

NORTH SHORE NEWSLETTER

Term 4, October 2024



Mr Anson MAK

A Message from National Managing Director

Welcome back to our Term 4. I hope you and your family had a restful break.

It is a great honour and privilege to welcome onboard Mr Tony Hanlon as our **Principal of NSW Operations**. Mr Hanlon has had extensive experience as a school principal and has worked in different senior capacities with North Shore Coaching College. You will see an insightful column from Mr Hanlon and he will continue to feature regularly in our newsletters which are aimed at providing a good balance of educational insight, updates on relevant and topical news and information relating to your study at North Shore Coaching College.

Friday 25 October 2024 is World Teachers' Day so hats off to all our educators at North Shore Coaching College who help to shape the future of our students.

I would like to wish our **HSC students all the best of luck in the final exams**.

We have been delighted to launch **MyStudy - North Shore Coaching College's Digital Learning Platform**, which allows students to complete some learning tasks online in a computer-based format as part of their weekly study. This has been rolled out progressively in Year 3 and 4 students in NSW as part of continuous improvement with curriculum development and will be rolled out to our over 65+ campuses across Australia. As AI and digital learning initiatives are being introduced in schools, we are very excited about the opportunities this can bring to deliver effective learning experiences for our students and improve reporting for our educators.

The importance of reading a wide variety of text types is crucial for developing better reading comprehension. This fosters a range of skills such as vocabulary development, critical thinking and the ability to understand context and navigate different structures. A love of reading can and should be encouraged from a young age. **In order to further what you are doing at home, we are excited that our very own community library/Book Nook will be popping up at Chatswood campus and progressively at selected campuses.** We encourage you to **TAKE A BOOK, GIVE A BOOK, SHARE A BOOK**. If you have any unwanted spare reading books appropriate for students from Pre-School to Year 12 which are in good condition, we would love for you to donate any books to our Campus so we can share the love of reading with your children.

In the last few months, our own charity foundation – **North Shore Coaching College Charity Foundation** in memory of Mrs Demi Mak, continues to support organisations which make meaningful differences in education and cancer research and support. With the ongoing support of our many staff, parents and students, we have been able to support the following 2 organisations:

Jesuit Mission and their project Education and Outreach for Internally Displaced Persons in Myanmar. Education can be brought to children in Myanmar who have had to flee their homes due to military airstrikes and violence. Along with other supporters, we are assisting over 8,000 children displaced from their homes in the most conflict-affected parts of the nation, to continue to access education and learning that will prepare them for a future when the nation is in peace, and they are the next generation of leaders and decision makers.

Breast Cancer Trials – an organisation which supports clinical trials research to identify new, effective and well-tolerated treatments to save and improve lives and to prevent cancer for those at the highest risk.

I Can't Spell!

MR TONY HANLON

NSW Principal

How do you eat an elephant?

Where to start? At the ears or at the tail?

Either way, it seems a mammoth task (pardon the pun).

Well, the answer is quite simple: you start with one, small mouthful.

Whilst this may seem a frivolous opening to my article, it is relevant when discussing the importance of spelling, so please bear with me.

For many students, spelling can appear a mammoth task. They see a difficult or long word in its entirety; instead of seeing it as smaller, easier parts of a whole. When faced with the seemingly daunting task of spelling it can form negative impressions of the English language. It can affect self-esteem and diminish the joy of learning.

It is concerning that many adults carry negativity about their own spelling ability and see their failure as something they could not control.

As an educator with over 40 years practical experience, I have heard parents make statements such as:

- "I was always a bad speller; I suppose my son inherits that from me" or
- "I'm hopeless at spelling, it's something I always struggle with" and even
- "I've given up trying to improve her spelling".

Except in the case of rare and specific learning disabilities, we can all improve our spelling skills and, dare I say, become great spellers.

Spelling Success is Reading Success:

Learning to spell stimulates the development of phoneme awareness and letter knowledge – two of the most important prerequisites of reading development.

Because words are not very visually distinctive (for example, bar, ban, bane), it is impossible for children to memorise more than a few dozen words unless they have developed insights into how letters and sounds correspond. Learning to spell requires instruction and gradual integration of information about print, speech sounds, and meaning - these, in turn, support memory for whole words, which is used in both spelling and sight reading.

Or, to put it simply in the words of developmental cognitive scientist, Linnea Ehri, "Learning to read and learning to spell are one and the same".

