James Ruse Agricultural High School JAMES R

NEWSLETTER

Web Site https://jamesruse-h.schools.nsw.gov.au



Issue 29 of 2018

Friday 19 October 2018

Principal's report

The end of term 3 was an amazing week in the life of James Ruse.

Our Year 12 graduation and assembly were very special. It was wonderful to share this occasion with parents, students and teachers. Year 12 also celebrated and shared with us an entertaining final concert and enjoyed a very alternate beach day.











Thank you to Mr Morgan Gengiah and Mr Daniel Hutchinson for the fabulous effort they have made to ensure the end of Year 12 is so successful.

As Year 12 begin the HSC we wish them all the best. We are very proud of their wonderful achievements.



The Gymnasium Opening was a huge success. Thank you to everyone that was involved and also everyone that was able to attend.









After the opening of the gymnasium and with the skies clearing, we enjoyed the excitement, entertainment and creativity of our Illuminate. This sensational night showcased the talents, collaboration and imaginations of our students, teachers and parents as we all experienced this immersive experience. Thank you to Ms Amy Murphy, Ms Annetta St Louis, Year 10 MDC, our CAPA, English, Science, HSIE and Mathematics faculties.



The Year 8 cross curricular project culminated in an engaging tradeshow. Our relieving Director, Mr David Leydon, enjoyed the intellectual conversations he had with students and was impressed by the plans to ensure ecological, economic and ethical sustainability of their newly designed communities. Thank you to Ms Bowen, Ms Kindis and the team of Year 8 teachers who ensured the success of the project.



Next week's P&C Meeting will be a forum meeting where both students and parents are invited.

When: Tuesday October 23, at 6:30 pm

Where: Lecture Theatre

For this term's forum meeting we will have Ms Weber, Head of Mathematics as our guest speaker to help us familiarise the upcoming New Mathematics Syllabus that will be implemented in 2019.

The CoJR P&C will also hold our **Annual General Meeting** where all 2017/18 Committee member positions will be vacated to allow for a new 11-member CoJR P&C Committee to be elected in.

The positions available: President / Vice Presidents (2) / Treasurer / Secretary / Committee Members (6)

As I have mentioned in an email to parents, in the last few weeks of Term 3, the opportunity to apply to North Sydney Girls for their Principal position arose. I have had 13 fabulous years here at JRAHS and have loved working with our students, parents, staff and teachers. I looked ahead at the remaining years of my career and felt I needed to seize an opportunity to challenge myself and allow me to grow as an educational leader. I have been successful and will begin as principal of NSGHS at the start of 2019.

It has been my greatest honour to be principal at James Ruse Agricultural High School and the decision to leave has been very difficult. The support I have been given by the parent, staff and student community at JRAHS has always been superb and I am very thankful for the kind words wishing me well in my future.

Coming Events

Term 4. Week 1B

Thursday October 18th HSC Exams begin

Week 2A HSC Exams continue

Tuesday October 23rd CoJR P&C AGM 6.30pm Lecture Theatre Friday October 26th Year 8 Small Farms Agricultural Excursion

Have a wonderful week

Megan Connors



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The Principal James Ruse Agricultural High School Felton Rd CARLINGFORD NSW 2118

Dear Principal,

On behalf of the members of the UMAT Consortium of universities in Australia and New Zealand, I am writing to inform you of a major change in the aptitude test used as part of the selection process into medical and dental courses. From 2019 the UMAT will be replaced with the University Clinical Aptitude Test (UCAT).

The UCAT provides us with the opportunity to move to a computer-based test with more flexibility in the test window (up to a month in major centres) and an expansion in the number of test venues available to the candidates. Furthermore the UCAT is the outcome of a collaboration with the UKCAT (https://www.ukcat.ac.uk/) so we will be participating in an international test, also being used by the majority of medical and dental courses in the UK.

Pearson VUE will be the test providers. Pearson VUE is an international leader in computer based testing, with a long established and successful track record of delivering high stakes tests. In partnership with the UKCAT, Pearson VUE has provided a secure on-line test for more than 12 years, delivering over 280,000 tests to candidates in their approved test centres across 140 different countries. We anticipate a successful partnership with Pearson VUE in delivering the UCAT in Australia and New Zealand.

