Term One is well underway here at Young High School and it has been a fantastic start to the year. As I walked around the school over the last week I can say it was great to see our students actively engaged in their learning and teachers clearly leading the delivery of quality lessons. Over the last two weeks we have had our annual swimming carnival and our Year 7 welcome BBQ. Both events were well attended and I can say the vibe at both events has been the best we have seen in some time. It was pleasing to see so many parents attend both events. This had me reflecting on the importance of communication and partnerships. To maximise opportunities for our students it is extremely important that we establish strong positive partnerships, working together to achieve the very best for our students. Parents, teachers and students all have a crucial role to play in ensuring our young people develop as well rounded individuals who can contribute positively to society in years to come. One focus of Young High School in 2016 is to work closely with our parents and wider community. I would like to take this opportunity to invite parents to make regular contact with the dedicated staff of Young High School to ensure we work together and cater for the needs of every individual student.
The Duke Edinburgh’s International Award is an internationally recognised program for young people, building their skills to equip them for life and work. By creating opportunities for young people to develop skills, get physically active, give service and experience adventure, the Award can play a critical role in a young person’s development. Through this challenging journey of self-discovery, students:

- Are equipped and empowered to achieve their personal best;
- Learn to take responsibility for their goals and choices;
- Become connected to and actively engaged within their immediate community;
- Make a real difference to society through their positive contributions and involvement;
- Learn to persevere and overcome barriers to success;
- Learn important life skills; and
- Increase their career opportunities.

The choice to do The Duke of Ed is entirely voluntary and every Award is different. It is a very personal program that offers young people a structure to fulfill their passions and ambitions in a way that suits them. Apart from the requirements for each Section, and the safety training requirements for the Adventurous Journey Section, the activities a Participant chooses to undertake is entirely up to them.

Young High School engages in this program and provides opportunities for students aged 14 years and over to work through the different awards – bronze, silver and gold. The program has commenced for 2016 with students attending their first outdoor experience in Albury on a canoe camp. This was the safety training and development session in preparation for the three day canoe and camp out later this term. These students are working with the Duke of Edinburgh coordinator Ms Michelle Smith to structure and achieve their bronze award.

If you are interested in becoming part of the Duke of Ed program at Young High School or would like some more information please see Ms Smith in the English faculty.
Assessment Schedule

Year 12
Week 6
Chemistry

Year 11
Week 5
Chemistry
Week 6
Maths, Biology

Year 10
Week 6
Agriculture, Commerce

Year 9
Week 5
Science, Commerce
Week 6
English, IT Multimedia, Agriculture

Year 8
Week 5
Dance, Geography
Week 6
IT-Timber, Music, Visual Art, History

Year 7
Week 5
Music, Maths
Week 6
History, Language, Technology

Wellbeing

Coming up in Week 8 on Friday 18th of March, is the National Day of Action Against Bullying & Violence. Young High School, with its tremendous student and staff body, will again support this day and stand up to bullying. Over the next 6 weeks in our Mind Matters lessons, students will learn about strategies to handle bullying and to become positive bystanders. Students are looking fantastic in their school uniform and a reminder that care teachers will be distributing positive merits for all students in full school uniform throughout the year.

Staff Talk - Mathematics

I am very pleased to have been offered the opportunity to relieve as the Head Teacher Mathematics at Young High this year. All the staff have been settling in well with their new classes for the year. Joanne Owers and Haroon Mohammmad are with us again and we welcome two new experienced staff members, Mark Glover and John Coughlin to the team. Year 7 have been making great progress with their first topic and will be the first Year group to complete a Mathematics assessment task (in Week 5). Year 12 are quickly back into their HSC preparation while all other years are diligently crunching numbers developing an appreciation of the magic of maths. We hope all the students have a positive and productive year in their Mathematics courses.

Nick Hart (Rel. HT Maths)