Congratulations to both Mrs James and Miss Davies who received awards at the recent Ultimo Operational Directorate Principals Network Awards.

Mrs James received a “Teacher in an Executive Role” Award which recognises the valuable role executive play in schools in supporting and contributing to a school’s success. Executive are tireless workers and committed individuals who the principals rely on in a multitude of ways on a daily basis.

Miss Davies received an “Early Career Teacher” Award which acknowledges teachers who have worked not only hard and achieved significant success in their first five years of teaching but have displayed exemplary skills in teaching and learning and have inspired their students to reach their highest potential.
Congratulations to all of year 12 students on successfully completing the Higher School Certificate. We hope it is the starting point of a wonderful life and career. Remember there are many ways to achieve your goals if the results are not what was hoped. Our careers teacher—Mrs Skaroupka is available after your results are in should you seek further advice.

We welcome Mr Farthing our new Deputy Principal replacing recently retired Mr Morrow. We also farewell Mrs James, who picked up a Deputy Principal position at another school. Mrs James has given a decade of excellent service to the staff and students of Robert Townson. We wish her well in the new position. Her replacement is in the process of being selected and should be here before the start of the year.

One of Mrs James’ staff—Ms Calman and year 9 Visual Arts students just won the secondary award for the Fishers Ghost art award. Out of a group of 270 their work on Picasso’s Guernica was sensational. Well done to all involved.

This term a group of our staff are developing our new online learning system as part of the new Australian Curriculum. This will begin our BYOD (Bring Your Own Device) program. We hope to pilot this program with one of our year 7 classes next year. It should hail in the use of a greater variety of 21st century teaching practices across the school.

Each year we continue to see students inappropriately using social media. Language, rumous and threats are not uncommon. Adolescent minds are in a fragile state of rapid growth and should not be exposed to these negative effects. This phenomenon is not unique to our school. My principal colleagues are expressing similar concerns across Southern Sydney. Please advise your children as we continue to do. Only together can we protect them.

Warren Parkes
Principal
Social media – is it the best thing that ever happened to us or the worst time waster? Whatever we think it’s here to stay. Parents constantly bemoan the fact that their child spends so much time using social media that they feel as if they have little control. Some suggestions were made recently by Angela Mollard, a well-known journalist, for parents in monitoring the use of social media by their teens and included the following:

- Teenagers should regard the use of technology such as mobile phones as a privilege with all the associated rights & responsibilities.
- Parents need to monitor the use of social media by teens & set rules including checking on posts.
- Teen time with friends should include face to face conversations and fun time away from social media spent on dancing, games and other recreational activities.
- Teens need to understand that if you can’t say something nice about someone, don’t go online to say something nasty. This is bullying.
- Phones, tablets etc. should be kept out of the bedroom. Teenagers need their rest.
- Encourage teens to use social media and apps to show talent & interests.
- Teach teens that if a conversation is going in the wrong direction online, get out smartly.

Technology can be enjoyable if it’s used to make people feel good. Used safely and with the best intentions in mind should be the aim at all times.

K Chapman
Deputy Principal
Years 7,9,11.

*“The 15 rules that should apply to all kids on social media”* Angela Mollard.

www.dailytelegraph.com.au

Below is a transcript from Mr Morrow’s final retirement farewell speech to the staff at Robert Townson High School.

“As a Mathematics teacher I need to leave you with a numeracy moment. 38 years of teaching is 50000 hours or over 23000 lessons. Assuming an average of 25 students in a class, this calculates to interactions with about 600000 people. If we add staff, sport, year adviser and parents that is over a million interactions with others.

I need not be idealised, or enlarged in retirement beyond what I was in life: to be remembered simply as a good and decent man, who saw wrong and tried to right it, saw suffering and tried to heal it, saw a fight and tried to stop it.

As I said many times, in many parts of this school, to those I touched and who sought to touch me: ‘Some men see things as they are and say why. I dream things that never were and say ‘why not’. To leave you with a final thought - the first time a student asked me a question, I answered it, they understood, I knew I was making a difference.”

We wish Mr Morrow all the very best in his well-earned retirement.