The accompanying flyer provides details about the UCAT. I would very much appreciate you passing on this information to careers counsellors or final year coordinators in your school.

Yours sincerely

Professor Wayne Hodgson Chair, UMAT Board Monash University

Clayton VIC 3800

UCAT enquiries: ucat-anz@monash.edu



The UMAT Admissions Test is changing in 2019

Important changes to the Admissions Test for Medicine/Dentistry/Clinical Sciences applicants

For students intending to sit the UMAT in 2019 for entry to university in 2020, the current test is changing.

2018 will be the final year for students to sit the UMAT. After 2018 it will be replaced by a new test, the UCAT (University Clinical Aptitude Test).

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR ME?

If you sat the UMAT in July 2018 nothing has changed. You should continue to follow the steps outlined on the UMAT website https://umat.acer.edu.au/

If you are planning to sit the UMAT in 2019, you will instead need to register for and sit the UCAT.

The UCAT will be a mandatory admissions test for the courses and programmes listed overleaf for 2020 entry onwards.

WHEN DO I NEED TO REGISTER FOR THE UCAT?

Registration for the UCAT will open in March 2019 and close in mid-May. Details of the test, including how to register, are available on the UCAT website www.ucatofficial.com



HAS THE TEST ITSELF CHANGED?

Yes, the UCAT (University Clinical Aptitude Test) is a 2-hour computer-based test. Candidates will sit the test at Pearson VUE test centres located in Australia, New Zealand and some overseas centres.

The UCAT will be offered on a choice of dates throughout the month of July, rather than on one single date.

The test consists of five, separately timed, subtests:

- · Verbal Reasoning
- Decision Making
- Quantitative Reasoning
- · Abstract Reasoning
- · Situational Judgement Test



WHICH COURSES OR PROGRAMMES WILL REQUIRE THE UCAT IN 2019 FOR 2020 ENTRY?

The courses and programmes which will require the UCAT for 2020 entry include:

The University of Adelaide	Medicine, Dental Surgery, Oral Health	
Curtin University	Medicine	
Monash University	Medicine	
The University of Newcastle/University of New England	Joint Medical Program	
The University of New South Wales	Medicine	
The University of Queensland	Medicine (provisional entry), Dental Science	
University of Tasmania	Medicine	
The University of Western Australia	Medicine (Direct Pathway), Dental Medicine (Direct Pathway)	
Western Sydney University	Medicine	
The University of Auckland	Medicine	
University of Otago	Medicine, Dental Surgery	

NOTE: Some pathways to medicine/dentistry/clinical sciences will not require the UCAT. For some applicants a different test may be required. For details candidates should refer to the websites of the universities to which they intend to apply.

HOW DO I PREPARE FOR THE UCAT?

Free, comprehensive preparation materials, including an online guide, tutorials, question banks and practice tests will be available on the UCAT website www.ucatofficial.com in early 2019.

WHY HAVE WE MOVED TO THIS NEW TEST?

As a computer-based test, the UCAT is an efficient and secure process. It has the additional advantages of offering candidates the convenience of a choice of dates and a wider range of test centres.

The UCAT is a well-established and internationally respected test used widely in the UK since 2006 (under the name UKCAT) to select students for admission to medicine and dentistry courses at the majority of UK universities. For information about UKCAT go to https://www.ukcat.ac.uk/

The UCAT assesses a range of abilities identified as important by university medical and dental schools for success in their programmes or courses, and later as a clinician.

The establishment of the UCAT represents an exciting new collaboration between the UMAT Consortium of universities in Australia/New Zealand and the UKCAT Consortium in the UK





Connect with us for the latest information and news; www.ucatofficial.com



www.twitter.com/UCATofficialANZ



www.facebook.com/UCATofficialANZ/

All details are correct at the time of going to print in July 2018. Please check the UCAT website for up to date information.

2018 NSW CURRICULUM REVIEW

The NSW school curriculum is under review. This is the first comprehensive review of the whole curriculum since 1989.

The review aims to equip students to continue to contribute to Australian society in the 21st century.

Get your P&C involved by submitting your feedback online or by attending one of the roadshows lead by Professor Geoff Masters.

