

# NORTH SHORE NEWSLETTER

**Term 1, March 2025**

## **A Message from National Managing Director**



**Mr Anson MAK JP**

We are fast approaching Easter and the end of Term 1 2025. I hope you are having a great educational experience with North Shore Coaching College, developing good study habits and lifelong learning skills through our many programs being run at our over 65 campuses in Australia and China since 1991.

The importance of books, and reading, as the key to achieving higher academic success, can never be repeated enough. Reading is fundamental to developing comprehension skills, writing skills, creativity and critical thinking skills to analyse, interpret, synthesise, evaluate and draw conclusions from information.

We have a wonderful article which further elaborates on this in our newsletter. Take the initiative to read regularly, read something you enjoy, consider reading something different to broaden your horizons, and continue developing these important lifelong learning skills.

Our **Autumn holiday program** has a wide range of programs to keep students engaged and learning. **Term 2** programs will start in late April/early May 2025. Enrol early for further discounts and secure your spot.

For students in Year 4 and 6 who will be sitting the upcoming OC Placement Test and Selective School Placement Test from 2-4 May 2025, consider our holiday programs for some extra hints and tips, exam experience, exposure to more question types, receive reports indicating strengths and weaknesses and develop more confidence.

For our current Year 3, 4 and 5 students, stay ahead with our upcoming SWAT OC Mock Exam and SWAT Selective Mock Exam which will be held on Saturday 5 July 2025 this year – for more information, visit [www.swatexam.com.au](http://www.swatexam.com.au) to purchase a ticket. Limited seats available.

Philanthropy and support of charity is an important aspect of North Shore Coaching College. Our very own charity organisation, **North Shore Coaching College Charity Foundation**, continues to support Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) organisations and projects in education which are in line with the broader vision of North Shore Coaching College; and cancer research/cancer support services. Most recently, we have supported Caritas Australia with their Expanding Access to Education in Afghanistan program, which is a community-based education (CBE) strategy to reach children that previously had no access to education, especially girls and younger children living in remote and conflict-affected areas of Afghanistan. There are currently around 12,000 CBE classes operational throughout Afghanistan, serving an estimated 360,000 – 500,000 children. We want to help bring hope and opportunity to those facing marginalisation.

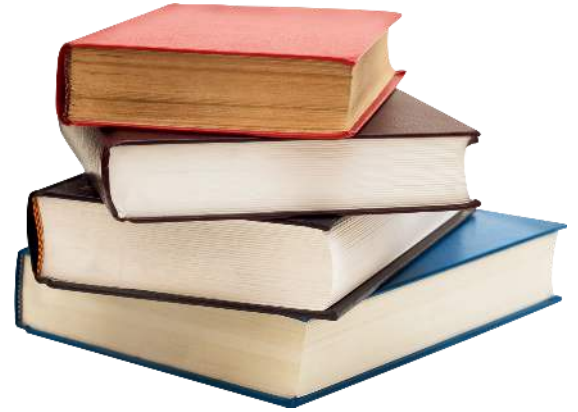
**I hope that you and your families have a lovely and safe Easter.**

# Books - the Key to Academic Success

MR TONY HANLON  
NSW Principal

All parents want their children to be confident, accomplished readers. Reading opens up a world of knowledge, excitement and imagination. Just as importantly, it is the key to academic success.

Unfortunately, technology, for all its advantages, has had one major downside - the negative impact on children's reading habits and success. Globally, standardised test scores have been declining significantly since about 2012, across different societies and educational approaches. The cause, according to the Program for International Student Assessment (PISA), which collects the data, is very clear.



The Atlantic news magazine characterised the findings in the following manner:

*"In sum, students who spend more time staring at their phone do worse in school, distract other students around them, and feel worse about their life."*

## Reading Books Improves the Attention Span:

Research has shown that reading promotes the development of the attention span and our ability to concentrate. The act of engaging with a book requires our sustained focus, as we immerse ourselves in the story, imagine the ideas forming into visual images and follow complex narratives. This dedicated focus trains the brain to resist distractions and stay engaged in the reading material, ultimately strengthening attention span.

