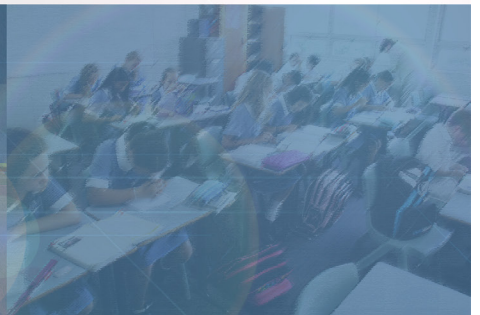
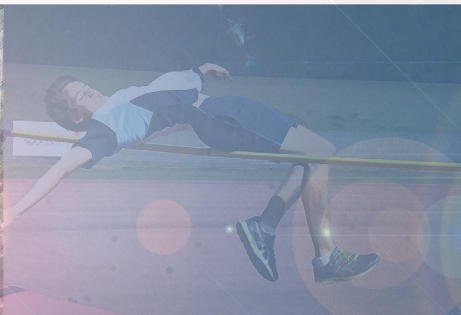




Education &  
Communities



## Castle Hill High School Annual Report 2013

## Principal's message



This Annual School Report is only a reflection of a small range of activities and achievements that were part of the life of students, parents and teachers in 2013. From this selection, I hope you gain a sense of what we value, believe and want for our school community.

Our 2013 Higher School Certificate results reflect a belief that academic excellence, improvement and hard work are priorities in order to prepare students for the challenges of life. Again, in 2013 HSC results were outstanding. The school believes that while student potential is often untapped, all can achieve academically strong results with the right programs and strong teaching that are tailored to the needs of individuals. The boys and girls mentoring programs are two programs that have confirmed the belief that significant improvements can be made. It's worth noting that, again boys and girls shared equal representation in the top ATARs (over 90), unlike four years ago when there was an entrenched trend of underperformance of boys. Our achievements here bring satisfaction to students, teachers and families.

The creative and performing arts, in particular the range and quality of music recitals, dance and artistic programs highlighted the school's drive to enrich and challenge students creatively. The art gallery, for example, continued to be a place of pride where student art – large and small, quirky and fun, contemplative, striking and appealing – is hung for public display. We believe that creativity, imagination and performance are ways that young people can express themselves to find satisfaction, success and fulfilment. The annual school musical, in 2013 “Back to the Future” was again another highlight and not only showed talent, fun and joy for enthusiastic audiences, but emphasised the advantages of working in a team and for a team.

Sport continued its rightful place as an important part of our culture. Our Sports Council, a group of senior students largely, led and drove the values associated with good sporting culture: practice, teamwork, commitment and fairness. Our sporting achievements reflect a school where excellence is valued by challenging oneself to pursue goal-driven personal bests.

The Castle Hill High School teaching staff are such a large part of why this school is successful. Dedicated and committed, many have worked here for decades, still with a passion and determination to improve learning for students. They know and believe that relationships are at the heart of good teaching. They also believe that professional learning is at the core of a school that wants improvement for students. Films of our expert teachers, made by our staff and for our staff showed in 2013 that teachers are reflective, open and professional about their work. With this in mind, the school had opportunity to merit select two new Head teachers in 2013. We welcomed Susan Caldis as Head Teacher HSIE and John Wright as Head Teacher Secondary Studies. Both are talented educators with a capacity for hard work and a desire to embrace and add to the school's culture. They are fine people who understand processes for change and whose interpersonal skills are exceptional.

In 2013 the school embraced the Local Schools Local Decisions program and as one of 229 schools across the state committed to a trial of a new management system called Learning Management and Business Reform (LMBR). There have been many challenges with this new system but we are hopeful that technical and service providers can work to find solutions readily so that administrative processes are user friendly and efficient allowing us to focus on the main game: good teaching and learning.

As well in 2013, the school embarked on a federally funded initiative called Empowering Local Schools (ELS) which saw a \$50,000 grant for initiatives to improve teaching and learning. The school appointed a Head Teacher Mentor, Mr John Wright, to support new and developing teachers. So successful was this program that when an opportunity occurred to appoint a substantive Head Teacher, the school strategically reworked its school's directions. The successful appointment of a Head Teacher Secondary Studies at the end of 2013 was made and has built on the success of the role from the ELS program to improve teacher capacity.



We are looking forward to 2014 with energy and fresh ideas all of which could not happen without a school culture where relationships and learning, for both students and teachers, are crucial.



### **P & C and/or School Council message**

Throughout 2013 the P&C enabled parents and the community to have a genuine input into the school through involvement in events, current issues, refurbishments, shops and participation in the direction of the school.

The 50th Anniversary Open Day saw our refurbished 'old gym' and canteen building provide the venue for a P&C run café giving ex-students a chance to revisit those old familiar canteen lines and windows. The building's internal walls were lined with P&C memorabilia from the first days of the school to present with many gathering to reminisce and view films of the school's parent organised Debutante Balls of past. For this occasion the Uniform Shop produced commemorative ties and scarves.

The celebrations gave cause to reflect on 50 years of parents' participation in CHHS. Reviewing original P&C meeting minutes gave a greater sense of purpose for the work we undertake now. The names of parents who were part of the P&C over the last 5 decades may have been forgotten but their commitment produced a significant, lasting effect in the services provided to parents and students, and in grounds and buildings that house CHHS.

The 2013 Relay For Life was held at Kellyville for the first time this year. Bruce Rhodes headed up the parent organisational team for this annual 24-hour community event providing students, teachers and parent walkers a welcome place to rest and revive. As this is Bruce's final year at CHHS P&C we give thanks for your energy and precision with executing this event and your involvement in many other P&C committees and activities over the years.



Throughout the year it was unfortunate that our School community - students, teachers and parents, found itself facing off against Australian telecommunications company Telstra. Together with our MPs, the RSL Club, Hills Shire Mayor, community groups and local organisations we gathered as one to present the case against this large telco building an EMR emitting mast within 150 metres of our school. With even the most conservative and industry based research stating the unknown effects of EMR on children we felt strongly that 'prudent avoidance' should be undertaken and masts such as these be placed 500 metres away from schools and preschools. However Telstra held consumer desire as justification and federal legislation as the means for this installation. With no law to appeal under we are petitioning the NSW Legislative Assembly to "...ask the Legislative Assembly to oppose the installation of a Telstra Base Station at the Castle Hill RSL or any place within 500m of any school in accordance with the policy of the NSW Department of Education and Communities". 10 000 signatures are needed for this petition to be debated in Parliament and as sentiment is high we are urging people to sign to prove our concern and help prevent similar disregard for the safety of children.

Our HSC tutoring programme was undertaken for the 6th year, offering Yr 12 students the advantage of additional expert coaching by the teaching staff across holidays and the HSC exam period. The HSC results of our senior students proved a genuine Thank You to their teachers.

A P&C Building Fund was re-established for tax deductible donations to be made to further the P&C's programme of refurbishing existing amenities for our children. Apart from finishing the 'Old Gym', we were fortunate to secure a \$30 000 grant from the NSW Government, which will be matched dollar for dollar by parents, to spend on the change rooms and WC facilities in the school's auditorium.

Our uniform shop under the experienced management of Margaret Pritchard, continued to provide a good quality uniform at moderate prices. Our second hand items are all donated with a community board now available for parents to privately sell pre-loved uniforms. A parent working-bee during the cooler months saw the revitalization of the garden area at the back of the school behind the canteen. Together with the school gardener, herbs, fruit trees and flowers were planted. It was a day where parents, students and their younger siblings accomplished much.

Continued changes to the menu and pricing in the canteen have seen a shift to more healthy eating patterns amongst many students. Our daily takings have increased significantly but our first commitment is to servicing the school community with good food at low prices. Our canteen co-ordinator Joanna Sutherland with her team of staff and volunteers (17 new volunteers this year), have worked to meet an ever-increasing demand whilst developing a new arm of Catering for school functions. The P&C is working towards computerising the canteen for better delivery and increases in services to the school community.