I have been Relieving as Deputy Principal for Mr Morrow for the past month. Unfortunately I do not have the repertoire of jokes or Freddo Frogs that Mr Morrow did, but I have been working with years 8 and 10 on improving uniform, attendance, behaviour and their academic studies. This is a busy time of year for students with many assessments and exams, while also preparing for new subjects in the upcoming year. Our year 12 students have completed all of their HSC exams in the last week and we wish them every success and happiness for the future.

I have worked at Robert Townson High School for the past decade, and like Mr Morrow, it is also time for me to move on. In the next few weeks I will be beginning a new role at a different school. While I am very excited about this new opportunity, I have very much enjoyed my time at Robert Townsend. I would like to thank the parents, students and staff (particularly the CAPA faculty) who I have worked with throughout that time. I come to work with a smile on my face every day because of you and I am proud to say I taught here.

Mrs James
Head Teacher CAPA / Relieving Deputy Principal
It is with great pleasure that I have accepted the position of Deputy Principal at Robert Townson High School and am thrilled at the prospect of joining the school community from the end of Week 5, Term 4. With this in mind, I would like to extend my congratulations to Mr Robert Morrow on a wonderful career in education and wish him all the best in his retirement.

I have been working at Granville South Creative and Performing Arts High School as the Head Teacher PDHPE since 2007. When the opportunity was presented to join the team at Robert Townson High School it goes without saying there was no hesitation to apply. I look forward to maintaining and building upon the fantastic programs in place to support the students. I have had the opportunity to walk around the grounds, corridors and blocks and have met some of the students, staff and parents. I would like to thank those that I have met for welcoming me and sharing your thoughts and I look forward to meeting all those involved in the school community in the near future.

I would also like to congratulate the outgoing Year 12’s on completing their HSC Examinations. A reminder that HSC assessment ranks are released to students via Students Online after the last examination. Also Wednesday, 16 December, HSC results are released and the HSC Results Inquiry Centre opens. Good luck to all Year 12’s.

As the end of the year is fast approaching, I would like to take this opportunity to remind parents and students of the importance in attending all school days until the end of term and following up with explanations after any leave of absence. For those parents who have little ones in Year 6 who will be joining us shortly, below are a few tips as January is fast approaching.

**Preparing for high school checklist:**

**January 2016**

- Buy school uniforms, books, stationery, school bag, drink bottle, house key, etc.
- Label everything.
- Break in school shoes to make them more comfortable.
- Practise travelling to and from school with your child if they will use public transport. Let your child buy travel tickets, if applicable.

**Teach your child how to read the timetable for the bus, train or ferry as appropriate.**

**At Home**

- Talk positively to your child about the move to high school.
- Ask them what’s exciting about high school.
- Ask them if they have any concerns about starting high school?
- Make sure your child has a quiet work area and extra stationery supplies.
- Organise personal hygiene items in school bags.
- Decide what your child will do before and after school and what time they need to be home.

**Discuss emergency and safety issues with your child.**

**The First Day**

- Help set your child’s alarm. Encourage them to get themselves ready on time.
- Provide your child with money in case of emergencies and your contact numbers.

Make sure you have the school’s phone number with you.

**Tips for the first week of high school**

- Photocopy school timetables for school diaries, the inside of cupboard doors and on the fridge.
- Remind your child to note all assignments, homework and events in their diary.
- Check through the timetable each night while your child packs their bag – including sports uniform. Encourage your child to eat healthy food and get a good night’s sleep.
- Give the school your current contact details

Once again I look forward to meeting with you all and please do not hesitate to contact me to discuss any concerns or issues you may have.

Luke Farthing
Deputy Principal.
HSC Visual Arts Study Day

Both Year 12 Visual Arts 2016 classes began their HSC course with a study day at Campbelltown Arts Centre where they got to meet professional artists and begin planning their own Body of Work.

Mrs James
Head Teacher Creative & Performing Arts

Just a reminder to our school community in relation to visiting the school. If you would like to meet with one of the staff here at Robert Townson High School please ring through to the front office and make an appointment. This process will ensure you receive a suitable time to discuss concerns you may have with our teaching or executive staff as well as ensure the safety of all students enrolled at RTHS.