Traditional books and indeed, newspapers, **focus** the attention whereas digital information allows our attention to be easily **distracted**. An alert on the phone or tablet takes our attention to a text, email, or social media post. We have lost the art of staying focussed. This is where the value of traditional books can come to the rescue.

An interest in reading is a strong indicator of a young student's later academic success.

To help your child succeed I would encourage you to consider the following:

### 1. Build reading into everyday life.

Every adult I know is 'time poor'. Unfortunately, this issue is now affecting our children. If you are finding your child doesn't have enough time to read, make the car trip to and from school a 'reading only' time. Ban the use of mobile devices and let your child read silently. Towards the end of the journey ask a couple of questions to see what they were reading. Questions such as "What is currently happening in the story?" or "Who is the main character?" or "How would you describe the main character?" or "What do you think is going to happen next in the story?"

### 2. Boys may need more time.

Research over decades has indicated that boys and girls approach learning in different ways. Some boys are not drawn to books and may need more encouragement before they understand the joy that can be found in a book. This can be puzzling for parents who have a daughter for whom books had an immediate appeal. If your son doesn't appear interested in books or reading, try to find books on the topics that interest him. For example: Lego, Minecraft, soccer or cars.

### 3. Involve your child in selecting books.

Do you like wearing clothes someone else has chosen for you? What about a cologne that may be wonderful on someone else, but you can't stand? Well, books can be personal as well.



Books that do not capture a child's imagination only lead to negative attitudes towards reading. As a parent you do need to ensure that their reading material is of high quality, however you should consider their choices as well. A book that remains unopened on their bedside table or becomes the cause of arguments, is a waste of everyone's energy.

### 4. 'The Classics' never go out of style.

The 'Secret Seven' and the 'Famous Five' are still fascinating Year 4 to 6 students in 2025. Classic children's literature will normally contain valuable ethical and moral examples of behaviour whilst telling an exciting story.

Also, the great adult classics such as 'Frankenstein', 'Moby Dick' and 'Robinson Crusoe' can now be found in versions especially written for a younger audience. I would encourage you to consider enrolling your child in our Reading Club where they will receive classic novels each term as part of the course fee.

### 5. Try to avoid comparing children to their siblings.

Parents often raise the concern with me that their younger child is not as advanced as an older sibling was at the same age. Children develop at different rates. Some will build skills slowly and consistently while others will make sporadic jumps at different times. Give children time to develop at their own rate.

### 6. Try to avoid comparing your child to that of a friend.

Building on from the previous point, children are individuals. Learning is not a competitive sport. Unfair comparisons won't improve your child's reading skills and abilities. What will build their skills is making a time to read each day, reading with them and having a supply of interesting books.

### 7. 'Check in' on comprehension.

There can be a big difference between the words a child can **read out aloud** and what they **actually understand**. If children are reading books that are above their level of maturity and skill it is possible they may be able to say the words but not truly understand the characters, themes and plot of the novel. To see if the novel is suitable, ask some questions about the characters and events. If your child has trouble answering your questions, then it is likely the novel is currently too challenging for them. You can save it for next year.

### 8. The use of electronic books.

Reading purists believe a printed book to be superior to a digital format. The weight of the book in the hands, the smell of the paper, the ability to flick backwards and forwards quickly to check on a fact or re-read a section are some of the advantages they state. There is a move away from digital platforms in many educational sectors. Research suggests that information read from a screen is not comprehended to the same depth as information presented on a printed page. Further research suggests the degree of memorisation is greater when reading a printed page.

### 9. Seek feedback from the teacher.

If you are concerned with your child's reading or comprehension, speak to the class teacher. Consider the advice they have to offer. Should you still have concerns, feel free to speak with our experienced educators here at the College.

### 10. Don't be a 'Book Snob'.

I personally don't recommend books such as 'Captain Underpants'. However, I have met children who have hated reading and fell in love with 'Captain Underpants'. If it works, it works! Overcome your concern as to what constitutes good literature if it is a means to an end. You can then encourage them to explore more 'suitable' titles and authors. Think about the longer-term goal. The most important consideration is that they fall in love with reading.

### 11. Read the book before watching the movie version.

A good incentive for reading is to make sure your child understands they can't see the movie until they have read the book. Consider the modern classic series of Harry Potter. Let your child's imagination create Hogwarts Castle, Harry, Hagrid and all the other wonderful characters before they see how one director imagined them on the screen. Once they do watch the movie, think of all the great conversations you can have with them comparing the book to the movie.

