Dear Parent/Caregivers,

Below is an extract from my speech from Presentation Night.

This year started with staff at Gunnedah High implementing two processes focused on school improvement which were ran side by side. The Management Review conducted at the end of 2013 was in its final phase of completion and the new school planning process implemented by the Department of Education was commencing this year. The way we dealt with this situation was that the outstanding recommendations from the Review were woven into the new school plan.

The three major areas, agreed upon by the Gunnedah Learning Community, that have been focused on through the school planning process this year have been continuing to improve the functioning of our systems and process, strategies to improve Teaching/Learning/Engagement and continuing to build on our community relationships, something that I think we have been very successful at.

This year we had the finalisation of the Management Review. It was acknowledged that Gunnedah High had moved forward considerably after the Review and was a school operating at a different level in many facets. The completion of the Review was a major moment for the staff here as it was the completion of almost two years of structured and planned progress focussing on school improvement.

Can I thank and acknowledge the staff of Gunnedah High School who have worked so hard since my arrival as Principal to move this school so far forward, a huge team effort!

In 2016, Gunnedah High School will be offering gifted and talented classes. A team has been established by DP Wayne Woods. Much thought and planning has been put into our GATE’s program for next year. There will be a Stage 4 class and a Year 9 GATE class with the view of having a Year 9 and 10 GATE class in 2017.
During 2015 we formed a Special Education faculty which we funded out of school funds. Can I acknowledge the efforts and work done by Emily McInerney, who has lead this faculty in their establishment year, and the work done by the Special Ed teaching staff and SLSOs in differentiating curriculum, developing Individual Learning Support Plans for students, supporting students and working with families.

The Links to Learning program will run again for thirty Year 9 and 10 boys and girls. There will also be TVET courses running at Gunnedah TAFE which Stage 5 and 6 students will be accessing.

For stage 6 students the Senior Study centre will operate again next year. To explain the operation of this program, there is no such thing as a free period for seniors at Gunnedah High. They report to a room, rolls are marked to track attendance and a teacher works with students to track their assessment tasks and assist them to complete tasks and see they are submitted on time and students are achieving to the highest level they can. Allyson Watson, our long serving HT English will take on the position of Study Room teacher next year. With Allyson's experience as a senior English teacher with a history of teaching students who get excellent results, being a senior HSC marker and formerly holding the position in the school of DP Teaching and Learning when funding for that position was available, I can't think of a person who is better credentialed to be supporting our senior students as they make their way to the HSC.

To conclude, my message to the school community is this; I acknowledge that the school had a rough run with a change over of Principals and Deputy Principals, this had caused issues around school functioning and staff stability. I put to the Gunnedah learning community Gunnedah High is now a very different place.

Staff morale is high; there is a sense of unity and working together to support each other and working with students and community. Systems to communicate with families eg the wellbeing/discipline system, the facebook page, the skoolbag app, the newsletter, have improved greatly. Proactive lines of communication to families are now in place and working effectively. There is a real focus on teaching, learning and engagement though our best practise literacy program and the work being done by the T/L/E team. This is a different place to what it was 3 years ago., We are well and truly developing into a high functioning school with a focus on teaching and learning.

With the suite of options and programs we offer, with the diverse pattern of study we offer through particularly Stage 5 and 6, with the facilities like our metals Trade Training Centre, Hospitality kitchen, Gymnasium, I believe we offer an educational package that no other educational institution in town or in the area can match. Projected numbers have us back over 500 in a couple of years, I look forward to seeing the school grow and working with the Gunnedah community on the voyage of continued school improvement and community relationships that we are currently embarking on.

This year we introduced the Semper Optime Award for Staff. This was an idea put forward by DP Wayne Woods. His concept, and something I believe the staff have appreciated, is recognising a staff member each year for their commitment and contribution to Gunnedah High School and the school community. Staff nominated other staff members they feel would be worthy recipients and then a discussion was had at executive to decide who the inaugural winner of this award should be.