Consultation is open from the 3rd of September to the 30th of November





Quick Feedback https://bit.lv/2Q5S0g6

Online Submission https://bit.ly/2M61Dbj

Roadshows

https://bit.ly/2CuleT6 See below for locations

For more information click here



Proposed roadshow locations

Coffs Harbour - Tarnworth - Wollongong - Sydney, Dee Why - Sydney, CBD - Sydney, Penrith - Dubbo - Sydney, Parramatta - Campbelltown -Wagga Wagga - Queanbeyan - Newcastle - Gosford

History Update

Stella Jeong Year 7 - State Winner in the National History Challenge 2018

Congratulations to Stella Jeong who is the state winner of the prestigious National History Challenge for 2018. Her entry was judged to be the best in NSW in the Year 7 category. Stella wrote a sophisticated essay entitled *The Boer War and Turning Points in Australia's National Identity*. Stella was honoured for her achievement at a ceremony at NSW Parliament House.

Frank Federico
Head Teacher HSIE & LOTE

Maths News

UNSW Mathematics Presentation

I was honoured to attend the UNSW Mathematics competition presentation late last term where students who gained prizes, High Distinctions, Distinctions and Credit certificates received their awards. Yasiru Jayasooriya, David Lee, Eva Ge, Kevin Zheng and Chris Ahn who received prizes were invited to a luncheon with the UNSW academics.



Students at the UNSW prize presentation

AMOC (Australian Mathematics Olympiad Competition)

This four-hour senior examination is the first of AMOC's national mathematics contests. The paper is set by the AMOC Senior Problems Committee. Typically, up to 100 students (generally Year 10 or 11 but sometimes younger students showing great potential) are invited to enter. It is an honour to be invited to sit the exam. Congratulations to all the following students on their outstanding results.

Yasiru Jayasooriya (10) gained full marks and a gold medal. David Lee (11) gained a silver medal. Samuel Lam (10) Emilie Wu (11) and Eva Ge (9) gained a bronze medal with Christina Lee (10), Anagha Kanive-Hariharan (10), Jocelin Hon and Vivian Wang (10) gaining honourable mentions

AMT

Congratulations to Jierui Zhang, Year 8; Jason Leung, Year 10 and Linus Cooper, Year 12. who have been invited to the 2018 Australian Mathematics Competition Medal Presentation, which will be held at Government House, Sydney. This is the national presentation of Medals.

Congratulations also to the following students who have been invited to 2018 AMT Australian Night of Mathematics in Sydney for the state presentation of top prize winners.

Year 12: Linus Cooper, Year 10: Winston Huang, Jason Leung, Alexander Phan

Year 8: Jierui Zhang, Haibing Wang Year 7:Leo Li Mitchell Li, Jiefu Lu, Jerry Li

Heather Weber Head Teacher Mathematics

Music Update

End of Year School Concert



S A V E the D A T E Monday 3rd December 2018 6:30 - 9:00pm

Come and join all the James Ruse family at our end of year School Concert.

See our fantastic bands and talented elective music students perform at our unique new venue, The Concourse Chatswood at 409 Victoria Avenue, Chatswood.

The wonderful Year 7 Choir will also be performing for the first time!

Tickets will be \$20 and will be available from the Accounts office during November.

Watch this space for further details regarding this amazing end of year Concert!

School Counsellor Update

RESOURCEFUL ADOLESCENT PROGRAM - FOR PARENTS (RAP-P)

WHEN:

Week 6 20/11/18 Tue from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Week 7 27/11/18 Tue from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Week 8 7/12/2018 Fri from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.

WHERE:

At the Conference Room, Barrengary House (The Admin Block) (upstairs), James Ruse.

The RAP-P will help you to assist your child to bridge the gap from primary school and childhood to secondary school and adolescence.

RAP-P is for parents of adolescents and the program invites parents to meet, share suggestions and develop positive strategies for enjoying these transition years with your adolescents. Over the three sessions we will cover the following topics:

• Parents are people too:

We identify our strengths and ways to manage our stress

• What makes our Teenagers Tick:

We learn to understand teenage dilemmas and help teenage development.

• Positive Family Relationships:

We learn how to prevent and manage conflict.