### 12. Concerns shouldn't be contagious.

If you are feeling anxious about your child's progress in reading or comprehension, please do not discuss your concern in their presence. It may only lead them to share in your anxiety. They may feel they have 'failed'. In such cases it will be more difficult to make them enthusiastic about reading.

### 13. You can't force enthusiasm.

You can't force someone to love reading. The old saying, 'honey will attract more ants than vinegar' may be useful at this point. If you have a child who is reluctant to read, forcing the issue may only make the problem worse. One way to help them see the value of reading is to read with them or assign a couple of pages a night. For the truly reluctant reader you need to discuss the issue with an education professional. Feel free to discuss the issue with our staff.

### 14. Be a 'reading role model'.

It may be possible that I saved the best point until last.

If your children grow up seeing you reading, then they are more likely to embrace books. Lead by example.

You are your child's first teacher. The gravity of this statement should never be lost on any parent.

Your influence remains with them throughout their lives. Give them the legacy of reading. A love of learning is the greatest expression of caring a child will ever receive from a parent.

Above all, reading should be an **enjoyable activity**. It is an essential life skill and working together, parents and educators, we can ensure the children of North Shore Coaching College will grow to be competent, life-long readers.

Stay happy, inspired and strong!

Tony Hanlon  
Principal - NSW Operations





## CORE PROGRAMS



## CORE PROGRAMS

- **Build Strong Academic Foundations**

Our Core Programs lay the foundation for academic excellence, helping Pre-School to Year 12 students master English, Mathematics, Thinking Skills, and General Ability. Through structured learning, they build key concepts, sharpen problem-solving, and develop critical thinking to stay ahead.

- **Key Features**

✔ Comprehensive Learning – Strengthens core subjects to ensure a solid academic foundation.

✔ Lifelong Study Habits – Equips students with skills for continued success.

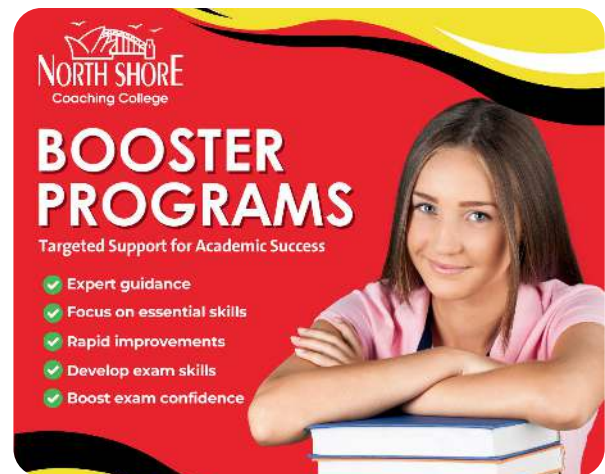
✔ Confidence & Independence – Encourages self-motivation and a love for learning.

At North Shore, we don't just teach—we inspire. Join us in building a brighter future for your child!

## BOOSTER PROGRAMS

- **Targeted Support for Academic Success**

Is your child struggling with schoolwork or needing extra help in key subjects? Our Booster Programs offer targeted support to help students catch up, reinforce concepts, and strengthen specific skills like writing. Designed for accelerated learning, it ensures students gain confidence and improve their academic performance.



## EXAM PREPARATION PROGRAMS

- **Maximise Exam Success**

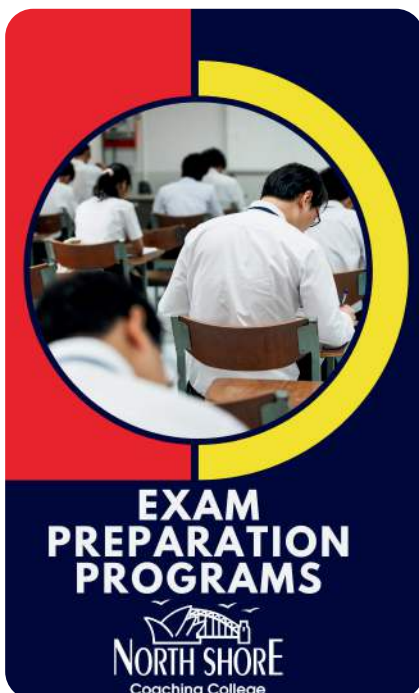
Our Exam Preparation Programs are designed by expert educators to help students master exam structures, question patterns, and marking criteria.

