

NORTH SHORE NEWSLETTER

Term 2, May 2026

A Message from National Managing Director



Mr Anson MAK JP

I hope everyone is having a wonderful Term 2 so far! This term, we have been delighted to open a new [Carlingford Campus](#) due to ongoing demand. 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 and we would be happy to reward both you and family/friends with a referral discount with enrolment. Speak with our Campus staff for further information.

Please read the article on “Developing a Love of Literature” written by our NSW Principal Tony Hanlon. We continue to encourage our students to read and nurture a love of reading. Books are readily available at most of our campuses for students to read during recess and we encourage you to donate any old books you no longer need or wish to swap in our Book Nooks. Speak to your Campus Director for further information.

Earlier this year, National Principal Andy Mak and myself were humbled to jointly launch our book [Shaping Futures: AI's Role Across Disciplines and Professions](#), joined by Tim James MP, Associate Professor Adrian Wong from the University of Sydney, and other distinguished authors. The role of Artificial Intelligence continues to influence and change our lives, affecting how we teach and learn. At North Shore Coaching College, we continue to evolve our learning programs to ensure that relevant skills development is incorporated into our programs. This includes critical thinking, higher order thinking and problem solving skills, and to provide effective and dynamic educational experiences that prepare our students for academic and life-long success. We believe that face learning is the most effective form of learning, and is best supported by a good balance of hand-written and computer-based learning experiences. We look forward to sharing some exciting developments in our learning programs in future editions of our newsletter.

Well done to our students who recently sat the Selective School and OC exams. Outcomes are expected to be released in late August and September respectively. For students who are intending to sit these exams, we have a range of term and holiday exam preparation programs to help students familiarise with different question types and to experience full-length mock exam situations.

Our Term 3 and Winter Holiday Program schedules are now available online. We have some newly launched intensive high school English programs such as: Art of Imaginative Writing, Art of Persuasive Writing, Literary Fiction Writing, Critical Study of Texts. We also have effective holiday programs from Pre-School to HSC level. Book early to receive attractive discounts and secure your spot.

Feedback is very important to us. We welcome positive feedback to celebrate with our staff as well as areas for improvement which can be [submitted via our website](#) or provided to us in person.. We always love to have a chat and we appreciate your reviews on Google and/or any social media!

All parents want their children to be confident, accomplished readers.

As educators we share your wish.

An interest in reading is a strong indicator of a young student's later academic success. It is therefore encouraging to see them actively looking for books by their favourite authors and keen to finish a series that has captured their imagination.

To help your child succeed I would encourage you to consider the following:

1. Try to avoid comparing children to their siblings.

Parents often raise the concern with me that their younger child is not as advanced as an older sibling was at the same age. Children develop at different rates. Some will build skills slowly and consistently while others will make sporadic jumps at different times. Give children time to develop at their own rate.

2. Try to avoid comparing your child to that of a friend.

Building on from the previous point, children are individuals. Learning is not a competitive sport. Unfair comparisons won't improve your child's reading skills and abilities. What will build their skills is making a time to read each day, reading with them and having a supply of interesting books.

3. Involve your child in selecting books.

Do you like wearing clothes someone else has chosen for you? What about a cologne that may be wonderful on someone else but you can't stand? Well, books can be personal as well. Books that do not capture a child's imagination only lead to negative attitudes towards reading. As a parent you do need to ensure that their reading material is of high quality, however you should consider their choices as well. A book that remains unopened on their bedside table or becomes the cause of arguments, is a waste of everyone's energy.

4. 'The Classics' never go out of style.

The Secret Seven and the Famous Five are still fascinating Year 4 to 6 students in 2026. Classic children's literature will normally contain valuable ethical and moral examples of behaviour whilst telling an exciting story. They take students away from the worries of the current world.

Also, the great adult classics such as 'Frankenstein', 'Moby Dick' and 'Robinson Crusoe' can now be found in versions especially written for a younger audience. I would encourage you to consider enrolling your child in our Reading Club where they will receive classic novels each term as part of the course fee.