A strong committee led these many ventures in 2013: Vice Presidents Allan Schumacher and Katherine Watson; Treasurer Thomas Kunzler; Executive members Peter Hinding, Grahame Rosalen, Diana Whyllie, Malcolm McCahon, John Payne and Bruce Rhodes; Telstra committee leaders Elizabeth Madders, Dr Pri Bandara, and Carolyn Vanderklauw. On behalf of the P&C Executive and committees I would like to express sincere thanks to the many parents, caregivers and community members who have involved themselves in life at the school. It is evident that Castle Hill High School is indeed valued in our community today.

Anne-Maree Kinley  
President  
Castle Hill High School P&C





## Student representative's message

2013 was another year of hard work for all SRC members ranging from Years 7 to 10. With the amazing help of Vishal and Camilla, we were able to raise thousands of dollars for a wide range of charities, through fundraising endeavours like mufti days, dance parties, bbqs, selling of merchandise etc. We supported charities such as Jeans for Genes Day, Bandage Bear, Bandana Day, Pink Ribbon Foundation, RSPCA, Beyond Blue, Legacy and a large participation from the community of Castle Hill High School which allowed us to support the Cancer Council's Relay for Life.

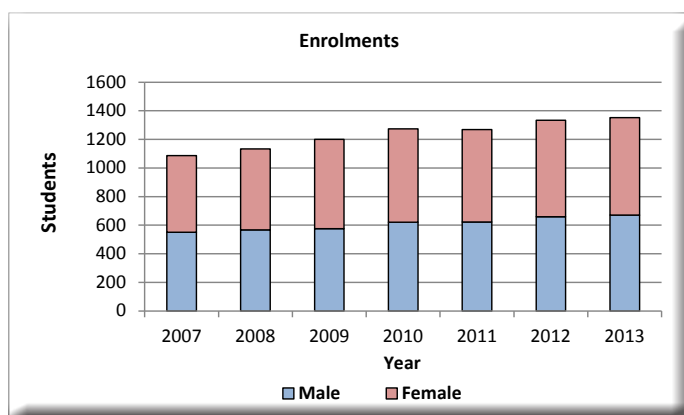
For the fourth year running, Castle Hill High School have generously donated and sponsored animals at Taronga Zoo; a red panda and a snow leopard. This year we also started sponsoring two children, Jessy and Danny, from Ethiopia. We hope they are part of the Castle Hill High School Family for many years to come.

However none of this could have been done without the support of the students, teachers, parents and the very hard working student council body. From the first meeting, the SRC have coordinated and organised all these events and fundraisers in 2013, from cooking BBQs to baking cakes and running food stalls. All members of the SRC have been enthusiastic and extremely willing in all four terms.

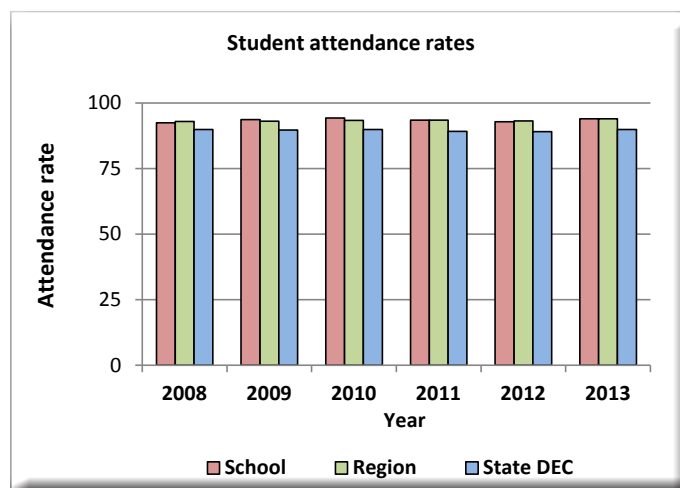
Student information

## School Context

### Student enrolment profile



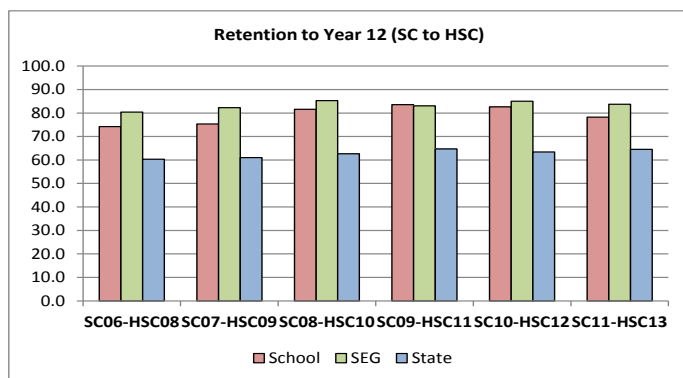
### Student attendance profile



### Management of non-attendance

In 2013, the school continued the appointment of an attendance coordinator. The attendance coordinator monitored student attendance throughout the day. The advantage of an attendance coordinator was that one teacher was monitoring all students which ensured consistency and immediate action. An SMS system has now been embedded into school processes. Parents are given immediate feedback regarding their child's absence and lateness to school.

## Retention to Year 12



## Post School Destinations

### Year 12 students undertaking vocational or trade training

In 2013 74 (35.4%) students studied one or more vocational or TAFE course.

Following the 2013 HSC, students pursued the following post school destinations.

- University - 56%
- TAFE - 13%
- Apprenticeships - 8%
- Private College - 8%
- Employment - 15%

### Year 12 students attaining HSC or equivalent Vocational educational qualification

In 2013, 99.8% of students attained HSC or equivalent vocational educational qualifications.

## Workforce information

Position	Number
Principal	1
Deputy Principal(s)	2
Head Teachers	14
Classroom Teachers	72
Teacher of Reading Recovery	0
Learning and Support Teacher(s)	0.8
Teacher Librarian	1
Teacher of ESL	1.4
Counsellor	1
School Administrative and Support Staff	20
Total	113.2

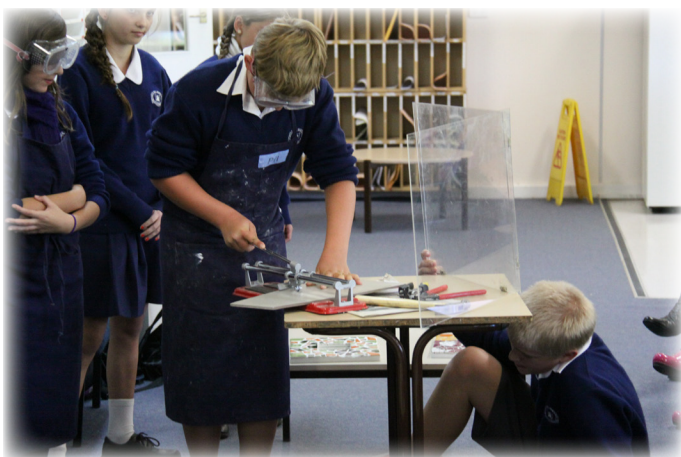


The Australian Education Regulation, 2013 requires schools to report on Aboriginal composition of their workforce. Castle Hill High School currently has two indigenous teachers.

## Teacher qualifications

All teaching staff meet the professional requirements for teaching in NSW public schools.

Qualifications	% on staff
Degree or Diploma	100
Postgraduate	22
NSW Institute of Teachers Accreditation	35







## Financial summary

This summary covers funds for operating costs and does not involve expenditure areas such as permanent salaries, building and major maintenance.

Date of financial summary	30/11/2013
<b>Income</b>	<b>\$</b>
Balance brought forward	1352633.65
Global funds	653877.74
Tied funds	238380.47
School & community sources	976830.49
Interest	53649.21
Trust receipts	177821.10
Canteen	0.00
<b>Total income</b>	<b>3453192.66</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>	
Teaching & learning	
Key learning areas	283039.36
Excursions	200575.56
Extracurricular dissections	214125.36
Library	0.00
Training & development	0.00
Tied funds	252684.50
Casual relief teachers	54720.14
Administration & office	282956.62
School-operated canteen	0.00
Utilities	182841.71
Maintenance	136704.74
Trust accounts	197785.72
Capital programs	269006.43
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>2074440.14</b>
<b>Balance carried forward</b>	<b>1378752.52</b>

A full copy of the school's 2013 financial statement is tabled at the annual general meetings of the School Council and/or the parent body. Further details concerning the statement can be obtained by contacting the school.





