

NORTH SHORE NEWSLETTER

Principal Campus: North Shore House, 65 Archer St, Chatswood NSW 2067
02 9415 1860



A MESSAGE FROM NATIONAL MANAGING DIRECTOR

Mr Anson MAK

Welcome to Term 2 2023. I hope everyone has had a restful Easter break and is excited to be back for our North Shore Coaching College programs.

We especially welcome our new students, parents and educators to the North Shore community. Do reach out and have a chat with us if you have any questions however big or small, and of course, this invitation is extended to our existing North Shore community. Whether it is a question of how best to fill in the OC application, school selection, or any question, we would be happy to hear from you!

The use of ChatGPT and the role of Artificial Intelligence is becoming a more prevalent topic from young to old and will certainly feature in the learning journey of our students. Despite advancements in technology in a rapidly evolving world which challenges how we teach and how students learn, there will always be one constant – perseverance and determination are essential building blocks to achieving success. Whilst Australian education institutions are grappling with how to regulate the use of artificial intelligence in the classroom, a large number of Australian states have already banned the use of ChatGPT in public schools to limit the potential for cheating and plagiarism. It is more important for our students to persevere and learn the techniques of problem-solving, mathematical reasoning, writing, critical and creative thinking, and practise, rather than using AI tools to merely come up with an answer without understanding how the answer is derived. Plagiarism - presenting work or ideas from another source as your own, without full acknowledgement is strictly prohibited at North Shore Coaching College. I would also urge parents to discuss the risks and severity of using ChatGPT with your own children.

We have a variety of competitions coming up including our very own **SWAT Mock Exam – Selective Written Assessment Test**, which provides an “exam experience” for our Year 3, 4 and 5 students. Through our over 30 years of educational experience, we have found that practising sitting an examination in a test environment reduces test anxiety and improves performance when it comes to the ‘real deal’ (OC/Selective/Scholarship exams/Private School entry). Visit www.swatexam.com.au for more information.

We were recently delighted to hear of one of our students receiving a full scholarship to Sydney Grammar School. I encourage our parents and students to continue sharing your success stories with us. **Any feedback is valued by us at North Shore Coaching College as we continue to work on delivering exceptional educational and customer experiences.**

I would also like to **wish our NSW Year 6 students sitting the upcoming Selective Schools Placement Test good luck.** Remember to eat well and sleep well for a clear mind on exam day! Take an extra breath and stay calm! Skip questions you don't understand, plan and watch your time, and remember to say thank you to your parents for always looking after you!

During Term 2, we will also be transitioning to our new Enrolment Administration System. We look forward to improving the customer experience, and we request your patience and cooperation as we roll out this system.

Lastly I would like to wish all our mums a Happy Mother's Day for 14 May!



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ENSURING SUCCESS IN A WRITING EXAM

TONY HANLON
NATIONAL DEPUTY PRINCIPAL

For many of our students writing can prove to be a challenging aspect of their learning journey. Writing can frustrate students and parents alike because progress is often slow and unpredictable. It is a long road to success that a student takes when they seek to improve their writing. There will be the odd step backwards but perseverance will ensure improvement over time.

Writing can be most daunting during an examination situation. However, with a few helpful hints and tips, you can maximise your success. I am aware that some of those students reading this article have an important writing exam on Thursday - I encourage them to read the following carefully.



12 Steps for Success in a Writing Exam

1. Adopt a 'Success' Mindset

At 26 years of age, I encountered a health issue and was told I would never walk again. I overcame it and now, at more than twice that age, I am still walking. Miracle? No. Mindset? Yes.

Life is a mindset. Success is a mindset. You can do what you believe you can do. As Lord Buddha said, "**We are what we think. All that we are arises with our thoughts. With our thoughts, we make the world.**"

Never forget that you hold your success in your hands and your hands only.

2. Know the Basic Exam Requirements

A key element to success is knowing what is actually required of you during the exam.

- How much are you meant to write?
- How much time is allowed?
- Will there be additional time for planning/editing?
- Are you given marks for planning?
- Are you allowed to choose your text type or are you required to write in a specified text type (e.g. narrative)?
- Will you lose marks for too many spelling/grammatical errors?

The requirements will change from one exam to another so it is important you know what is required. If in doubt, ask the teacher/examiner. Don't worry if no one else is asking a question, they also may not know the answer but they lack the courage to ask!

3. Is the Text Type Specified?

Often you will be given a specific text type in which to write. For example, in a NAPLAN writing test, you might be asked to write a persuasive text. If you are told which text type to use you must write in that text type or you will lose a significant number of marks.