Teaching spelling:

Research suggests that explicit (direct and intentional) spelling teaching, where spelling is the focus of dedicated teaching time, is more effective than incidental or casual methods. Studies have shown that while incidental learning from reading and writing activities occurs, it tends to be modest compared to the gains seen with explicit teaching. Recent reviews and meta-analyses of research data support these findings, indicating that **explicit teaching leads to greater improvements in spelling skills**.

This is why, at North Shore, we proudly place significant emphasis on spelling. Both research and practical teaching experience support our approach.

How to Help at Home:

To boost your child's spelling success, it is a good idea to give them a mid-week test of the spelling list. This will allow them to see the words they now know, and which words still require attention prior to the test in their next lesson.

It is never as bad as it seems:

When a child tells us they cannot spell a given word, we must ignore the impulse to accept this information. The truth is they can spell at least half of the word and need just a little help with the trickier part. For example, the word, 'beautiful' - the student may recognise it commences with a 'b'; and is able to spell the 'tiful' ending. The vowel arrangement of 'eau' is the only part they actually have to learn. So, the reality is that they could spell 67% of the word.

When encouraging a reluctant speller, we need to start at this positive mindset. Pointing out they are more knowledgeable and capable than they believe.



Do we even need to know how to spell in 2024?

Absolutely.

Even with search engines, spell check and AI applications, we still need to recognise the **correct form of words**. Correct spelling allows us to effectively communicate with others. When we are typing, the spell checker may give the option of a few words - if we are not effective spellers, we can easily choose the wrong option.

Spelling Strategies to try at Home:

1. 'Chunking' for Difficult Words:

Chunking is when we break a word into pieces (chunks). Learning each chunk is easier than remembering individual letters. There is a much greater chance of the correct spelling transferring to long-term memory by using this strategy. Look at the examples below:

hipp	o	pot	a	mus
------	---	-----	---	-----

super	cali	fragil	is	tic	ex	pi	ali	do	cious
-------	------	--------	----	-----	----	----	-----	----	-------

This method will work for even the longest and most fantastic of words. The joy of conquering a word that seems impossible to master!

s	t	r	aigh	t
---	---	---	------	---

Consider the above example, the word 'straight'. Most of the words can be spelt out - it is phonetic. In fact, half of the words are easy to spell when said aloud. The only **small** challenge is learning the 'aigh' combination.

2. Colour Combination Practise:

Effectively practising a spelling list each day will significantly develop spelling skills.

The keyword in the previous sentence is '**effectively**'. For example, writing out the list while watching TV will be a waste of time, however, writing out the list in a **colour combination** such as red and blue will be much more effective.

This method requires the use of two sharp pencils or pens - red and blue. The blue is used for the 'easy' parts of the word the student already knows or are phonetic (can be sounded out). The red is used for 'difficult' parts including vowel combinations. Look at the examples below:

e le phant

connoisseur

Of course, the idea of 'easy' versus 'difficult' will vary from person-to-person. The colour combination method will take a little more time than writing in a single colour, but the benefits will be worth the extra time. Any homework that can be finished quickly, with little effort will not be of use to the learner. You may notice that the chunking and colour strategies can be equally effective.

3. Look, Say, Cover, Write and Check:

The 'Look, Say, Cover, Write, Check' strategy is where students:

- **Look** closely at the word - look for letters that go above or below the lines, double letters, etc
- **Say** it aloud twice
- **Cover** it up with their hand
- **Write** the spelling next to the original word
- **Check** their version to see if they got it right.

How to become a great speller:

These strategies will bring success. It is merely a matter of **sustained** effort and time before you will see success. I cannot overstate the importance of sustained effort.

"Learning to read and learning to spell are one and the same"

Developmental cognitive scientist Linnea Ehri

Some Spelling Tricks for Students (and Adults!)