This person plays two major roles in the school. Half of their work load is an SLSO helping support students and teachers in the classroom. The other half is as the Community Liaison Officer. In this role she produces the school newsletter, writes and collates articles for the paper, is basically the school’s photographer.

So, for her commitment to school and community, I’d like to present Ann Thomas with the first Semper Optime Award for staff excellence.

On behalf of the Staff at Gunnedah High School, I would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and look forward to seeing you all back here in 2016.

Shane Kelly,
Principal.
LINKS TO LEARNING

The Links to Learning program was established in partnership with Careers Network. Students are in school 3 days a week and complete the core subjects of English, Maths, Science, History, Geography and PDHPE. One day a week they attend a TAFE course and the other day they are gaining skills working with agencies in town such as the SES, RFS, obtaining a white card or completing work placement. At the end of Year 10 they will have achieved the RoSA certificate, a Cert II in Automotive or Hair and Beauty, certificates or participation in training with the RFS and SES and have completed work placement in several work places. In the presentation we had last week it was evident the students participating, the Gunnedah TAFE, the RFS and SES overwhelmingly believed the program had been a major success and again the strength of this program can only grow into the future.

This program will continue in 2016, running along similar lines with school on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, an activity day on Thursday and TAFE on Friday.

Gunnedah High School
Alinta Uniform Shop
6742 6939
gunnedahhigh@alinta.com.au

JANUARY 2016 SHOP OPENING TIMES FOR LAYBY COLLECTION AND FITTING

Thursday 21st - 8am to 12pm

Friday 22nd - 12pm – 4pm

Wednesday 27th - 8:30am – 10am

Normal shop hours will resume:
Thursday 28th January 1pm – 3pm

The uniform shop can be contacted after hours by email or by phoning the store manager, Val, on 0499 422216

Uniform pricelist and online shopping are available at:
www.alintaapparel.com.au
STUDENT DEVELOPMENT DAY

During week 8, students from Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 were given the opportunity to hear the story of Luke Kennedy, author and owner of a gym chain in Sydney. Luke's story is one which is very inspirational to hear.

Later in the week, students were involved in wellbeing workshops presented by a range of services.

SCHOOL RETURN DATES 2016

Staff return to school on Wednesday 27th January 2016

Students in Year 7, Year 11 & Year 12 return to school on 28th January 2016

Students in Year 8, Year 9 & Year 10 return to school on 29th January 2015

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Sommar Conlan who has been successful at interview for the Aboriginal Education Officer position. The whole school community looks forward to working with Sommar next year.

You can contact Sommar at the school on 6742 0155 or on her mobile, 0428 420155.
### Subject Requirements 2016

All students will need a pencil case with pens, pencils, coloured pencils, ruler, eraser and pencil sharpener.

Calculators are available for purchase through the school ($22).

