs Karon Di Francesco, former Director of Studies and teacher of English, who has most recently had leadership roles in graduate education at the University of Melbourne (Director of the Graduate School of Humanities and Social Sciences) and the University of New South Wales (Director of MBA programmes at the AGSM). Mrs Di Francesco will initially work closely with Mrs Trish Symons and Ms Lee McGuinness to provide additional support and critique for English Extension 1 and 2 students in Year 12. Mrs Di Francesco is in the process of relocating to the Southern Highlands with her husband, and their young son, so we welcome this reconnection with an outstanding former colleague.

Past Student News – Frensham:

- Eve Hoskins (2008) - After completing her HSC in 2008, Eve took a Gap Year and worked in England as a Teacher's Aid at the Edgeborough School in Farnham, Surrey. On her return, she commenced studying for a Bachelor of Engineering (Civil)/Bachelor of Design in Architecture at the University of Sydney and is now in her final year. She has gained considerable experience in her chosen field through internships at various firms: she was an intern for four months at Dutallis Architects where she became familiar with AutoCAD software to create precise 2D and 3D drawings. Eve has worked as a Building Cadet for Richard Crookes Constructions assisting with construction management, and several months as an Architectural Assistant for Virginia Kerridge, Architect. Throughout her semesters at university, Eve has been a Student Ambassador at the University of Sydney which involves presentations to Year 12 students about her course, career advising and event organisation. After being involved in design for a charity festival this year, Eve's aim for her career lies in design structural engineering.
- Rachael Eddowes (2000) - After leaving Frensham, Rachael completed a Bachelor of Science Honours degree in Biochemistry at the University of Sydney. The following year, she travelled around Australia with the 'Shell Questacon Science Circus', presenting Science shows in schools and communities, then briefly worked in Darwin in the field of Science communication with the CSIRO. On returning to Sydney, Rachael returned to the Westmead Millennium Institute (where she completed her honours degree) to work as a Research Assistant in the Centre for Virus Research before moving into social research. Employed by the research consultancy Ipsos Public Affairs, Rachael worked on projects for a range of state and federal government agencies and NGOs, mostly in the fields of health promotion, road safety and public attitudes to science. Rachael was placed 4th in the State in Extension Latin in her HSC year and her return to Sydney enabled her to renew her love of studying Latin by attending the Latin Summer School for several January sessions. She eventually realised that she wished to return to academia and enrolled in a two-year Master's degree in Translation at the ANU which she completed at the end of last year. This degree equips candidates with highly-developed analytical and communication skills in English and their focus language, as well as an understanding of the history of translation and an appreciation of a number of critical issues in the field. Rachael is now working as a Special Collections Librarian at the National Library, where, as she says, she has the great privilege of working closely with the Library's extraordinary collection of maps, globes and atlases, some of which, of course, have been published in Latin.
- Georgina Whatmore (2013) has been awarded a St Andrew's Scholars Programme Scholarship, to be presented in May.



Zoe Young (1997 cohort) Archibald Prize shortlisted artist for her portrait of Olympian Torah Bright, has commenced a residency for Frensham and is sketching around the grounds in both a sketch book and on iPad, preparing a commissioned work - a painting of an aspect of the School in action. Access to her work is open to students as we have set up a Studio adjacent to the Board room for Zoe's work when on campus. Zoe was a member of Frensham's first Ski team to represent at Inter-school competition - hence her connection to Skiing and her selection of Torah - a friend - as a subject for her acclaimed work.



WWS FOUNDATION ~ PROGRESSIVE DINNER

Friday 15 May

In the Highlands - by request - commencing in Cooper Hall

Are you able to offer support?

I am pleased to support Foundation's efforts by asking all to consider joining us for this important fundraising event... with a few days remaining to register your attendance or your support.

Bookings for the Dinner are still possible and may be made online or directly to Ms Michele Scamps or Ms Barbara Shannon in the Foundation Office.

There is also a Live Auction to which I am asked to draw your closest attention - for interest and for pre-bidding.

Please see details via the following links: <http://www.frensham.nsw.edu.au/wwsf-progressive-dinner> or contact Michele Scamps directly: mscamps@frensham.nsw.edu.au

All support possible is greatly appreciated.

Julie A Gillick
Head of Frensham
Head of Winifred West Schools

Parent / Community News

Frensham Advisory Committee 2015		Gib Gate Advisory Committee 2015	
Mrs Caroline Begg	r-cbegg@bigpond.net.au	Mrs Rachel Arnott (Chair)	Rkarnott1@gmail.com
Mrs Pip Crichton	pipcrichton@bigpond.com	Mrs Caroline Atra	caroline.atra@me.com
Mrs Helen Gooden	jwhgooden@bigpond.com	Dr Guy Bashford	guy.bashford@sesiahs.health.nsw.gov.au
Mrs Katrina Graves	graves@jkg.net.au	Mrs Holly de Manincor	hollydemanincor@hotmail.com
Mr John Hayes	hayes.it@bigpond.com	Mr Gil Downes	gil.downes@neerim.net.au
Mrs Sam Hickson (Sec)	jshickson@bigpond.com	Mr Stephen Grant	<i>on Leave</i>
Mr Gavin Martin	gavin.martin@ap.jll.com	Mrs Sarah Lewis (Sec)	sarah.lew@me.com
Mrs Judy Newton	judy.newton5@bigpond.com	Mrs Corina Nesci	corina@ipxplode.com
Mr Sam Paradise	sam.paradice@rbsmorgans.com	Mrs Helen Pernice	dandhpernice@bigpond.com
Mr John Penton (Chair)	jbpenton@tpg.com.au	Mrs Zoe Suttie (Chair of FOGG)	zoeandrobort@bigpond.com
Mrs Tina Scales	t.scales@bigpond.com		
Mrs Melody Talbot	melody@talbotnet.com		