From 2016, changes to the procedures of locking external gates may change. Robert Townson Primary School are meeting with some of our local community members in the near future to discuss the option of closing most of the external gates surrounding the school and back oval between 9.30am and 2.30pm. The only significant impact this will have on the High School is the gate at the rear end of the back oval. This will be locked between the abovementioned hours.

We will keep you updated as progressions are made with these proposed changes.

Luke Farthing
Deputy Principal
Year 11 Society and Culture students from Robert Townson High School began their first term into the Higher School Certificate course by attending the NSW State Library on Friday 9th October, 2015. The purpose of the excursion was to commence on the Personal Interest Projects (PIP’s) required as a mandatory external component worth 40% of the HSC mark in the course. Students learned about the processes on conducting Social and Cultural Methods that would be applicable, available from local libraries and with their new membership to the NSW State Library to support their studies.

The senior students, as a result, were able to launch pad their PIP’s going over award winning PIP’s stored and showcased in the NSW State Library for public viewing. Many thanks to our school librarian, Mrs J. Hogan for organising sponsored transportation to the NSW State Library on coach. In addition, RTHS senior students represented the school with exemplary behaviour and studious decorum. Miss Beeten and I congratulate RTHS seniors in Society and Culture for their effort as to date, as we look forward to their final PIP’s due to BOSTES in early term 3, 2016.

Ms Makis (Society and Culture Coordinator, HSIE).

UNIFORM SHOP NEWS

Just a reminder for all parents/caregivers of Year 10 students to purchase senior uniforms for 2016. Uniform shop operating hours are from 10.00am until 1.00pm every Tuesday and Friday.

Unfortunately there is no eftpos facility so only cash or cheque will be accepted. Layby’s are also available. Your child can go to the uniform shop during recess or lunch and the ladies will size your child and place the items on layby.
On Tuesday 1st September 2015, Year 12 Society and Culture participated in a Pilot Program with Curiousworks Production Pty Ltd, at the Powerhouse Museum to see the coming of age film set in South Western Sydney, called ‘Riz’, to compliment senior depth studies on Popular Culture—Teen Film Genre, for the Higher School Certificate, through ‘content analysis’ and ‘focus group’ research methods. ‘Riz’ is an Australian film shortlisted and selected for screening at the Sydney Film Festival (SFF) this year in 2015.

The film study examines Riz on the eve of his 18th birthday, faces betraying his closest friends as he struggles to maintain a ‘secret’ relationship with Kylie and a future at odds with his cultural and social background. Riz is a leader among a group of teenage boys from Western Sydney. The bond between these mates from different refugee and working class backgrounds is stronger than family.

As a birthday present, his friends film stories of how Riz has supported them through a maze of social problems they’ve encountered during their tough high school years. He’s kept them off the streets and away from crime. Before they can show him the video, he betrays them all. Riz is different. He was always the most helpful, the most compassionate, the one everyone looked up to and respected. He excels at school, becomes the first in his immigrant Indian family to be offered a university place and seems destined for great things. The film has a twist that even Riz’s friends and the viewers don’t expect!

The students had the rare opportunity to be able to workshop very closely with Caitlin Newton Broad, Community Director, film makers of the film which was co-written and directed by Guido Gonzalez and S. Shakhidharan. RTHS is very grateful for this special opportunity to prepare for their HSC and enhance their learning experience beyond the classroom. The students participated through a film-makers perspective, reflecting on the processes of film making and the content analysis in a unique learning sphere.

Many thanks are appreciated to Curiousworks Pty Ltd for the opportunity.

Ms Makis
Society & Culture Co-Ordinator: HSIE
Year 8 and Year 10 VALID Test

During week 9 of the term 3, all Year 10 science students of Robert Townson High School sat for the VALID test between Monday 7th and Friday 11th September, 2015. VALID Science 10 assessed science in local and global real-world situations in which students applied their science knowledge, understanding and skills. During this test the students were tested on their:

- Knowledge and understanding of Science.
- Understanding and skills in the process of scientific investigation.
- Ability to evaluate evidence, make judgements and think critically.
- Ability to assess information and communicate scientific ideas.