## School performance 2013

### Achievements

#### Creative and Performing Arts

Throughout 2013 the students and teachers of Castle Hill High School have continued to develop initiatives and opportunities for new achievements in the Creative and Performing Arts. Highlights include:

- The Major works of Year 12 Visual Arts students Vladimir Trofimov and Sharon Chun were nominated and selected for ArtExpress, the Board of Studies exhibition of outstanding Visual Art pieces. Vladimir's work entitled 'Character Lines' was exhibited at the McGlade Gallery, Strathfield, and Sharon's work Static Motion was exhibited at the Hazelhurst Regional Gallery.
- Three items by Year 10 and Year 11 Drama classes were selected to perform as part of the Arts North Drama festival. The classes devised original, playbuilt pieces which were performed alongside schools from the region to a wide audience of students, parents and community members at the Parade Theatre at NIDA.
- The Year 11 Drama class item 'Chairs' was selected as an outstanding performance from the region for the State Drama Festival and presented at the Seymour Centre in October. A strong, comic piece it opened the second half of the show and was received with much enthusiasm and critical acclaim by the sell-out audiences.
- Brittany Heniedi, was again selected for the NSW Public Schools State Drama Ensemble. She performed with the highly selective Senior Company all year, growing and developing herself while bringing her skills back into the classroom to the enrich the experiences of all students.
- Year 9 and 10 Photography students submitted a selection of photographs into the Castle Hill Show 2013. The standard of our students was very high with Isobel Hinding of Year 10 achieving a Highly Commended certificate.
- Cameron Anderson (Yr 12), Lachlan Anderson (Yr 8) and David Clarke (Yr 8) successfully auditioned for the Millenium Marching Band which draws students from across the state.





they immerse themselves in the joy of engaging in the Creative and Performing Arts.

- The Castle Hill High School Dance ensemble was selected to perform their challenging and intense “Symphony of Movement” at the Sydney-West Dance Festival.
- Twelve students performed in the opening number of the Schools Spectacular with Bridie Kay (Yr 10) and Amanda Hedges (Yr 8) being selected to perform in the Schools Spectacular Contemporary Dance ensemble.
- In June, the annual school Musical, Back to the Eighties, featured the talents of more than 150 students on stage, in the Orchestra and as part of the crew. It played to capacity crowds over 5 performances and had the audience singing along and dancing in their seats.
- In August we celebrated the talents of our students in the annual Showcase of the Creative and Performing Arts. Set in the sixties, the program featured a balance of classic and contemporary pieces from our dance, drama and music students.
- In Term 3 the school auditorium was once again transformed into a large scale art gallery for the annual Art show where visitors could enjoy the artistic talents of Years 7-12 Visual Arts and Photography students. The works displayed covered all mediums and ranged from Jack Lovett’s exploration of on-line gaming addiction to Ainsley Vanacek’s sculptural illustration of issues associated with cross-cultural identity.
- The newly formed rock ensemble under the direction of Mr Nicholas Powning performed at a variety of school events and continues to grow in numbers as it instils confidence in its mostly Year 8 performers and breaks musical stereotypes.
- Our Concert Band under the continued direction of Mr Steve Lavis and Damien Butler, and the Jazz Band directed by Paul Derricott, continue to perform regularly for school and community events showcasing their talents and commitment.

The CAPA staff are proud to have facilitated another year of outstanding successes in the area of Creative and Performing Arts at Castle Hill High School. Individual and collective achievements have been showcased at a variety of events, allowing for the development of our talented student body who continue to flourish as



## Sport

2013 was yet again a successful and eventful year for Castle Hill High Students in the sporting arena. We had numerous talented students represent our school at zone, regional and State Carnivals and several Knockout Teams performed to a high level.

The year commenced with our annual Swimming Carnival at Parramatta Pool, where Windsor House once again dominated in the water. We then selected a talented group of young athletes to represent our School at the Zone Carnival, where Castle Hill High School was awarded First Place for their efforts. A large group of students from Castle Hill High were then selected to represent the state at the CHS Swimming Carnival. Congratulations to the following students who were a part of this talented Sydney West Team; Jaymie Cline, Saaz Sahdra, Shannon Williams, Rachel Hogan, Elizabeth Ray, Dunya Tatic, Soo Hwang, Adam Amico, Kevin Lee, Ryan Duffy and Calum Sproull.

Special mention also goes to Callum Oldfield, Niclas Hvalgren, Ben Jalvo and Steven Duzevich who received a silver medal for their performance in the 17 years 50m freestyle relay, Rebekah Sefton who received four gold medals and Zoue Sefton who received three silver medals. These students also took their talents to the next level at the All Schools Swimming Carnival. Here, Rebekah Sefton won a silver and bronze medal and Zoue Sefton won a bronze medal for their performances in the pool. Congratulations on these outstanding results.

To conclude the sporting events for Term 1 2013, Castle Hill High School hosted the Cross Country Carnival for students in Years 7-12. Our very own Mr Jephtha took to the track to race against his robust group of year 8 students. Although Mr Jephtha continues to lag behind at times, his commitment and enthusiasm for this event is to be admired. A group of athletes were then selected to compete at the Zone Carnival at Macquarie Park where we retained our third place position overall. Special recognition is awarded to the following students for their efforts at the All Schools Cross Country Carnival. Their ability to endure the terrain and long distance of the cross country course is an outstanding and worthy achievement. Congratulations to Kurt Garnett, Carley Thomas, Harrison Inshaw, Melissa Eades, Charlotte Sainsbury and April-Maree Mannah.

The final prestigious event for the year was the Castle

Hill High Athletics Carnival held at Blacktown International Sports Park. Durham House took out first place on the day and an outstanding team was selected to represent CHHS at the Zone Athletics Carnival. All students in the Zone team worked collaboratively and as a result our school was awarded first place overall. Congratulations to the following students who then continued to represent our Sydney West Region at the CHS Athletics Carnival held at Sydney Olympic Park; Rich Amevor, Jeffrey Barrett, Jordan Coleman, Matthew Cottam, Abbie Dwyer, Kelsey Dwyer, Melissa Eades, Joel Flude, Connor Graves, Jared Jamora, Victoria Manning, Luke McElveney, Demi McFarlane, Dinesh Rajaratnam, Andrea Sigmann, Rhys Tuohy, Roshan Varatharajan, Matthew Vespermann and Walter Wegmann.







## Netball

- Caitlin Muller
- Laura McInnes
- Taylah Hallab
- Alison Cole
- Kayla Douglas
- Bronte Simpson
- Isobel Lynn (umpire)

## Basketball

- Caitlin Muller
- Laura McInnes
- Taylah Hallab
- Alison Cole
- Kayla Douglas
- Bronte Simpson
- Isobel Lynn (umpire)
- Megan Plant
- Anna Caisley
- Melissa Eades
- Bronte Simpson
- Lara Johnstone
- Iesha Salameh
- Victoria Hack
- Emma Bevan
- Laura McInnes
- Isobel Hinding
- Jesse Cao
- Alex Zhang
- Brad Liu

## Age Champions

### Swimming

- 12 Years- Rachel Hogan, Calum Sproull
- 13 Years- Rebekah Sefton, Ethan Zirh
- 14 Years- Shantelle Low, Max Gale
- 15 Years- Zoue Sefton, Josh Cramer
- 16 Years- Dunya Tatic, Patrick O'Reilly
- 17 Years- Soo Hwang, Ben Jalvo

### Cross Country

- 12 Years- Lia Adamsons, Ryan Duffy
- 13 Years- Carley Thomas, Harrison Inshaw
- 14 Years- Jayme Morige, Kurt Garnett
- 15 Years- Zoue Sefton, Alex Organ
- 16 Years- Melissa Eades, Allen Qi
- 17 Years- Lara Johnstone, Jack Arthur
- 18 Years- April- Maree Mannah, Joel Pienmunne

### Athletics

- 12 Years- Caitlin Baker, Ryan Duffy
- 13 Years- Hannah Eagleton, Ethan Zirh
- 14 Years- Khaye-Celine Gray, Walther Wegmann
- 15 Years- Anna Caisley, Connor Graves
- 16 Years- Kayla Douglas, Jordan Coleman
- 17 Years- Ellen Cornwell, Arshdeep Sidhu

## Hills Zone Representatives

This year we have had many students selected to represent our Hills Zone in both Netball and Basketball. Congratulations to the following students who have demonstrated great skill and sportsmanship when representing our school community:

## Sydney West Representatives

Students at Castle Hill High School are provided with the opportunity to trial for various Sydney West Sporting Teams throughout the year. The following students have committed to these teams and worked extremely hard to succeed in their chosen sport. Congratulations to the following students for their performance on the court and field and for conducting themselves with great maturity and sportsmanship.

