Dear Parent/Caregiver

It has been a great start to the 2016 academic year at NASHS. We have welcomed our Year 7 students as well as a number of new students in Years 8 – 12. Our total number of students at census count on 12 February was 808 - slightly higher than we predicted last year. Our Year 7’s have settled into their home rooms, and are enjoying moving around the school to access specialist facilities as part of their studies in the Australian Curriculum. We have also welcomed a number of new teaching and support staff.

General communication
At NASHS we have several ways of communicating with parents/caregivers and increasingly this is via electronic means. Electronic communication is efficient and also good for the environment.

NASHS Newsletter is published twice per term and emailed to all NASHS families. While our newsletter is one way to keep you informed about what is happening at NASHS, we also have a web site at www.nashs.wa.edu.au and a Facebook page www.facebook.com/northalbanyshs

NASHS app is used frequently to send out reminders and provide quick updates. The app can be downloaded from either I Tunes or Android app store – please search for North Albany SHS. Our SMS is available for you to contact the school if your child is absent (0409 089 160) and we will also send you a SMS if your child is absent without explanation.

Staff will also communicate with individual parents/caregivers to keep you informed about your child’s progress. It is important to provide the school with your phone contact details and advise us immediately if these change.

Reporting to parents
Term One Progress reports will be mailed out parents of students in Years 7, 11 and 12 towards the end of Term One. A parent teacher meeting for all years (ie Years 7– 12) will be held on Tuesday, 3 May 2016 from 3.30pm to 5.30pm. Further details will be provided closer to the date.

At the end of Term Two a formal Semester One report will be mailed out for all students in Years 7 -12, with a second teacher-parent meeting planned for Term 3.

Student expectations
With the 2016 academic year well underway we expect all students to be focussed on their studies. Students need to work to their maximum to ensure they can access the very best opportunities now and into the future. It is very important for students to “Be Your Best” at all times.

- Year 12 students have a three term year and the pressure is already on to ensure they complete set tasks on time and undertake the study required for satisfactory performance. They will be sitting their semester one exams in Week 6 of Term 2 (week beginning 30 May).
- Year 11 students – will need to take their studies very seriously from day one as the requirements for graduation have changed. All students are required to be either on
an ATAR (university pathway) or studying a pathway that leads to completion of a Certificate II.

- Literacy and numeracy is a significant focus for students in Years 7, 8, 9 and 10. All Year 10 students who did not achieve at Band 8 or above in the NAPLAN last year will be required to sit the On Line Literacy and Numeracy test (OLNA) in early March. Year 7 and Year 9 students will be sitting their NAPLAN tests in early May.

School values
At NASHS our school values guide everything that we do. “Be Your Best” is one of our school values. Our four other values relate to being responsible, respectful, safe and kind. These values were developed following consultation with students, staff, parents and the local community and are designed to promote and support a positive and engaging learning environment. A copy of our school Values and Expectations Framework can be found in this newsletter. It is important that these values are supported by our school community.

We value the partnership we have with our parents/caregivers and the wider community. We ask that you talk about our values and expectations with your child.

North Albany SHS is a centre of learning. Students can maximise their achievement by attending school every day, behaving respectfully and engaging positively in their education.

My staff and I look forward to continuing to work with you and the NASHS school community to ensure that we provide the very best learning environment and opportunities that we can for our students.

Kind regards

Sharon Doohan
PRINCIPAL

4 March 2016