



# HARP OF THE SPIRIT

## From the Principal

Edwar Dinkha

Let your light so shine before men,  
that they may see your good works  
and glorify your Father in heaven.

**Matthew 5:16**

Dear Parents, Students, and Friends  
of the College,

It is with much pleasure that I welcome all our existing families back to St. Narsai College and I also extend a warm welcome to the new families and students from Year 7 and other years who have joined our college community this year. I hope you and your families have had a wonderful start to 2022 despite the current COVID Pandemic situation and pray that all members of our college community stay healthy and safe.

I extend a special welcome to our new CEO, Mr. Aaron Boyd and wish him all the best as he leads Assyrian Christian Schools from 2022.

The college community continue to celebrate the excellent 2021 HSC results and on behalf of our wonderful staff, I congratulate every member of the Class of 2021 for doing their best and achieving great HSC results last year. In particular, I wish to congratulate the following students for their outstanding HSC results and high ATARs:

Student	ATAR
Eshtaarr Youkhana	99
Marie Tooma	96.60
Angelina Daniel	95.45
Marina David	95.45
Marina Al Ishaq	94.35
Symona Gabriel	93.65
Adriana Ismaiel	92.15
Sandy Karow	92
Sabrina Bizhn	90.35
Joshua Odicho	90.20

Many other students from this cohort did us proud by achieving very good results and high ATARs also.

A big thank you goes to the 2021 HSC teachers for their dedication and persistence during a most difficult and challenging year. We also extend our appreciation to the parents and families of the Class of 2021 for supporting their children throughout their studies over the years.

### Let Your Light Shine

As we start another school year, I pray that all our students experience and enjoy success and make consistent and tangible progress towards their personal learning goals in 2022 and beyond. This year's college spiritual theme "Let Your Light Shine" will no doubt inspire all our students to be their best, to work harder and to live their Christian faith everyday so they could let their light shine through their good works or deeds.

### Student Achievement

It is pleasing to report that students are already settling in as they start engaging fully in their studies. Through my daily walkthroughs across the College, I am encouraged to see students at all levels attending to their studies and actively participating in various learning activities inside and outside classrooms.

In my addresses to students during last week's college assemblies, I emphasized that the college would provide many opportunities to all students to succeed and achieve as we start a new year, and that success is hinged on individual students taking responsibility for their learning.

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I reminded students of the outstanding 2021 HSC results and high ATARs and urged every student to reflect on these achievements and consider their own personal growth journey to date, their own academic prospects and trying harder in 2022 and take personal actions accordingly.

## Academic Improvements

Alongside our constant effort to support students' academic improvements, we continue to maintain a strong focus and genuine interest on students' welfare and wellbeing, because we know many students will face many and varying challenges that can overwhelm them if they are not supported.

I take this opportunity to thank you-our wonderful parents for the support you continue to offer your children as they commence another school year. I again emphasize to all parents the importance of their role in supporting their children during their study time at home every day of the week, irrespective if they had set homework or not.

## T60

We introduced the T50 or Top 50% initiative last year which aimed at getting students to question and reflect on their personal academic performance over the preceding year. We wanted students to feel motivated to strive for improvements and better learning outcomes and improve their placement within the T50 concept in their respective cohort.

Thanks to the efforts of our staff and cooperation of students, this has been a very successful endeavour and many students demonstrated consistent improvements in their results and placements in 2021.

To this end, this year, the benchmark has shifted to T60 or Top 60% of cohort and teachers will be guiding and supporting all students to help them make progress in their learning outcomes across as many subjects as possible.

## School Improvement Plan

In 2022, the college will be working on the implementation of the second year of the College's Strategic Plan 2021-2023. A new School Improvement Plan has been completed to guide staff in implementing the mentioned priorities and will help teams across all subjects to develop their own Faculty Improvement Plans.

The Pastoral Care team will also develop their own Cohort Improvement Plans to address student welfare and wellbeing matters as part of the College's 2022 priorities.

Finally, as we start this new school year, I would like to welcome all new staff joining St. Narsai College this year in their temporary and part time capacity. I also wish to welcome back Mrs. Karim from her maternity leave.

