

# NBSC

NEWSLETTER

TERM 2 2020



NORTHERN BEACHES SECONDARY COLLEGE



# Our Team

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COVER ARTWORK BY ALEXANDRE CHEMINAT -  
NBSC BALGOWLAH BOYS CAMPUS  
THE VECTOR LANDSCAPE WAS CREATED WITHIN A TECHNOLOGY AND APPLIED  
STUDIES (TAS) UNIT OF WORK TAUGHT BY COURTNEY SIMPSON AND MATT MILLER.

# Table of Contents

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COLLEGE PRINCIPAL'S REPORT	PAGE 4
NBSC LANGUAGES HSC PRACTICE ORALS	PAGE 5
NBSC DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD	PAGES 6-7
PROJECT PENGUIN GOES DIGITAL 2020	PAGES 8-9
NBSC CAMPUS FILMS	PAGES 10-11
NBSC SPORTS	PAGES 12-13

# Term 2

Written by Stacey Exner  
NBSC College Principal



Term 2 has seen Northern Beaches Secondary College Campuses open and returned to full-time on-campus learning, and all staff and students are very excited to be back. Infection control measures have been implemented in all campuses ensuring we have increased cleaning of all surfaces and sanitation stations placed across all sites. These established processes are our new normal that we are all coming to terms with but I often reflect about how grateful I am to be living in Australia where the effects of COVID-19 have not been as impactful as it has been in other countries.

We have all learnt so much in such a short period and have continued with our previously planned organisation. We moved to virtual online platforms for all of our network meetings and have decided to continue with these into the future. These virtual collaborative platforms allow our teachers to collaborate anytime, anywhere and at any pace.

Project Penguin moved online, and it was delightful to watch our primary students navigate their virtual excursion to Collins Flat Beach to investigate the habitat of the Little Penguins. The students were able to be involved with a live feed from the Penguin Keeper at Taronga Zoo, and they created an online strategy to save our Manly Penguin Colony. Duke of Edinburgh also moved online with our participants creating opportunities to serve the community through virtual platforms so that it can be counted towards their service hours. Our NBSC Sports Coordinator also worked with all campuses to create our first NBSC Virtual Cross-Country Championship. Students have downloaded an app which tracks their running, and their times will be able to be uploaded onto the State and National site.

Teachers are working together across the NBSC to achieve common goals through sharing of evidence-informed practices through the established whole college virtual staffrooms that have been created. The teachers are learning and sharing ideas and effective teaching practices across these collaborative platforms allowing for increased collaboration.

# NBSC Languages HSC Practice Orals

Written by Ben Pimentel  
NBSC Head Teacher, Teaching & Learning

The NBSC HSC Languages Oral Examination Practice afternoon was held on Monday, 15 June. The objective of this Collegial project is for students to gain experience and confidence for their HSC oral exams and further develop their speaking skills through exposure to language teachers other than their own.

Interviews were held at NBSC Freshwater Senior Campus classrooms. The afternoon opened with a briefing session with current and experienced NBSC oral examiners to ensure all participating teachers are provided with best practise guidelines for conducting languages oral examinations for Chinese, Japanese, French and German. Students registered online for two 15 minute sessions. The 15 minute sessions involved a simulated HSC oral examination as well as immediate and comprehensive feedback from their examiner.

Forty NBSC year 12 students and 13 teachers participated in the project this year. There were over 75 interviews conducted during the afternoon. Some enthusiastic students were able to source an extra interview with teachers who had available timeslots. This project relies on the generosity of the Languages teachers giving up their time to support our students. Several of the teachers did not have year 12 classes this year, however, contributed their time and expertise to benefit our students.

Languages teachers who did not have year 12 students this year were grateful for the opportunity to utilize oral examination techniques and review current guidelines in preparation for future classes. Student feedback was extremely positive, referring to how this experience has contributed to cognitively and emotionally preparing them for the impending HSC exams. This project was particularly valuable this year as many opportunities for face-to-face HSC oral examination practice were cancelled due to COVID restrictions.



# NBSC Duke of Edinburgh Award

## Virtual volunteering takes the cake



Stitching together a new plan: Abigail Naseby with her homemade face masks.

From baking cakes and making masks for frontline workers to bird and penguin spotting, the COVID-19 lockdown has made Northern Beaches Secondary College students get creative about community service.

With the advent of social distancing, the student participants in the college's Duke of Edinburgh program had to adjust their planned skills acquisition and community service projects.

For many of the students a desire to help out during the pandemic was the inspiration behind their choices.

