Dear Parents and Community,

I would like to take the time to welcome back all of the Gunnedah High School community and thank the students, especially, for a great start to 2013.

For people who don’t know me, my name is Simon Bartlett-Taylor and I am the Relieving Principal of Gunnedah High School. I was the Deputy Principal of Duval High School for the last 6 years and the Relieving Deputy Principal at Mount Austin High School for 2 Years prior. My main focus areas will be to develop the curriculum and learning of the school, establish positive student welfare and school culture, ensure effective discipline and safe schools, encouraging consultation and strong partnerships with the whole school community.

I have been warmly welcomed by the students and staff since my arrival at Gunnedah High School and thank them for their courteous and friendly manner with a “newcomer”. I look forward to getting to know the students and celebrate their achievements. I would like to take the time to let you know that all students have been wearing their school shirts with pride. It was especially evident on Tuesday at assembly when all the staff commented on how wonderful the students looked. A one hundred percent uniform turnout is something not readily achieved in schools.

I have been fortunate to be invited to classes by staff and am amazed at the quality of work and dedication by both staff and students so early in the year. The Gunnedah High School staff looks forward to students achieving unrelenting, excellent academic results.

Our girl’s cricket team will play Narrabri High School on Friday February 8th at Narrabri in the regional final. I look forward to hearing about our successes. Hopefully our girls will be able to return as regional champions.

In an effort to develop constant student leadership and school pride, I have asked the Senior Council and…... GHS WELCOMES YEAR 7 ……..
SRC teams to attend luncheon meetings with me. We will look at where the students see their place in school leadership and where we can set future directions. Furthermore, I look forward to meeting with all Year 7 students and sharing with them how they have settled into High School.

**Simon Bartlett-Taylor, Relieving Principal.**

**WELCOME YEAR 7**

Year seven commenced their first day at High School on Wednesday 30th January 2013.

The students arrived with a mixture of nerves and excitement, new uniforms and heavy back packs!

The day officially kicked off with an assembly, in the gymnasium with the senior school.

During the assembly, students were introduced to the relieving Principal of the school, Mr. Bartlett-Taylor and their Year Adviser, Miss Thompson.

As the day progressed, students were issued with timetables, class rules and introduced to their new teachers.

In the recess and lunch breaks, friendships were formed and the canteen was a popular venue.

A highlight of the day was the sports afternoon where students got the opportunity to participate in a range of outdoor activities in their class groups.

By the end of the day, students showed confidence in moving around the school and locating their classrooms. They are to be congratulated on this and the manner in which they related with both the staff and their peers.
ONSTAGE EXCURSION

Eleven senior Drama students and their teacher, Miss Thompson, travelled down to Sydney’s Seymour Centre on Saturday 2nd February to view this year’s showcase of OnSTAGE.

OnSTAGE is a presentation and exhibition of the best of the group and individual performances and projects by Higher School Certificate Drama students from 2012.

The OnSTAGE season is presented by the Board of Studies NSW and The Department of Education and Training. The excursion was an invaluable opportunity for both the Preliminary and HSC Drama students as it provided them with a live theatre experience and demonstrated the high standards being set in performance at HSC level.

Everyone, despite having to leave Gunnedah at 5.30am, had a great time away and has gained a better insight into what it takes to achieve a Band 6 in Drama.

A big thank you to Mr. Heath for driving the bus.

SCHOOL PHOTOS

School Photographers will be visiting Gunnedah High School in the next couple of weeks (dates to be advised.) All students will be individually photographed for both year group photos and administration records. Envelopes offering various packages available from the photographer will be sent home at a later date.