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## From the Chief Executive Officer

Aaron Boyd



Dear Parents

Thank you so much for your warm welcome since joining the Assyrian Christian Schools as CEO and working with both St Hurmizd and St Narsai schools. I have really noticed how both schools form part of a family that is very supportive and caring for all members of the community, and look forward to meeting more parents and getting to know how our schools can best serve the community.

## HSC Results

Congratulations to the graduating class of 2021. We are extremely proud of all their achievements during the difficult year. Our students showed their resilience, dedication and perseverance and put in countless hours of hard work to achieve outstanding results in their HSC.



### College Dux | Top ATAR

**Eshtaarr Youkhana with an ATAR of 99.00**

Eshtaarr received a Band 6 in the following:

- Chemistry
- Mathematics Extension 2
- Physics
- Mathematics Advanced (Accelerated 2020)

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Our students achieved some great ATAR Results.

The following students are congratulated on achieving an ATAR above 90.



Eshtaarr Youkhana  
99.00



Marie Tooma  
96.60



Angelina Daniel  
95.45



Marina David  
95.45



Marina Al Ishaq  
94.35



Symona Gabriel  
93.65



Adriana Ismaiel  
92.15



Sandy Karow  
92.00



Sabrina Bizhn  
90.35



Joshua Odicho  
90.20

## Distinguished Achievers

20 students were in the Distinguished Achievers list, receiving a mark of 90 or higher in one or more of their subjects.

Student	Band 6 or equivalent achieved
Marina Al Ishaq	• Biology • Community and Family Studies • Personal Development, Health and Physical Education
Maryam Alquoza	• Design and Technology • Textiles and Design*
Sabrina Bizhn	• Legal Studies • Society and Culture
Angelina Daniel	• Community and Family Studies • Personal Development, Health and Physical Education • Society and Culture
Marina David	• Business Studies • Community and Family Studies • Personal Development, Health and Physical Education • Mathematics Advanced (Accelerated 2020)
Symona Gabriel	• Ancient History • Personal Development, Health and Physical Education • Mathematics Advanced (Accelerated 2020)
Mariam Isaac	• Community and Family Studies • Society and Culture
Nenb Isaac	• Community and Family Studies • Society and Culture
Adriana Ismaiel	• Business Studies • Community and Family Studies • Personal Development, Health and Physical Education
Sandy Karow	• Personal Development, Health and Physical Education • Society and Culture
Natalie Khoshaba	• Society and Culture
Mariam Malko	• Society and Culture • With a Distinction for her Personal Interest Project
Mario Nazar	• Mathematics Advanced Accelerated
Anthony Ochana	• Mathematics Advanced • Mathematics Extension 1 (Accelerated)
Joshua Odicho	• Mathematics Extension 2 • Mathematics Advanced (Accelerated 2020)
Rita Roel	• Society and Culture
James Shemoun	• Legal Studies
Marie Tooma	• Ancient History • Business Studies • Legal Studies • Personal Development, Health and Physical Education
Nora William	• Music 1 • Society and Culture
Eshtaarr Youkhana	• Chemistry • Mathematics Extension 2 • Physics • Mathematics Advanced (Accelerated 2020)

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## From the Deputy Principal (Pastoral Care)

Mary Ismail

Dear Parents/Carers and Students

Welcome back to the start of the 2022 school year and a special welcome to all the new families who have joined the St Narsai Assyrian Christian College Community for the first time. I hope everyone enjoyed a relaxing and safe holiday and they are now ready for the challenges and opportunities on offer this year.

I would like to thank the parents who have ensured that their sons and daughters have returned to school in a positive manner with materials for their classes and in the correct uniform. A settled start is important in establishing habits that bring continuity for the year ahead, thus the time and preparation from parents to establish routine is very appreciative.

### Communication

The College regularly communicates with parents/carers via emails and SMS. It is extremely important that you ensure your details are up to date in our system so that you do not miss important information and to ensure the College is able to contact relevant family members when required.

If any of your details have changed, or you are unsure of the details we have, please call the College on 88181300 or email [info@stnarsai.nsw.edu.au](mailto:info@stnarsai.nsw.edu.au) with the new details and include the name of your child/children. Details include: phone numbers, email address, home address, the names of contacts, emergency contacts and medical needs.

