

IF NOT
NOW,
WHEN?

SCHOOL OF NOW

HEAR
&
NOW

SON
NEWSLETTER



2023 - Term 1 Week 1

Welcome!
Point of View
2022 in Review
Year 11 News
Year 12 News
Students Achievements



Catholic Schools
Parramatta Diocese

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WELCOME!

2023 - THE START OF A NEW YEAR

Dear Students, Parents/Guardians and CSDP community members.

Welcome to the start of a new school year, albeit in a virtual setting. We understand that this year may present its own set of challenges, but we are committed to providing our students with a high-quality education and ensuring their success in the blended learning model.

We would like to take this opportunity to remind you of a few important dates and events that are coming up. Our SoN Parent/Guardian Zoom is scheduled for 15/02/2023, where you will have the opportunity to meet ask questions and learn more about the curriculum and programs that we offer. We will also be hosting Parent/Teacher interviews in a virtual format.

We would like to mention that our HSC students of 2022 have done exceptionally well and we are proud of their achievements.

We cannot stress enough the importance of open and effective communication between all stakeholders in the education process. This includes parents, teachers, administrators, and students. Clear and consistent communication is essential for ensuring that your child receives the support and guidance they need to succeed. It also helps to identify and address any concerns or issues that may arise.

We encourage you to stay informed and involved in your child's education by regularly checking our website and calendar for updates, and by attending virtual parent-teacher conferences and other events throughout the year. We also welcome your input and feedback, and encourage you to reach out to us if you have any concerns or questions.

We understand that virtual learning can be challenging and we want to support our students through this transition. We are here to help, so please don't hesitate to reach out if you need assistance.

We look forward to working together to ensure that your child has a successful and enjoyable virtual school year. Thank you for entrusting us with the education and care of your child.
Sincerely,

ChatGTP on behalf of Steven Bauer

Steven Bauer - School of Now Manager



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POINT OF VIEW

AN INTERESTING YEAR TO AHEAD

Education has changed over the years. I remember when I was at school and at this time of year I was (or my mother) was the covering books with brown paper and plastic film. If I was lucky I might have also got a fancy sticker to put your name on my property. The learning was rote and committed to memory, and the teacher was the fount of all knowledge. And computers ... they were still science fiction!

Fast forward 40 years ...

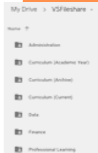
There is no doubt that learning has changed! Rather than expressed knowledge, greater respect is given to the application of learning to solve problems and set directions. A computer is an essential part of learning and we are now moving into the realm of artificial intelligence (AI). Go back and read the "welcome" on the previous page. Would it surprise you to know that this was written by a "Bot"? I asked the computer to write a welcome and the previous reading was what the "Bot" created.

The reason that this is being mentioned is that this form of technology will tempt students and it may be to the detriment of their learning. We, humans, cannot stop the progress of technology, but the pitfalls must be understood so that technology has a proper place in the process of learning.

This deceptive welcome letter and the phenomenon of AI Bots is due to my reflections on the year that was. While it is genuine and heart felt, the work is not mine. School of Now had some fantastic results last year like first place in the State for the HSC VET Information and Digital Technologies course, 8th place in Software Design and Development, and national recognition for work being completed in STEM courses. However, if you spoke to these students who rightly achieved recognition for being one of the best in their field of study, they would tell you that it was hard work and a commitment to their studies that placed them in a position of success.

As indicated, AI Bots will continue to grow and be a part of future learning. But bear in mind, these tools can not be used in a written HSC exam and are no replacement for hard work in the development of deep knowledge required for HSC success.

Steven Bauer
School of Now Manager



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YEAR 11 NEWS

ORIENTATION FACE-TO-FACE DAY

The Face-to-Face day is a great community event! Like-minded students gather from across the whole Catholic School Diocese of Parramatta (CSDP) to discover in depth the operation of School of Now and delve into learning opportunities in their area of passion.