Outcomes of the RAP-P

Parents will:

- Learn how to continue to assist their child in the transition to secondary school
- Develop confidence in their parenting skills
- Learn how to manage their stress
- Explore ways to improve the self-esteem of their teenagers
- Learn how to balance their child's needs for both independence and security
- Practise how to prevent and manage conflict with their teenager

If you are interested, please complete the form below and return the form and the \$15.00 (booklet for the workshop) to the accounts office on or before 9/11/2018.

Thank you in advance for your interest in the RAP-P workshop.

Gabriel Wong School Counsellor

FORM TO BE RETURNED

My name is	, and my son/daughter is in Yr			
I will be attending the Resourcef	ul Adolescent Program - for Parents			
Signature:	Date:			
Email:	(PLEASE PRINT)			

Prefect Update (Week 1)

It's the start of a new term at Ruse and even though there are heaps planned for the new few weeks, we'd like to recap what has to be the most jam packed last week of term 3. With Year 12 Graduation, Illuminate and the Gym Opening, Week 10 of Term 3 was truly one to remember.



Illuminate

Ruse's first 'Vivid' inspired event, Illuminate, took place on Wednesday evening last term and it was wonderful to see the school looking vibrant and fun amid the gloomy weather. Our haunted Barrengarry house, run by our Year 11 drama students, was a highlight that terrorized students and parents alike. Whether it is the silent disco that saw everyone jumping around to great music, or the amazing science, maths and arts exhibits, there was something for everyone to enjoy. Vivid was wonderfully successful despite the weather, but it was only possible through the concerted efforts of all our teacher faculties, school executives and community organisations such as the Mothers' Club. It was a night that showcased the creative talents of our students and provided a fitting send-off to our year 12 students. Thanks to everyone who came and we hope you'll return next time for an even bigger and better vivid!

Gym Opening

Also on Wednesday, we held our official gym opening ceremony. In attendance was Mr Murat Dizdar, the Department of Education's Deputy Secretary, School Operations and Performance. Ex-students, parents, staff and other esteemed quests were present at the event celebrating the construction of our own school gym. After speeches from Ms Connors, our sports captains, vice captains and Mr Dizdar, the official plague was unveiled and the ribbon was cut. The ceremony was followed by exhibition basketball and netball games run by our students and the PE faculty.



Despite the cold and rainy weather, the function was extremely successful and we hope everyone enjoyed it. We are extremely grateful to be able to use this wonderful facility and would like to again thank the wider school community for their support in funding this project.

3 on 3 Soccer

Last term, we concluded our annual 3 on 3 soccer competition with our girls and senior boys' finals. The winning teams were announced on Facebook and prize money was presented at our school assembly on Monday. The highest individual scorers in each pool were also awarded the 'Golden Boot' award in recognition of their talent. We also held our Students vs Teachers soccer match at lunch where our two teams battled it out on the field for glory and bragging rights. After an action-packed game, the teacher's team emerged victorious with a score of 2-1. Big congratulations to the teachers for their win and thank you to everyone who participated, especially the year 12s that came to play even after their graduation. That marks the end of 3 on 3 soccer for this year, it's been a wild ride and we hope you all had fun!

Year 12 Graduation and HSC exams

On the Monday of last week of term 3, the school, with the help of the prefect body, ran our graduation ceremony to farewell our seniors. The ceremony included an insightful talk from Stephen Dziedzic - an ex-ruse student and the ABC's Pacific Affairs reporter - on the future of all Ruse students and the importance of political awareness. Congratulations to all the winners of prestigious awards such as the USYD leadership award, but also to every single student for successfully navigating through your high school journey. Thanks to the efforts of our SnL and administration teams, the event and the



following morning tea went very smoothly and we hope our year 12s enjoy their rams!

Special thanks must also be given to those who organised the warm and fuzzies project. As a result of their efforts, over 6000 inspirational, funny and nostalgic messages were written and given out to the year 12s on their last day. The amazing success of the warm and fuzzies is a testament to how much we will miss you all! Thanks for an amazing 6 years, and good luck in your HSC (which started yesterday!) and future life as the leaders of our society. Everyone in Ruse is behind you and we all wish you the best of luck!