1. **'Shun'** - when you hear 'shun' in a word such as attention, production, mention or reduction, it is almost always made by the letters 'tion'.
2. **'Privilege'** - common error is confusion of vowels - do you need an 'e' or an 'i'? Remember the vowels appear as the two 'i's before the two 'e's
3. **'Accommodation'** - common error in the double letters and use of the 'o' vowel. Remember that there are double 'c' and double 'm' letters. Also, to avoid mistakes with the use of the vowel 'o', consider the following: Home is a form of accommodation - home has an 'o' before the 'm' remember the 'o' before the 'mm' in accommodation.
4. **Principle or Principal?** - When to use which word? Well, in a **school** you would hope that the principal is not your enemy but is your **'pal'**!
5. **Rhythm** - A spelling that many adults struggle with - try to remember this mnemonic: **rhythm helps your two hips move**
6. **Separate** - It can be easy to confuse the vowels so use the following: **Smell a rat when you separate**
7. **Embarrass** - It can be easy to forget the double 'r' and double 's' in this word so use the following: **double 'r' and double 's' causes me spelling distress**

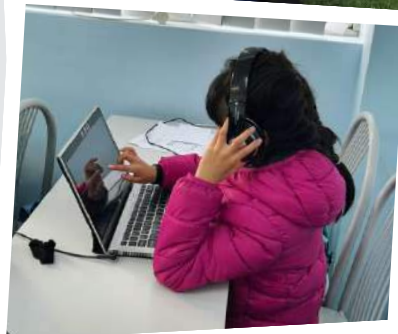
In closing, may I say that it is wonderful to be back 'home' with the North Shore family after my 12-month hiatus. I wish to acknowledge our great North Shore team that work tirelessly to ensure your child succeeds.

We are unwavering in our commitment to ensure your child realises their potential.

Thank you for the trust you place in us. It is a privilege to be your partner on your child's journey of learning.

Live happy and live strong.

2025 COMPUTER-BASED OC & SELECTIVE HIGH SCHOOL TESTS



Exam Preparation Program

Our Exam Preparation Programs are designed to help students develop confidence and exam skills with our well-paced and challenging courses delivered by experienced educators.

Whether it's the OC Placement Test, Selective High School Placement Test, private school scholarships, high stakes exam, or any other exams and assessments, North Shore students have attributed their academic success to our expert tuition, refined through 30+ years of experience.

Looking for a **headstart** for OC & Selective High School Placement Test?






Year 3-5
Opportunity Class/Selective School/Scholarship

Exam Preparation Program

YOUR PATH TO DEVELOPING CONFIDENCE AND EXAM SKILLS

Speak to your campus director for program details and enrolment.

2025 Important Exam Dates

Scholarships 2025/ 2026 Entry



2025 Key Dates

The ACER-CSTP Scholarship Exam date is
Saturday 22 February 2024.

Check our website [here](#) for the 2025 ACER-CSTP Scholarship Exam test dates and participating schools for 2025/2026 entry for scholarships.

Mark and save it in your calendar!
Contact each school for enrolment procedures.
Save the [page](#) for our further updates.

Selective School 2026 Entry



2025 Key Dates

Application website opens
7 November 2024

Application website closes
21 February 2025

Selective High School Placement Test
2-4 May 2025

Makeup test date (approved illness/misadventure requests)
19 May 2025

Placement outcome expected to be released
Term 3, 2025

Opportunity Class 2026 Entry



2025 Key Dates

Application website opens
7 November 2024

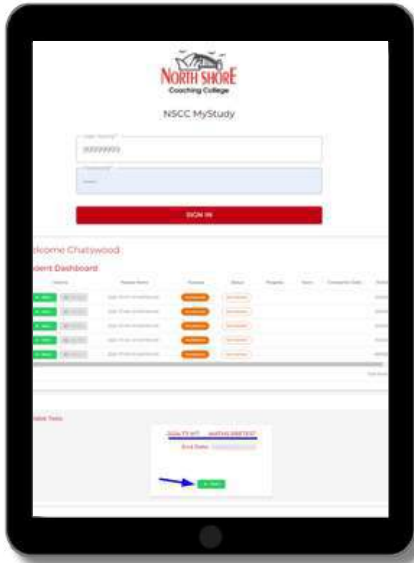
Application website closes
21 February 2025

Selective High School Placement Test
2-4 May 2025

Makeup test date (approved illness/misadventure requests)
19 May 2025

Placement outcome expected to be released
Term 3, 2025

Enhance your child's learning with North Shore Coaching College's Digital Learning Platforms!



My Study

We're excited to launch MyStudy, North Shore Coaching College's new digital Learning Platform.