5. Build reading into everyday life.

Every adult I know is time poor. What is more disturbing is this issue is now affecting our children. If you are finding your child doesn't have enough time to read make the car trip to and from school a 'reading only' time. Ban the use of mobile devices and let your child read silently. Towards the end of the journey ask a couple of questions to see what they were reading. Questions such as "What is currently happening in the story?" or "Who is the main character?" or "How would you describe the main character?" or "What do you think is going to happen next in the story?"

6. 'Check in' on comprehension.

There can be a big difference between the words a child can read out aloud and what they actually understand. If children are reading books that are above their level of maturity and skill it is possible they may be able to say the words but not truly understand the characters, themes and plot of the novel. To see if the novel is suitable, ask some questions about the characters and events. If your child has trouble answering your questions then it is likely the novel is currently too challenging for them. You can save it for next year.

7. The use of electronic books.

Reading purists believe a printed book to be superior to a digital format. The weight of the book in the hands, the smell of the paper, the ability to flick backwards and forwards quickly to check on a fact or re-read a section are some of the advantages they state. There is ongoing research as to the effectiveness of digital platforms in education. Some research suggests that information read from a screen is not comprehended to the same depth as information presented on a printed page. Further research suggests the degree of memorisation is greater when reading a printed page. If, however, e-books appear to be working for your child, I would encourage their continued use. After all, the love of reading and the establishment of a lifelong engagement with learning is the goal.

8. Seek feedback from the teacher.

If you are concerned with your child's reading or comprehension, speak to the class teacher. Consider the advice they have to offer. Should you still have concerns feel free to speak with us.

9. Boys may need more time.

Research over decades has indicated that boys and girls approach learning in different ways. Some boys are not drawn to books and may need more encouragement before they understand the joy that can be found in a book. This can be puzzling for parents who have a daughter for whom books had an immediate appeal. If your son doesn't appear interested in books or reading, try to find books on the topics that interest him. For example: Lego, soccer or cars.



10. Try to avoid being a 'Book Snob'.

I personally don't recommend books such as 'Captain Underpants'. However, I have met children who have hated reading and fell in love with 'Captain Underpants'. If it works, it works! Let them read a book that you feel is not the best example of literature as a means to an end. You can then encourage them to explore more 'suitable' titles and authors. Think about the longer term goal. The most important consideration is that they fall in love with reading.

11. Read the book before watching the movie version.

A good incentive for reading is to make sure your child understands they can't see the movie until they have read the book. Consider the modern classic series of Harry Potter. Let your child's imagination create Hogwart's Castle, Harry, Hagrid and all the other wonderful characters before they see how one director imagined them on the screen. Once they do watch the movie, think of all the great conversations you can have with them comparing the book to the movie.

12. Concerns shouldn't be contagious.

If you are feeling anxious about your child's progress in reading or comprehension, please do not discuss your concern in their presence. It may only lead them to share in your anxiety. They may feel they have 'failed'. In such cases it will be more difficult to make them enthusiastic about reading.

13. You can't force enthusiasm.

You can't force someone to love reading. The old saying, 'honey will attract more ants than vinegar' may be useful at this point. If you have a child who is reluctant to read, forcing the issue may only make the problem worse. One way to help them see the value of reading is to read with them or assign a couple of pages a night. For the truly reluctant reader you need to discuss the issue with an education professional. Feel free to discuss the issue with our staff.

14. Be a 'reading role model'.

If your children grow up seeing you reading, they are more likely to read. Lead by example. You are your child's first teacher. Your influence remains with them throughout their lives. Give them the legacy of reading. A love of learning is the greatest expression of caring a child will ever receive from a parent.

Above all, reading should be an enjoyable activity. It is an essential life skill and working together, parents and educators, we can ensure the children of North Shore will grow to be competent, engaged life-long readers.

Tony Hanlon

Principal - NSW Operations



AI'S TRANSFORMATIVE POWER: LEADERS GATHER TO REFLECT ON FUTURE LEARNING

Celebrating the Launch of "Shaping Futures: AI's Role Across Disciplines and Professions"

On Friday, 27 February 2026, North Shore Coaching College brought together leading voices in artificial intelligence to celebrate the launch of *Shaping Futures: AI's Role Across Disciplines and Professions* at Zilver Restaurant Chatswood. The event brought educators, technologists, and policymakers together to explore how AI is transforming education and design.