TERM DATES 2015 ~ Gib Gate & Frensham	2015 PARENT WEEKENDS ~ Ahead
<p>Term 2 Term 2 ends Thursday 18 June, 3pm <i>Year 10 Work Experience ends Friday 19 June</i></p> <p>Term 3 Tuesday 14 July-Thursday 17 September 3pm <i>Boarders return on the evening of Monday 13 July</i></p> <p>Term 4 Gib Gate: Tuesday 6 October-Friday 4 December 3pm <i>Frensham: Boarders return on the evening of Monday 5 October for Tuesday 6 October-Sunday 6 December 12.30pm (departure is after the Carol Service)</i></p>	<p>REMINDER: all Years 7-12 attend all *Parent Weekend Services</p> <p>Year 8 Saturday 9-*Sunday 10 May</p> <p>Year 12 Saturday 30 -*Sunday 31 May WWS Birthday ~ Friday 29 May Frensham's 102nd Birthday ~ Sunday 31 May</p> <p>Year 11 Saturday 1-*Sunday 2 August Saturday 1 August – Year 10 Senior Studies (with parents)</p> <p>Year 9 Saturday 22-*Sunday 23 August</p>

Ranier Uniform Shop

Shop Manager: Mrs Michelle Wynn
To order goods, please call the Shop: (02) 4860 2136 [BH]
Shop Hours: Mondays and Thursdays: 12.00pm-5pm
or email: frensham@ranier.com.au

WWSF PROGRESSIVE DINNER

LIVE AUCTION (pre-bidding available, contact: Michele Scamps – mescamps@frensham.nsw.edu.au)

- One week stay during the 2015 winter vacation, in a deluxe apartment with fabulous harbour views – sleeps 6/8
- Downtown Abbey-themed dinner in your own home for 10 – priceless!
- 2 Platinum tickets to the Bledisloe Cup on 8 August at ANZ Stadium
- Private Food Trail Tour for up to 20 people to your choice of Cabramatta or Chinatown

RAFFLE (tickets may be bought in advanced from Company Office, Frensham or Gib Gate Reception – \$10 each, 3 for \$20 or 7 for \$50.)

- Weekend at Owl's Green in Burradoo – a beautifully presented home that sleeps 8/11
- Modern and uniquely designed Arbre Table Lamp
- Shopping voucher for Sturt Gift Shop
- Guardian Angel – a one-off designed necklace, 9ct gold chain, with genuine citrine drop
- Shopping voucher for Babilonia, Boolwey Street, Bowral – designer giftware, fashion and homeware
- Tertini Private Cellar Wine 2 Pack – Pinot Noir & Riesling + private tour and cheese platter for four
- Shopping voucher for SKEANIE uh-oh! online store – all you need for the young person in your life.

I would like to thank the Gib Gate students and parents who joined Winifred West Schools at the Mittagong ANZAC Day ceremony on Saturday 25 April. It was encouraging to see that so many Gib Gate students were eager to participate in the March and how conscious they were of the significance of the 100th Year Commemoration of the Gallipoli Campaign. Year 6 Monitors, Grace Lewis, Isabelle Promnitz and James Martin-Weber, represented Gib Gate in leading the School, carrying and presenting the commemorative wreath during the ceremony. Our thanks to Mr Hannah for coordinating the March and to Gib Gate parents who volunteered to act as Legacy collectors during the service.

In 2010, Gib Gate and Frensham began a long-term review process, EEIS (Evaluating Excellence in Independent Schools), designed to assist us in improving School performance. In 2010 and 2012, the EEIS process at Gib Gate involved confidential surveys of staff, students and parents. In 2015, we are continuing the process and we invite parents to complete online surveys this week to provide us with valuable feedback about their child's experience at Gib Gate. A link to the online survey was emailed to parents on Monday 4 May and also posted on Schoolbox. The survey will remain open until Monday 11 May and we would greatly appreciate every parent's input. Gib Gate students from Kindergarten to Year 6 completed student surveys in Week 2 and the results of both surveys will be shared with the Gib Gate community.

Ms Sally Robson, Head of Gib Gate

Curriculum Highlights 2015

Curriculum Insights

Learning through Challenge – the da Vinci Decathlon 2015

Congratulations are extended to the eight Year 5 and Year 6 members of the Gib Gate da Vinci Decathlon Team who competed, with great success, on Wednesday 29 April 2015 at The Illawarra Christian School Cordeaux Campus, Wollongong. The da Vinci Decathlon is an interschool gala day that is conducted in the spirit of an Olympic Decathlon with each team competing in ten academic disciplines in three sessions on the day: Mathematics, English, Science, Code Breaking, Engineering, Philosophy, Creative Producers, Art & Poetry, Cartography and General Knowledge.

The Theme for the 2015 da Vinci Decathlon was LIGHT. All tasks in the da Vinci Decathlon emphasised higher order thinking skills which assisted students to develop their abilities in analysis, synthesis and creativity. Individual team members complemented each other's strengths in all ten disciplines and a highlight was their ability to work together collaboratively under pressure in strict timed conditions.

The Gib Gate Team included Holly Horsfall and Ankitha Avvari (Year 5), Grace Lewis, Harriet Mackie, James Martin-Weber, Sophia Pernice, Isabelle Promnitz and Arlo Taguchi Berry (Year 6). The team won 1st Place in Creative Producers, 2nd Place in Code Breaking, 2nd Place in Engineering and 3rd Place in Philosophy. A highlight of the day was the team being placed third overall in the competition.



Ms Kate Chauncy, Director of Teaching and Learning, P-12 and Coordinator of Gifted and Talented Programmes

Enrichment/Activities

Outdoor Education Camp

Years 5 and 6 students are attending the annual Outdoor Education Group Camp at the Biloela site in Week 5. Students and parents were briefed by OEG staff last week. Parents with questions should call Mrs Graham for clarification.

Robocup Team

Mrs Berman coordinates the 2015 Gib Gate RoboCup team. Members of the Gib Gate team work together each Monday after school and they will travel to the Regional Competition at the Australian National University next term. The team members and Mrs Berman will participate in a workshop to enhance their skills on Monday 11 May at Gib Gate with presenters from RoboCup Junior Australia.

Dancing

Students at Gib Gate enjoy dancing sessions with Mrs Annabel Lomax. In-class workshops commenced this week with students learning a whole school dance which will be performed on Friday 29 May in an afternoon Skipping and Dancing display. Next term, students will move into learning the dances for their musicals. Extra-curricular dancing is offered for those students who are particularly keen with a large group of Kindergarten to Year 2 students participating in the class this term.