To the rest of the school, this term is going to be huge! The prefects are currently planning our annual Chrusemas event to bring end-of-year festive joy to the school community. While the whole thing is under wraps, we can guarantee that it will be AMAZING, so look forward to it and keep your ears peeled for updates! Although term 4 also means exams and BUSY times, we hope that all of you will have fun and experience many new things to wrap up this year. Remember, eat well, sleep well and keep productive!

Here's a joke to kick off the start of a new term. If you don't get it the first time, try reading it aloud.

A book never written:

"When Does School Start?" by Wendy Belrings.

Until next time,

Your Prefects '18-'19

Departure of Ms Connors

CoJR P&C warmly congratulates Ms Connors on her successful appointment as the next School Principal at NSGHS after an outstanding tenure of 13 years at James Ruse. Ms Connors arrived here first as an Economics and HSIE teacher, then moved on to become our Deputy Principal in 2008 and from November 2013, gained the position of being the 7th Principal in our school history.

CoJR P&C has had the privilege and honour to have worked with such an amazing leader. As sad as we are to see Ms Connors leave, we wish her every success and happiness in her new role for 2019.

Notification of CoJR P&C AGM and Election of New 2018/19 CoJR P&C Committee

When: Tuesday October 23, at 6:30 pm

Where: Lecture Theatre

For this term's forum meeting we will have Ms Weber, Head of Mathematics as our guest speaker to help us familiarise the upcoming New Mathematics Syllabus that will be implemented in 2019.

CoJR P&C will also hold our Annual General Meeting where all 2017/18 Committee member positions will be vacated to allow for a new 11-member CoJR P&C Committee to be elected in. Ms Connors will oversee the Election process.

While the tasks each position performs vary, each is important to the effective running of the Committee and plays a considerable part in the success of the P&C Committee and The Community of James Ruse.

Community of James Ruse Executive Committee - Positions Descriptions **5** x Office Bearer positions available are:

President

- Overall organizer of Meetings and Information Nights
- Overall manager of Community business and activities
- Coordinator of fundraising activities
- Coordinator of other activities (e.g. production of School Calendars)
- Liaison officer with School Executive and parents
- Liaison officer with non-School parties or businesses.

Vice-President (2 Positions)

- Substitute for President on occasions when President is not available
- Liaison officer with parents
- Assisting with catering at one Community Meeting and one Information Night
- Activities as delegated by President or Committee.

Treasurer

- Maintainer of financial records
- Producer and reporter of financial information

- Prepares budget
- Coordinator of investment activities
- Liaison officer with parents
- Assisting with catering at one Community Meeting and one Information Night
- Activities as delegated by President or Committee.

Secretary

- Maintainer of Community Records
- Recorder and Distributor of Meeting Minutes and Agendas
- Liaison officer with parents
- Assisting with catering at one Community Meeting and one Information Night
- Activities as delegated by President or Committee.

There are 4 x Executive Committee Members to be elected who support the above Office Bearers.

2 x Year 7 Parent Rep Executive Committee Member positions will remain vacant until the first COJR P&C forum meeting in February 2019- so if you know of any interested incoming Y7 2019 parents, please contact CoJR P&C.

Why would you want to be part of the CoJR P&C?

As part of the CoJR, you get a chance to be part of a team of dedicated and supportive group of people, who all share a common purpose which is to make James Ruse the best school it can be.

Some of the other responsibilities undertaken by being on the CoJR P&C Committee

- Attendance of 2 Tuesday evening meetings per term
 - 1st term meeting is in conjunction with the 6:30pm Forum Meeting featuring a special talk/presentation
 - 2nd term meeting is the 6pm Executive Meeting
- Help organise and deliver fundraising events
- Foster community spirit
- Participate on Selection Panels for Incoming Staff and Students
- Advocate on behalf of the community
- Liaise, support and help facilitate the objectives of the School Executive

If this still sounds like something you would like to be involved in, then please come along to the Election. To be elected, you must attend the AGM with one person to nominate you and another to second that nomination for the committee position you wish to be elected into.

CoJR P&C values and fosters diversity, inclusiveness and equity so welcomes anyone who is interested in helping the CoJR P&C Committee regardless of whether they become elected committee members.