### Mandatory wearing of face masks on public transport

St Narsai Assyrian Christian College is working closely with the AIS NSW (Association of Independent Schools NSW), NSW Health and other relevant agencies to ensure our school continues to operate in the safest ways possible within the COVID-19 environment for all our staff, students, families and our college community.

As previously mentioned in the Covid Safe Return to School letter to parents dated 26th January 2022 wearing of surgical masks indoors is required for all staff and students in Year 7 and above. We ask that every student brings their own mask with a few spare in their bag. This Public Health Order (COVID-19 Mandatory Face Coverings 2021) also includes requires students over the age of 12 to wear a mask on public transport or when in a vehicle or vessel being used to provide a public transport service. This includes when travelling to and from school and during school excursions by public transport, or by chartered/private transport services. Therefore, please provide your child with a face mask if they are travelling on buses.

### Other COVID News

In accordance with advice from NSW Health, parents and carers are reminded NOT to send children to school if they are unwell, even if they have the mildest flu-like symptoms. Please refer to the letter, sent via email and text on the 4th of February for the Management of

COVID-positive cases at St Narsai College for more information.

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## Public Buses

Every morning, there are 5 public buses that leave Prarieewood Tway strictly for St Narsai College students. We ask that all parents drop their children off before 7.30 and ensure they board the bus. This will ensure all students attend school on time. See the following bus timetable.

*Morning Public Bus Timetable:*

MORNING SERVICES		
Bus No.	Departing	Bus Route
9113	7:29	EX PRAIRIEWOOD T-WAY STN - via T-Way, L> The Horsley Drive, L> Horsley Rd, R> Bus Bay. Arr school 7:45
9113	7:34	EX PRAIRIEWOOD T-WAY STN - via T-Way, L> The Horsley Drive, L> Horsley Rd, R> Bus Bay. Arr school 7:50
9113	7:44	EX PRAIRIEWOOD T-WAY STN - via T-Way, L> The Horsley Drive, L> Horsley Rd, R> Bus Bay. Arr school 8:00
9113	7:54	EX PRAIRIEWOOD T-WAY STN - via T-Way, L> The Horsley Drive, L> Horsley Rd, R> Bus Bay. Arr school 8:30
9113	8:04	EX PRAIRIEWOOD T-WAY STN - via T-Way, L> The Horsley Drive, L> Horsley Rd, R> Bus Bay. Arr school 8:20

## Opal Cards

If you have applied for an Opal Card and have not yet received it, please contact 136725 (13 OPAL). If you have not yet applied for an opal, register now by clicking the link <https://apps.transport.nsw.gov.au/sst/s/#/applyNow> and following the instructions. Ensure to keep a record of your application number (N or UN number).

## School Diary: Policies, Procedures, Communication

It is extremely important for parents to read through their child's school diary. It holds important information regarding the College policies on uniform, mobile phones etc and is a strong link between the teachers and parents about the child.

If lost or defaced, a student must purchase another for \$15 from the College office.

Each student is to bring their diary to every lesson, every day. We ask that all parents/carers check their child's diary for communication from their teachers on a daily basis.

## Attendance

At SNACC everyday counts!

Students are required to have a minimum of 95% attendance to satisfactorily fulfil the requirements of any course they are studying. Students are requested to be at school before 8:15am. Roll call begins at 8.30 every morning. Students are expected to attend and be punctual to all classes and activities. See Attendance Procedures in this week's newsletter for the actions taken by the College if attendance is a concern.

## School Uniform (pg. 28 of the student diary)

Many thanks to all the parents and carers who have ensured their child has returned to school or commenced their time at the College in perfect uniform. Refer to page 28 of your child's student diary for specific uniform expectations.

## Lockers and Locks

At the start of every year students are allocated a locker in which to store their books, bag and other items. Every student must use a padlock to keep their belongings secure

- The school is not responsible for any valuables left inside the lockers. This includes mobile phones, jewellery, money, etc.

- The locker is school property and the College reserves the right to search a student's locker when there are reasonable grounds to suspect that a student has breached the College Code of conduct.

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## **Mobile phones**

St Narsai has banned mobile phones from the college. Students are not to have a mobile phone on their person at any time during school hours.

Students may have the phone on them before entering school grounds and after leaving school grounds. However, during school hours, the phone is to be turned off and locked away. Anyone seen with a mobile phone, the phone will be confiscated. Please refer to page of the student diary for more information.

