**Year 9/10 Debating**

This year, Zach Fullgrabe, Madyson Mining, Logan Neilsen, Joshua Virgona and Rasmine Giles represented Robert Townson High School in the Year 9/10 Premier’s Debating Challenge. This team remained undefeated throughout their zone debates, which placed them in the top 16 school teams in our region. They progressed to the inter-zone finals, where they competed against Prairiewood High School. Unfortunately, they lost a very close and exciting debate, however they should be commended for their effort and sportsmanship throughout the competition.
Schools are dynamic places. There is always something to work towards.

Year 10 are now finalising subject choices for the 2017 HSC course. Students and parents have been provided extensive information to ensure that appropriate courses are chosen. The Year Adviser will check selections and interview students if choices are not viable.

Year 12 have completed their HSC Trial Exams. Feedback, revision, the completion of final topics and a few final assessments are the last stage of their high school education. As the last cohort of students that I will take from Year 7 to Year 12 they are very special to me and I will be eagerly awaiting their final results.

Year 8 have also chosen their electives for Year 9 in 2016. Please note that as this cohort is relatively small, the number of elective options are lower than would normally occur.

Parents are invited to contact the respective Year Advisers should they have any concerns or are seeking advice.

Robert Morrow
Deputy Principal Years 8, 10 & 12

This week Dr Prue Salter from Enhanced Learning Educational Services (www.enhanced-learning.net) ran a fabulous study skills session with Year 11.

The session focused on helping students identify improvements they could make to the way they approach their learning, using the practical strategies and techniques outlined in order to maximise their academic results in their final years of school. Specific study skills were covered, including how to make brain-friendly study notes and using active learning styles which best suit each individual. It was recommended that each time students finish a topic at school they should then spend some time at home over the next week working on creating a set of study notes or summaries for that topic. Organising the information is the first stage of exam preparation and students should not wait until exam time to start this process – it should be ongoing throughout this year and students should be moving into high gear now on their study notes for the Preliminary examinations.

Parents are encouraged to review and discuss the handout from the session with students and identify practical changes they can make to improve their approach to learning in the senior years. The Study Skills Tips for Parents website (http://studyskillstoptipsparents.com/) provides additional advice for parents needing more information. The skills of resilience, persistence and self-discipline are probably the most important skills that parents need to nurture in their senior students.

Mrs K.Chapman
Deputy Principal Years 7, 9 & 11
On Thursday the 16th of July 2015, the year 11 Drama class attended a performance of *Mother Courage and her Children* at Belvoir Theatre. Students in year 11 will be studying this play as part of their HSC course and will now be lucky enough to draw on what they saw on the stage. The production was something very unique with fireworks used for dramatic effect as well as outrageous costuming and characters. I would like to thank all of the students in year 11 drama for their excellent conduct whilst in the community, on public transport and during the performance. I would also like to thank Ms Wood who also attended and assisted me throughout the day.

Mr Gillett – Drama Teacher

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**Open Girls Knockout Hockey**

On Wednesday 5 August, the Open Girls knockout hockey team played Port Hacking High School in Sutherland. We lead 1 nil in the first half and ended up winning 2-1.

All students played excellent. Notable mentions: Jessica Fryer with two goals and an overall excellent game and Emilia Bulloch also playing a solid game.

The girls will play Merewether (Newcastle) next. It has been an awesome effort as the girls have made the top 16 teams in the state.
There are some exciting new reads in the library ranging from Horror and Thrillers to Historical and Love stories.

**Bedlam** and **Blood Ransom** are two new thrillers sure to get your pulse racing!

**The Secret Sky** is a powerful love story set in Afghanistan which will leave you angry at injustice, and awed by courage.

**Treason** is a novel in the **Secrets and Spies** series set in London in 1664. Sent to investigate a mysterious ghost ship, 14 year old Beth finds herself embroiled in a dangerous adventure that takes her right to the Tower of London.

**Zom-B City** and **Nightmare Factory**, Two new horror stories sure to keep you awake at night!
A busy term for all staff and students in PDHPE.

Students in Year 11 SLR are completing their Resistance Training units and associated practical tasks. Year 11 and 12 Sports Coaching students are currently finishing off work placement hours and their First Aid certificate. 2 unit PDHPE students are now completing their course content and leading into revision for the Preliminary exams (Year 11) or the HSC (Year 12). Congratulations to Year 12 2 unit students, who did very well in their HSC trial exam.

All Year 9 and 10 students are preparing for their major practical assessment in DANCE. Year 9 students will present the Cha Cha. Year 10 students will present the Meringue. Overall, the standard this year has been very pleasing.

All Year 10 students should be now completing their units on Challenges and Relationships. An online ‘Mates’ assessment task will happen later in term 3.

During Term 3, all Year 7 have been involved in a Jump Rope for Heart unit of work in practical PDHPE. Year 8 students have just completed an Australian Games unit.

A reminder to all that students must have a complete change of clothes and the appropriate footwear for all PDHPE practical lessons. The school has a sports uniform that can be purchased from the uniform shop. If a student is unable to wear the correct sports uniform (it may be dirty, wet, not currently available or they have outgrown their uniform) an appropriate change of sports clothing should be bought in so the student can still participate, with an accompanying note that explains to the teacher why the student is not in their correct uniform. SINGLETS SHOULD NOT BE WORN IN ANY PDHPE LESSON (this excludes PASS, SLR and VET courses).