Mrs Anne Graham, Gib Gate Coordinator (Administration)

Sport

Swimming

Students in Kindergarten to Year 2 have been enjoying the advantage of an ongoing Swimming Development programme this term, conducted at The Centenary Pool during their Sport time each Thursday. Year 3-6 students will also be involved in more extensive Swimming Development programmes during their Sport time on a Thursday during the Term 3 and 4. Other Learn to Swim and Squad programmes are available out of school hours through Aquabliss, The Centenary Pool management team. Enquiries and bookings can be made with Ben Slade at the Pool.

Mr Michael Standen, Co-ordinator of PDHPE and Sport

Preschool

Reception – Mother's Day

The children have been making gifts for their mothers to give to them on Mother's Day. The children have been discussing what it is they love the most about their mums.

Max Woods: *I like riding my bike with mum. I love mummy's kisses.*

Charlotte Holmes: *I love going to the park with my mummy. My mummy has great hugs.*

Hugh Thompson: *I love drawing with my mummy because she is good at drawing.*

Mummy cooks dinner for me. She cooks Jamie Oliver's fish really well.



Transition – Emotion Inquiry Unit: How do I feel today?

Transition students are currently taking part in an inquiry unit of work on investigating emotions. Teaching the preschool children about emotions and feelings is a way to enable them to express and handle their feelings in the best possible way. We value the importance of increasing the level of social and emotional competence in children as part of their regular programme.

As a 'tuning-in' activity, the children brainstormed as many emotions that they could think of. These included happy, sad, grumpy, surprised, fragile, shy, excited, scared, angry, annoyed, upset, brave, cross, groovy, sleepy and sick. When the children come into Preschool each morning, they are encouraged to look at themselves in the mirror and then place their photo in the basket that best describes their emotion. Today I feel...*happy, sad, excited or cross.*



James Moylan reflecting ...

Ms Kelly Lees, Preschool Teacher

FRIENDS OF STURT

Chris Topp (President), Penny Hoskins (Secretary), Ruth Wright (Roster Secretary), Denise Sumner (Mail-out Coordinator), Joan Dinning, Bill Dinning, Anne Thomson, Alan Matthews, Julie Musgrave, Michael Harris

Special News**Floor talks at Sturt**

ClothFabric – 20 years in the making - a truly inspiring installation style exhibition celebrating the distinctive work and creative life of Julie Paterson, artist, designer, writer and founder of iconic Sydney design brand ClothFabric. The artist, Julie Paterson, will give a floor talk at 2.00pm on Saturday 9 May.

Ocean Forest - a new exhibition of contemporary weaving by Monique van Nieuwland opening on Sunday 7 June. Monique van Nieuwland will give a floor talk at 2.00pm on Sunday 7 June.

The Art of Kerry Jameson - 27 June to 26 July

A special display for the Australian Ceramics Triennale (Canberra 9-11 July). UK ceramic artist Kerry Jameson's distinctive work is inspired by elements of 17th century Spanish polychrome sculptures. This method involves combining ceramic pieces with found objects and fabric skins resulting in visceral figurative sculptures. Kerry will undertake a three month professional residency at Sturt in 2015 including the teaching of a class for the Sturt Winter School and a rare opportunity to see her work on display in Sturt Gallery.

Sturt School for Wood 2016

Enrolments for 2016 are now open. All details, including application form, fee schedule and term dates for 2016 are available on the Sturt website. For enquiries regarding the 2016 course or for the Sturt School for Wood, please contact Mark Viner on +61 2 4860 2083 or email mviner@sturt.nsw.edu.au

Propose an exhibition for 2016 or beyond.

We are now inviting exhibition proposals for Sturt Gallery for 2016 and beyond. Full details on the procedure and our exhibition policy can be found on our website at <http://www.sturt.nsw.edu.au/get-involved/exhibition-proposal>

Courses**Winter School 2015 - 29 June to 3 July**

This year's winter programme features many new courses including Painting with Cherry Hood, Small Sculpture with Bronwyn Berman, Glass Blowing with Mark Elliot, Ceramics with Sturt's UK visiting artist, Kerry Jameson, and Digital Fabrication with Trinh Vu and much more. Online booking and the printed brochure are available: www.sturt.nsw.edu.au/education/winter-school

Learn how to use a 3D router with Steve Harper – Sat 23 & Sun 24 May.

In this two-day weekend course learn the principles of 2D and 3D routing in Sturt's new Design and Fabrication studio and produce a take home project incorporating a 3D element and finish it off in the Sturt Wood Workshop.

Sturt Gallery

ClothFabric – 20 years in the making. Continues to 31 May.

Ocean Forest – contemporary weaving by Monique van Nieuwland. 7 June to 19 July. This exhibition will reflect the beauty of the ocean flora and the threats to this fragile environment created by the modern world. It will consist of a mid-space damask woven installation and a series of jacquard woven wall pieces. Featuring sound vignettes by Madeleine Cocolas.

Full details of all Sturt courses, exhibitions, residency programmes and events can be found on the website www.sturt.nsw.edu.au or to make a booking or enrolment call Sturt Shop on +61 2 4860 2083 or email shop@sturt.nsw.edu.au

Mr Mark Viner, Head of Sturt

Deputy Head

On Friday 29 May, Winifred West Schools, Gib Gate, Frensham and Sturt have their combined Birthday Service in Clubbe Hall. The Birthday celebrations for Winifred West Schools are an important part of our yearly events as they give our community a chance to reflect on what we have, and where we are headed, as well as an opportunity to celebrate what we have achieved. Parents are welcome to attend the Service.

The information below outlines the programme for Friday 29 May and the expectations for girls.

Winifred West Schools Birthday Service:

- Friday 29 May. 10.00am-11.00am in Clubbe Hall.
- Dress for the Birthday Service is full school uniform with blazers and hat.

Birthday Lunch:

- Friday 29 May 12.45-2.00pm in the Dining Room.
- The dress for lunch should be appropriate – smart casual for the party.
- Each table hosts a member of Staff and during lunch they assume the role of a host.

