Drugs and alcohol presentation

On Monday Sid Barrone, accompanied by Hay War Memorial High School ex-student Damien Kennedy, from Griffith Aboriginal Medical Service gave our Year 10 students a presentation on drugs and alcohol. The talk was well received by the students.

eSafety workshop
This week the school had a number of workshops run by a representative from the Office of the Children’s eSafety Commissioner. The discussion was focussed on eSafety Issues, games, apps and social networking, cyberbullying and getting help. For all people who were not able to attend the student or parent workshops I highly recommend that you use the link below to find out valuable information about going online safely. https://www.esafety.gov.au/

The Office of the Children’s eSafety Commissioner is a one-stop-shop for online safety.

BOSTES Literacy and Numeracy tests
BOSTES Literacy and Numeracy tests for students planning to leave school before completing the HSC are available for completion throughout the year.

The tests focus on the literacy and numeracy skills required by school leavers for employment and further education. The tests are completed online and they are adaptive so students receive questions that match their level of ability based on their responses.

Bob White Scholarship
Year 12 students have been given Bob White scholarship application forms. There are two $2,500 scholarships available. The applications are to be handed back to Ms McNally by Monday November 30 at the latest.

Luke Arandt – Regional cricket selection
Congratulations to Luke who was selected in the Riverina cricket team last week. Luke will play in Sydney early February.
The results are displayed to students immediately on completion, and a test report to show employers is available the next day.

This is a worthwhile document to have if you are considering leaving before the completion of your HSC as it can give employers an indication of your literacy and numeracy ability which may assist with applications for employment in the future.

Students are required to be registered by their school in order to complete these tests. Students from Years 10 to 12 considering leaving school early and are thinking about completing these tests should contact Mr Chambers or Mrs Millyard for further details.

Keeping the Balance Right— for new and current families
As with all school decisions, our aim at Hay War Memorial High School, is to offer the best possible learning experience for students.

When we are deciding class placements, many factors are taken into account including academic abilities, individual needs, gender and student friendship.

We also look at what is in the best educational interests of students as a whole – the social, cognitive, physical and aspects of the learner.

It’s about getting the balance right – and making it fair for all.

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Pozières School Project 2016

Nearly 100 years ago, some unique Australian schools and their students did a wonderful thing. They helped rebuild a school at Villers-Bretonneux in France.

In the early 1920s, school children of Australia donated pennies to rebuild the village school in Villers-Bretonneux after it was decimated during World War 1. The Villers-Bretonneux School remains famous to battlefield visitors and proudly displays a notable sign across the playground which reads: DO NOT FORGET AUSTRALIA. This inscription is found in French in each school room. The Pozières French-Australian School Project aims to follow this example by rebuilding the dilapidated Pozières School using donations made by Australian school students of today.

The Windmill Pozières, 1916

Pozières is a tiny French village which holds a very special place in Australian history and memory. The battle of Pozières occurred from the 23 July into early September 1916. In the weeks prior to the battle, British artillery had reduced the village to ruins through a number of unsuccessful and bloody attacks on the German fortified second line. On the night of the 23 July, the Australians were ordered to attack the German stronghold, where they captured the blockhouse known as ‘Gibraltar’. Although the Anzacs were successful in driving the Germans out of Pozières, they were subjected to massive and continuous artillery fire over the following days. After fierce fighting, the Anzacs pushed through the village to the high ground known as The Windmill and then wheeled to attack the fortified Mouquet Farm.
The Pozières School of course was lost in this battle. After six desperate weeks of fighting and massive losses on both sides, the fighting ended with the Australians in possession of the plateau north and east of the village and in a position to menace the German bastion of Thiepval from the rear. However, the cost had been enormous with 23,000 Australian casualties in the first six weeks and by the time they withdrew, nearly 7,000 were dead with two-thirds having no known grave. Charles Bean famously said Pozières Ridge ‘is more densely sown with Australian sacrifice than any other place on earth’.

The French Minister of Defence stated the engagement at Pozières was ‘the only Allied success in the entire battle of the Somme’.

The proposal is to build a new school with a teachers’ common room, a small library, adequate bathroom facilities, disabled access, an assembly hall and seven classrooms to accommodate for students coming from small villages in surrounding communities. In order to achieve this, Australian students are asked to contribute to this new school in Pozières by making a donation of coins.

**Pozières School**

In 1925, the Pozières School was rebuilt as a part of the village Town Hall where it remains today. The ground floor is used for the school, which provides education facilities for around 30 students, while the upper level is reserved for the Town Hall.

Erected 90 years ago, the building has seen better days. It has old floors in poor condition and the teachers and children have almost no modern facilities, relying on the use of blackboards and chalk. The toilets are located 50 metres away from the main building, requiring a chilly trek through mud and snow during the winter months. The Franco-Australian Museum exhibition area is situated in the roof space of the school. Currently the school is under mounting pressure to relocate elsewhere, which is where we come in.

Australian school children are being asked to contribute once again to the rebuilding project. At Hay War Memorial High School we have been lucky enough to have parts of our school rebuilt so let’s extend this opportunity to another school. The school’s involvement in the project was officially launched on Remembrance Day. Both current and former students are being asked to contribute to this significant cause. There are two coin collection areas in the school – one at the front office and one at the canteen. Please be generous with your loose change. More substantial donations can be made by contacting the school.

**An important opportunity for Australian School involvement.**

Schools who participate in raising funds for the Pozières French-Australian School Project will be listed on the plaque to be erected at the Pozières School. This will be unveiled on the 23 July 2017 as part of the opening ceremony. The opportunity will also be there for a chance to win a teacher-student exchange to France for the ‘turning of the sod’ in July 2016.
Term 4, 2015

Week 8
- Thursday 26: School Social night (inc Yr 6)

Week 9
- Thursday 3: Yr 6 Orientation Day

Feeling Fit and Fabulous Walking Group
Formally—One Tonne Club
Contact Jessie Jackson—0424 596 467 or Liz 0488 181352

Need a Healthy start?

For so much what shall we repay?