Although she had never operated a sewing machine, Year 11 NBSC Freshwater Senior Campus student Abigail Naseby took on the task of making face masks. "The global crisis that we have all been living with over the past few months had a huge impact on my selection of voluntary service," Abigail said. "As we all did I saw the devastating impact the virus was having on the world and I wanted to play a role in helping, no matter how small that role would be." The Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award participant had to overcome the challenge of not knowing how to sew as well as researching a pattern and the best fabric for the task. Having made 40-plus masks over her weekends, Abigail was able to distribute them via a friend to NSW Transport workers and admitted to a sense of pride "in knowing that I had made a contribution, even though it was only a minor one".

Luke Irwin had planned to coach his mother's soccer team to satisfy the community service element of his Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award but instead he took up a pair of binoculars.

Twice a week the Year 10 NBSC Manly Campus student, has surveyed the birdlife in his backyard for

Birdlife Australia and has been surprised by the number of species that call his house home. “There has been a lot of noisy miners, but there has been way more species than I thought – every half hour I would see about 10 different species,” Luke said.

Georgie Wickings, a Year 10 student at NBSC Cromer Campus, had to rethink her community service after the library where she was set to volunteer closed. With a mother working at the Prince of Wales Hospital, Georgie decided to show her appreciation to healthcare workers through baking sweet treats such as Anzac biscuits, brownies, muffins and slices. For the past six weeks Georgie has baked on the weekends and her mother has delivered the treats to staff on the Monday. “I love cooking so much, which is good and ... everyone [at her mother’s work] really likes it and gets so excited when I bake,” Georgie said.



A worker at Prince of Wales hospital with cookies baked by Georgie Wickings.

NBSC Mackellar Campus student Amirah Dobby is on the entry level of her Duke of Edinburgh but said she had found a skill that she hoped to see through to the Gold award. As a Noongar woman, Amirah had to take her plan to learn her indigenous language online after social distancing and a lack of speakers meant it was not practical to find a local teacher. The Year 9 student enrolled in an online course through Curtin University in Western Australia and will study one hour a week for six months. The Noongar language group is found in the south of Western Australia – the area where some of Amirah’s family are from. She said studying the language is a real source of pride as for a long time many people in her family were forced to deny their Aboriginal heritage for fear of discrimination. “I’ve had family members impacted by the Stolen Generations – now I can be proud of being Aboriginal and I didn’t have to go through what they did,” she said. Her long-term aim is to be fluent in basic speech by the end of this course and then continue learning the language.

Ella Maryska has also taken on the role of citizen scientist, signing up to help out research projects via Zooniverse. “Through the COVID-19 pandemic I realised there would be less and less researchers and volunteers to help with these important projects and I decided that it would be the perfect time to help out,” Ella, a Year 9 Bronze Duke of Edinburgh participant at NBSC Manly Campus, said. Ella had volunteered with five different organisations but nominated Penguin Watch, where volunteers monitor time-lapse cameras to help count penguins in remote locations, as her favourite. The volunteer work had been eye-opening, Ella said. “It has made me realise there is so much left in this world undiscovered and that there are so many undiscovered opportunities in pretty much every field of work,” she said. “It has also inspired me to involve myself further into the Zooniverse program and that even after Duke of Ed finishes I will still continue to help these organisations.”

This news article was extracted from <https://education.nsw.gov.au/news>

# Project Penguin goes digital 2020

Written by Sandra Bonello  
NBSC Project Officer

The Little Penguins of Manly are please to announce that they have over 800 new experts helping to keep them safe in their habitats at Little Manly and Collins Beach.

The Northern Beaches Secondary College in collaboration with the Northern Beaches Learning Alliance and Taronga Zoo, once again participated in Project Penguin, however this year, there was a twist; Project Penguin went digital!

Students from Years 4 - 6 from Beacon Hill, Curl Curl North, Harbord, Manly Vale and Manly Village Public Schools went on virtual excursions, worked through interactive slides and worksheets, researched the internet and participated in an 'Ask the Expert' Webinar with Taronga Zoo to learn more about the Penguins, their habitats and the ongoing threats to their survival.

The students then came together in small groups to create a conservation solution for the little penguins with virtual assistance from their mentors from NBSC Balgowlah Boys, Cromer and Mackellar Girls campuses. Some students wrote books, produced games, created videos, published their own websites or made a prototype of their conservation solution, based on the major threats to the penguins.

They gained knowledge and formulated goals and solutions through participating in this contemporary and authentic learning experience, testing and developing their skills in critical thinking, problem solving, ICT, communication and collaboration to become the new ambassadors for the Little Penguins.





# NBSC Campus Films



Northern Beaches Secondary College Manly Campus caters for gifted and talented students. The campus ethos of academic excellence, personal best and giving back to the community are reflected in any typical day in our school.