If you are given a specified text type, it is important that you know the requirements of that text type. For example, a narrative text must have an orientation, complication (that leads to a series of events), climactic event and a resolution. Once again, marks may be lost if you do not complete the requirements of the specified text type.

4. Choosing your own Text Type for Your Response

In many writing exams, you are allowed to choose the text type in which you respond. In such exams, there are two important considerations to make.

a. Select a text type that is appropriate to the stimulus. For example, if the stimulus was "He heard footsteps coming down the corridor.", an imaginative response, such as a narrative, might be more suitable than trying to write a persuasive text.

On the other hand, a cartoon image of planet Earth looking sick with a thermometer in its mouth would lend itself to a persuasive text such as "Are we doing enough to look after our planet?"

b. Select a text type in which you are comfortable and competent. Some students are more capable of writing interesting narratives whilst others prefer to write persuasive texts. As long as your preferred text type is appropriate to the stimulus it is a good idea to write in your preferred text type.

5. Read the Question Carefully

Often you will be given a stimulus that will be the basis for your writing. The stimulus could be an image, a word or a phrase. It may even be a combination of an image and a phrase. It is important that you examine the stimulus carefully.

If you are presented with an image it is important that you notice all elements of the background, mid-ground and foreground. There may be an interesting object 'hidden away' or less noticeable. This is often done intentionally so the examiner can sort out the observant from the less-observant students. The less prominent parts of an image may spark an interesting idea for your writing so it is worth the extra 30 seconds to carefully examine any image.

You will not be required to incorporate every part of the image in your writing. Remember it is a stimulus only. It is intended to get your ideas going - you are not meant to follow it slavishly. However, if the image is a seaside setting and you write a story about a man climbing Mount Everest, you will definitely lose marks for not using the stimulus appropriately!

6. Plan Before you Write

Planning can be in the form of thinking or brief written notes.

In most writing exams your planning will NOT be marked. In such cases, your notes should only have enough detail to be helpful to you - to provide a scaffold to assist you in maintaining a logical structure to your writing and ensuring you incorporate all your great ideas.

In the exams where you do receive marks for planning your notes should have more detail and show logical organisation. If your

planning is to be marked you will **definitely** be informed - either in writing on the exam paper or orally by the examiner.

7. Writing Poetry

It is only on a very rare occasion that you will be told to write a poem in a writing exam. Writing a quality poem that will be awarded a high mark is much more challenging than may first appear. Whilst your classroom teacher or mum might love your poetry, an examiner might be much harder to please. Unless you have won a state or national poetry competition I would encourage you to think twice before you **choose** to write a poem in a writing exam.

8. Don't Plagiarise!

In important writing exams such as the Selective High Schools Placement Test and private school scholarship exams, you will be disqualified if the examiner strongly believes you have plagiarised.

Students often ask me: "What if I have accidentally plagiarised?" I remind them not to worry as this is highly unlikely.

Remember that the examiner lives in the real world and possibly has children or grandchildren your age. He or she knows about Harry Potter, Percy Jackson, popular movies, Nintendo games and online games.

If you intentionally or blatantly copy the plots or characters from popular culture, the examiner will spot it and your mark will suffer.

Be original, be creative, be trusting of the great ideas you already have in your mind.



9. Spelling, Grammar & Punctuation Always Matter!

Accurate spelling, grammar and punctuation are vital in order to ensure you maximise your marks. In some examinations such as NAPLAN, you can lose a significant number of marks for incorrect spelling, grammar and punctuation.

A few points to remember whenever you are writing:

- The pronoun 'I' should always be capitalised.
- Paragraphs are vital in every text type. This is true even in poetry, where the 'paragraphs' take on the name of 'stanzas'.
- Sentences always require a capital letter and a full stop.
- Do not use a colon or semi-colon unless you are positive you are using such punctuation correctly.
- Use correct punctuation for direct speech including speech marks.
- When using direct dialogue always use a new line for the next speaker.
- Vary your sentence structure - ensure some sentences are more complex.
- Follow the 'sentence rule' - long sentences for descriptions and short sentences for action.

10. Leave Time for Editing

In some writing exams, you may be given separate time for editing & proofreading. This is normally not the case. Therefore, you have to manage your time to allow for 2 or 3 minutes of editing & proofreading. The more errors you can eliminate through careful editing, the higher your mark can potentially climb! **Editing is time well spent.**

11. Running out of Time!

Why do people panic when they run out of time? Panicking only

clouds our thought processes. If you are running out of time, but still have a number of ideas to express, it is best to put them in bullet point form before time is up.