### Volleyball

- Steven Duzevich

### Hockey

- Patrick O'Reilly

- Kaitlyn Eagleton
- Hannah Eagleton
- Abbie Dwyer
- Kelsey Dwyer
- Brooke Dwyer
- Bethany Richmond

#### Tennis

- Daniel Green
- Jeremy Grierson
- Stephanie Conyngham

#### Squash

- Declan McLeman
- Cuan McLeman
- Jake McFarlane

#### Touch Football

- Brittney Clifford
- Ally Dallaway
- Taylah Clifford

#### Basketball

- Melissa Eades
- Lara Johnstone
- Iesha Salameh
- Jesse Cao

#### Rugby League

- Daniel Cosatto
- James Salvador

#### CHS Representatives

Students from across the state come together to compete in a high level of competition at CHS Sporting Carnivals

- Daniel Gale - Golf
- Zac Smith - AFL
- Mitchell Perl - AFL
- Declan McLeman - Squash
- Cuan McLeman - Squash
- Rhea Bull- Gymnastics
- Justyna Wierzbanska - Gymnastics
- Liam Gilchrist - Softball Umpire



#### Academic achievements

##### NAPLAN

In the National Assessment Program, the results across the Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 literacy and numeracy assessments are reported on a scale from Band 1 to Band 10.

The achievement scale represents increasing levels of skills and understanding demonstrated in these assessments.

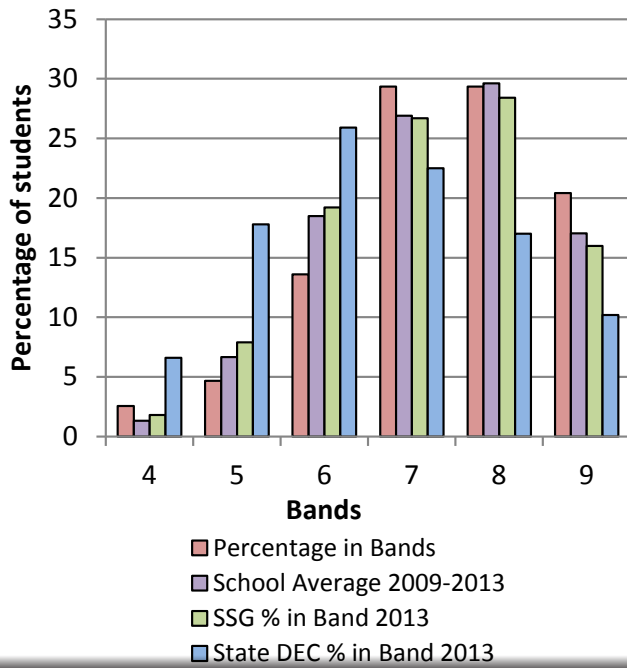
- Year 7: from Band 4 (lowest) to Band 9 (highest for Year 7)
- Year 9: from Band 5 (lowest) to Band 10 (highest for Year 9)

##### NAPLAN Year 7 - Literacy (including Reading, Writing, Spelling and Grammar and Punctuation)

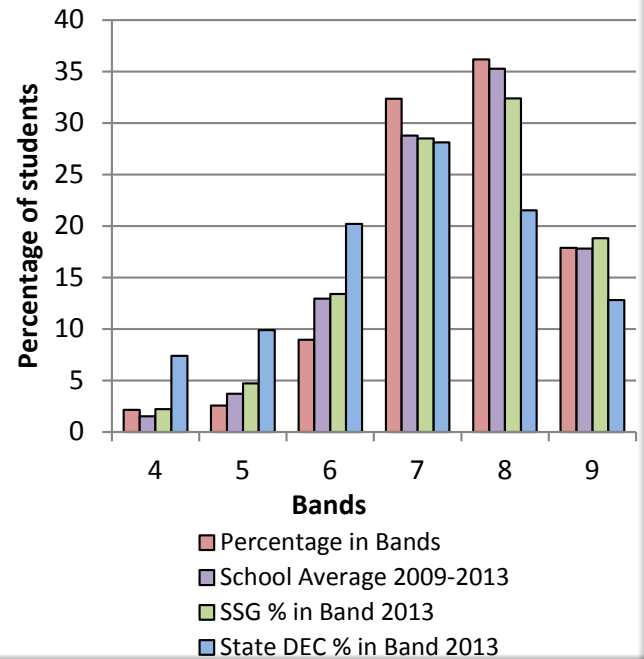
2013 was the sixth year that students completed the National Literacy Assessment. The Literacy component of NAPLAN covers four skill areas including : reading, writing, spelling and grammar and punctuation. Students at Castle Hill High school performed well with the average mark in all areas higher than our like school group average and the state average. 20.4% of our students achieved the highest band in reading, 7.7% in writing, 17.9% in spelling and 24.3% in grammar and punctuation. The following tables show the percentage of students in the relevant bands and how this relates to the previous school average, the like school average and the state average.



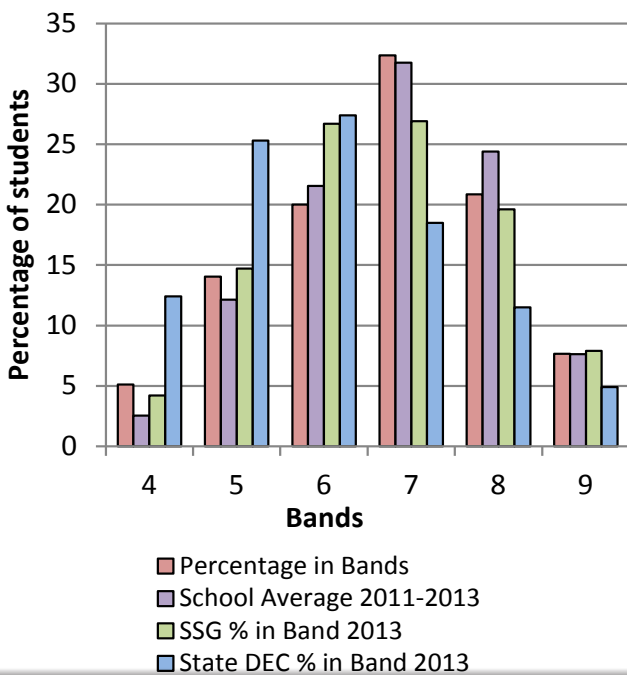
**Percentage in bands:  
Year 7 Reading**



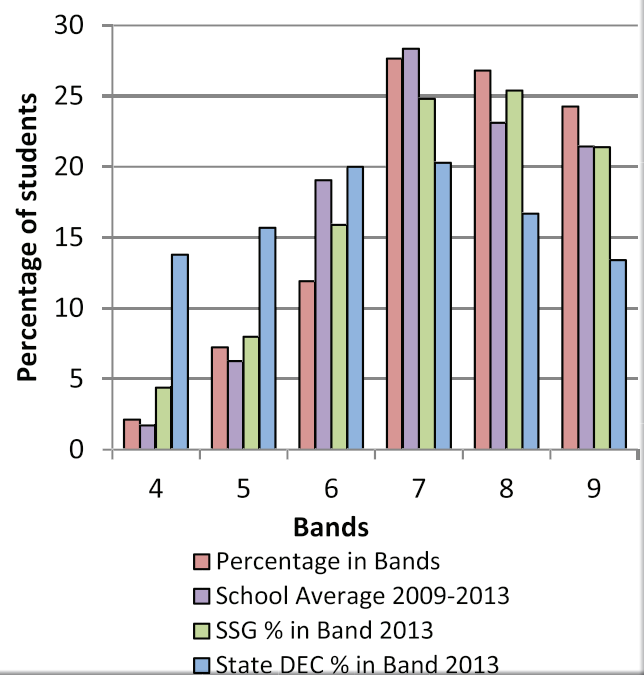
**Percentage in bands:  
Year 7 Spelling**



