

NORTH SHORE NEWSLETTER

Term 1, February 2026

A Message from National Managing Director



Mr Anson MAK JP

Welcome to the first edition of our termly newsletter where we aim to provide you with an update of what is happening at North Shore Coaching College as well as some insightful educational news and perspectives. Welcome to all our new students and teachers, and a very warm welcome back to our familiar faces.

I hope you had a wonderful Christmas and a lovely start to 2026 and the school year. In the spirit of the Lunar New Year of the horse, I would like to wish all of you good health, happiness and success.

As we start 2026, our values of Excellence, Respect, Engagement and Professionalism, continue to guide the actions of all our staff. Delivering effective learning programs and acquiring essential life skills to prepare students for lifelong success remains an important aim for us. Read a thought provoking article from our Principal – NSW Operations, Tony Hanlon on preparing your child for school success.

I am delighted to share a great new addition to our 20+ campuses in New South Wales and 65+ campuses across Australia and China, the opening of our Gladesville Campus. If you have any family or friends that live in this area, we would be most grateful if you could share this news with them.

NAPLAN will be held from 12 – 24 March for Year 3, 5, 7 and 9 students.

OC and Selective School exams will be held from 1-2 May 2026. We encourage you to join our annual **SWAT exam** which will be held on 22 March 2026 this year. This will also serve as the entrance exam to join our Young Achiever and High Achiever programs. Enrol using the discount code SWAT15 for \$15 discount on the exam fee before 8 March 2026. Secure your spot early. Our **Comprehensive Guide to Selective High Schools** or **Comprehensive Guide to Opportunity Class (OC) Schools** has useful information about the Selective High School and OC Placement Tests.

In terms of our curriculum, we continue to make changes to our learning programs progressively to ensure we stay abreast of syllabus and exam format changes, and new methods of learning. Stay tuned for some exciting developments in 2026.

National Principal Andy Mak and myself are delighted to have been part of a new book called *Shaping Futures: AI's Role Across Disciplines and Professions* which is available for purchase. Refer to Page 5 for further information.

We always welcome any feedback where there is an opportunity to improve and/or celebrate your great experience with us. We appreciate your reviews on Google and/or any social media!

Wishing you and your family a happy and successful year ahead for 2026!

How to Prepare your Child for School Success

MR TONY HANLON
NSW Principal

How best to prepare students for school success is a hot topic - especially with parents whose children are facing OC, Selective Schools and scholarship exams. The internet is awash with advice on this topic. A quick Google search will reveal a multitude of the 'dos' and 'don'ts' of successful preparation. Some websites will go so far as to offer 'foolproof' advice that will, apparently, lead to guaranteed success.

Unfortunately, most of this advice, however well-meaning, will not bring about the desired outcome. Advice on school success is a little like advertisements for beauty products - big on promises but not on results.

This article will take a new perspective on the topic of preparing your child for success because often we approach the topic from the wrong angle.

Funny as it may sound, 'successful' preparation has as much to do with the parent as it does with the child - possibly even more.

If you truly want your child to realise their potential, take the time to consider the following questions:



1. What is it that I am **actually** trying to prepare my child for?

This will sound like a silly question and in your head, you are already answering with replies such as "to get into Artarmon OC" or "to get a place at North Sydney Girls". Possibly the answer is "to win the Grammar Scholarship".

But **WHAT** is it we are actually seeking? All of these responses have one thing in common - the desire for your child to meet with success.

2. Could 'success' look different to what I imagined?

There are times in life when it helps if we are willing to accept the 'success' may actually end up being a little different to how you currently perceive it to be. Think of the jobs you coveted only to lose out in the final round of the interview or the house you wanted to buy only to be outbid at the last moment.

We look back on such events a couple of years later to see that things worked out fine and possibly, even better than we may have previously imagined.

The same is true with our children's education.

3. Is it possible to re-imagine success?

It is easy to become focussed on a single path of action. Whilst Artarmon Public School OC class, North Sydney Girls or Sydney Grammar may be your ultimate goal, it is important to recognise that there is a wealth of schools providing quality education. Have a 'Plan B'. Undertake research for other school options - attend a variety of school open days and you may get a very pleasant surprise. A school that was never on your radar may end up impressing you.



4. So, which is the best school?

There simply is no such thing. It doesn't exist. It never has. It never will.

Why?