As we move towards the middle of Term 2, we continue to monitor the use of IT across the school. The management of private mobile devices in classrooms and the junior Houses continues to be an area of focus for both staff and students. The majority of our students are working towards becoming skilled and appropriate users of IT, allowing their devices to support and enhance their learning. If you have any concerns about your daughter's use of IT, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Mr Geoff Marsh, Deputy Head

Boarding News

The first two weekends of school have been enjoyable for the Boarders. On the Friday evening, the senior students hosted a 1960s themed Disco in Cooper Hall. In the spirit of fun, many girls formed groups and dressed up together. On Saturday 25 April, after commemorating Anzac Day with the community at the Cenotaph in Mittagong the girls enjoyed recreational swimming activities at The Centenary Pool. On Sunday morning, there was an Anzac Service at school attended by all including Mrs Buick's new Gallipoli "Slouch Hat Care Bear" otherwise known as Albi. After lunch, the Year 10 girls completed a Bronze Medallion course in the pool and a giant jump castle was installed in the Cynthia Parker Gymnasium for all years to use. The gymnasium was transformed into an action zone filled with colour, movement and music.

The Friday evening activity on 1 May there was an energetic handball tournament in the gym, run expertly by the Year 12 girls. On the Sunday, Boarders who were still at school were treated to a trip to the Allphones Arena in Sydney to watch the Sydney Swifts play netball against the Melbourne Vixens. This was a special event and all who participated enjoyed the outing enormously. Other weekend activities this term have included movie nights in Clubbe Hall, some Ville shopping trips and a marshmallow roasting fire in the Pavilion one wet Sunday afternoon.

Girls who have left their swimmers at home, are encouraged to bring these back or have them sent. The pool is open every weekend for free swimming and the girls are enjoying the use of this facility.

Deadlines for End of Term 2 / Beginning of Term 3 Transport

Travel information is now being collated for submission by the deadline of Monday 11 May. If you have any questions regarding travel over the Long Weekend or the End of Term 2 and Beginning of Term 3, please contact Mrs Amanda Wansey: awansey@frensham.nsw.edu.au

Mme Deborah Panaretto, Director of Boarding

Community Service

Following the news of the earthquake which struck Nepal and the devastation which has followed, the Community Service Team, headed by Chloe Patterson and Vice Heads Clementine Tregoning and Frederica Romijn, organised a Mufti Day for Tuesday this week. The girls spoke at Morning Prayers on Friday to advise the School about the coming event and in their talk, they gave information about the dire situation in Nepal: apart from over 5,000 who have died, 10,000 have been injured and many thousands are homeless without food, water or shelter. Because of the strength of the earthquake, more than one hundred people have died in neighbouring countries such as India and China. The theme for the Mufti Day was 'Dress Warm with a touch of white' (for the snows of Mt Everest).

The money donated by students and staff raised has enabled a donation of \$1100.00 to be sent to Médecins Sans Frontières

(Doctors Without Borders). Teams from this international medical organisation have arrived in Nepal and are currently assessing the most urgent medical needs. The MSF teams are working in different areas of the country, including Gorkha, the epicentre of the earthquake, and are providing support to hospitals, running mobile clinics, distributing essential relief items (blankets, hygiene kits and shelters), and providing water and sanitation. Later this term, the Community Service Team will have a 'bake off' on Friday night for a Cake Stall on the Games Field on a Saturday morning. This is always a very popular event, usually with only crumbs left on the table at the end of the morning.

Ms Liz Stephenson, Community Service Coordinator

Director of Teaching and Learning

Frensham da Vinci Decathlon Team 2015

Congratulations are extended to the sixteen Year 7 and Year 8 members of the Frensham da Vinci Decathlon Team who competed, with great success, in this Academic Gala Day on Thursday 30 April 2015 at The Illawarra Grammar School, Wollongong. The da Vinci Decathlon is an interschool gala day that is conducted in the spirit of an Olympic Decathlon with each team competing in ten academic disciplines in three sessions on the day; Mathematics, English, Science, Code Breaking, Engineering, Philosophy, Creative Producers, Art & Poetry, Cartography and General Knowledge. The Theme for the 2015 da Vinci Decathlon was LIGHT. All tasks in the da Vinci Decathlon emphasised higher order thinking skills which assisted students to develop their abilities in analysis, synthesis and creativity. Individual team members complemented each other's strengths in all ten disciplines and a highlight was their ability to work together collaboratively under pressure in strict timed conditions.

The Year 7 team included: Cordelia Bell, Alexandra Cunningham, Bronte Garcia, Mia Horsfall, Gemma Macaulay-Black, Sarah Manwaring, Grace McKinley and Adelaide Poulos. The team won 2nd Place in Cartography, 3rd Place in Science and 3rd Place in English.

The Year 8 team included: Isabella Allen, Elvira Berzins, Adele Bouniol-Laffont, Pippa Hanan, Joanna Hicks, Hayley Hunter, Georgina Ridge and Imogen Senior. This team was awarded 2nd Place overall on the day and, in individual events, won 1st Place in Mathematics, 1st Place in Philosophy, 2nd Place in Engineering, 3rd Place in Cartography and 3rd Place in Art & Poetry.



Frensham da Vinci decathlon Team members 2015

Back row left to right: Elvira Berzins, Pippa Hanan, Georgina Ridge, Joanna Hicks
Centre row left to right: Imogen Senior, Mia Horsfall, Grace McKinley, Adele Bouniol-Laffont, Isabella Allen, Hayley Hunter
Front Row left to right: Cordelia Bell, Alexandra Cunningham, Bronte Garcia, Sarah Manwaring, Gemma Macaulay-Black, Adelaide Poulos.

Ms Kate Chauncy, Director of Teaching and Learning, P-12 and Coordinator of Gifted and Talented Programmes

Director of Studies

This term, on both the Year 8 and Year 12 Weekends, parent-teacher interviews allow students and parents to discuss progress with teaching staff and set goals for further studies.