## **Conditions of enrolment and Parent Code of Conduct**

A reminder to the College community, the Conditions of Enrolment to St Narsai Assyrian Christian College and the Parent Code of Conduct were updated in 2020. If you are not familiar with both of these documents, they can be found further in this newsletter under "Parent Information regarding updated policies".

## **Final Word**

Our college is dedicated to educational excellence, encouraging students to go beyond their potential, providing them with opportunities to excel whilst catering to their well-being. We hope that you feel the welcoming presence of all in the community and that your journey with us fosters our school motto of Excellence, Christian Values and Commitment.

Thank you.

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## From the Deputy Principal (Curriculum)

Mary Khina

Dear Parents, students and friends

Welcome back to the 2022 school year. We hope that you had a restful and refreshing break.

As this school year commences, I take the opportunity to reflect on the tough year that was 2021. The St Narsai College community displayed resilience, patience, and faith. Despite the restrictions and changes placed on us by the COVID 19 pandemic, the community continued to adapt and put in effort to progress with all their learning. We are grateful to you all for your continual support.

As the 2022 school year begins, we are hopeful that this year will be better in all areas, in particular, student progress.

### HSC Results

The group that showed the most resilience and commitment to their studies was the Year 12 Class of 2021. They showed that commitment to their studies will lead to desired results.

We are extremely proud that 20 of our students were in the Distinguished Achievers list, receiving a mark of 90 or higher in one or more of the courses studied. This gave us our best ever success rate with 40 Band 6 or E4 results across different subjects.

Eshtaarr Youkhana was Dux of the College with an ATAR of 99.

I take this opportunity to congratulate all the students on their achievements and wish them the best of luck with their post school destinations.

I also wish the current year 12 class the best of luck as they continue their HSC journey. Through dedication, effort and the support of the College staff and their families, they too will achieve their desired goals.

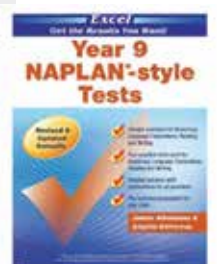
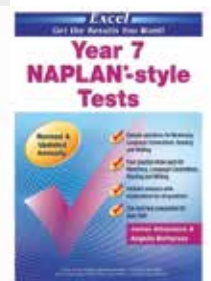
### NAPLAN Tests

All Year 7 and 9 students will be sitting the 2022 NAPLAN online tests from 10th – 20th May. More details about the dates of each test will be sent to caregivers closer to the date. In preparation for these tests, students are encouraged to work on improving their literacy and numeracy skills by reading widely and using online typing tests and websites such as [www.exceltestzone.com.au](http://www.exceltestzone.com.au).

The NAPLAN site [www.nap.edu.au](http://www.nap.edu.au) also has details on the tests, past test papers, and demonstrations that assist students with their preparations for the tests.

Teachers in Years 7 and 9 are also assisting students with strategies in class with a literacy and numeracy focus. This includes CARS and STARS in English and Numeracy Ninja in numeracy as well as others within other classes.

The Excel books may be useful to assist students with their preparation for the tests. These are available for purchase at Newsagencies, Big W, Dymocks or other department or book stores. They are also available online at [exceltestzone.com.au](http://exceltestzone.com.au).





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## Learner Dispositions

As we commence 2022, students are reminded of the expectations of an effective learner at St Narsai. Please discuss with your child how they have demonstrated these characteristics throughout their day at the College.

At SNACC, an effective learner demonstrates:

Independence – I am responsible for my learning.

- I am organised and ready to learn
- I focus on the set task
- I am able to set personal goals
- I know what I am learning and why

**Engagement** – I am involved in my own learning.

- I participate in class discussions
- I complete all work to the best of my ability
- I take deliberate steps to improve my learning
- I am passionate and motivated to learn

**Persistence** – I always strive to achieve my best.

- I seek feedback and use it to improve
- I know that effort can lead to success
- I ask questions about my learning
- I know what I need to improve

**Self-Regulation** – I take charge of my own learning

- I self-monitor my own progress
- I take risks in my learning
- I manage my time effectively
- I demonstrate my understanding by applying skills in multiple contexts

**Innovation** – I embrace creativity.

- I present my work in different forms
- I make proactive decisions with my learning
- I think of different ways of reaching a goal
- I am a problem solver



*These posters are displayed in all classrooms reminding students of what makes an effective learner.*

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## **Student Progress**

Teachers have already begun to collect data on student learning to monitor each learner's progress and to cater for individual learning needs. Students will shortly start to receive formal assessment tasks that will contribute towards the details that are reported in their Half Yearly Reports at the end of Term 2. If you would like to discuss your child's progress so far, please contact the College office via phone or email and they will arrange an appointment for you with the relevant Year Co-ordinator or class teacher.