GHS BREAKFAST CLUB

Commenced Monday February 4th

Breakfast Club operates
Monday Wednesday and Friday
8:10am – 8:50am
Room D4
NO COST

RDA

Riding for the Disabled (RDA) will be holding a training day at the Gunnedah Showground, Friday 22nd February. RDA enables anyone with a disability to enjoy safe, healthy, horse-related activities. Students at Gunnedah High have been participating in the RDA program for many years. Year 9 students who may be interested in this worthwhile program are asked to contact Mrs. L Hill (Art) for further information and permission notes.
Mrs. Brown’s Year 7 Math class has been studying Egyptian, Roman and Aboriginal number systems. On Tuesday February 5th Mr. Greg Griffiths Aboriginal Elder visited their classroom and explained how the Aboriginal Number system worked. Students were keen to show off their skills with adding and subtracting using the Aboriginal number system. We would like to thank Mr Griffiths for taking the time to come and visit our students. Thanks Mr. Griffiths!

Helpers are needed to assist in the canteen on school days if only for a couple of hours. Please consider giving some time to assist Gai Bowen and her small band of helpers. The canteen profits are used to provide resources and equipment for the school. Anyone who does not feel confident about assisting might like to come along with a friend. If you are able to help out, please contact Gai on 6742 1110.

Gunnedah Shire Council Homework Centre
RESUMES
Gunnedah High School  Thursday 14th February

Everyone is welcome to attend.
Taxis will pick children up from schools

For further information contact:
Lisa Warren
Community Hub Worker Gunnedah Shire Council
02 67 402 276 or mobile 0417 597 761

GHS welcomes new staff to our school.

English:  Mrs. K Mercer and Ms V Lewis
Science:  Miss M Eagles (Head Teacher)
HSIE:    Miss H Lyndon
CAPA:    Mr. M Bates
TAS:     Mrs. S Fielding
LAST:    Mrs. E McInerney
PD/H/PE:  Mr G Jones (Head Teacher)
          Ms M Tucker and Ms M Watson.

We hope your time at Gunnedah High is rewarding and enjoyable.

Kids and families run more smoothly when there’s a plan. The 2013 homework and study calendar includes key dates and school holidays. You can print it out month by month, or by the whole year.

Find out more
SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN

Applications are now open for a range of new Public Education Foundation Scholarships. These scholarships are prestigious and highly competitive and provide students with funding and support to help them to reach their full potential. A range of scholarships are available to students at your school. Please encourage your students to apply.

St.George Banking Group Scholarship - Open to all students currently enrolled in Year 10 at a NSW public school who have an interest in pursuing a career in corporate services. Particularly for bright and hardworking students whose circumstances might make it otherwise difficult for them to connect with the corporate sector eg students whose parents have not worked in a corporate position, students from remote communities or newly arrived students.

Malala Yousafzai Scholarship – Named after a Pakistani school girl who was nominated for the International Children’s Peace Prize for promoting the rights of girls to attend school, this Scholarship will provide funding to a Year 9 student who has a strong belief in the power of education to change lives and communities. This Scholarship is particularly relevant to students whose circumstances are such that without the help of this Scholarship, they would otherwise struggle to reach their full potential.

Unions NSW Scholarships – These Scholarships are open to students enrolled in Year 11 at both Metropolitan and Rural and Regional public schools, studying curriculum subjects such as Economics, Business Studies, Legal Studies and Modern History, these being subjects that contain opportunities to study aspects of unionism.

Please encourage suitable students to apply for these prestigious scholarships. More information and additional application forms can be found on the Public Education Foundation website at www.publiceducationfoundation.org.au.

Please do not hesitate to contact the Public Education Foundation on 02 9266 8681 or at info@publiceducationfoundation.org.au if you need further information.

BENEFITS OF TEAM SPORTS

If you want your child to grow up to be a confident and well-adjusted adult, then team sports may well be the answer. Benefits include learning how to be more resilient, and being less likely to feel isolated. Find out more: http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/wellbeing/fitness/benefits-of-team-sports

2013 Representative Team Selections

Players for State and State Age Teams.

