Important Dates

15 October
Year 6 Uniform Evening
3.00pm—6.00pm

29 October
Year 11 Uniform Evening
3.00pm—6.30pm

12 November
Year 6 Uniform Evening
3.00pm—6.30pm

3 December
Year 6 Orientation Day
High School Experience Day
9.30am in the hall

9 December
Presentation Night

HSC EXAMS

13 October until 5 November

Students are able to access their own personal timetable online.

Congratulations to our 14 boys 4x100m relay team who won the gold medal at the NSW All Schools Championships at Olympic park stadium. The All Schools carnival consisted of schools from the government, private and Catholic sectors and defeated a high quality field including Trinity Grammar and Westfields Sports High. This is the first time Robert Townson has medalled in a relay team at a state level and the first time in many years that the school has medalled in athletics.

The team consisted of William Louis, Michael Prasad, Baily McParland, and Issam Merhi. Special thanks goes to Mrs Azhra Merhi for being our biggest supporter, loudest cheerer, and for getting the boys to and from the venues!. Our team could not have done it without her. Robert Townson, and especially Miss McKenzie, is very proud of the boys achievements.

Miss McKenzie (Coach)
As Spring greets us, so it is time to farewell our Year 12 group for 2014. It has been an honour to teach and care for each and every student in this group. Staff have commented on the good natured group of students we have had over the past few years. Year 12 have grown into confident young men and women ready to take on new and greater responsibilities in the outside world.

I trust that the secondary years of school have been memorable and rewarding for all students.

I wish you all the very best for the HSC and beyond.

Kim Chapman

### YEARLY EXAMS

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<th>Year</th>
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<td>Year 7</td>
<td>27 October until 31 October 2014</td>
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<td>Year 8</td>
<td>3 November until 5 November 2014</td>
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<td>Year 9</td>
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<td>Year 10</td>
<td>17 November until 19 November 2014</td>
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### SCHOOL RETURNS ON:

**TUESDAY, 7 OCTOBER 2014**
Congratulations to our two Gifted and Talented Tournament of Minds teams who competed at the University of Western Sydney recently with the help of Ms Griffin and Ms Paroz: Danielle El-Esber, Chadi El-Esber, Joshua Virgona, Tara O’Brien, Luke Martino, Molly Malone, Vaoita Sene, Sunny Martinez, Rasmine Giles, Ebony Hooper, Sharya Narayan, Ines Rueda and Kaylin Alexander.

Mrs James
Macarthur Zone Netball Carnival. A large number of girls participated in the carnival with our Year 8 team being the most successful on the day. Well done girls.
Ensure the school office has all up to date medical and contact details for your child/ward. It is so important that we can contact parents/carers in an emergency.

"Wear It Purple" Day
On 29th August 2014 staff and senior students wore purple items of clothing and ribbons signifying respect for young people who are gender diverse or gay and lesbian. Messages of safe communities and schools, and respect for all were emphasized.

Scoliosis Checks for Girls in Year 7 and 9: reminder
Girls in Years 7 & 9 received a pamphlet last month describing how to check for curvature of the spine. If you haven’t already done so parents and carers should take the time to check their daughter’s spine by doing the forward bend test. Visit the website for further information at www.scoliosis-australia.org

Asthma & Allergies Health Care Plans
This changeable windy weather creates havoc with students suffering with asthma and allergies. Take the time to review your child’s medical condition and discuss with your child their emergency treatment. Please ensure your child has their medication as indicated on their Health Care Plan. If your child does not have a Health Care Plan then please see your child’s GP to complete an updated plan which can be downloaded from our website.

School Immunisation Program for Year 7 & 9 students
Ensure your child/ward receives all vaccines. Final date for immunisations is:
- 18/11/14 HPV (Yr 7) + Varicella (Yr 7) + HPV (Yr 9 boys only)

Cyberbullying and Sexting Seminars
Early next term all Years 7 – 10 will be involved in cyberbullying and sexting seminars as part of our School’s anti-bullying focus. Legal issues, personal and social costs will be outlined.

Cyberbullying and Sexting Seminars
Early next term all Years 7 – 10 in a series of small group 5 lesson seminars addressing alcohol and drug knowledge, effects on mental health and wellbeing and strategies to cope with peer pressure around risk taking. DARE was conducted by Youth Solutions.

Transition to High School – “Kick Off” and Peer Leader Training
Kick Off begins early next term. Selected students have been invited from our feeder schools. We look forward to meeting some of our students who will be in Year 7, 2015.