Because each child is unique - having individual needs, talents and motivations. No one school is ideal for all. If it was, it would have been painstakingly replicated and appear all over the world in the thousands of years in which we have formalised the education process. What is an ideal educational setting for one child will not necessarily match the needs of another. There is no such institution as the perfect or best school.

For that reason, it pays to be mindful of the advice offered by other parents. The feedback will relate to their child - not yours and may be unfairly biased (either positively or negatively). Also seek out advice from people who are not 'personally invested' in the school (i.e. do not have a child in the school and do not have a financial interest in the school).

8 Steps to 'Success':

So, what is my recipe for successfully preparing your child?

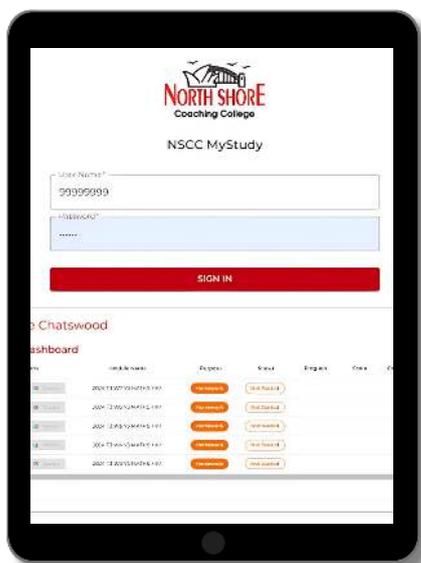
1. Know your child's aptitude - their true skills and abilities. Are they an 'all-rounder' or do they have stronger skills in maths? Are they more skilled in writing than in numeracy? Do you need to build certain skills that are currently lacking?
2. Enrich their learning through quality literacy and numeracy programs. This may involve specific exam preparation courses to boost their exam taking and time management skills.
3. Seek advice of qualified educators. We at North Shore are always available to be your sounding board and provide obligation free advice. We have been in the education profession for over 30 years.
4. Find a school that meets your child's skills, abilities and aspirations. Don't try to make your child 'fit' the school.
5. Don't pick a school on the basis of friendship groups. Your child will make new friends even if their best friends are attending a different school.
6. Recognise that success is not a school name. Even the most prestigious schools are not a guarantee of success - it is up to the effort of the individual student.
7. Trust your intuition. Visit prospective schools and if the feeling you get is that it won't suit your child then, please, trust your intuition. Speaking to the mothers, remember you carried and knew your child for 9 months before the rest of the world had a chance to meet them. You know them better than they know themselves!
8. Supplement the education process. North Shore stands proudly beside you as a partner in your child's education. It is our privilege to be part of your child's education journey. In life we have to push our children to be their best but, more importantly, we have to recognise when they have achieved their best. They need to be aware when we are proud of their efforts.

Academic success is vital but so is social and emotional development to ensure your child takes their rightful place in society and becomes the type of person of whom you may become truly proud.

Have a great term.

Tony Hanlon
Principal - NSW Operations

Enhance your child's learning with North Shore Coaching College's Digital Learning Platforms!



My Study

MyStudy, North Shore Coaching College's new digital Learning Platform, is currently available to Year 3, Year 4 and Year 5 students.

Benefits of North Shore Coaching College's MyStudy Learning Platform:

- Complete computer-based homework tasks
- Identify areas needing extra focus with educator support
- Review and attempt questions at your own pace online
- Build confidence for digital assessments
- Improve student learning & reporting



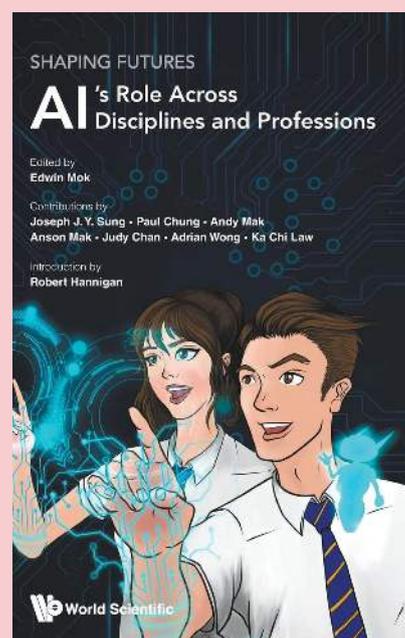
North Shore Coaching College Charity Foundation

Founded in 2020 in memory of Mrs Demi Mak, the North Shore Coaching College Charity Foundation continues her legacy of philanthropy, generosity, and commitment to education.