Please note: Students should not purchase one book for multiple subjects i.e. 5 sections for different subjects in the one book.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Requirements</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>English (Yrs 7-10)</td>
<td>264 page exercise book</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>48 page exercise book</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English (Yrs 11 &amp; 12)</td>
<td>64 page A4 exercise book</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3 x 48 page exercise books</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drama</td>
<td>192 page exercise book</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Plain page log book similar to visual arts diary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>296 page exercise book</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science</td>
<td>240 page exercise book</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History (Yrs 7 – 10)</td>
<td>192 page exercise book</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geography (Yrs 7 – 10)</td>
<td>192 page exercise book</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture (Yrs 9 &amp; 10)</td>
<td>192 page exercise book</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Music (Yrs 7 &amp; 8)</td>
<td>164 page plain paper exercise book</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>A descant recorder.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visual Arts (Yrs 7,8,9,10)</td>
<td>A4 Visual Arts Diary (plain paper drawing book)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2B, 4B pencil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visual Arts (Year 11)</td>
<td>Visual Arts diary (size is optional)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Range of drawing pencils</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Small paint brush</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visual Arts (Year 12)</td>
<td>Visual Arts diary (size optional)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Own artmaking materials for body of work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Photography (Yrs 9.10,11)</td>
<td>A4 Black and white plain page diary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>A4 display folder</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TAS (Yrs 7 &amp; 8)</td>
<td>4 x 36 page exercise books</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>20 page plastic display folder</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lead pencil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>fully enclosed leather shoes (preferably school shoes)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food Technology (Yrs 9 &amp; 10)</td>
<td>A4 64 page exercise book</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>20 page plastic display folder</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1 thumb drive 4GB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>fully enclosed leather shoes (preferably school shoes)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Timber Technology (Yrs 9 &amp; 10)</td>
<td>A4 64 page exercise book</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>20 page plastic display folder</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1 thumb drive 4GB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>fully enclosed leather shoes (preferably school shoes)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Metal Technology (Yrs 9 &amp; 10)</td>
<td>A4 64 page exercise book</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>20 page plastic display folder</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1 thumb drive 4GB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>fully enclosed leather shoes (preferably school shoes)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electronics (Yrs 9 &amp; 10)</td>
<td>A4 64 page exercise book</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>20 page plastic display folder</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>thumb drive 4GB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>fully enclosed leather shoes (preferably school shoes)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construction (Yrs 11 &amp; 12)</td>
<td>A4 64 page exercise book</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>20 page plastic display folder</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Safety boots</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hospitality (Yrs 11 &amp; 12)</td>
<td>A4 64 page exercise book</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>20 page plastic display folder</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1 thumb drive 4GB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>fully enclosed leather shoes (preferably school shoes)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Design &amp; Technology (Yrs 11 &amp; 12)</td>
<td>A4 64 page exercise book</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>20 page plastic display folder</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1 thumb drive 4GB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>fully enclosed leather shoes (preferably school shoes)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Industrial Technology (Yrs 11 &amp; 12)</td>
<td>A4 64 page exercise book</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>20 page plastic display folder</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1 thumb drive 4GB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>fully enclosed leather shoes (preferably school shoes)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Early Childhood (Yrs 11 &amp; 12)</td>
<td>96 page A4 exercise book</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PDHPE (Yrs 7-10)</td>
<td>96 page A4 exercise book</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PASS (Yrs 9 &amp; 10)</td>
<td>96 page A4 exercise book</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- 5 -
2015 ANNUAL PRESENTATION NIGHT

Major Award Winners

Debbie Stead
Chris Gort
Kaitlyn MacAulay
Jessica Moore
Cameron Bruce
Gabby O’Gorman
Candice Mudaliar
Lachlan Batinic
Haylee Murrell
Kustiani Tuckerman
Zoe Fleming

Positive Behaviour Awards

Year 7 – Kaitlyn MacAulay
Year 8 – Samantha Randall
Year 9 – Daniel Bower
Year 10 – Casey Egan
Year 11 – Jasmin Tailby

Spepent Optime Awards

Aysiah Garrett
Helena Pease
Haylee Murrell
Nathan Bush
Kustiani Tuckerman
Ciara Eveleigh

Attendance Awards

Helena Pease (100%)
Thomas Lyne - (Zero unexplained)
Laura Ewington - (Zero unexplained)
Michaela Langdon - (Zero unexplained)

SRC Representatives

Nathan Bush
Adam McGuirk
Lucy Merlehan
Marlie Thomas
Jessie Betts
Riley Bunce
Zoe Fleming
Ashleigh Mills
Izabela Chelaru
Denita Megson
Breanna Newcombe
Samantha Riley
Lachlan Batinic
Rebecca Craig
Brianna Hagan
Kustiani Tuckerman
Ciara Eveleigh
Amber Jordan
Janika Readett

Senior Council Representatives

Jye Hicks
Bianca Jackson
Kasper Jaeger
Amber Jordan
Michaela Langdon
Amy Moore
Candice Mudaliar
Gabrielle O’Gorman
Janika Readett
Greta Rimoldi
Ciara Eveleigh
Carys Griffiths
2015 ANNUAL PRESENTATION NIGHT

ARTSCAPE