At Frensham, teachers are committed to meeting the individual learning needs of all students so that they feel supported and appropriately challenged. It is important that students never feel embarrassed, either about being highly competent or about being unable to complete work independently. The School's aim is to support all students to achieve at their optimum level and to be confident, life-long learners who are not afraid of challenges. Teachers accommodate the diverse learning needs of students in various ways. For example, by:

- making available a range of reading materials to accommodate the reading levels of students; pre-testing before a unit of work commences, to assist with lesson planning;
- providing suitable reference material to students who need this to be successful, and expecting students of higher ability to locate additional sources;
- offering sufficient opportunities for repetition or revisiting of skills or knowledge at different levels;

- providing various types of assessment to accommodate individual learning styles;
- setting open-ended tasks so that students can follow their interests and be challenged to go further in their thinking;
- building regular informal assessment — assessment for learning — into lesson plans and using this to adjust teaching strategies;
- making themselves available for individual assistance outside of class.

Ms Janene van Gogh, Director of Studies – in Residence

English and Drama

Drama

From the beginning of Term 2, Year 12 Drama students began the process of devising an original piece of theatre for the Group Performance, a core component of the HSC Drama course worth 30% of the student's external mark. In groups of four and five, students have been brainstorming the topics from the BOSTES prescribed list, making connections with issues in the world around them and exploring a variety of ways their ideas can be staged. One group, comprising Eliza Brennan, Ellie Gaff, Isabella Lalak, Sally Montgomery and Anna Ronald is working on a piece entitled, *Barking Mad* which humorously explores the relationships within a community. It highlights the folly of people and their pets and the absurdity of trivial complaints within a neighbourhood. In another group, Grace Lavender, Matilda McKenzie, Olivia McLennan and Rebecca Power are exploring the political issue of domestic violence in society, particularly in light of Rosie Batty's (Australian of the Year) story, entitled *Behind Closed Doors*.

Mrs Sally Hannah, Senior Teacher in English and Drama

English

Good imaginative writing, *is writing that means something fast. It speaks. Sometimes it even sings...*

(Mark Tredinnick, *the little red writing book*).

Stories are part of our universal experience. People have told stories from the beginning of time whether orally or in writing. They teach us about our world and our history and provide lessons on living and our human condition. And, perhaps, stories are just plain fun.

At Frensham, we aim to make imaginative writing fun. As an important component of the English Syllabus and a significant percentage of a student's Higher School Certificate examination mark, creative writing is integrated within the teaching programmes for all year groups from Year 7 to Year 12. While the complexity of the narrative form develops over time, students are all taught the essential ingredients of a story, namely interesting characters and scenarios and the skilful use of creative writing techniques to provide an entertaining and meaningful text. The teaching approach is rigorous and designed around developing the major components of stories: the plot, characters, setting, dialogue, point of view, theme and style.

One of the key focuses in creative writing is the development of an authentic 'voice'. This is achieved by convincing the reader that the story is 'true', that the events portrayed could happen and by writing characters who behave, speak and think in ways consistent with their context, age and background. Another key element in imaginative writing is the ability to engage the reader through evocative description and students are challenged to involve the reader in their stories using the strategy 'show not tell'. This strategy, which focuses on describing an event briefly without having to explain anything is clearly demonstrated in the following extract from *The Scarlatti Tilt* by Richard Brautigan: "*It's very hard to live in a studio apartment in San Jose with a man who's learning to play the violin". That's what she told the police when she handed them the empty revolver.*

While exemplars of effective narrative writing and ongoing practice support student understanding and improvement of skills in the area of creative writing, a recent focus for the English Department has been incorporating '**Visible Thinking**' strategies into our teaching. These strategies are broadly aimed at externalising thinking in the classroom so that students think more broadly and at higher levels about ideas. In creative writing the specific strategy of 'See-Think-Wonder' routine is being used effectively to both spark student interest in a stimulus image or a quotation and to encourage higher levels of thinking. As students work through the set questions (What do you see? What do you think is going on? What does it make you wonder?), their thinking moves from the literal to the conceptual and they start to articulate ideas that can be utilised in their imaginative writing. A recent example of the strategy used in a Year 10 classroom produced the following engaging opening for a creative piece: *Why would a young girl dream of a smiling Hitler?*

Finally, we recognise that imaginative writing can be intimidating and is not easy for everyone. Careful planning using scaffolds and opportunities to practise skills inside and outside the classroom provide students with the opportunity to find their own personal 'voice' and to demonstrate their creativity in a unique way.

*Why then I see.
A very valiant rebel of the name.
I am the Prince of Wales, and think not Percy,
To share with me in glory any more.
Two stars keep not their motion in one sphere,
Nor can one England brook a double reign
Of Harry Percy and The Prince of Wales.*
Henry IV Part 1

On Thursday 30 April, the English Faculty had a Professional Learning day through the AIS Hub. The purpose of the day was to workshop and explore the new HSC prescribed texts and Modules. *Henry IV Part 1* is the set text for Advanced Module C: *Representation and Text People and Politics*. The girls have commenced studying this text and are enjoying how Shakespeare explores the role of the Monarchy, notions of Commonwealth, Republicanism and Leadership. They are expected to draw connections between the world in the play and the political landscapes of the world today.

Other sessions inspired teachers to explore a range of strategies for preparing students for the Imaginative Writing component at the Standard, Advanced and Extension level. The final session was devoted to Extension 1 with intellectual debate around the political essays *Vindication of the Rights of Woman* by Mary Wollstonecraft, and her daughter Mary Shelley's seminal novel *Frankenstein*.

Ms Lee McGuinness, Head of English/Drama

French

French has traditionally been a popular subject at Frensham. Our aim in Year 7 is to involve the students in the language and culture so that they are comparing and contrasting life in French and Australian schools while they start to master some elementary grammar. Meanwhile, in Year 8, the girls have already attained sufficient mastery that they can describe in some detail their family and friends, their character, personality, physique, clothing preferences.

In Year 9, the girls are currently carrying out a quick consolidation of work learned in their previous two years, prior to starting the next textbook with a unit on the home and household chores. The Year 10 cohort of two strong classes has embraced the initial challenge of learning the Perfect Tense, and students already know that the grammar will become still more interesting once the *être* verbs are introduced.

Girls in Year 11 have been focusing on topics related to Personal Identity, as prescribed by the Board of Studies Teaching and Educational Standards (BOSTES), and girls are presently enjoying reading horoscopes, not so much for their predictions of the girls' futures, so much as for the wealth of linguistic structures they provide in an engaging format.

