Innovation in teaching and learning

WELCOME to Callaghan College's first Community Newsletter. Throughout this publication you'll find a wide range of articles that showcase our student success stories as well as the amazing programmes on offer across all three campuses. From everyone at Callaghan College, enjoy.

JESMOND CAMPUS

TOP GUNS IN THE MAKING

Callaghan College is the first school in Australia offering the Certificate III in Aviation course to Year 11 students as part of their HSC. As part of the course, students learn to maintain and pilot commercial drones.

A unique partnership with UAVair (Australia’s leading unmanned aerial vehicle & remote piloted aircraft system training provider) offers Callaghan College Jesmond the opportunity to offer the course which involves flying the latest hi-tech drones in a wide range of challenging conditions. While the obvious fun behind flying remote control drones is certainly enough to draw attention, students have revelled in the challenge of understanding how to get the best out of these amazing machines.

“I’m enjoying it immensely. There’s a great deal to learn about the legal issues, the maintenance of the gimbals and engines, and it’s fun navigating courses with the drones.”

- Isis Leaver
/// PROGRAMMING THE FUTURE!
Students participate in University of NSW ‘Prog Comp’

The type of questions they ask at Prog Comp are the ones most of us hear in our nightmares, but for students at Callaghan’s Senior Campus that’s just part of the fun. The competition, convened by the University of NSW, draws teams from the most prestigious schools across the state and the globe. Students are given five questions in two hours and have to use their skills in programming, problem solving, and writing algorithms in an effort to win $5,000 in prize money and scholarships in Engineering, Software Design and Computer Science. Callaghan’s students dashed around the room scribbling notes, testing ideas and ultimately putting themselves to the test.

WHAT STUDENTS SAID ABOUT THE DAY:

“IT’s not really about the prizes, it’s just fun to find out ways to beat the questions. It really pushes you and it’s fun to work with others.”
- Tim Weiss

“It’s an opportunity to further yourself and compete against other great schools.”
- Josh Leggett

“IT’s about initiative, really. You just have to make sure you’re always trying to get positive things done. Hopefully this will help me move towards the Enrolled Nurse course at TAFE next year.”
- Olivia Hosele

/// CALLAGHAN COLLEGE CLEANS UP AT HUNTER REGION’S NSW TRAINING AWARDS 2016

Students and teachers at Callaghan College’s Jesmond Senior Campus filled the trophy cabinet with their accolades from the Hunter Region’s 2016 NSW Training Awards. Recognising achievement in vocational training and apprenticeships, the awards have a flourishing reputation with local industry and small business. Three past students, two current students and a teacher were recognised for their successes with a wide range of awards including Sara Pendergast for VET Teacher of the Year, Olivia Haidle for School Based Apprentice of the Year and Harrison Auld for VET in Schools Student of the Year.

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/// SHAPING CAREERS
- Industry experts talk to students about career choices

During Term 2, Callaghan College Waratah Technology Campus held its 2016 Career Expo. Designed to support students with their professional career options, the expo had more than 45 presenters from various occupations and professions in attendance. Students from Years 9 and 10 learned about future employment trends as well as what it is really like to work in particular industry sectors.

A number of workshops were run on the day, the topics chosen by the students themselves. They allowed students to obtain a deeper knowledge of how to break into a particular industry that was relevant to them. Students were also given information on the pros and cons of their preferred industry and were informed of the various pathways available to them (including recommended subjects) to reach their goals.

/// ACHIEVING HARMONY THROUGH CULTURAL DIVERSITY
- Harmony Day 2016

To celebrate Harmony Day 2016 and promote cultural diversity and tolerance, students from more than 22 different cultural groups who attend Waratah Technology Campus combined to display the flag of their country of origin.

This annual event promotes a sharing of cultural knowledge to showcase cultural diversity within the school community. Waratah Campus prides itself on its strong, culturally diverse student body and the community connections which enrich the school culture.

At Waratah Campus the flags of origin of students and staff members who have recently attended the school are on display in the school hall – a constant reminder of the cultural traditions and advantages that a diverse multicultural community brings.

/// PLAN-IT YOUTH (PIY) MENTORING CELEBRATION

We’re delighted to share with you our PIY mentoring program where adult volunteer mentors attend Waratah Technology Campus every Monday to discuss career pathways with selected Year 9 & 10 students, and to develop and promote student self-esteem. On June 6, at Hamilton North Bowling Club, Plan-it Youth mentors and mentees marked another successful semester of positive collaboration in their lives. Mentees received awards and spoke of their experiences in front of parents, carers and their mentors in a truly memorable celebration.
Wallsend Campus’ science team has been looking at ways of forming relationships between its elective classes and local industry or organisations.

This term MaD (Wallsend’s year 8 science class) visited the University Of Newcastle School Of Architecture. Touring the faculties, students saw the large industrial manufacturing equipment, the student maker space (an open lab where uni students work on both their personal projects and uni work), a number of exhibits and areas used by students completing architecture degrees.

The visitors then worked with fifth year architecture students to plan, design and build model eco houses based on a lecture delivered by the Head of School, Chris Tucker.

Later this term we have engineers from the University of NSW coming to the school to work with the students to build functioning robotics arms.

“The class was looking at building eco houses and the trip to the University of Newcastle definitely helped with forming ideas. It was also great for learning about what university is like, the type of work done there and the resources students have to do it. I really enjoyed the trip, as we got to see a lot of the architecture work, we had a great presentation from Chris Tucker and I never found myself bored. It was a really enjoyable and educational trip.”

- Kathryn Cashmore 8-MaD

Our two Stage 4 teams visited Toronto High School to take part in the first round of the Premier’s Debating Challenge. Mrs George, the Wallsend debating coach, was very proud of her two teams despite their close losses to the Toronto side. Their next round will be as hosts in Week 10 of this term at the Wallsend campus library.

“The day was fun. It was a tough debate and was really close. The Toronto kids and teachers were really nice and hosted the debate well. Overall, it was great.”

- Olivia Magill 7W

“Toronto High School were great opponents for the debate. They showed great sportsmanship at all times and hosted the debate well. It was a great experience and I am most certainly looking forward to future debates.”

- Sarah Lester 7W