**Percentage in bands:  
Year 7 Writing**



**Percentage in bands:  
Year 7 Grammar & Punctuation**



NAPLAN Year 7 - Numeracy

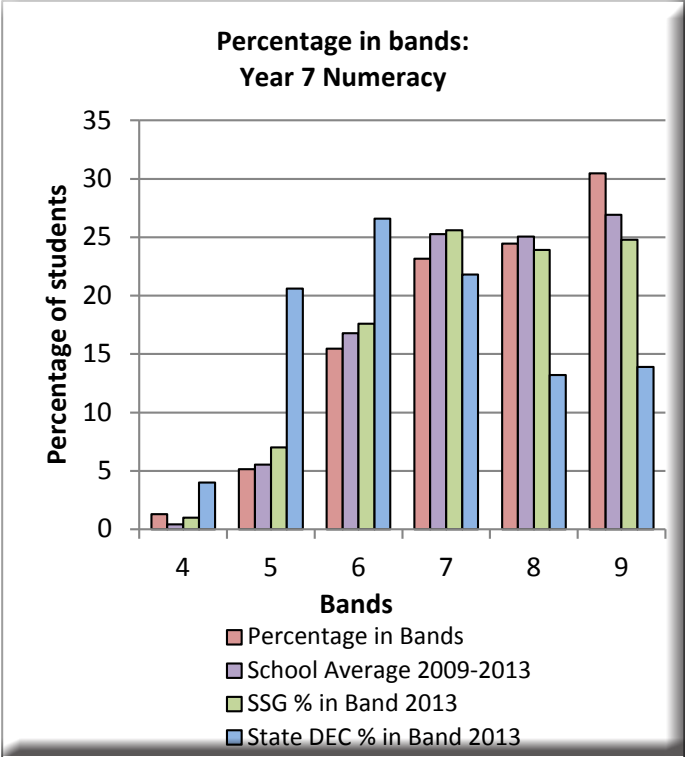
2013 was the sixth year that Castle Hill High School Students completed a National Numeracy Assessment (NAPLAN).

Our students performed well above state average in all areas of numeracy: Number, Patterns & Algebra, Measurement & Data, Space & Geometry. 31% of our students achieved the highest band (9), 56% of them were in the top two bands, whilst 94% of them were in the top four bands. We had one third of the state average of students in the lower bands, and three students in the lowest band.

Compared with our region, this Year 7 group is strong in all areas of numeracy, and are less than 10% below the group average.

Three students (1%) are identified as being below the National Mean Standard in Numeracy.

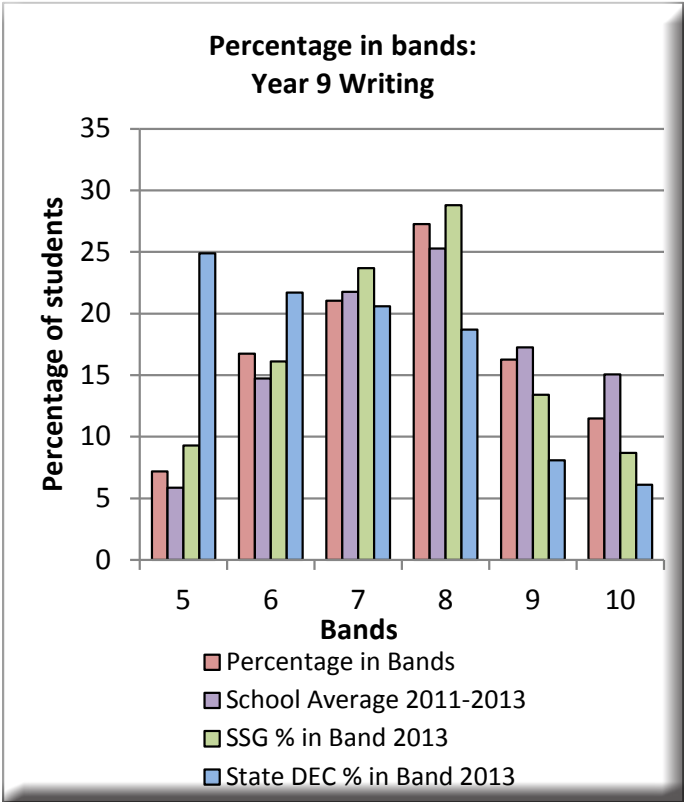
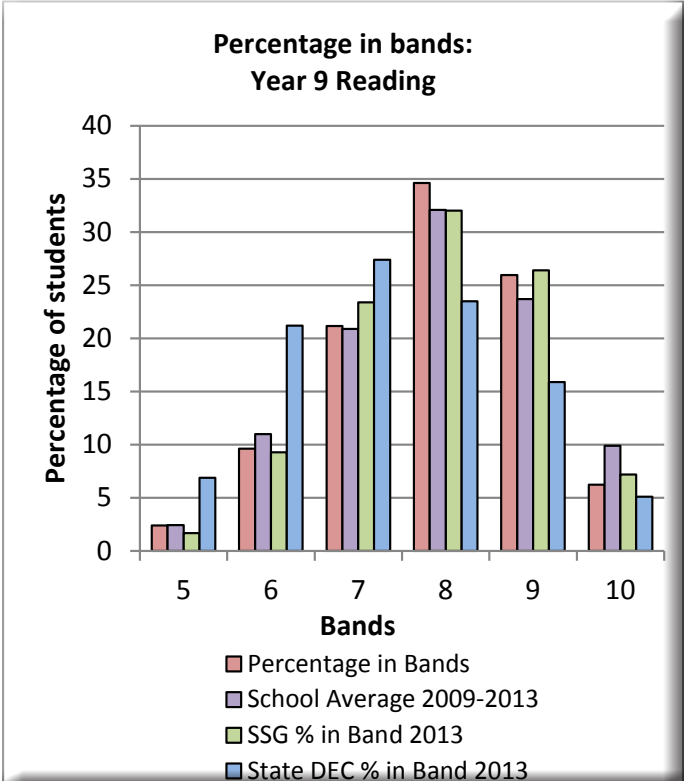
The value added data shows this group has improved well above the state average in numeracy since the year 5 Basic Skills Test, with 201 (94%) of trackable students improving their scores.



NAPLAN Year 9 - Literacy (including Reading, Writing, Spelling and Grammar and Punctuation)

The year 9 cohort also performed well with the average mark in most areas higher than the like school group and the state average. 6.3% of our students achieved

the highest band in reading, 11.5% in writing, 13.97% in spelling and 15.3% in grammar and punctuation. The following graphs show the percentage of students in the relevant bands and how this relates to the like school average and state average.





## NAPLAN Year 9 - Numeracy

28% of our students were ranked in the High band (10), 43% in the top two bands, while 88% were in the top four bands.