Classes for Year 11 courses are scheduled to commence with Face-to-Face orientation day at CathWest Innovation College situated in Mount Druitt. This year, the day will occur on Wednesday, February 8th, 2023.

School of Now is currently organizing bus transportation for the day that will pick students up from their home school and return them in the afternoon. Permission notes will be sent out soon, which will indicate the time of pick-up and the estimated time of return. Watch your Canvas page for the latest announcements and a copy of the permission note required to be returned to your Home School.

PS - Mentor Teachers are also welcome to attend the day!

ACCESSING CANVAS COURSES



While the official start of learning is in Week 3 for Year 11 courses, some Canvas courses will be opened earlier for students, parents/guardians, and Mentor Teachers so that the basic requirements of the course can be understood. Check your emails for notifications and log on when you can.

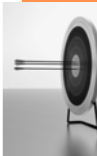
The launch page for our Canvas courses can be found at: canvas.narra.catholic.edu.au

PARENT/GUARDIAN ORIENTATION ZOOM

One week after the student Face-to-Face day, a parent/guardian and Mentor Teacher orientation zoom has been planned. Commencing at 4 pm on Wednesday, February 15, 2023, students, parents/guardians, and Mentor Teachers are encouraged to come armed with any questions that they might have to increase their understanding of School of Now processes.

If you are free we would love to meet you. The Zoom meeting address is:

[Zoom Meeting Link](#)



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YEAR 12 NEWS

LEARNING AS NORMAL

Welcome back students!

I hope that your batteries have been re-charged and you are ready to go!

Week 2 commencing on Monday, January 30, 2023 is the official kick-off date for our courses. As per procedures established last year, check your course announcements for instructions and course updates.

Reflecting on the great results from last year, our best-performing students asked lots of questions and did all set work. I know that you represent not only some of the best students in CSDP, but you also have the opportunity to show the rest of your HSC competitors how great you are!

The advice that I am trying to give is simple ... do not rest on your own natural ability! You have to work and work hard. You may find it tempting to leave a SoN task till a later date as we are not sitting on your shoulder and cracking a whip! But this will be your downfall ... timetable your tasks, get drafts checked before submission and always give your best. You have three terms of school left before the written HSC exams are here! Commit to your learning and you will be justly rewarded!

VET WORK PLACEMENTS

For students of VET, your work placements are coming soon!

If you have not done so as yet, please add the following dates to your calendar:

VET Financial Services

Week 5 - Monday, February 20 - Friday, February 24

VET Information and Digital Technologies

Block A

Week 5 - Monday, February 20 - Friday, February 24

VET Information and Digital Technologies

Block B

Week 6 - Monday, February 27 - Friday, March 3

VET Business Services

Week 6 - Monday, February 27 - Friday, March 3

Check your announcements on your Canvas page for more details and seek further clarity if needed from your SoN Expert Teacher.



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STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

2022 IN REVIEW

Since the inception of SoN, we have been continuing to grow from strength o strength! The following are some of the highlights achieved by students of the 2022 cohort.

1st in a HSC course

VET Information and Digital Technology

Joshua Phillips from St Columba's Catholic College,
Springwood

8th in a HSC course

Software Design and Development

Janinta Edmonds-Brown from Marian Catholic College,
Kenthurst

STEM MAD National Awards

Ashyra Chand from Catherine McAuley Westmead won
two major awards:

Award for Demonstrating the Catholic Ethos and Inspired
by Nature Award

The following courses were statistically determined to be
the best cohort results across CSPD for the schools that we
support:

- Economics - Nagle College
- Engineering - Delany College
- Mathematics Extension I - Delany College
- Mathematics Extension II - Delany College
- VET Information and Digital Technologies - St
Columba's Catholic College

We congratulate all students, Expert Teachers, Mentor
Teachers and Home Schools that have worked together to
enable the success mentioned above to come to fruition.