The book, edited by Edwin Mok (University of Oxford, UK), brings together contributions from distinguished authors spanning education, technology, and design. The launch was graced by the presence of Andy Mak JP, Chairman and National Principal of North Shore Coaching College, and Anson Mak JP, National Managing Director of North Shore Coaching College, alongside Associate Professor Adrian Wong from the University of Sydney's School of Architecture, Design and Planning, artist Judy Chan, and other leading professionals.

The launch featured engaging discussions on two critical themes: AI in Education and AI in Design. These conversations highlighted how artificial intelligence is reshaping how we teach, learn, and create—and the importance of equipping students with the critical thinking and problem-solving skills needed to thrive in an AI-influenced future.



NSW Member of Parliament Tim James attended as a special guest, underscoring the significance of this work in policy and educational discourse. His presence reflected growing recognition that AI literacy and responsible implementation are essential priorities for educators and policymakers alike.

North Shore Coaching College is committed to integrating AI-informed skills development—critical thinking, problem-solving, and dynamic learning—that prepare students for an AI-integrated world. The book can be purchased through the [North Shore Book Shop](#). All proceeds from book sales will be donated to the North Shore Coaching College Charity Foundation to support charities focused on education, cancer support, and cancer research.

JULY HOLIDAY PROGRAMS

6 July – 17 July 2026

North Shore's July Holiday programs span Pre-School through Year 12, with targeted learning experiences for every stage. Students benefit from expert instruction in core subjects—English, Maths, Science—plus specialised programs designed to build confidence and skills. Highlights this July:

- High School English Intensives: **Art of Imaginative Writing, Literary Fiction Writing, Art of Persuasive Writing, Critical Study of Texts**
- Exam Preparation: OC and Selective School preparation programs
- Core Programs: Intensive programs tailored to each year level
- HSC headstart and revision programs

Contact your local campus director for discounts available and to secure your spot.



HIGH SCHOOL ENGLISH HOLIDAY PROGRAMS

Intensive English Programs: Master Your Craft | 6 July – 17 July 2026

Transform your writing skills with our newly launched intensive English programs designed specifically for high school students.

Year 7 & 8:

- Week 1: Art of Imaginative Writing Master literary techniques, narrative structure, and sophisticated style to compose immersive stories.
- Week 2: Art of Persuasive Writing Command persuasive language, synthesise evidence, and construct compelling arguments for any audience.

Year 9 & 10:

- Week 1: Literary Fiction Writing Analyse how professional authors manipulate perspective and tone. Build the critical foundation for HSC success.
- Week 2: Critical Study of Texts Engage in rigorous textual analysis. Develop the evaluative skills essential for advanced English studies.

All programs: 5 days, 10 hours | Early bird discounts available. Contact your local campus director to secure your spot.

TERM 3 STARTS 18 JULY

18 July – 25 September 2026

Term 3 brings comprehensive, structured programs designed to build academic confidence and skills. From Pre-School through Year 12, students access expert instruction across core subjects and specialised learning pathways.

What's Included:

- Core Programs: Fastrain and Fastcoach programs covering English, Maths, Science
- Subject Flexibility: Individual subject focus or combined programs
- Exam Support: Preparation for OC, Selective School, HSC, and NAPLAN
- Writing & Reading: Future Writers programs and Reading Clubs at all levels
- Free Homework Support: Available for eligible year groups

Contact your local campus director for discounts available and to secure your spot.



BRING A FRIEND TO NORTH SHORE

AND SAVE \$100 EACH.

Learning is better together.

Refer a friend to North Shore and both families receive \$100 off tuition.*

Book now for Term 3.



* Terms and conditions apply.



**She finally
puts her
hand up.**

**He started
aiming
higher.**



**She
walks in
prepared.**



**Tuition
that
works.**



Since 1991, 35 Years of Moments Like These.
Preschool to Year 12 • NAPLAN • OC • Selective • HSC