

If NOT  
NOW,  
WHEN?

# SCHOOL OF NOW

HEAR  
&  
NOW

SON  
NEWSLETTER



**2024 - Term 1 Week 2**

Welcome!  
Point of View  
2023 in Review  
Year 11 News  
Year 12 News  
Students Achievements



Catholic Schools  
Parramatta Diocese

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# WELCOME!

## 2024 - 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 Year 11 Face-to-Face days are pread over 2 days next week where students will meet their teachers and commence course work.

We would like to mention that our HSC students of 2023 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 do not 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,

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 odd years ...

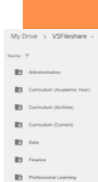
There is no doubt that learning has changed! Rather than expressed knowledge, greater respect is given to the application of learning to solve problems and set directions. A computer is an essential part of learning and we are now moving into the realm of artificial intelligence (AI).

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. AI can be a great tool for learning, but it is one that should not encourage plagiarism or direct copying from the "Bot" response. Students through their learning in SoN will be shown how to stimulate thought using AI as a means to encourage growth and stimulate original thought.

School of Now had some fantastic results last year where approximately 40% of our students received Band 5 or high, and most students received early offers from university prior to sitting their HSC exams. However, if you spoke to these students who rightly achieved recognition for being some of the best in their field of study, they would tell you that it was hard work, problem solving, original thought 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



### Design and Development VS1

Use problem solving skills through the creation of software



Unit Topic

Formal Assessment 1



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## YEAR 11 NEWS

### FACE-TO-FACE MASTER CLASSES

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 next week (Week 3). Due to the number of our students, classes will be held over two days; Tuesday 13/02/2024 and Wednesday 14/02/2024.

The link to the planning document and associated permission notes can be found through the link below:

[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Jbd7v85Q6tn4H53E6t9\\_8uxaaLQC87DHT7muQdtKDCc9dIt3upg-sharing](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Jbd7v85Q6tn4H53E6t9_8uxaaLQC87DHT7muQdtKDCc9dIt3upg-sharing)

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



canvas

### ACCESSING CANVAS COURSES

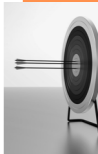
While the official start of learning is in Week 3 for Year 11 courses, some Canvas courses will be opened earlier for students, parents/guardians, and Mentor Teachers so that the basic requirements of the course can be understood. Check your emails for notifications and log on when you can.

The launch page for our Canvas courses can be found at: [canvas.parra.catholic.edu.au](https://canvas.parra.catholic.edu.au)

### STUDENT & PARENT/GUARDIAN COMMUNICATION

The one thing that has proven to aid learning success is communication. It is unfortunate that we as Expert Teachers in School of Now do not have the ability to see you daily or "catch up" as we pass you in the playground. Keeping this in mind, along with the fact that there are no stupid questions, students, parents and guardians are encouraged to reach out to the course teach for learning content clarification or to SoN Admin for any clarification at all. Let me put it this way ... if I am trying to explain an idea to you and you are left scratching your head, then I have not completed my job! As a teach, need to know this, because your ability to complete the next steps are reliant on linked or previous learning concepts are understood.

You will hear time and again that this is your HSC ... so take ownership of it and speak up when needed so that we can be the best teachers possible!



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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, February 5, 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 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!

## FACE-TO-FACE MASTER CLASSES

Planning is well advanced for the HSC Master Classes. The link below is to our planning document:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1d9AS2sMbWwCLEarDWBmOxSVj9EwsDzW5gkCTyM0IKts/edit?usp=sharing>

Please check your announcements on your Canvas page for more details and seek further clarity if needed from your SoN Expert Teacher. Changes are still being made to ensure that optimal learning opportunities exist for students so changes to the document may be made with further communication.

## COMMUNICATION

Your first assessment task should be returned to you shortly and feedback provided to parents/guardians and mentor teachers on the progress being made. It is important that you take this feedback on and respond to it accordingly.

I have personally seen students respond to feedback and move from struggling in a course to the top of the list of students... with three terms to go, there is time to still work wonders and improve your standings. However, it will need a commitment from you as the students and acting on the advice provided. Again, communication is encouraged so that you can understand what is required and optimal success being achieved!