Meanwhile, the Year 12 class is methodically addressing the specific requirements of each aspect of the HSC, including the Listening, Reading Comprehension and Reading Response, the Writing and the Oral sections. Each section has its own idiosyncrasies of desired response and must be carefully practised using old HSC papers and contemporary documents. Finally, the French Extension class is continuing its study of the set text, the film *Neuilly sa Mere*, whilst preparing such Writing and Oral responses as "*Exclusion is a social rather than an economic phenomenon. Do you agree?*"

Mesdames M Kidner and B Micklem, and Mademoiselle V Akins, Teachers of French

Latin

Following representations from Latin teachers, and after many surveys, questionnaires and reviews, the BOSTES has agreed that from 2016, HSC Latin students, both Continuers and Extension, will be allowed to use a dictionary in the HSC examination. Although this may sound like an answer to a Latin student's prayer, there is much skill required in using a dictionary proficiently. To assist HSC teachers in training their students, on Friday evening 1 May, Ravenswood School at Gordon hosted a workshop: 'Preparing Students for Using Dictionaries in the HSC Latin Exams Course'. The presenters were teachers of the IB Latin course in which students have always been allowed to use dictionaries. They stressed that, contrary to what students may think, it is still essential to learn vocabulary thoroughly. When presented with a passage of nine lines of Virgilian poetry containing approximately sixty words, a student would not be able to look up every word in the time available. It was pointed out that, in an unseen passage, the student should be familiar with, if not know, most of the words, and the dictionary is for those handful of words not known - it is more to relieve the anxiety often faced by students in the examination rather than to be used for every word. The students affected are the current Year 11 students who now regularly learn vocabulary from the text they are studying. This practice will continue, with great stress on its importance as well as some of the other suggestions and hints from IB teachers about training the students. It was a most informative evening and contributed two hours of QTC (Quality Teaching Council) Registered Professional Development from the Australian Professional Standards for Teachers towards maintaining Proficient Teacher Accreditation in NSW.

Ms Liz Stephenson, Senior Teacher, Latin

Human Society and Its Environment (HSIE)

Year 12 Geography girls have completed Assessment Task 2 on 'Mega & World Cities', a two part task that required in depth research and an in class extended response. Year 11 Geography students have Checkpoint 2 of their Senior Geography Project due next week – showing results of primary and secondary research on their chosen investigation.

Year 8 Geography students were provided with an opportunity to visit Sydney Olympic Park for a detailed investigation of a mangrove environment and its management. The positive and negative effect of human interaction with this environment was discussed. Students participated in a variety of fieldwork activities and used a range of geographical tools. They were provided an opportunity for the development of positive attitudes toward the environment so they may take an active role in its sustainability.

On Monday 27 April, Year 8 Geographers caught a bus to Sydney Olympic Park to explore the true nature of mangroves in this area around Sydney. The day started with a welcome from our guide, Mitchell, who increased our knowledge of both the changes in the nature and use of the land and also the mangroves, including how they adapt and live in the area. As the day progressed, we overlooked the river, questioning the barriers, in which we eventually learnt, kept out the road pollution. After admiring the waterways, we moved on to the water bugs: the sensitive, to the tolerant. The water bug samples we investigated were collected from different sections of the river and reflected the health of the waterway. The sensitive bugs were not immune to pollution and they live only where they can thrive. This is where pollution is not near them and where they are not harmed. The tolerant can survive in any condition but prefer the safer environment. We collected and analysed a wide variety of water bugs and finally visited the mangroves. This was a muddy, vast area where what seemed like millions of crabs lived. It was a place also for snails and of course, the mangroves. In the mangroves we carried out a variety of scientific tests. There was a sense of freedom here, where the towering buildings could not be found and the smells were fresh and the colours vibrant.

We finished the day on an extremely happy note and were thankful to the people who made it so pleasant for us. It was a day full of adventure and excitement. Francesca Milner, Year 8.

Ms Janene van Gogh, Head of HSIE

Mock Trial

On Wednesday 29 April, the Frensham Mock Trial Team met The Illawarra Grammar School team for Round 2 of the State Mock Trial competition. Frensham was the plaintiff and alleged that the Dwellingup Local Council, defended by the Illawarra Grammar School had breached its duty of care by not placing sufficient warnings around a hole dug in the footpath running parallel to Bullumbinaby Road. As a result, the plaintiff, Quentin Blake, played by Madeleine Conomos, fell in the hole and sustained serious injuries. Madeleine was led through her evidence in court by first barrister, Sophie Hill and the second witness, Parker Brown, played by Zali Steiner was led through her evidence in court by second barrister, Molly Brown. The barristers were supported by solicitor, Lucinda Macken, who kept them focused throughout the trial. The court officer was Emily Newton who acquitted her role well. The team was also supported by Lucy Barrett and Mathilda Penton.

The case turned on the duty of care of the Council and it was revealed that the council did carry its duty of care inadequately and not on public holidays. As the injury was sustained on New Year's Day, Frensham counsel was able to elicit from The Illawarra Grammar School witnesses that this was indeed the case. It must be said that both barristers and witnesses were new to these roles, as was the solicitor and court officer. Despite this, and with careful coaching from Mr Jowett, all participants performed extremely well, with the witnesses being able to rebuff cross examination and the barristers thinking clearly on their feet. Molly's closing statement was testament to the time she has committed to preparation and the clear focus on legal precedent. The Frensham team was successful, 195 to 181 points. All members of the team are commended for their dedication and hard work.

Ms Judy Bradley, Coordinator of Mock Trial

Jamieson Programme

Exposure to challenges, in a secure environment, can awaken in young people a belief in themselves which will stay with them throughout their lives

Year 7: In Frensham Studies, students are continuing to study the history of the School.

Year 8: Farm management has commenced this term. Students have been allocated times and duties by Mrs. Fennell and Ms. Harris.

Year 9: On Thursday 23 April, fitness activities, including the beep test were postponed to Thursday 21 May due to inclement weather and waterlogged sporting fields. This month, students will continue with their unit "Financial Literacy", which will give them many useful cash/credit buying skills as well as how to be ethical consumers. This week, they will be working in small groups on producing an advertisement for an ethical product, which they will present in a role-play format on the evening of Thursday 4 June.