Take charge of the situation and put the following plan into action:

a) Think: what do I still have to say in order to complete my writing?

b) Act: write out your remaining ideas in POINT FORM. This will allow the examiner to see the remaining great ideas you intended to use in your writing. It is very likely to increase your mark. Without taking this step your mark will definitely NOT increase.

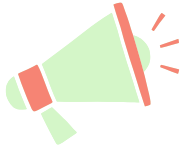
12. Good Writers Love to Read

Remember that for long-term improvement of your writing skills, you must read for at least 20 minutes every day. This is how we absorb interesting information and ideas that can be used in our own writing. By reading we also consciously and subconsciously learn about grammar, syntax and vocabulary. In other words, we learn how words work!

As stated earlier, writing success is up to you! Follow the hints and tips and above all, believe that you have the power to improve your skills and be the best writer you can possibly be.

You are given one life on this amazing planet - learn all that you can to live a joyous life. Let everyone see that you are made of the 'write' stuff!

NEW & EASY ENROLMENT ADMINISTRATION SYSTEM



Rollout of new Enrolment Administration System

At North Shore Coaching College, we are always looking for ways to improve the student and customer experience. As part of transitioning into a modern education organisation, we are delighted to advise that we will be transitioning to a new Student Enrolment Administration System during Term 2.

NEW FEATURES

- Streamlining our enrolment and re-enrolment processes;
- Allow payment by BPAY in addition to our existing in-person payment methods of cash, debit card and credit card (Visa and Mastercard);
- Electronic receipts via email;
- Update of information in real-time



You will receive all official North Shore communications by email, so it is important that you ensure your information with us is up to date.

Re-enrolment information will also be emailed to your nominated email address.

Your patience and cooperation is requested as we roll out this system.

TICK-TOCK, TICK-TOCK!



Time waits for no one! But you can make the most of your study time with our North Shore Coaching College! Whether you're in pre-school or high school, we've got you covered.

Enrol in one of our TERM PROGRAMS and/or HOLIDAY PROGRAMS today to give yourself the best chance to succeed!

K - Y6 Core Program
**Fastrain/
Fastrain Extended
Program**

K - Y2 FASTRAIN PROGRAM (3 Hours)
English, Maths, General Ability
Reading Comprehension, Grammar, Vocabulary
including Writing.

Y3 - Y6 FASTRAIN EXTENDED PROGRAM (3.5 Hours)
Writing Skills, Reading Skills, Mathematical
Reasoning Skills and Thinking Skills (General Ability)
Comprehension, Grammar, Vocabulary, Exam
Techniques & Lateral Thinking.

Term Program
• 4 terms in a year, 10 weeks in a term
• Group based
• Experienced educators

www.north-shore.com.au

**HIGH
SCHOOL
SUCCESS**

Pastcoch Program - Year 7 - 10
HSC Success - Year 11 - 12
Future Writers
Future Mathematicians
English
Maths
Science
Physics
Chemistry
And More...

Year 7 - 12

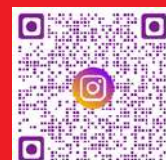
We Equip Our Students With The Knowledge,
Skills & Confidence To Achieve Their HSC Goals.

Don't let this year slip away without achieving your academic goals!

FOR ANY ENQUIRY, PLEASE

**Call us on 9415 1860, or
Speak to our Campus Director**

Follow us on social media



YEAR 5 ENTRY TO AN OPPORTUNITY CLASS IN 2024

Online application for Year 5 placement in an opportunity class in 2024 **closes on Monday 15 May 2023**. Parents can apply from [here](#) before the closing date.

The 2023 Opportunity Class Placement Test will be conducted on **Thursday 27 July 2023**.

Enhance your child's chances of success by enrolling in our [SWAT Mock Exam](#) and/or the OC Trial Test Program. For students aiming to sit the OC test in the coming years, North Shore Coaching College offers specialised [Exam Preparation Programs](#) alongside our keystone [Fastrain Programs](#). Give your child the gift of a bright future and enrol now at bit.ly/OCprep.