State (7-10th June 2013)
17yrs & Under, 19yrs & Under, Open

State Age (28 June - 1 July 2013)
12yrs, 13yrs, 14yrs, 15yrs

Any interested players are required to attend Squad training
Sunday 10/2, 17/2, 24/2, 3/3 commencing 8.30am
With selections 10th March 2013

Should you be unable to attend please email gunnedahnetball@live.com

Nomination forms are available from www.gunnedah.netball.asn.au in the Representative menu
STUDENT EXCHANGE

Give your child the opportunity to gain international experiences and language skills to kick-start a future career. Along with distinct language benefits, exchange students, mature, gain confidence and develop a much more worldly approach upon their return to Australia.

World Education Program Australia (WEP), a not-for-profit student exchange organisation registered with the education departments, is now accepting applications for students to live overseas in 2013/14 as exchange students for a summer, semester or year.

WEP is offering two **$3000 scholarships** towards semester long student exchange programs to Argentina and China commencing in 2014.

Find out more!

Visit [www.wep.org.au](http://www.wep.org.au) or Call 1300 884733

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**SOUTHERN CROSS CULTURAL EXCHANGE**

As Marcel Proust, a late 19th century novelist wrote: “the real voyage of discovery consists not in seeking new landscapes but in having new eyes”. Volunteer to host an international high school student in July 2013 through Southern Cross Cultural Exchange and prepare to be amazed at the way this unique and rewarding opportunity helps your family to become closer, to understand themselves better and to see the world in a new light.

Carefully selected students will arrive in July for one or two semesters from France, Italy, Germany, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Finland, Japan, and Spain. They will attend a local secondary school, arrive with their own spending money and comprehensive insurance cover – all arranged by Southern Cross Cultural Exchange.

Visit us at our website [www.scce.com.au](http://www.scce.com.au) or Email scceaust@scce.com.au or call us toll free on 1800 500 501, request our international student profiles, and capture the spirit of family and friendship.
SCHOOL CONTRIBUTIONS

The general fees are used to enhance the many programs which operate in the school. If only one student per family is attending Gunnedah High School he/she pays the full General Fee. Second and subsequent students from the same family receive a $5.00 deduction on their General Fee.

The subject fees are mainly used to provide consumable items that are required for specific courses. It is clearly more efficient and cheaper for the school to purchase food, timber, metal, paint, etc., than to ask individual students to bring in their own materials. The subject fees also assist in buying other resources such as texts, cameras etc.

All students in Visual Arts and Photography are expected to have a diary which is available from the Canteen. Year 12 Visual Arts students must buy all their own materials. Design and Technology and Industrial Technology students will be required to purchase project material. Hospitality students will be required to purchase the relevant uniform.

Our fees are amongst the lowest charged in NSW and, as a result, we seek a high collection rate. An invoice will be posted home showing the school contribution requested for each individual student. Payment may be made in instalments. These payments may be made at the school office between 8.30am and 1.45pm (due to security banking) or by post. Payments may be made by cash, cheque (made payable to Gunnedah High School) or EFTPOS (minimum $20.00).

Parents who are unable to pay for elective subject fees because of financial hardship may be eligible for assistance from the Student Assistance Scheme. Requests for financial assistance should be made in writing on a pro-forma available from the front office, addressed to the Principal and marked ‘CONFIDENTIAL’.

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SCHOOL CONTRIBUTION FEES 2013

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PEEL VALLEY EMPLOYMENT

Rebecca Dridan Christopher Gort and Tirzah Grudgfield

Thank you to Rebecca Dridan from Peel Valley Employment for assisting students from Year 8 to find work in Gunnedah.

With Rebecca leaving, Tirzah Grudgefield will step in to assist our students. We wish Rebecca all the best in her new job.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Black & White Visual Diaries $10.00
White Visual Diaries $7.00
Photo Paper Pearl and Gloss
Available at Canteen

HOSPITALITY

Chef uniforms can be ordered at school

TIPS FOR PARENTS

Ask your child to write all their teachers' names on their timetables and make a copy for the fridge. If they have a mobile phone, have them take a photo of their timetable so they have it with them all the time. Read more tips from experienced parents. Find out more: [http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/homework-and-study/planning-for-the-future/back-to-school-checklist](http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/homework-and-study/planning-for-the-future/back-to-school-checklist)