Frensham is a member school of Cambridge International Examinations, which is part of the University of Cambridge. Students undertaking Cambridge courses are exposed to the three key aims, namely:

- Prepare school students for life
- Help them develop an informed curiosity
- Develop a lasting passion for learning

Finally, students in the Cambridge IGSE interdisciplinary course 'Global Perspectives' are undertaking wide research on their chosen topic and beginning to finalise a focus question for their second Individual Research Project (IRP) which is due for submission in late June. The first checkpoint for IRP No. 2 will be on Tuesday 12 May. Last week the 'Global Perspectives' teachers' provided students with detailed written and oral feedback on their first Individual Research Project.

Mr Paul Nash, Jamieson Programme Coordinator

Mathematics

This term, Year 9 Mathematics students will be involved in a number of activities. As well as spending the next three weeks participating in the Maths Challenge and studying a new unit of work. At the beginning of this term, girls began a unit of work on *Earning Money*. For the first lesson, they were asked to brainstorm and write down what they *thought* they knew about earning money, and what *puzzled* them about earning money.

As a result of this activity the girls raised questions about how the Sharemarket works and after some group discussions they were introduced to the ASX Sharemarket Game.

While students are studying this unit of work, they have the opportunity to learn about the Sharemarket and they can put into practice what they are learning. Students receive a virtual \$50,000 that they can invest over a ten week period, in 200 companies listed on the ASX. The prices students buy and sell at are the same prices as they would in the live market.

As a result of playing the game students should:

- Develop their knowledge of the sharemarket
- Learn how to research companies
- Discover the importance of wise investment decisions
- Gain a greater knowledge of economic and world events
- Begin to learn more about investing which is beneficial for their future.

The game can be played on any computer and is mobile and tablet friendly. Watch lists and charting are features available to students within the game, a portfolio page is provided and students can monitor their shares via their game portfolio. Students participate either individually or in a group of 2 to 4 and they need to research and decide in which companies they will invest. They buy and sell shares online in any of the nominated ASX listed companies. Orders to buy or sell shares can be placed at any time and are only executed between opening hours (10am to 4.10pm).

Learning never exhausts the mind. Leonardo da Vinci

Ms Sue Wymer, Head of Mathematics

Music

Frensham singers and musicians led the Anzac Day ceremony at Mittagong with great composure. Madeleine Conomos, Alice Gillespie, Annabel Hay, Rebecca Power, Madeleine Prell, Alexandra Roach and Róisín Spencer are commended for the quality of their contribution.

Currently, a wide variety of musicians is preparing items for the approaching Year 8 Concert: there will be a Year 8 String Ensemble, specially formed; the full Concert Band; the Junior Choir; selected soloists and finally, a traditional African song to close.

Mr Michael Spencer, Head of Music

Science

Small opportunities are often the beginning of great enterprises Demosthenes

To succeed, jump as quickly at opportunities as you do at conclusions Benjamin Franklin

Science Opportunities for students –

Year 10 - On Tuesday 19 May, a group of 32 Year 10 students will be going to the Science and Engineering Challenge in Mittagong. The Science and Engineering Challenge is a day-long competition designed to provide Year 10 students with a positive experience of Science and Engineering. This is a team challenge with each group working on either one full-day activity or two half-day activities.

In order to select the 32 students, girls were asked to submit a formal application stating why they would be a strong, collaborative and supportive team member and outline any previous experience they may have in a thinking competition and which of the activities they felt they could contribute to. The final group includes Isabella Alderton, Sadie Archibald, Ellie Arnott, Minnie Arnott, Olivia Barton, Liana Berzins, Sophie Booth, Susan Chen, Kate Coupland, Georgina Fuller, Skyla Harris, Sarah Hassett, Elysia Horan, Thea Horsley, Annabella Lewis, Natasha Long, Sophie MacDiarmid, Matilda Martin, Chloe McCrabb, Arabella McKenzie, Portia McKenzie, Penelope McKillop, Annabel Munro, Bryanah Newton, Elspeth Robertson, Dominique Romijn, Georgia Saeck, Alice Sinden, Georgina Sutton, Kate Swan, Nina Whitfeld, Mia Withers.

Years 9 and 10 - The ConocoPhillips Science Experience is an interesting three or four day programme of science activities for Year 9 and 10 students in 2015. Each programme is designed to provide students who have an interest in science with an opportunity to engage in a wide range of fascinating science activities under the guidance of scientists who are passionate about their work. The programme takes place in over 35 universities and tertiary institutions, so there may be one near you. Participants perform experiments in the laboratories, meet and hear senior lecturers in the lecture theatres, attend site visits and walk around and experience what it is like to be on the campus of a university or tertiary institution. The programme also provides information about further studies in science, technology and engineering. The programme costs \$120 for a three-day programme and \$160 for a four-day programme and there is no selection process, anyone who is interested may apply. For further details and an enrolment form, please visit <http://www.scienceexperience.com.au/about-the-program/how-to-enrol>.

Mrs Alison Andrew, Head of Science

Agriculture & Show Cattle Team

Farm Management commences in Term 2 and is part of the Jamieson Programme where all of Year 8 is rostered on to complete tasks around Holt Farm and the Agriculture plot. Tasks may include feeding livestock, weeding, collecting firewood and mulching the orchard. Heads of Farm Management, Sophie Currenti and Savannah Kelly, have already prepared a roster for the Term and the first group has completed its duties. The students will complete one Farm Management session in Term 2 and one in Term 3, usually of about an hour's duration.



The Year 7 Technology class, which is studying Plant Production this semester, had the opportunity to welcome 20 day-old layer chicks to the Agriculture Faculty last week. The chicks will be used in a trial by the Year 11 Agriculture class to determine which breed, Rhode Island Red or Australorp, will have the greatest daily weight gain. Year 7 assisted the Year 11 class by completing the first weighing of the chicks and then spent the rest of the lesson observing chick behaviour. Clemency Hughes, Year 7, is seen here with day-old chicks.