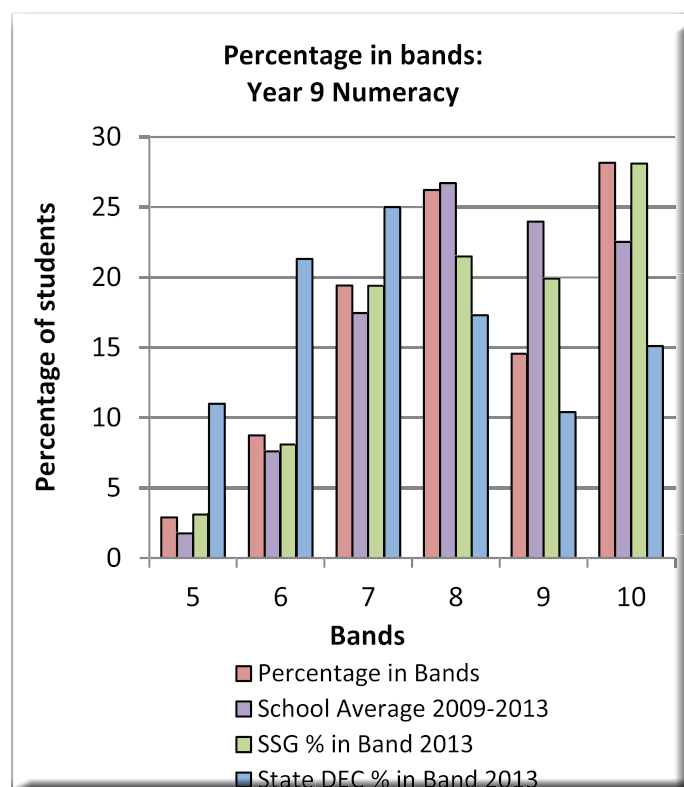
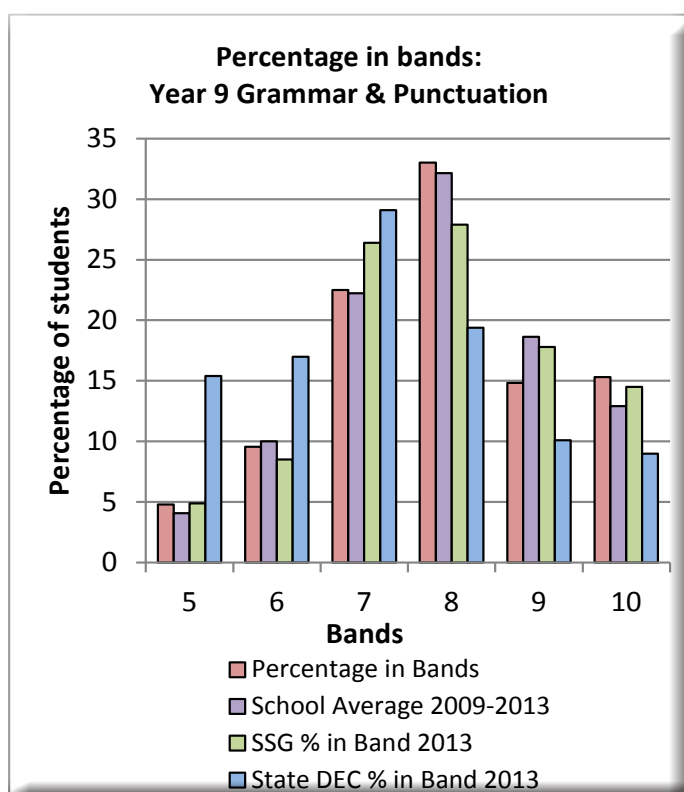
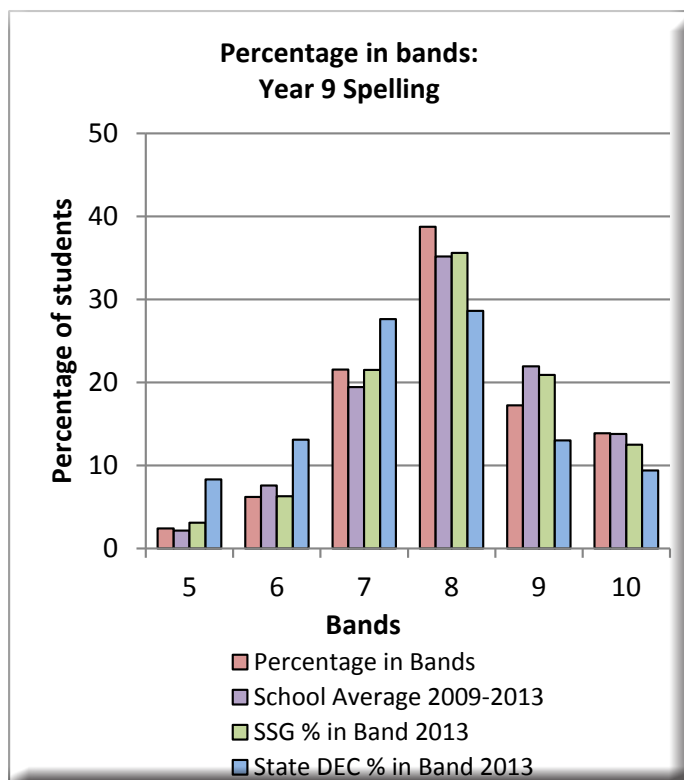
Compared with the state, this Year 9 group is strong in all areas of numeracy, but fall slightly below the region. The boys appear much stronger than the girls in this group.

Of the 180 students trackable (out of 209) since year 7, 28 are reported with a lower overall numeracy score. This means that 84% of our students moved forward in numeracy over their first two years at High School.

Six students (2.9%) are identified as being below the National Mean Standard in Numeracy.

The value added data shows this group has improved well above the state average in numeracy since the year 7 NAPLAN Test, 56% of students improving by more than expected.

Compared to our local school group, our value added data puts us marginally lower than our local school group. This is a trend we continue to work on.



## Higher School Certificate (HSC)

Outstanding Higher School Certificate results were attained by Castle Hill High School students in 2013. Our results clearly reflect the hard work of students and teachers and the school's commitment to academic excellence as a priority. The following statistics indicate the strength of our HSC achievement: in 2013.

- We had a record 32 students gain an ATAR over 90, an increase on last years 27.
- Gerrard An was our 2013 Dux with an outstanding ATAR of 99.8.
- Gerrard An, Adriana Zaja and Nicholas Stephens received the Premier's Awards for achieving a Band 6/E4 in ten units or more.

Other meritorious performances were achieved by a significant number of other students. Vladislav Trofimov's and Sharun Chun's art works were selected for exhibition in the 2013 Art Express. Joel Pienmunne came 4th in the state in Information Technology VET, while Lachlan Gachelin came 8th in the state for Information Technology VET and Katerina Metelska came 4th in the state in Russian Background Speakers.

For the 30 individual courses attempted by Castle Hill High students in 2013 our students achieved marks on average which were above those of the state in 25 courses. When compared to our Statistically Similar Group, Castle Hill High students received higher average marks than our SSG for 11 courses.

We also celebrated and congratulated forty two students who received one Band 6/E4 in their results, thirteen students who received two Band 6s/E4s, seven students who received three Band 6s/E4s, two students who received four Band 6s/E4s, two students who received five Band 6s/EW4s and one student (Nicholas Stephens) who received six Band 6s/e4s.

Castle Hill High School was ranked in the top 200 schools again, at 153 up from 168 in 2012. While there are many achievements, the following faculties had results that were substantially above the state mean and they need to be acknowledged : Information Processes and Technology (8.11), Design and Technology (6.59), Business Studies (5.28) Legal Studies (5.24) Japanese Beginners (4.8), Japanese Continuers (4.08).

A large number of courses achieved band 6 results which were significantly above state average: English ESL (6.1%), English Ext2 (28.6%), Chemistry (17.1%),

Business Studies (13.5%), Legal Studies (31.3%), Modern History (12.5%) Japanese Beginners (36.4%), Japanese Continuers (14.3%), Japanese Extension (40%), Design & Technology (9.5%), Food Technology (18.2%) and PDHPE (16%) and Information Processes and Technology (23.1%)