Benefits of North Shore Coaching College's MyStudy Learning Platform:

- 📖 Complete part of weekly homework online
- 🔍 Identify areas needing extra focus with educator support
- 🔄 Review and attempt questions at your own pace online
- 👉 Build confidence for digital assessments
- 📊 Improve student learning & reporting

MyStudy has been rolled out progressively to Year 3 and 4 Maths as part of continuous improvement with curriculum development and will be rolled out to our over 65+ campuses across Australia!



NORTH SHORE COACHING COLLEGE CHARITY FOUNDATION

North Shore Coaching College Charity Foundation in Memory of Mrs Demi Mak was formed in 2020 to continue Mrs Mak's philanthropic legacy, generous heart and desire to make a difference in the education space.

Our Charity Foundation recently supported the following 2 organisations:

- Jesuit Mission and their project **Education and Outreach for Internally Displaced Persons in Myanmar**. Education can be brought to children in Myanmar who have had to flee their homes due to military airstrikes and violence. Along with other supporters, we are assisting over 8,000 children displaced from their homes in the most conflict-affected parts of the nation, to continue to access education and learning that will prepare them for a future when the nation is in peace, and they are the next generation of leaders and decision makers.
- Breast Cancer Trials – an organisation which supports clinical trials research to identify new, effective and well-tolerated treatments to save and improve lives and to prevent cancer for those at the highest risk.



Reading Club Booster Program (Selected campuses)

Introduce your child to the magic of literature. Students have the opportunity to explore literary classics in specially prepared children's editions of the original texts.

Let our experienced educators guide your child through tales that have enchanted readers for decades. There is no better way to ensure your child develops a lifelong love of reading. **ENQUIRE NOW!**

Reading Club

For Middle Primary Student



Contact your local Campus Director today for further information and to enrol.

ENROL IN TERM 4 PROGRAMS

WRITE WITH CONFIDENCE AND FINESSE

Writing Programs for Year 1-10 Students

- ✓ Develop confidence and ignite imagination to unlock your full potential
- ✓ Learn techniques to write for exam success
- ✓ Enhance writing skills in all text types
- ✓ Taught by experienced educators

Writing proficiency and confidence in writing are central to student success during school years and beyond.

30+ YEARS OF SUCCESS STORIES SINCE 1991 | **QUALITY COURSE MATERIALS** | **65+ CONVENIENT LOCATIONS**

Learn and develop specific **WRITING SKILLS** with North Shore Coaching College!

Develop Superior Writing Skills in:

- Narratives
- Descriptives
- Persuasive Texts
- Expositions
- Information Texts
- Procedures
- Discussions
- Speeches
- Essays

North Shore Coaching College equips our students with the knowledge, skills & confidence to achieve their HSC goals.

- Fastcoach Program - Year 7 - 10
- HSC Success - Year 11 - 12
- Future Writers
- English
- Maths
- Science
- Physics
- Chemistry
- And More...

HIGH SCHOOL SUCCESS

We equip our students with the knowledge, skills & confidence to achieve their high school goals.

Year 7 - 12

Fastcoach Program - Year 7 - 10
High School Success - Year 11 - 12
Future Writers
English | Maths | Science
Physics | Chemistry And More...

NORTH SHORE Coaching College

SINCE 1991 | 65+ CAMPUSES IN AUSTRALIA & HONG KONG

AND MORE...



WORLD TEACHERS' DAY

Happy World Teachers' Day! This year's World Teachers' Day is on Friday, 25th October 2024.

Thank you to all our current and past educators. We thank you for inspiring North Shore Coaching College students and for your ongoing commitment and dedication.

We invite you to join us in showing your heartfelt appreciation for our amazing educators. Whether it's through a handwritten letter or a heartfelt spoken thank you, your expression of gratitude can make a significant impact.

Take a moment to let your educators know that their hard work and guidance are valued.

What do Parents say about North Shore...

"I had been a student here for up to 4 years! Right now I am taking the classes of Math Specialist, Chemistry and Physics ATAR at this campus, and I am pleased to commend the teachers here in their enthusiasm and knowledge to provide a productive and engaging environment. They were of great help in getting me ready for my classes, as well as providing useful tips!"

- H Nguyen, 2024

"Highly recommended. The staff are caring and look after the needs of the child. They tailor their curriculum according to the needs of the kid. They also offer lot more scope and explaining the concepts: which does not happen in schools."



GOOD LUCK IN HSC EXAM!

Best of luck to all Year 12 students as you tackle your final exams! Remember, your dreams are always within reach, and North Shore Coaching College believes in your potential!