Year 9 Agriculture is continuing to learn about Beef Production and has planted new season vegetables in the gardens. Year 10 girls have begun studying milk production and learning about dairy farming as well as setting up wheat production trials. The Year 12 class is finishing off the course work on sustainable agriculture production and plant production and will be beginning the animal production topic.

Ms Leonie Harris, Coordinator Agriculture & Show Cattle Team

PDHPE

Year 12 Focus - Year 12 girls have just completed the second compulsory unit of their HSC Course. They are now studying their first option – Sports Medicine. This option module is concerned with the specific issues of prevention, assessment, management of and recovery from sports injury. Students will examine how the extent and intensity of sports participation relates to the incidence of sports injuries. They also explore the range of technical and scientific approaches for maintaining the wellbeing of athletes.

Miss Erin Gray, Head of PDHPE

Sport

Wet Weather arrangements for Saturday Sport

Cancellations of Saturday Sport are rarely made before Saturday morning, unless a venue notifies IGSSA that the facilities will not be playable prior to this.

Means of gaining information concerning play: **IGSSA WEBSITE:** <http://ahigs.nsw.edu.au/IGSSA.aspx>

For example: If checking re Football at Frensham, **TEXT** 'football' or re Basketball at Frensham, **TEXT** 'basketball'

SMS Weather Information: Using your mobile phone, SMS your keyword to **1992 5465**. Messages cost 55c per message sent. Your keyword is the name of the sport and the first initial of the venue. A return SMS will be sent that gives you the status of the venue - open or closed.

Football

Football season was kicked off last Saturday! All teams played well in soggy conditions. All players are reminded that they must have a football shirt as well as shin pads, boots and football socks. A mouthguard is recommended but optional.

Basketball

Unfortunately due to wet weather, outdoor matches were cancelled half way through the first game. Hopefully the weather will be much brighter for the rest of the season. All players are reminded that they must wear shorts without pockets.

Cross Country

Cross Country trials have just been completed this week. The top eight girls in each age division will represent Frensham in the IGSSA Carnival on Friday 15 May. As in the past, Frensham is hosting this event and we look forward to providing an exciting day for all of the other schools competing.

Miss Erin Gray, Acting Head of Sport

Equestrian News

Training Day – Sunday 14 June

Thank you to all parents who have submitted their expression of interest forms for the Training Day. If your daughter is interested in taking part in the Training Day, please submit the form by Friday 8 May, so that the arrangements for coaches and lessons can be finalised.

Entries to the Interschools competition at SIEC are now open on the Nominate website*. The competition begins on the Thursday 19 June (not Friday) and continues till Sunday.

*<https://www.nominate.com.au/equestdn/Event.aspx?event=4981&eventlist=5>

Vaulting entries: <https://www.nominate.com.au/equestdn/Event.aspx?event=4986&eventlist=6>



Snowy Mountains Grammar Equestrian Interschools Carnival in Jindabyne

Amelia Douglass (Year 9), seen left, competed in the Snowy Mountains event achieving the following results on her horse Witzcellar.

Amelia won the Year 9 and 10 Interschools Challenge which is an event comprising ridden, led and Showjumping elements. She was the Secondary Showjumping Champion - 3rd in the 6 Bar the highest jump was 140cm, 2nd in AM5, 1st in both the Topscore and two-phase events - jumps 1.05 to 1.2m

Amelia was also Champion Rider and highest Year 9 point scorer. She was 2nd in the led and won her hack height class, pleasure mount and Year 9 rider class.

April Stokman (Year 10) has noted her involvement in a number of events over recent weeks. She competed in the Southern Highlands Show jumping Championship at Robertson and was awarded a Champion ribbon in the up to 1.15 metre class; at SIEC in the Rider's series Show jump Championships where she gained 4th place in the 95 cm A2 SJ and in the Goulburn Show where she was placed in both the 90cm and 1 metre Show jumping. This is valuable competition practice in the lead up to the Inter schools Competition this year.

Team members are encouraged to share their performance results in the Newsletter as these activities occur off campus.

Mrs Trish Symons, Equestrian Coordinator

Snowsports

Another season of Snowsports begins at the Northern Regionals held at Perisher Wednesday 1 July-Saturday 4 July. Frensham will be represented by girls from all year groups and Snowsports families should be receiving information via email by the end of this week. Please do not hesitate to contact the School if you are interested in having your daughter join the Snowsports team.

Ms Joanne Allison, Coordinator of Snowsports

Visual Arts/Design & Technology

During Term 2, students of Year 11 Visual Arts are using the phrase 'These are Desperate Times' as a catalyst for artmaking. In the first two weeks, they have been exploring possible socio-political themes to base an artwork or a series of artworks upon. When choosing subject matter, the students have been advised to explore themes broadly, and then seek to find specific details and examples which can push their artworks beyond the general and the literal. We find that Year 11 is a suitable time for students to make artworks of this nature; they are of an age where they are mature enough to deal with sensitive topics in a thoughtful and compassionate way. The girls have the choice of employing any printmaking technique to produce works. Their options include dry-point etching, relief printing, mono-printing and collograph printing, and they have been encouraged to think laterally about 'what is a print' and whether they can explore unconventional, unique processes in order to produce something which could be termed a print.

Year 10 students of Visual Arts began work on 30 x 30cm oil paintings very late in Term 1, and are continuing work on them through Term 2. This is the second work which students are making as part of *The Artist's Environment* unit (in Term 1, they produced a multi-colour reduction lino-print). The original brief required students to take photographs of the Frensham and Sturt campuses, focusing on the natural and built environments, and the people who populate these environments, and use these images as reference material. The aim of this unit is to make students 'look close to home' for subject matter, and seek to find aspects of their world which they can perceive and transform in artworks. For many girls, this is the first time they have used oil paint. We provide girls with what are known as water-based oils, which whilst performing much like traditional oil paint, have the advantage of an easier clean-up process, with no mineral turpentine or other harsh cleaning fluids needed. Using oil paint is allowing girls to work the paint surface over several days, either taking time to blend colour and tone or build textures with greater apparent freshness than acrylic paint. Students are encouraged to develop their own stylistic preferences when painting; the developing works range from strong realism to looser, more expressive handling of paint as a means of representing or responding to subject matter.

Mr Phil Alldis, Head of Visual Arts and Design