Students in Year 7 will be completing the Online Best Start assessment next week. This will assist the teachers in identifying student strengths and areas for focus for literacy and numeracy. Students are required to bring their earphones to use on the day of the test. There is no preparation required for the tests.

Thank you.

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## From the Christian Studies Department

Jessica Kako

"Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a Light to my path"

### Psalm 119: 105

Dear Parents/ Guardians and Learners,

It was truly a blessing to start the year off with welcoming our learners back into the gates of the St Narsai campus, whilst also welcoming our new year 7 learners. Ready to strength their spiritual roots; aiming to grow their faith and relationship with our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

### 2022 Spiritual Theme

As you may be aware last year, we introduced our first annual spiritual theme, 'The Year of Hope'. The purpose of this initiative was to set the spiritual direction of the school year; allowing us to build school spirit and investigate what it means for us to grow through Him. This year I would like to share with you our 2022 spiritual theme which is 'Let Your Light Shine'. The theme is inspired by Psalm 119: 105, a fitting message for our learners, where we pray that they can proclaim and showcase the Light that was gifted to them by Christ. This Light we hope, can be reflected in all areas both within the school and wider community.



### Rogation of the Ninevites

With it only being week 2 of the school year, the College has already begun practising and showcasing the spiritual theme through a range of initiatives both within the school and wider community. Both staff and learners let their Light shine through the Rogation of the Ninevites which commenced on Monday. The origin of this fast is documented in the Book of Jonah (Old Testament) where it is a remembrance of God's mercy on the repentant Ninevites during the time of Jonah. The fast is a canonised fast for members of the Assyrian Church of the East and is to be fasted for three days (Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday).

During these three days the College partook in various initiatives which included:

- A video by the College Chaplain Rev. Father Shamuel was presented to learners during roll call discussing the importance of the fast.
- Rev. Father Shamuel as well as the Student Leadership Team (SLT) went around to classes providing learners with bisma.
- The College had a three-day recess prayer service in the prayer room to commemorate the fast.
- The SLT represented the College at St Hurmizd Cathedral to commemorate the end the Rogation.

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## Upcoming Events

Please make note of the following events St Narsai learners will be partaking in through term 1. We pray that through these events our learners will not only grow in faith but allow their spiritual Light to shine for all to see.

Week	Date	Event
3	Monday 14/2	Morning Roll Call prayer service with Rev. Father Shamuel for year 11 and 12 learners. This prayer service will take place every Monday morning.
	Wednesday 16/2	Welcoming Year 7 and their families with an evening Liturgical Service at St Hurmizd Cathedral.
4	Thursday 24/2	Whole School Liturgical Service (Raza Qadisha) to take place period 1.
5	Monday 28/2	With the start of the Great Fast on Sunday 27/2 every Monday there will be spiritual readings through the PA system to commemorate the Great Fast.
6	Wednesday 9/3	Year 7 Spiritual Day.
8	Wednesday 23/3	Middle of the Great Fast (Paloo) tradition to take place during roll call as well as a prayer service.
10	Wednesday 6/4	End of term Whole School Liturgical Service(Raza Qadisha) to take place period 1.

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## From the Science Department

Ornilla Shamon

Dear parents/guardians,

Welcome to the 2022 school year. The Science department is raring to go and looking forward to the amazing teaching and learning that will take place throughout the year. We started the year with the great news of the success of our year 12 students in the HSC. We congratulate all the science students who went above and beyond to achieve wonderful results. In particular, Eshtaarr Youkhana, who achieved band 6 in both Physics and Chemistry, and Marina Al Ishaq for receiving a band 6 in Biology.

