## Please return this form

# To support and Encourage the Teaching of Special Religious Education (SRE) at Hornsby and Normanhurst High Schools.

I wish to make a financial contribution to the work of the Normanhurst Christian Education Association which provides Christian Studies programs at Hornsby Girls' and Normanhurst Boys' High Schools.

(ABN 27 478 553 930)				
Post to: Normanhurst Christian Education Association Inc. PO Box 2061, NORMANHURST, NSW 2076				
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<b>Direct Debit:</b> BSB 062-308 A/c 2804 5640 Normanhurst Christian Education Assoc. Inc. Please advise the Treasurer at <a href="mailto:glendaleport@yahoo.com">glendaleport@yahoo.com</a> for a receipt.				
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Enquiries to the Treasurer - Mrs Glenys Porter - Phone 9489 3568



#### For more information go to https://ncea.net.au

#### **CHURCHES LINKED TO THE ASSOCIATION**

Chinese and Australian Baptist Church, Thornleigh Hornsby Uniting Church Wahroonga Anglican Church St Stephen's Anglican Church, Normanhurst Thornleigh Hillcrest Uniting Church Waitara Gospel Chapel Northern Life Baptist Church, Hornsby Normanhurst Uniting Church St Peter's Anglican Church, Hornsby Thornleigh Community Baptist Church Wahroonga Presbyterian Church



# **Key Reflections!**



Hornsby Girls' students have a sixth sense for knowing when a lesson ends! It does not matter if it is a 1:05 or 1:10 hour period, or that there is no physical bell - they just know. They also know that you lack this sixth sense, and may kindly inform you when there are a few minutes remaining, or at least make it obvious by starting to pack up.

The end of a lesson is just as important

as the start, creating space for students to reflect on the relevance of the Bible and practical ways they can progress in their faith journey.

This might involve writing their thoughts on cards in response to open-ended prompts like *Question, Comment, Request* (see photo), or tackling more targeted questions that challenge them to examine their own beliefs, values, and behaviors. For example, Year 8 students, after learning about Moses'

tumultuous life, considered, 'What do you do, or where do you turn, when life isn't going how you want?'

We might end a lesson the same way we started, to observe what has shifted in their understanding. In Year 9, students began by writing down what they thought Jesus might say to someone who was a high achiever. After studying the Bible, they revisited their initial response, and rewrote their answer. It also never hurts to end on a sweet note with lollies!

Please pray that I will leave adequate time to finish

lessons and know how best to challenge students so they want to discover more about Jesus and grow in their faith. Christine Chin, SRE Teacher HGHS



# **Keeping Jesus Central!**

This year, the length of each lesson at Normanhurst Boys,' has been reduced by about 10 minutes. While this has meant reorganising what my lessons cover, I take the opportunity to really hone in on the core message, each time I see the students. Even as I do this however, it can be hard to know what they really take away. Their usual response, when asked what we talked about in the previous lesson is "...Jesus?" and while this may be a bit of a joke answer, I hope they really do see **the centrality of Jesus**, in everything we discuss. I pray that my love for reading and studying the Bible will inspire them to read it for themselves, as it is not my words, but God's that will transform them.

The encouragement I receive to continue in this ministry comes usually at unexpected times, from previous students who have moved into the senior

years, or beyond. Hearing that SRE lessons at high school gave them a chance to reflect on the truths of Christianity and the Bible, remind me that I can never talk about Jesus too much. Even as lesson times are reduced, I must continue to strive to include even more Bible, and even more Jesus. Please pray that if nothing else, the boys would remember and think about Jesus, long after they have finished SRE lessons.



**Tony Jones, SRE Teacher NBHS** 

#### **PRAYER POINTS**

#### Normanhurst Boys'

- Praise God Tony was able to give Gideons Bibles to Year 7 students before Easter, and pray they will read them for themselves, thinking about their own answer to the question, "Who is Jesus?"
- Pray Year 8 students grasp the significance of Jesus as the only true Serpent Crusher.
- Pray Year 9 students are encouraged and challenged by the evidence for the resurrection of Jesus, and the authority of the Bible.
- Pray Year 10 students see how unique the Christian worldview is.
- Pray that the Christian lunchtime group 'Connect' would have no more issues this term in being able to meet and that Year 11 students would step up to lead next term.

#### Hornsby Girls'

- Pray Year 7 students understand the significance of the Genesis origin stories. Pray for good relationships and that students enjoy the lessons.
- Pray Year 8 students will discover who Jesus is and the life he offers, as they learn about his "I am" claims, in John's gospel.
- Pray Year 9 students will be attracted to the beauty of the gospel, as they compare Christianity with other religions.
- Pray Year 10 will be open and curious to explore the Bible, faith in Jesus, and his relevance to their lives.
- Give thanks for the Christian lunchtime group Highlite and the 40+ students currently attending. Pray the Year 12 leaders have wisdom and grace in organizing such a sizeable group, and pray there is a good handover to Year 11 leaders at the end of this term.

# **❖** NCEA PRAYER MORNING TEA — All Welcome!

SATURDAY 13<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2025-10AM TO 11.30AM.

At St Stephen's Anglican Church Kenley Rd, Normanhurst.

## **END OF FINANCIAL YEAR NEWS!**

Our budget for 2025 is \$153,000 of which we have received \$23,661 by 12<sup>th</sup> May. This leaves a balance of \$129,339 to be raised in the remainder of 2025! Please consider supporting NCEA financially before 30<sup>th</sup> June, and pray, that God through His people, will supply the finances needed.

# Thank you to all of you who have so generously supported.

The Australian Tax Office has endorsed the Normanhurst Christian Education RIGS(Religious Instruction In Government Schools in Australia) Fund as a tax deductible gift recipient. Our bank account details are identified over the page. However, receipts reflect the name Normanhurst Christian Education RIGS Fund.

Donations to support this ministry can be forwarded by cash, cheque, online direct debit, or credit card (see over page).

Glenys Porter, NCEA Treasurer, June 2025