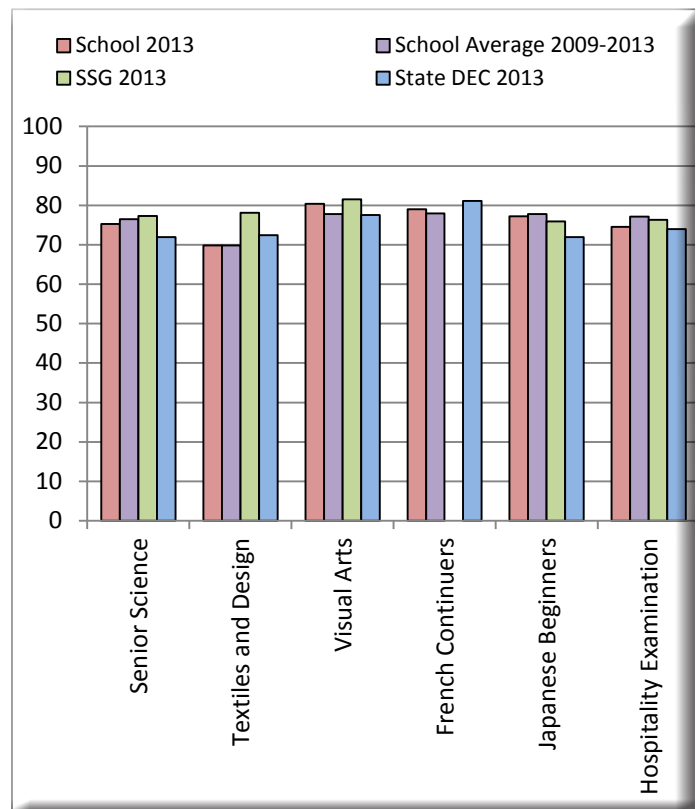
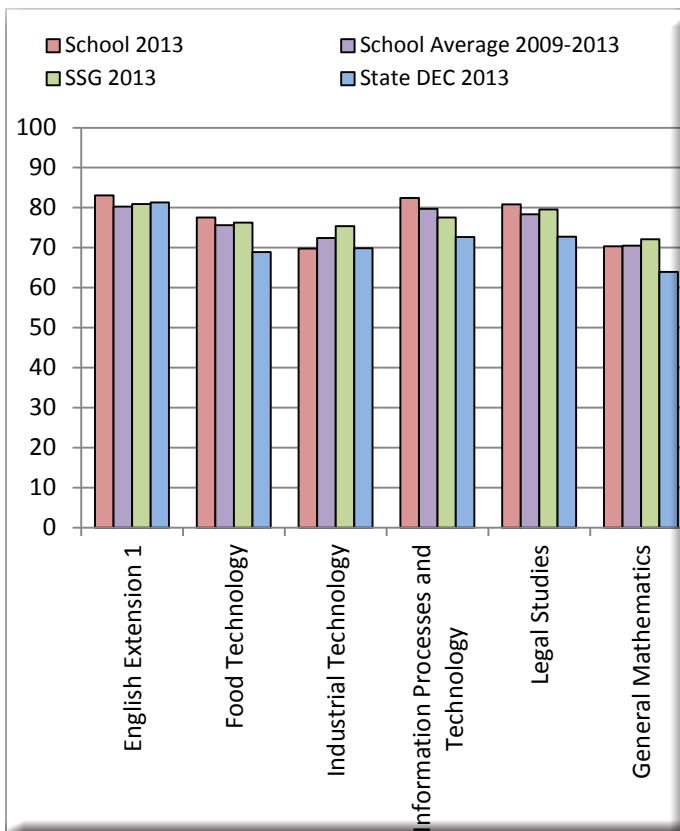
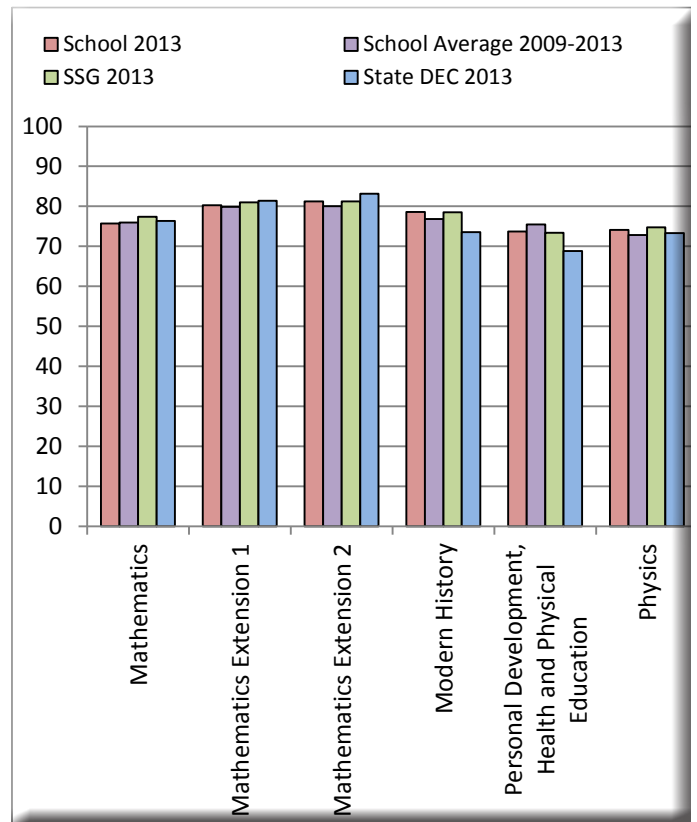
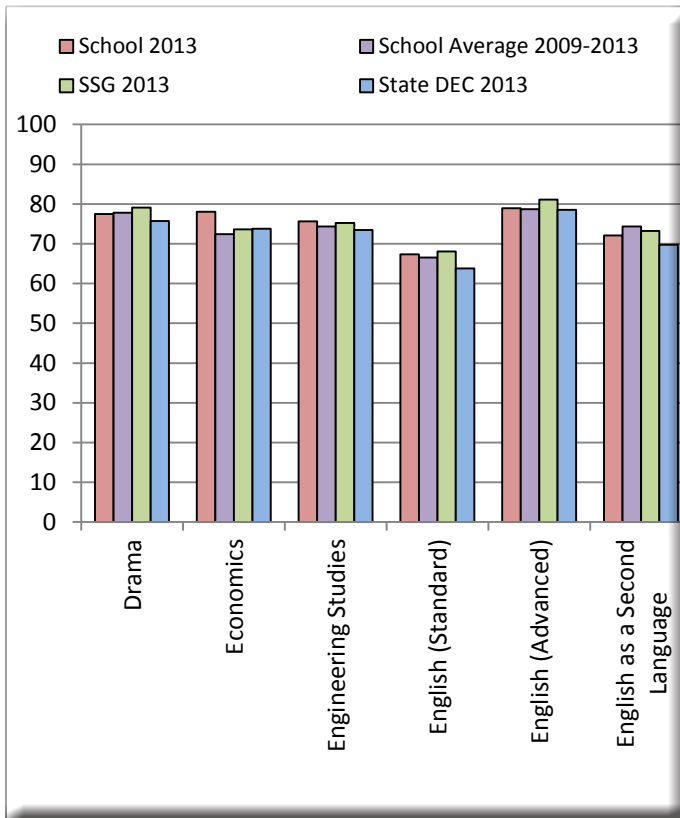
With regard to our relative HSC academic performance compared to our Statistically Similar Group and in comparison to the average for New South Wales Schools in general, pleasing results were also achieved in 2013.

As for Castle Hill High School's relative performance from Year 10 (value – added), we continued to substantially value add for the low and middle performance bands (values of 4.5 and 3.1 respectively for the low and middle bands) in the 2013 HSC. This follows the general trend over the 2009 – 13 period where value adding was even stronger on average with values of 3.5 and 4.5 being attained for the lower and middle performance bands.

However, our value added is less impressive for the high performance band where we perform noticeably below the SSG average for 2013 of 1.1. For this latter group, our value added was 0.5 for the school HSC cohort in 2013 and averaged -0.1 over the 2009-13 period.







## Significant programs and initiatives

### Australian National Curriculum

With the NSW Board of Studies directive to begin planning for the implementation of the Australian National Curriculum for English, Mathematics, Science and History in 2014 for Year 7 and 9, Castle Hill High School dedicated significant professional learning time to these faculty areas.

Terms 2 – 3 were dedicated to the planning and development of new teaching and learning programs and resources. Professional learning groups were set up within the region in order to collaboratively share innovative ideas and resources. These teams met during School Development days and during term as part of our professional learning budget. An additional benefit from this process was the establishment of interschool networks of teachers that can provide support and breadth of ideas for our teachers.

The implementation of these courses will begin in 2014 for Years 7 and 9. The process of evaluation and refinement will continue into 2014 and work will commence on teaching and learning programs for Years 8 and 10.

### Head Teacher Secondary Studies

With the implementation of the NSW Institute of Teachers and the associated accreditation process for teachers employed after October 2004, Castle Hill High School identified the need for an executive position to co-ordinate this process. Initially the position was funded through the Federal Government's Empowering Local Schools Program. With an increase in our school student numbers in 2013, we were given the opportunity to make this position substantive.

Head Teacher Secondary Studies is responsible for supporting New Scheme Teachers in their professional growth and development towards achievement of the standards at professional competence level. These teaching standards will sustain and stimulate teachers in their professional practice and support quality learning opportunities for all students.

The achievement of the standards demonstrates the link between the quality of teachers' practice and student learning.







At Castle Hill High School the Head Teacher Secondary Studies has been given the task of designing, leading and evaluating an extensive, ongoing, inspiring program of teacher development for new and developing teachers.

The Head Teacher will work with new and developing teachers as a team, building a sense of collegiality, trust, openness, sharing and high expectations. Regular observations of new and developing teachers that includes formal and informal feedback is a crucial part of this role. This will contribute to clarification of the National Teaching Standards and will assist these teachers to develop a portfolio and maintain their accreditation.