Students are also encouraged to bring a hat, sunscreen and a drink to all practical PDHPE lessons. A reminder to all students, spray deodorants are not permitted at school and will be confiscated by PDHPE staff. Students are encouraged to bring a roll on deodorant.

Craig Innes
Head Teacher PDHPE

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**Legal Studies excursion to NSW Parliament House and the Police Justice Museum**

Member for Campbelltown Anoulack Chanthivong is an ex student of Robert Townson High and was delighted to meet the students at NSW parliament. The students also enjoyed the opportunity to act out question time in parliament and role play the different positions. We may just have the next premier amongst the group!

The Police Justice Museum was confronting and gave students a real experience of the history of crime and punishment in NSW. Here they completed a mock trial in the historic court house which they had prepared for before the excursion. The ‘magistrate’ gave special commendation to Faamanu Meafua and Mele Falekakala for their well considered character reference of the defendant.
There have been some great achievements in sport over the past few weeks at Robert Townson:

**Rugby League:**
Chris Lawrence Cup - Year 9 and 10 boys division made the grand final narrowly losing to Ashcroft High School. Stand out players on the day included: Lekendrick Mascoe, Ismail El Omar and Oscar Chong Nee.

**West League Cup**
The 13’s have made the grand final and will now play at Leumeah Stadium in the coming weeks. Stand out players: Malik Moosa, Jackson Maloney and Zohair Metlej.
The 15’s boys won an exciting game in the quarter final in extra time to defeat Casula High School and they now progress to the Semi’s. Stand out players: Ismail El Omar, Issam Merhi

**Regional Athletics:**
The 15 boys placed a solid 2nd place against an extremely strong Westfields team in the 4x100m and they will progress to the Combined High School Carnival.
Other relay results: the 12’s boys and girls placed 5th and the 13 girls narrowly missed going to state placing 4th.
All these relay teams have the opportunity to compete at the All Schools Relay Championships at Homebush against all sectors in NSW at the end of August.
Michael Prasad placed 2nd in the shot put.

**Cross country:**
Ashleigh and Troy Weinert competed at the NSW All Schools cross country against all the school sectors in the state. Both students placed in the top 40. Well done to our super star twins! Troy has continued a successful year in Downhill Mountain Bike racing where he placed third in the under 25’s state champs at Del Rio. What an amazing effort considering Troy is only 12.

**AFL:**
Baily McParland was selected in the NSW All Schools AFL team that travelled to Geelong earlier this month. NSW placed 4th with Victoria Winning the Championships. What a great experience and Robert Townson is extremely proud of Baily’s achievements in ALF in 2015!
**Year 10 Research Projects**

During week 6 of the term commencing from the 17\(^{th}\) of August, all Year 10 science students of Robert Townson High School will be given a research project booklet. These booklets are to be taken home and signed by the Year 10 student and parent or guardian.

All students in NSW High Schools are required to do a research task as part of the Stage 5 (Years 9 and 10) Science Course.

The research project requires students to undertake a scientific investigation of their choice. The project will go for a total of 4 weeks with students doing almost all of the work at home.

The final project is due on the 7\(^{th}\) of September, though students are required to show their teachers their research project log books at the beginning of every week until the final due date. This task is worth 20\% of their total yearly mark.

Mr P Sakic  
Head Teacher Science

**Science for Lunch**

This year has seen the launch of Science for Lunch at RTHS. One lunch a fortnight, students are invited into the science lab to conduct a fun experiment that’s a little out of the ordinary.

So far, we’ve created colourful elephant toothpaste, delicious sherbet, bouncy slime balls, and a few more combustive experiments. The turnout of students has been fantastic, and all years will always be welcome! J

**Snake Tails**

In other Science news, the faculty recently welcomed the Snake Tails reptile performance to our school. This gave our year 7s the chance to learn something new, and to get up close and personal with some gorgeous and scaly friends (including some reptilian kisses here and there!).

Again, we would like to thank the year 7s for making the school proud with their beautiful behaviour!
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Week</th>
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| 2B   | 20 TRIAL HSC EXAMS  
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Year 11 - 2016 Subject Selection Evening | 29 Regional Athletics  
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| 4B   | 3 August     | 4 Yr 12 Society & Culture excursion to IMAX | 5                              | 6 HSC Major work due Industrial Technology | 7                             |
|      |              |                                  |                               |                                           |                               |
| 5A   | 10           | 11 Year 10 English Listening Task | 12                             | 13                                        | 14 HSC Major work submission Ext 2 English |
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| 6B   | 17 HSC Major work submission Drama | 18                              | 19 HSC Art Night               | 20                                        | 21                             |
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| 7A   | 24 HSC Major work submission Visual Arts | 25                              | 26                             | 27                                        | 28                             |
|      |              |                                  |                               |                                           |                               |
| 8B   | 31           | 1 September                       | 2                              | 3 State Athletics                        | 4 State Athletics            |
|      |              |                                  |                               |                                           |                               |
| 9A   | 7 Yr 11 Yearly Exams  
HSC Major work submission Music | 8 Yr 11 Yearly Exams            | 9 Yr 11 Yearly Exams           | 10 Yr 11 Yearly Exams                   | 11 Yr 11 Yearly Exams        |
|      |              |                                  |                               |                                           |                               |
| 10B  | 14 Yr 11 Yearly Exams | 15 Yr 11 Yearly Exams            | 16 Yr 11 Yearly Exams          | 17 Yr 11 Yearly Exams                    | 18 Yr 11 Yearly Exams        |
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