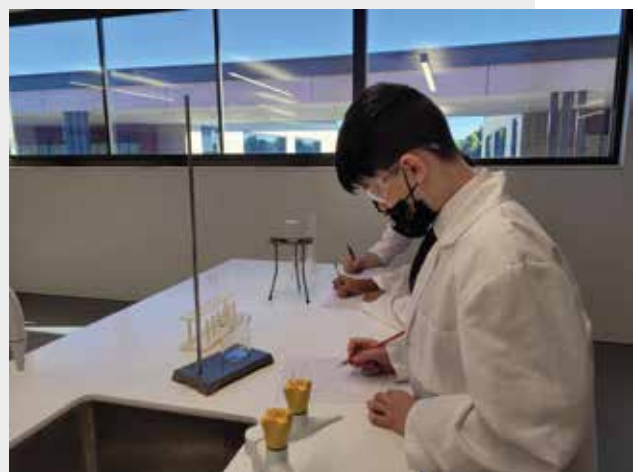
We welcome our new Year 7 students to St Narsai! They have started the year on a positive note, learning about Science, its branches and applications, while enjoying some practicals such as investigating the Bunsen Burner. Teachers will concentrate on up-skilling students in their working scientifically skills in preparation for their first assessment task – a practical investigation. We wish our new students a wonderful year and pray they adjust seamlessly to life as a secondary student.

Year 8 Science has started their year with a unit titled Nature's factories. Students will be exposed to the workings of the human body, from the cell all the way to the organ. Year 9 students have started by engaging in a unit of Chemistry and the use of chemicals in the production of new materials. While year 10 are learning about the basics of life – DNA.

Year 11 students are officially seniors; with their new blue shirts they look very mature and ready to tackle the Sciences head on. We are excited about the motivation they have been displaying but remind them that the stage 6 Science courses can be challenging, and effort needs to be put in at home in order to keep up and meet the course outcomes. This also applies for our current Year 12 students. They are encouraged to make use of the afterschool classes provided to them to aid their understanding.

Finally, I encourage students to learn and love science by cultivating an attitude of curiosity. It is a new beginning, and they are in the hands of teachers who believe they can and will do well as we work together.

On a practical note, all Science students are required to have purchased a textbook and activity book as per the textbook list. Please ensure your son/daughter acquires the required texts as soon as possible, if they do not already.



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Year 7 students had the opportunity to learn how to use the Bunsen burner and were introduced to scientific equipment and the uses of them.



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## From the English Department

Amy Kurver

A new school year has begun, and I would like to share with you the English Faculty's vision for 2022 as we strive to help students develop personal reading and writing habits that extend beyond the classroom.

This focus will be department wide (Years 7-12) and will provide an academic foundation that will not only assist students in their studies at St Narsai, but will also help them as they prepare for life beyond the classroom.

We have a varied and exciting curriculum in English this year. Year 7 have started the term studying the novel *Holes* by Luis Sachar. They will be exploring the language conventions authors use to in creating settings, atmosphere, plot and characterisation.

Year 8 are diving into the world of non-fiction texts, examining they way refugees are represented in the media, developing their ability to respond empathetically and critically.

Year 9 are exploring the representation of conflict within Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*, and will have the opportunity to demonstrate their persuasive writing skill in preparation for NAPLAN next term.

Year 10 will analyse the poetry of the famous Australian poet, Bruce Dawe, exploring how simple and every-day experiences can be beautifully and poignantly captured through poetic expression.

All Year 11 classes have stated the year with a study of how reading influences our responding and writing. After a successful first unit at the end of last year, Year 12 are continuing their HSC English courses.

We are looking forward to a year of great learning, where each student will 'let their light shine'!

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## From the Careers Advisor

Renee Yousif

On Friday 11th February, 36 of our Year 11 and 12 learners had the opportunity to receive free training on our school site to obtain their White Card Qualification through a fully funded government initiative.

The White Card course is a requirement to work in the Construction Industry, it covers the essential WHS knowledge required prior to commencing work tasks within any of the building sectors.

Our learners spent the day completing both theory and practical components to ensure they understood the Work Health and Safety requirements needed to keep them safe on all job sites.

This course is valuable in providing students with the opportunity to pursue various professions within the construction industry.

All our learners successfully completed the course and are accredited with this qualification for two years.