ESSENTIAL PATHWAY TO OC SUCCESS

OC Exam Preparation Program

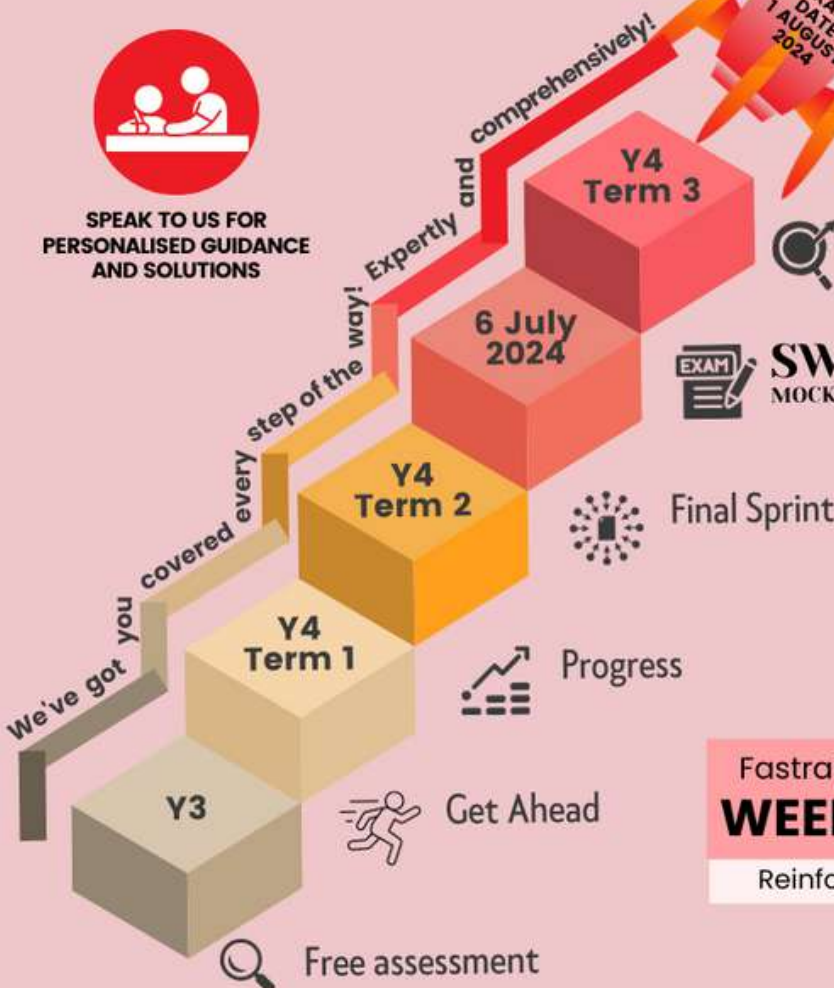
WEEKLY OC MOCK EXAMS

Full-Length Tests in Reading/
Mathematical Reasoning/
Thinking Skills (T4/T1)

Full-Length Tests in Reading/
Mathematical Reasoning/Thinking
Skills in each week (from Term 2)



SPEAK TO US FOR
PERSONALISED GUIDANCE
AND SOLUTIONS



Final Sprint



SWAT
MOCK EXAM

ESSENTIAL
MOCK EXAM
PREPARATION
FOR OC EXAM

Final Sprint

Progress



Get Ahead



Free assessment



Fastrain Extended / Young Achiever Program
WEEKLY CONCEPT BUILDING

Reinforcement in English, Maths & Thinking skills

Is your child preparing for the

OC / SCHOLARSHIP / SELECTIVE SCHOOL

exams?

SWAT MOCK EXAM

Essential
preparation
for students in
Years 3, 4, 5

PREPARE FOR

- OC EXAM
- SELECTIVE SCHOOL EXAM
- SCHOLARSHIP EXAM
- PRIVATE SCHOOL ENTRANCE EXAM

60+ scholarships to be won!

Register at www.swatexam.com.au

SATURDAY

1 JUL

2023

~~\$85~~

\$70

USE CODE
NSCC15 FOR
DISCOUNT -
EXPIRES
31st May 2023



[SWAT 2023](#) will be held on Saturday 1 July 2023!

The Selective Written Assessment Test (SWAT) provides students in Years 3-5 a mock exam experience to prepare for the OC Placement Test, the Selective High School Placement Test, Scholarships and private school entrance exams. This comprehensive exam experience will be held across several North Shore Coaching College venues in NSW. Visit our website today to register and secure your spot for [SWAT 2023!](#)

**SPECIAL
OFFER**

Use code "[NSCC15](#)" for a
[\\$15 off discount offer](#) to
[our North Shore students.](#)
Expires [31st May 2023.](#)



NORTH SHORE COACHING COLLEGE CHARITY FOUNDATION

North Shore Coaching College Charity Foundation in Memory of Mrs Demi Mak was formed in 2020 to continue Mrs Mak's philanthropic legacy, generous heart and desire to make a difference in the education space.

North Shore Coaching College Charity Foundation in Memory of Mrs Demi Mak, was delighted to recently support [CanRevive](#) which is a group to support Chinese-speaking people through their cancer journey. Its aim is to help to minimize the impact of cancer on patients and their families by providing information and emotional support to cater for their cultural and linguistic needs.