### **Aboriginal education**

In 2013, there were four Aboriginal students at Castle Hill High School representing .2% of our total student population.

The school developed a personalised learning plan for each of the four students focused on current learning needs, interests and their career futures .

As a measure of the tailored and personalised programs the school offers, TAFE courses have been utilised for some students while others , in the gifted and talented program and Lifeskills programs , are challenged to reach their potential and engage in a curriculum which is stimulating and interesting.

Mentoring is an important part of growth. Mr Matt Benton informally mentors male Aboriginal students. He is keen to promote , for example, Maths and Science tutoring and university open days as a way of fostering new horizons and future options.

In 2014 , Mr Benton is hoping to pursue extra curricular programs for Aboriginal students based on heritage and important cultural needs.

### **Multicultural education**

Castle Hill High School continues to promote multicultural education and diversity. Our Multicultural Day is a good example of a range of events and activities promoted by Castle Hill High School to ensure our students value Multicultural Education.





## Progress on 2013 Targets

Target 1: Improve academic performance in the HSC for targeted boys and girls

- The school maintained the number of boys in the boys' mentoring program and established another mentor to oversee progress
- The school revisited work on Band 6 exemplar responses and developed a more sophisticated and detailed manual to assist teachers and students in determining "what makes a difference in the classroom" for HSC students
- Processes for HSC data analysis were refined, again, with an emphasis on teacher self-reflection
- Boys continued to maintain an equal proportion of students gaining an ATAR over 90, a statistic that has been maintained for the last three years and is evidence of the success of the boys' mentoring program
- The 2013 HSC cohort saw 33 students gain an ATAR over 90 exceeding the target expectation by 32%, a significant improvement on previous years' performances

Target 2: Improve teacher capacity to reflect an accountable and supportive school culture that has high expectations of staff

- The appointment of a Head Teacher Secondary Studies was successfully made at the end of 2013 and includes in the role the accreditation and professional learning of new teachers
- In 2013, accreditation of new scheme teachers has been completed in a timely, accurate and professional way
- In 2013, films of expert teachers from Castle Hill High School were made so that discussion, reflection and critiquing of lesson strategies could occur in professional learning sessions

Target 3: Develop collaborative, best practice programs implementing the national curriculum in 2014

- Significant time was allocated to staff professional learning resulting in new programs being successfully developed in English, Mathematics, Science and History
- Networks within the school education group were accessed to share ideas and strategies in English, Mathematics, Science and History

Target 4: Improve teachers' understanding of students

with special learning needs including students with Asperger syndrome, Fragile X, behaviour difficulties and ESL

- Significant time was allocated to staff professional learning on students with special learning needs where staff learned more about differentiating the curriculum and modifying teaching programs





## 2014 Targets

### Target 1:

Teachers are immersed in a culture of reflection of their teaching and want to learn and refine new ways to engage students in their learning

#### Indicators:

- Teachers have regularly observed one another, given feedback and shared ideas on teaching strategies
- Teachers have a greater understanding of Band 6 requirements and are able to articulate this for students, resulting in increased higher order results for HSC students
- New teachers are more confident with accreditation processes and have had more personalised assistance from the Head Teacher Secondary Studies, an appointment made through the introduction of the Empowering Local Schools (ELS) initiative
- More teachers seek professional leadership accreditation
- The executive have attended courses by Dr Neil Carrington and Professor John Hattie and have applied the notion of “feedback” to their management repertoire and to their teaching skills





## Target 2:

The HSC academic performance of students has improved such that the school is in the top 120 schools in the state

### Indicators:

- All teachers have been trained in ALARM and apply this model to their teaching in the senior years
- HSC value added results have improved significantly on previous years, as a result of ALARM
- Mathematics teachers have been professionally developed in the Quicksmart program from the University of New England and targeted year 7 students have been taught using this model
- A literacy program similar to Quicksmart has been investigated and implemented to achieve improvements for students below minimum national benchmark levels
- All students in the Quicksmart trial are no longer below the minimum national benchmark in numeracy
- International and ESL students have had access to interpreters and coaches in a Homework Centre to assist with English skills, conceptual skills and stress management to cope with the rigours of the HSC and as a result their attendance has improved and their confidence levels are increased
- Boys and girls mentoring has expanded to include more students to continue the pattern of improved academic performance at the HSC

## Target 3:

The National Curriculum has been successfully implemented in English, Mathematics, History and Science

### Indicators:

- New programs have been taught and evaluation of their success has commenced
- Networks of schools have met to share experiences with the new curriculum and ideas have been exchanged

## Target 4:

Technology provisions for students have been enhanced

### Indicator:

- All students have understood the school's Bring your Own Device (BYOD) policy and the new IT model has been integrated smoothly into the school







## Professional learning

Professional learning continues to be a priority for teachers at Castle Hill High School. The school uses a combination of teamwork, reflection and its many expert teachers to design meaningful forums for teachers to learn, unlearn and relearn important strategies to engage students and improve their academic results. While many professional learning courses are undertaken by teachers off site, and by other providers, the school prefers in-house professional development, designed to target whole school directions, making use of the many expert teachers from whom others can learn.



One of our major focus areas in 2013 was the analysis of teaching and learning practice in all Castle Hill High School classrooms. This included the filming of lessons that were critically evaluated by peers through in depth professional conversation. Teachers discussed a variety of innovative ways to provide different classroom activities; all designed to challenge and stimulate students. Teachers worked collaboratively on the feedback and design process of lessons in order to cater for a range of student needs.



In addition to this, teachers worked intensively on Higher School Certificate data – such as analysing value added results for each student in each course, comparing results with previous years and the state, looking at patterns and trends - in order to reflect on effective strategies needed to maintain or improve results. Teachers identified their most successful strategy and considered the obstacles preventing student success and motivation. This detailed reflection was done individually and then in teams at faculty level. Feedback about this process was highly evaluated and provided rich data to inform ideas on improvement for the future.

**Parent/caregiver, student, and teacher satisfaction**  
In 2013, the school sought the opinions of parents, students and teachers about the school.

Management Practice – Student, Teacher and Parent Satisfaction

Castle Hill High School places a high value on the opinion of all its stakeholders and regularly consults students, staff and parents on issues relating to

management practice. In 2013, the Executive decided to change the way parent teacher night bookings were conducted. This was due to parent feedback both anecdotally and through the P & C.

Feedback indicated that parents wanted the responsibility of making appointments with teachers so our challenge was to find a method that suited all stakeholders. A decision was taken to trial an on line booking system called "School Interviews". This allowed parents to make bookings from home or work instead of relying on their children to make the appointments for them.

We used this new system for Years 7 – 11 in 2013. Feedback was sought from teachers and parents through survey monkey. There were 232 parent responses to the survey. The survey itself looked at satisfaction with our new booking system and addressed the effectiveness of teacher feedback to parents' as well as overall satisfaction with how parent teacher night is conducted at the School.

Teachers continue to articulate the importance of parent teacher night as a way of strengthening parent – school partnerships. The feedback that they are able to provide to parents allows the shared development of student skills and abilities.

Castle Hill High School is extremely satisfied with the parent feedback it received. Feedback indicated 92% of respondents believed that the new on line booking system was either much better or somewhat better than the previous system.

Feedback is an important aspect of student development and a valuable strengthening of the parent-school partnership. Respondents overwhelmingly believed that the feedback given by teachers at parent teacher night is effective.

- 21% - extremely effective
- 50% - very effective
- 28% - moderately effective
- 1% - slightly effective

Overall, parents and teachers are satisfied with the way parent teacher night is conducted at Castle Hill High School. 90% of parents indicated they were either extremely or moderately satisfied with the outcome that parent teacher night provides.

## About this report

In preparing this report, the self-evaluation committee has gathered information from evaluations conducted during the year and analysed other information about the school's practices and student learning outcomes. The self-evaluation committee and school planning committee have determined targets for the school's future development.

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Anna Girginis - Deputy Principal  
Ross Warren - Deputy Principal  
Lloyd Das - Head Teacher Computing  
Lindy Jones - Head Teacher English  
Anne-Maree Kinley - P and C Co - President

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Parents can find out more information about Annual School Reports, how to interpret information in the reports and have the opportunity to provide feedback about these reports at:

<http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/asr>