We are proud to share that Andy Mak, National Principal, and Anson Mak, National Managing Director, have contributed to a new book called **Shaping Futures: AI's Role Across Disciplines and Professions**.

All proceeds from this book will be donated to North Shore Coaching College Charity Foundation. This book examines the transformative role of Artificial Intelligence across a wide range of fields from medicine, education, and design to the arts, architecture, and everyday life. As AI shifts from a passive tool to an active collaborator, it is reshaping not only workflows and professional practices but also our understanding of creativity, ethics, and human agency.

Bringing together contributions from experts across disciplines, the book offers both technical insights and philosophical reflections. Each chapter presents real-world case studies and clear examples that make complex topics accessible and engaging. Written to spark curiosity and understanding among general audiences, secondary school students, and early university learners. It also serves as a valuable resource for practitioners and academics seeking a broad, interdisciplinary perspective on AI's evolving impact.



CORE PROGRAMS

Strong foundations

at every stage

Preschool to Year 12
(including holidays)



- English · Mathematics · Thinking Skills
- Structured learning, steady progress
- Building confidence over time

BOOSTER PROGRAMS

Targeted support

when it's needed

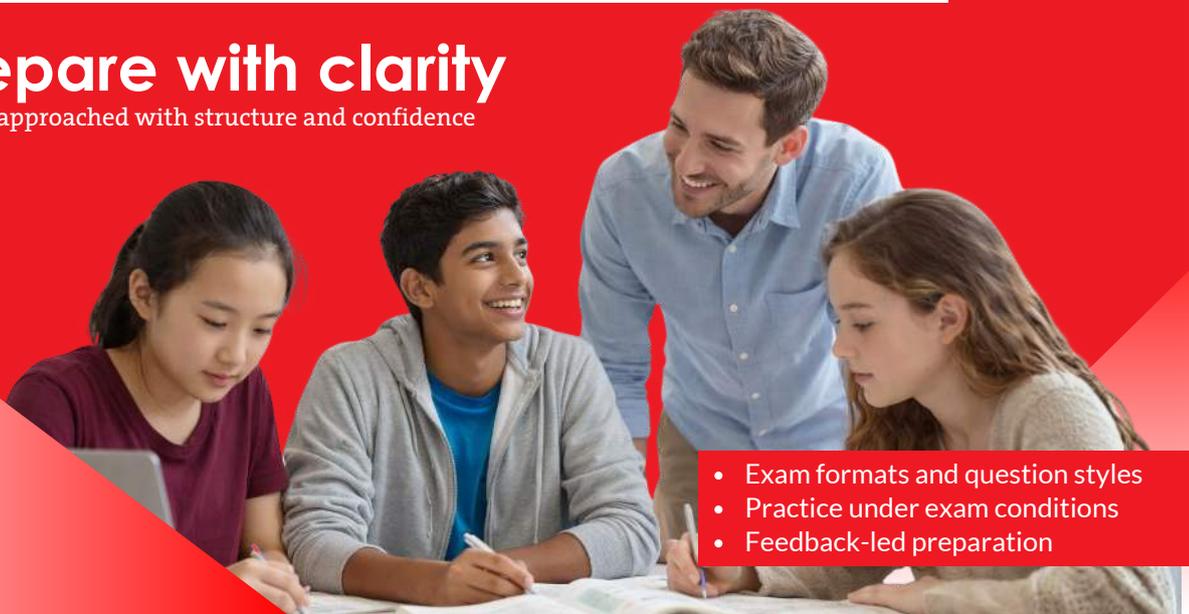


- Reinforce core concepts
- Guided, step-by-step learning
- Confidence through understanding

EXAM PREPARATION PROGRAMS

Prepare with clarity

Exams approached with structure and confidence



- Exam formats and question styles
- Practice under exam conditions
- Feedback-led preparation

OC & Selective 2026



**Mock
Like the
Real Day**

**A Picture of
Where You
Stand**



**Readiness
First
Confidence
Follows**

Real exam experience. Detailed feedback builds confidence.

REGISTER TODAY

 Sunday 22 March 2026



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Every Step **Preschool to Year 12** *Every Child*




NORTH SHORE
Coaching College

Tuition That Works