Email us to let us know how you want to help or if you want to know more about the AGM or any feedback.

2018 NSW Curriculum Review - Have Your Say

www.nswcurriculumreview.nesa.nsw.edu.au

The NSW school curriculum is under review. Consultation period is between Sept 3 - Nov 30.

As a united front, we ask the Community of James Ruse to actively take this opportunity to voice our views to NESA – specifically supporting the benefits our students are having by being in a co-educational selective school environment. Submitting as many specific and personal examples of the co-educational selective school experience will help NESA understand how much a selective school education is still a valuable and relevant educational pathway for future gifted and talented children and needs to continue in the NSW Curriculum and National Curriculum.

Quick feedback link: https://bit.ly/2Q550g6
Online Submission link: https://bit.ly/2M61Dbj

Gym Opening & Illuminate Festival

CoJR P&C thanks the listed parent volunteers and their leader Zeina Etri for their help at the Illuminate Festival Food Stalls and also for the Community's continued support by attending these 2 events on **Wednesday September 26** despite the wet weather. Both events were highly successful.

Festival Food Stall Parent Volunteer Honour Roll

PARENTS' NAME	CHILD'S NAME	PARENTS' NAME	CHILD'S NAME
Arosha Samarasekara	Vinduli Samarasekara	Irene Leo	Carlton Leo 7A
	7A		
Xiaochang Luo	Mitchell Li 7K	Jessica Park	Lucas Kang 7L
Vanessa Vuong	Eric Vuong 10T	Florence Tse	Joshua Tse 8T
	Vicky Vuong 12L		
Phuong Phan	Alex Phan 10L	Yanghee Kang	Yegae Lee 7A
Annie Ou	Yanney Ou 7A	Yun Ye	Nan Wu 7A
Amy Lou	Lili Wang 7K	Jeffrey Zhang	Julie Zhang 8A
David Xiao	Darren Xiao 9L	Zhixiang Wu	Sunny Cui 8A
Sharon Xiao	Darren Xiao 9L	Lillian Li	Jessica Xu 9L

Yvonne Lo
President, CoJR P&C
E: cojr12@gmail.com

Mothers' Club News

Welcome back to school!

It was a totally unexpected start to the term on hearing of our Principal, Ms Connors appointment as Principal of North Sydney Girls High School at the beginning of 2019.

It is certainly very sad news for us, the James Ruse community, but we know that Ms Connors over the years as a Deputy and then as Principal has established a solid system within the school body and staff and the wider James Ruse community.

She leaves behind a cohort of amazingly competent teachers, administrative staff and a parent body who will work together for the good of the students and the school.

The Mothers' Club would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Ms Connors on her successful appointment and we wish her all the very best as she takes up her new position at the beginning of 2019.

Just a reminder that the Mothers' Club is always on hand to answer questions. Feel free to email us at <u>cojrmothersclub@gmail.com</u>. We will try our best to answer your questions/queries and help where necessary.

Qi Gong Class

Our Qi Gong Class resumes on Friday 18^{th} October. I am glad to see that there are more parents participating in the class. It clearly proves Qi Gong has had a positive effect on our community. Grandparents and friends from schools other than James Ruse are also welcome.

If interested, please contact us on cojrmothersclub@gmail.com

Wishing you all a wonderful weekend and the same for the week ahead!

Marissa Li President, COJR Mothers' Club



DONATE YOUR GOOD QUALITY CLOTHING AND NEW TOILETRIES

CARLINGFORD LIBRARY
LLOYDS AVENUE, CARLINGFORD NSW 2118

LIBRARY OPENING HOURS:

MONDAY: 10.00AM-7.00PM

TUESDAY: 10.00AM-5.20PM

WEDNESDAY: 10.00AM-5.20PM

THURSDAY: 10.00AM-5.20PM

FRIDAY: 10.00AM-5.20PM

SATURDAY: 10.00AM-1.00PM

SUNDAY: CLOSED





Money raised through the sale of the good quality items you donate helps fund our vital services.

Vinnies assists people so they can remain in their homes and helps children who might fall behind because of family hardship.

For more information, contact your local Vinnies Western Sydney office on 8861 9700 or parradio@vinnies.org.au.