Further information on the work of CanRevive can be found [here](#).



Happy
Mother's Day
thank you for all your care and love

Happy Mother's Day to all the wonderful mums out there! At North Shore Coaching College, we know the endless love, devotion and sacrifices that come with being a parent. We want to say a big thank you for all that you do.

Provide your child with the ultimate gift – a quality education. Visit our [website](#) for Tuition That Works!



What do Parents say about North Shore...

"Great place to extend kid learning. The teachers are very devoted & patient in class. The materials are (slightly) more advance/challenging than Australian schools since it aims to be on par with the top Asian states like Singapore & Hong Kong. The managers are also very helpful."

- Chen, 2023

"I really like the structure of Northshore, it is neither pressurising nor left alone as my daughter asks me even in her sickness that she wants to go to her tuitions. So overall if a child is happy what else do we need. We are thankful to Mr Freeman, Miss Ivy and other teachers for their dedication and efforts. Thanks!!"

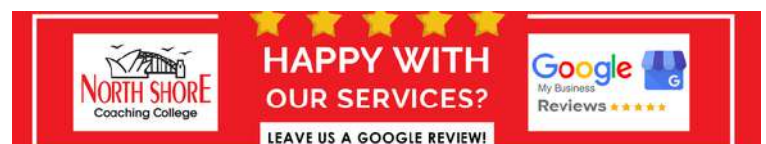
- Joyti, 2023

Feedback:



- ★ Are you having a great experience at North Shore?
- ★ Do you have an exceptional teacher?
- ★ Has one of our campus directors or staff provided superior customer service?
- ★ Can we improve on our service delivery?

We would love to hear your feedback at: feedback@north-shore.com.au or provide us with a Google Review.



Parking Restrictions

A reminder to parents to observe any parking restrictions in place outside your North Shore Campus. The police regularly patrol the area to enforce the restrictions and may issue large fines.

In the interest of the safety of our students, please be mindful of the parking signage. Pulling up outside of the Campus to drop off or pick up your child will most likely be a breach of the parking restrictions.

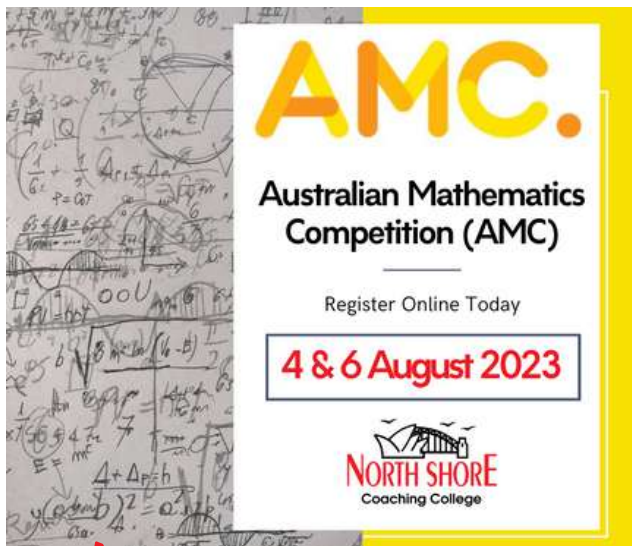
Crossing the Road

Please use the pedestrian crossings if you need to cross the road.

Road Safety



Competitions



The AMC is a highly engaging and challenging competition designed by Australia's top educators and academics to test mathematical thinking and problem-solving. North Shore Coaching College is proud to be an authorised testing centre for the AMC, creating an invaluable opportunity for students in Years 3-12 whose schools do not offer the AMC. Don't miss out -- [register now](#).

See what North Shore has for [exam preparation programs](#)! Or purchase [AMC past papers](#) to assist your child to prepare for the exam.



EXPIRE SOON

CREATIVE KIDS & BACK TO SCHOOL VOUCHERS

Vouchers can be used to contribute to registration, participation and tuition costs for a range of our 'Term Programs' and 'Holiday Programs' at North Shore Coaching College. Ask your Campus Director today and enrol your child into our creative writing, drama and public speaking courses and other creative and cultural activities!

A friendly reminder: The \$100 NSW Creative Kids Voucher Expires 30 June 2023!



Besides all the competitions' past papers, for all your educational shopping needs, please visit our online bookshop: www.northshoeshop.com.au. We have 1000+ book titles, past exam papers, puzzle books and more!

Accepted In Store & Online

North Shore Coaching College is registered to accept Back to School NSW Vouchers for its bookshop. Back to School vouchers (3 x \$50 per eligible child) are available for parents from the Service NSW app and must be redeemed by **30 June 2023**. Learn how to redeem [here](#).

