Coming events

Week 3  
Beginning 8th February

Monday  
Year 9/10 ‘Meet the Teacher’ Evening 6pm

Tuesday  
Year 10 Bush School at Jervis Bay (120 students) 4 days

Wednesday  
HSC Drama to OnStage Seymour Centre  
Onstage & Life Without Me - Seymour Centre

Week 4  
Beginning 15th February

Monday  
P&C Meeting in Common Room from 7.30 pm  
Year 7/8 Meet the Teacher Evening  
Yr 7 Vaccinations (1) and Yr 8 Catchups

Wednesday  
Year 11 Information Evening in MPU from 6pm  
School Photos

Friday  
UoW Year 10 Languages Day (80 students)- David / Griffiths  
Zone Swimming Carnival  
Year 12 Geography Excursion to Pyrmont

PRINCIPAL

“I don’t think I ever expected anything like an Oscar ever, to tell you the truth. That is not my motivation when I do these roles. I really am motivated by being able to work with great people and create a body of work that I can look back and be proud of.”  
Leonardo DiCaprio

At our recently held presentation night, we acknowledged the outstanding achievements of students in 2015. We did not have Leonardo DiCaprio there as a special guest, however, reference was made to a quote by the actor in an address given by one of the 2015 Year 12 Dux award recipients. The student (Emma Charles) used a paraphrased version of the quote in relation to her own success in the HSC. Although Emma placed first in the HSC for one of her subjects (Italian Beginners), received a HSC All Rounder award (achieved a result in the highest band [Band 6 or Band E4] in 10 or more units of study), scored an ATAR result of 99.4 and achieved second place in our 2015 Year 12 Dux awards, she clearly communicated to the audience that she didn’t work hard and commit to her studies for the accolades. She set her own goals based upon what she wanted to achieve personally and set about achieving her personal best. The fact that she also achieved such outstanding results and accolades both at the school and state level were reflective of her high personal goals and an additional reward for all of her efforts. Also acknowledged for their outstanding efforts and results in the HSC were Elizabeth Heffernan and Katelin Schelks. Elizabeth and Katelin were awarded first and third place in our 2015 Year 12 Dux awards scoring ATARs of 99.6 and 99.35 respectively. They too emphasised the commitment that they made to set goals, work hard and achieve their personal best in the HSC.

The students at Smith’s Hill High School are all very talented, individually unique and contribute positively to the richness of our school in so many different ways. Having a mindset focused on achieving personal best is extremely important for our students given the academically selective nature of the school. To set goals based upon the relative performance of others results in students either underperforming or being continually disappointed. First is a wonderful accolade – but if it is not a student’s very best, then it is just a glimmer of what could have been.

I would like to promote the advice given by the 2015 Dux recipients and extend this same challenge to every student in the school; to set personal goals based upon what they want to achieve personally and work throughout the year ahead to achieve their personal best.

David C Deitz  
Principal