Through evidence-based gifted and talented strategies, such as differentiation, acceleration, deep inquiry and enrichment, our students attain academic excellence. Our students pursue personal best through creative and critical thinking, encouragement of self-reflection and detailed study skills programs. Students give back to the community in so many ways including the extensive music program, drama, the musical, debating, chess, mentoring, competitive and recreational sport, leadership development, volunteering and college activities such as Duke of Edinburgh and Project Penguin. Student wellbeing is nurtured through stimulation, engagement and support.

The pedagogical framework underpinning our Campus' belief in educating the whole person to nurture their potential to thrive in a changing world.

Application for entry in Year 8 to Year 11 2021 are now open and will close on 24 July 2020. More information and a link to download the application form, can be found in the enrolment section on the NBSC Manly Campus website. <https://nbscmanlys-h.schools.nsw.gov.au/>

View the full video at <https://nbsc.schools.nsw.gov.au/news/2020/6/nbsc-manly-campus-2020.html>



As NBSC Freshwater Senior Campus were unable to host their open day on campus this year, their creative team decided to create a short promotional video to help prospective students, parents and community members learn more about the school. The film is guided by NBSC Freshwater Senior Campus Principal, Frank Pikardt who mentions important information about campus culture, student learning opportunities as well as exciting changes that have occurred on campus.

“NBSC Freshwater Senior Campus is a very successful senior environment with approximately 650 senior students, with that large number of senior students we are able to provide a very extensive curriculum.”

“We cover most subjects and if we can’t cover a subject, then students can access other [Northern Beaches Secondary College] campuses to study those subjects.”

Frank Pikardt credits the dedicated NBSC Freshwater Senior Campus staff for ongoing student success. “The teaching staff at [NBSC] Freshwater are all stage 6 experts, many of them are experienced HSC markers who have a strong knowledge of their subject and a strong knowledge of what it takes to be successful in the HSC.”

NBSC Freshwater Senior Campus have also prepared a 360 degree interactive virtual tour for viewers to explore their learning spaces and facilities. Viewers are encouraged to navigate the tour on Google Chrome and click on the cogwheel for a guided tour narrated by one of their students, Samuel Casper.

The Open Day film can be viewed at [https://youtu.be/A\\_S5law\\_zRk](https://youtu.be/A_S5law_zRk) and the 360 Virtual Tour is available at [bit.ly/freshie360](http://bit.ly/freshie360)



# NBSC Sports

Written by Kristie Crawford  
College Sports Coordinator

## NBSC Virtual Cross-Country Championships

The Northern Beaches Secondary College has entered into the Great Australian Cross-Country Challenge (GACCC). This is a “virtual race” meaning you still go for a run (or walk), but you can choose where and when. It can be outside, on a treadmill, alone or with others (within social distancing guidelines of course).

Students will compete for their House and/or Year Group and represent their Campus in the NBSC Virtual Cross-Country Championships. Prizes will be awarded to students from across the Campuses based on a range of criteria.

**Parents and Teachers** – You can also be involved. Simply complete the online registration information supplied – Select Open Age, Use the PROMO Code to waive the fee and link yourself to the relevant campus (team).

### How does it work?

**Register** - To register for GACCC, head to [gaccc.com.au](http://gaccc.com.au). When completing your registration, add the PROMO CODE supplied by your schools Sports Coordinator.

**Registration Instructions** will be supplied by the Sports Coordinators from each campus. Keep an eye out for an email in your inbox.

**Run/ Walk.** Run, walk, roll or stroll your way through your age division distance, using your mobile or watch to track your distance and time.

**Record.** Visit the Results Hub at [gaccc.com.au](http://gaccc.com.au) to upload your results and see where you’re coming in your region, state and around Australia.

The Challenge runs until August 31, so enjoy the great outdoors and scenery we have around the Northern Beaches or even a walk through the Blue Mountains might be a place to explore.

Have Fun!



## SPORT UPDATE from School Sports Unit

All NSWCHSSA Statewide (formerly knockout) Competitions have been cancelled for 2020.

The School Sport Unit wishes to advise that the following Sports events have been cancelled for Term 3

- NSW All Schools cross country
- NSW All Schools touch football trials
- NSWCHSSA gymnastics state championships
- NSWCHSSA Trans-Tasman squash exchange
- NSWCHSSA athletics championships
- NSWCHSSA boys tennis state championships
- NSW All Schools football tri-series
- NSW All Schools opens netball tri-series
- NSWCHSSA trampoline sports state championships
- NSWCHSSA bowls exchange
- NSWCHSSA girls tennis state championships
- Secondary Waterpolo Trials
- Secondary Boys Cricket Trials
- Sydney North Secondary Athletics
- Sydney North secondary tennis trials
- Years 9 and 10 netball gala day
- Years 7 and 8 netball gala day
- Secondary orienteering

The health and wellbeing of everyone involved is paramount and at the heart of this decision. We recognise the pressures that schools are currently experiencing and supporting staff and students remains our highest priority.

# NBSC

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