Peer leader training began, with a training day at Teen Ranch on 15th September. Mrs Stamoudis and Jo had a fabulous day. Photos will be available on the website soon. YWCA is joining myself to deliver leadership training so that our Peer Leaders will be ready to guide our ‘newbies’ in their transition to high school.

Another exciting month at Robert Townson High School in the area of wellbeing...

Till next time,
Mrs Sally Willmott
Head Teacher Welfare

WEAR IT PURPLE DAY
International Literacy Day was the 8th of September with the aim to highlight the importance of literacy to individuals, communities and societies. On International Literacy Day each year, UNESCO reminds the international community about the status of literacy and adult learning globally. Celebrations take place all around the world.

International Literacy Day was celebrated at Robert Townson High School with parents and friends of Year 7 and 8 invited for a morning tea followed by a showcase of our newly established Literacy Withdrawal Program. The Literacy Withdrawal Program targets specific student Literacy needs; reading, comprehension, punctuation, grammar and writing, for our year 8 cohort. Impressive results obtained from our pilot groups looks to extend this program to all of year 8 and 9 in 2015.

For more comprehensive information on The Robert Townson High School Literacy Withdrawal Program, feel free to contact the Head Teacher Literacy (Mrs. E Griffiths).

Robert Townson High School was represented by 4 students at the Campbelltown Youth Forum on the 9th of September, 2014; Cody Walker, Levan Huynh, Shane Trevett and Natalie Fink.

The Youth forum focused on balancing senior studies, The HSC and life beyond school. Guest speakers were both inspirational and educational branching from Career Advisors, Tafe SWSL, The University of Western Sydney Ambassadors and Home Liaison Officers.

The students thoroughly enjoyed the experience to interact with educational professionals and interact with students from surrounding schools.
Between the 4 – 8 August, 135 Year 10 students participated in their mandatory work experience program. Placements included law firms, ferry operations, childcare, various trades such as plumbing and vehicle mechanics, hospitality and physiotherapy. Other students who couldn’t find a placement during this period have since successfully completed the program. Overall the majority of participants found the experience extremely worthwhile. Especially for HSC subject and TVET course selection. I am also pleased to report that several students have even been offered the opportunity to undertake an SBAT — School based apprenticeship or traineeship from their experience. This will help them gain valuable and specific employment experience and training as part of the senior study program. Other motivated students as a result of the work experience program have been offered casual and part time work.

On Wednesday, 27 August, the whole of year 7 participated in a drama performance called Make Your Mark. The incredibly energetic two period presentation was made possible by the University of Western Sydney who recruited three talented actors. It’s central theme was to encourage students to examine how their interests and experiences affect their careers choices. The feedback from supervising teachers was how well behaved and engaged the students were. Ten days after the event I was still hearing encouraging comments from students.

A lot is happening in the lives of our Year 12’s heading towards the HSC exam. Fine tuning of study preparations after the trials, the formal, examining employment opportunities are just a few things. Many of them are also keen to transition into University next year and have already picked up a copy of the UAC (University Admission Centre) Guide and visited specific institutions. On page 23 regarding HOW TO APPLY - The most important thing is to select courses in order of preference. Students can select up to 9 courses and change them at any time before the offer rounds.

Students have until 30th September 2014 to get an ON-TIME APPLICATION IN. It is in their best interest to do this as it only costs $29. They can still apply up until 20 February 2015 but most OFFERS are made in the 1st Round (21 January 15). Late applications also cost more ($154 to $183). EAS (Educational Access Schemes) applications opened on 6 August 2014 and close 7 January 2015.

On time applications close 30 September 2014. These forms as well as Equity Scholarship applications have been recently posted out by the UAC and are available in the Careers Office.

"The Staff, families and especially the children of Kids College St Andrews would like to thank the wonderful Year 10 students who spent their Work Experience week painting the back fence of our pre-school and made it come alive. This talented group of young people did a fantastic job adding colour and wonder to our fence. The children all enjoy looking at the beautiful trees, flowers and butterflies. The children spend hours talking to the animals and pretending they are their friends. The students of Robert Townson High School have not only done themselves and their school proud but they have a whole community who thinks that they are the BEST!"

Sandra Wassell
Kids College, St Andrews
Year 11 Society and Culture Excursion to Cabramatta—Thursday 28th November, 2014

Year 11 Society and Culture spent one full day at Cabramatta learning about the Vietnamese-Australian refugee settlement, post the Vietnam War in 1975, in the learning of the area of study: ‘Intercultural Communication’. The aim of studying Society and Culture in years 11 and 12 is to learn to become a ‘socially and culturally literate person’. By examining different aspects of Australian society we do not only learn about how a person interacts in a society, but as to the reasons as to why people behave the way they do due to their micro, meso and macro worlds.