Students gain advanced problem-solving techniques, exam strategies, and time management skills, ensuring they perform at their best. With mock exams, feedback sessions, and targeted practice, they build confidence and excel under pressure.

- **Perfect For:**

Students sitting high-stakes exams, including:

- ✔ OC Placement Test
- ✔ Selective High School Placement Test
- ✔ NAPLAN
- ✔ Private School Scholarship Exams



# AUTUMN HOLIDAY PROGRAMS 2025

## A SEASON OF LEARNING & GROWTH



### Learn. Grow. Excel. This Autumn.

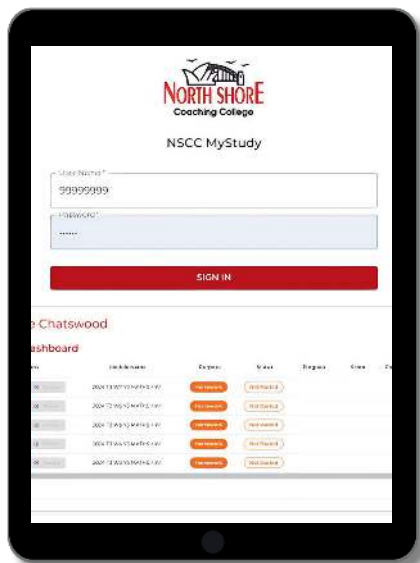
As the seasons change, so can your child's academic journey. The North Shore Coaching College Autumn Holiday Programs are designed to help students stay ahead, build confidence, and develop strong study habits in a supportive and engaging environment.

This April, turn the break into a season of success with expert-led tuition in Maths, English, Science, and Exam Preparation. Whether your child is looking to strengthen their skills, prepare for upcoming exams, or challenge themselves with new concepts, our programs offer the perfect balance of structured learning and interactive engagement.

- 🍁 Stay ahead & feel confident – Strengthen key skills in a supportive learning environment.
  - 🍁 Challenge & extend – Engage with expert educators and problem-solving strategies.
  - 🍁 Prepare for success – Get ready for exams, competitions, and future academic milestones.
- 📅 Find our [holiday program details](#) & [Term 2 timetable](#) on our website.



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



## My Study

MyStudy, North Shore Coaching College's new digital Learning Platform, is currently available to Year 3 and Year 4 students. Next term, we will be rolling this over to Year 5 students.

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

- Complete computer-based homework tasks
- 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



## NORTH SHORE COACHING COLLEGE CHARITY FOUNDATION

Founded in 2020 in memory of Mrs Demi Mak, the North Shore Coaching College Charity Foundation continues her legacy of philanthropy, generosity, and commitment to education.

As part of our mission, we support Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) organisations and initiatives that align with our broader vision—advancing education and contributing to cancer research and support services.

Most recently, we proudly supported Caritas Australia and their Expanding Access to Education in Afghanistan program. This initiative focuses on a Community-Based Education (CBE) strategy to reach children who previously had no access to schooling, particularly girls and younger children in remote and conflict-affected areas.

Currently, around 12,000 CBE classes operate across Afghanistan, providing education to an estimated 360,000 – 500,000 children. By supporting this initiative, we aim to bring hope and opportunity to those facing marginalisation, ensuring education remains a pathway to a brighter future.

At North Shore Coaching College, we believe in the power of education to transform lives, and we are honoured to contribute to this mission.



# SWAT

OC Mock Exam  
Selective Mock Exam



Test Ahead. Stay Ahead.



Saturday, 5 July 2025

\$95

- ✓ OC Mock Exam
- ✓ Selective Mock Exam

Experience exam conditions

Comprehensive report to identify areas for growth

Develop exam confidence

Sit In-Person?  
or  
@ Home?  
Your Choice!



SWAT  
OC Mock Exam  
Selective Mock Exam

Register Now



[swatexam.com.au](http://swatexam.com.au)