Similarly at the end of stage 4 (year 8) students will be sitting for VALID in week 6 and 7. Students are asked to demonstrate their:

- Knowledge and understanding in science.
- Skills in planning and conducting investigations, including a simulated experiment.
- Skills in understanding and responding to a range of scientific information in a variety of media (including video, audio, animation graphics and text).
- Skills in critical thinking and problem solving.

Science Gifted and Talented Discovery Program

All students in year 8 and 9 were invited to participate in the Science GAT discovery program conducted by University of Sydney. The aim of the program is to provide gifted and enthusiastic science students with an opportunity to be challenged through hands-on experiments, interactive lectures and demonstrations. Students will sit for the qualifying exam in week 5. Top 10-15% students are then invited to attend this competitive program at the University of Sydney Campus.

Mrs J Sandhu
Relieving Head Teacher Science

On Friday the 23rd of October, Molly Malone and Logan Nielsen of year 10 attended Global Dignity Day held at the NSW Parliament. They listened to speaker Michael Kirby, former justice of the high court discuss the current and past issues surrounding dignity and equality and how individuals and groups can be affected.

Many other schools attended and the students had the privilege to interact, share experiences and get to know one another whilst broken off into groups for activities led by law students from UNSW. Global dignity day is about teaching everyone to appreciate the value of treating others well and with respect.
The annual Chess Competition is being run in the library during term four. Eighteen students have entered this year. More news on results will be in the next newsletter when the competition has concluded.

The library has recently acquired some series books by Reymond E Feist. We have The Riftwar Saga, and The Empire Trilogy. If you are a fan of science fiction and are looking for a new series, come in and have a look. If you are not a fan of science fiction try the first of a series, you may be hooked!

There is a large collection of Manga and Graphic novels in the library catering to all reading levels and interests. Among the series we have are Naruto, kimi ni todoke and Death Note. Graphic novels in the collection include The Nightmare Factory, Star Wars, and The Twilight Zone. Come in and have a browse you might be surprised at what you find.

**Urban Legend : Psyren Volume 1**
Psyren is about a teenager, Ageha Yoshina, who finds a Psyren phone card in a phone booth and is transported to the future. Sakurage Amamiya is a friend of Ageha from their childhood. She is a good fighter and has a strong will.

My favourite part is when Ageha’s sister punishes him for getting into trouble at school.

I recommend this book to people who love Manga and mystery.

*Book Review by Tamika Icasuriaga*

**EARLY LEAVE PASSES**
If you child needs to leave school early for an appointment or family reasons you must provide them with a note stating the time they wish to leave. This note needs to be signed by a Deputy Principal then handed in to the office BEFORE ROLL CALL. They will then be issued with an early leave pass so they can leave class at the specified time.

We understand that situations arise where this may not be possible, however it would be appreciated if you could ring the office prior to picking up your child. Sometimes there are timetable changes and it can take time to find students. If you phone ahead we can then have your child ready and you will not be kept waiting.
Year 9 Visual Arts have created a historical film about Picasso’s infamous work ‘Guernica’, and a documentation of the process of developing their own recreation mural, which will be exhibited at Campbelltown Arts Centre.

Congratulations to twenty seven Robert Townsend High School students whose artworks have been chosen for the annual and prestigious Fisher’s Ghost Art Award, held at Campbelltown Arts Centre.

Students will represent the school in the ‘Secondary Students’ category in a range of mediums including: film/video documentary, painting, drawing and illustration. We congratulate all students on this fantastic achievement.

**EXHIBITING STUDENTS**

**Year 8**
- Rachelle Chavolla Sheets, Breanna Prince, Talia Reyes, Destinee Vrbanic

**Year 9**
- 9X Visual Arts Elective (class film)
- Mary Al Suhaili, Kaylin Alexander, Krishna Bhanot, Liam Cooper, Lama El-Jazzar, Jaime Gregson

**Year 11**
- Jeremy Mortas, Dereck Sengthong

The exhibition is free and runs from the 31st of October - 12th of December 10am-4pm daily.
## Calendar—Term 4

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<td>16</td>
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<td>18 9, 10 CAPA excursion Matilda</td>
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<td>8B</td>
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**LAST DAY OF TERM**