Below is a summary of what to see and do in Cabramatta collaborated as a guidebook to the Gourmet Safari City of Sydney written and photographed by Year 11 Society and Culture student, Aaron O’Brien (edited by Ms M. Makis, Society and Culture Coordinator, RTHS, 2014):

Cabramatta has various Buddhist temples that are located at a Two Second Avenue, Canley Vale called Australia Chin Lien Chinese Association Kwan Yin Temple and the second at 1st Floor, 124-128 Railway Parade, and Canley Vale called N.S.W. Tien Hau Temple Inc. which is opened all days of the week and is interesting in learning more about the Buddhist’s and their background. Each Buddhist image is known for something unique and provides its followers guidelines to resolve a problem that they cannot do themselves. For example:

- Kwan Di – God of Justice
- Choi Shun – God of Fortune
- Wei T’ou – God of Protection
- Tai Sui – God of Disaster
- Kau Chime – Fortune Telling
- Kwan Yin – God of Mercy

In Australia, Cabramatta is now known for been the most multicultural postcode as 8 out of 10 people living in Cabramatta speaks more than one language. Almost 70% of residents in Cabramatta have been born overseas, mostly from Vietnam. This information was discovered after a presentation, at Fairfield Local Library, during our visit, where we learned about how to conduct social and cultural research.

When you arrive in Cabramatta you will be amazed by all the street food, restaurants, gift shops and much more. The best way to get to Cabramatta is by rail as traffic and parking is quite congested. It is also important to carry cash for any of your purchases as most retailers only accept cash when purchases are made. However, all ATMS are available in the commercial precinct on John Street.

The Thanh Binh Restaurant was the location for lunch, a Vietnamese institution, attracting diners from all over Sydney to enjoy a selection of the finest Vietnamese cuisine. Specialties include ‘roll it yourself’rice paper rolls and ‘cook at your table’ beef fondue with a tangy lemongrass broth which this event is a must to attend to enjoy and explore the Vietnamese culture. Gourmet Safaris offers a program of culinary adventures into exotic cuisines readily available, designed by food author and journalist Maev O’Meara, SBS.

Nan Tien Temple Excursion – Year 11 and 12 Society and Culture and Visual Arts Students—Friday 5th September, 2014

Year 11 and 12 students studying Society and Culture and Visual Arts students attended a full day visiting the Nan Tien Temple. The Nan Tien Temple is a Buddhist temple complex located in the industrial suburb of Berkeley, on the southern outskirts of the Australian city of Wollongong, approximately 80 km south of Sydney, constructed finally in 1995. It is a Taiwanese female congregation of Buddhist nuns. Nan Tien Temple known as “Southern Paradise” is the largest Buddhist temple in the Southern Hemisphere. The temple focuses on the exchange of eastern and western cultures; the interchange of the traditional and the modern; and also the adaptation with the local communities. Not to mention, the nurturing and educating of devotees and the general public.

The RTHS student activities included a guided school tour were Tai Chi, Origami, Meditation, Calligraphy and a Dharma talk on Buddhism was experienced by the students. There was a vegetarian lunch and many questions were answered on the fastest growing belief system in Australia, on Buddhism.
Year Seven Blue Mountains Excursion

On Thursday the 7th of August an excited group of Year 7 HSIE students departed from school at 7:30 am for our excursion to the internationally renowned World Heritage site, Blue Mountains National Park. Upon arrival the students were informed by a National Parks Aboriginal Education Officer of the Indigenous significance of the Echo Point area. Students were shown a selection of Indigenous artefacts. The Park rangers demonstrated the uses of these artefacts and provided important messages about bush safety.

Following the talk the students were spilt into groups, assigned their own national parks officer and given a guided tour to the floor of the Jamison Valley. Numerous natural features were explained and students had a chance to call “COOOEEEE” into the echo wall, while also experiencing a magnificent view of the three sisters from various vantage points. The groups also stopped to view the mining artefacts and some took the opportunity to sit upon the donkey statue, which commemorates the animals that once hauled coal up the escarpment in the nineteenth century.

After farewelling our guide the students journeyed back to street level via the Scenic Railway. There were many screams of delight as the carriage shot up the hillside. A quick lunch at the cafeteria or sitting in the sunshine concluded a delightful day. Students complete a questionnaire that recorded the information about this important World Heritage site.
HSC Visual Arts
HSC Industrial Technology
Congratulations Year 12 Drama students!