



### ***Dear Students and Parents!***

It is with great excitement that we welcome you to our inaugural newsletter! You may have noticed some of the many changes which have recently occurred at our centre this year. We have been busily implementing new systems, hiring new teachers and fine-tuning our teaching program and facilities, to achieve a higher level of quality, professionalism and efficiency in our classrooms. As part of this process of restructuring and fine-tuning, we will also be releasing biannual newsletters, just like this one, to communicate with our valued families, offer our students study tips and provide important information about what is going on at our centre. Each and every student, ex-student, parent and staff member belongs to the Ngo & Sons family. Therefore, we encourage you to stay up to date with the centre through the use of these newsletters, pass them on to our alumni or people who have been previously connected with the centre, and contact us if you ever feel you have something to add to the newsletter! The centre belongs to us all, and it is important that members communicate and share with each other, in order to foster a long-lasting community, which is the heart of Ngo & Sons.

The hustle and bustle of 2015 is well and truly upon us, therefore there is much to cover in this first issue!

Last year closed with the outstanding performance of our Year 12 students, all of whom we are extremely proud of. Our 2014 Year 12 graduates are happy to

share their HSC results with the Ngo & Sons family as a means to motivate the younger members of our community to persevere in their studies and strive to achieve their personal best. We also believe it is important for our Year 12 graduates to receive the credit they deserve, as each and every one of them did our centre proud! Well done, Class of 2014!

Furthermore, much of the stress endured and commitment invested by families, particularly parents, throughout the HSC journey is often overlooked. So to all our parents, families and staff who worked with the Year 12 students, congratulations!

This issue, we have also invited selected members of last year's graduates who have since joined the staff of Ngo & Sons to provide study tips from their own experiences of the HSC. To those of you who have contributed, thank you! We are sure many members of the Ngo & Sons community will benefit from your wise words.

Finally, Zhi Ying Feng, an ex-member of the Ngo & Sons staff and alumnus of the centre, has been invited to share his personal story of struggle and success throughout his education. Thank you Zhi; you truly are an inspiration to us all, and living proof that hard work, perseverance and self-discipline go a long way!

Happy studying, Ngo & Sons!

Yours sincerely,

***Ngo & Sons Management***



# My Story

*Zhi is an ex-student, alumnus and valued member of the Ngo & Sons family. His story of struggle from humble immigrant beginnings to academic and professional success is inspiring and proof that with hard work and dedication, you really can reach any goal you set for yourself!*

It was my first ever networking event in my first year of university that exposed me to a few guys who not only had incredible marks but also juggled amazing extra-curricular activities. While everyone around their age was running around trying to win a job offer from a company, these guys had the luxury of multiple offers from some of the biggest firms in Australia. Like everyone else out there who lumps themselves in with the 'average students', I wished I could be like them. I think most of us assume that people like that are lucky geniuses who have not known anything

but success their entire life, and a commoner like myself could never hope to be like that...

However, if life has taught me anything, it's that you can only depend on luck for so long. Sure, some of them may have been born naturally gifted, but that alone will never suffice. There's no way we can fully appreciate the challenges a person has faced and the effort they have put in to get to where they are now, by looking at just a tiny snapshot of their life.

*“When we meet these ‘successful’ people, we only see what they have achieved, but not **how** they have achieved it.”*

And this is the first problem. When we meet these 'successful' people, we only see what they have achieved, but not *how* they have achieved it. Our mind has the tendency to take the easy way out. We convince ourselves that these guys were born with a natural gift that we don't have, because that puts us at ease since 'no matter how hard I try, I'll never reach that level, so there's no point'.

The second problem, and the reason I put the word 'successful' in quotation marks, is that we use other people's achievements as a benchmark to measure our own success. The result is that it distorts our expectations and makes it hard for one to appreciate one's own achievements.

I was born in Shanghai, China, before the rise of the Chinese middle class and raised by my grandparents, whilst my parents chose to migrate to Sydney. As my parents were busy on the other side of the world, trying to find a job and house for my eventual immigration to Australia, I tried hard to study under both the strict discipline of my grandma, who is a retired teacher, and the intensive Chinese education





system. But I never felt like I *wanted* to study. I lacked any natural talent and was a bit above average in my class, at very best. Grandma later told me that if I had stayed in China, I would not have been accepted into the Chinese equivalent of a selective school.

When I first came here, it was exciting to see my parents again, but also scary as Sydney was so different. I knew next to no English apart from the alphabet and a vocabulary of less than twenty words. I cried on my first day of school.

Unfortunately, things got worse when my parents divorced a while later and my dad left. It was no doubt the lowest point in my life; I had no idea what was going on at school, didn't have any friends, and didn't see either of my parents any more, since Mum now had to work two jobs to make up for the lost income.

But from this experience, I learnt that the worst things that happen to you can also become the best, if only you have the will to turn it around. At this point, I felt completely helpless. Luckily, instead of giving up, I chose to dig my own way out. I decided that my goal was to never be a burden; not to my mum, not to anyone. At the time it was just an arbitrary goal I set for myself. I had no idea how hard it would be or how long it would take to reach it.



Things were insurmountably hard at that time. We were not 'dirt poor', but we weren't too far off, either. I would often skip lunches so Mum wouldn't have to worry about whether I had enough lunch money. And even though tutoring colleges were so expensive, she still felt compelled to send me to one. In an attempt to save some money, I decided to teach myself English, step by step, and only took on tutoring classes in preparation for the Selective Schools Test. After that, it wasn't until Year 11 that I considered attending tutoring again. Thanks to some luck (if you had been in Australia for

less than two years, you automatically received the necessary score in the General Ability section for your preferred selective school), I made it into Fort Street, which was selective, but at that time, way behind the top-tier schools like Baulkham Hills (my first choice) and Sydney Boys.

*“I had become one of ‘those people’ that I never thought I could ever become... because, from the very start, I never counted myself out.”*

By the way, I discovered computer games during primary school as an escape. I was definitely addicted at first, but slowly developed enough self-control to not let it affect my studies. Apart from completely quitting in Year 12 for the HSC, I have been a gamer ever since. The point is, studying and having fun do not have to be mutually exclusive!

From Year 7 to Year 11, my progress was slow. I managed to keep up by consistently working hard every single day. But I still wasn't anywhere near the top of the class in any of my subjects. I was quite good at Maths in primary school, since the Chinese system was much more stringent than the Australian Maths curriculum, but this advantage ran out by high school and once again, I was only above slightly average, at best. My English was still pretty horrible, hovering around the high C to low B range, year to year. My grammar, vocabulary and writing was probably between one to two years behind my cohort. And my worst fear was any kind of public speaking, since I was terribly shy and would get nervous.

However, when Year 12 came around, things finally began to look up. After nearly failing my Maths half-yearlies (I got 49/100 but passed after I luckily noticed my teacher had missed a two mark question!), I decided to finally look for a Maths tutor. Although our finances had improved by this point, I still didn't want to go somewhere too expensive. I told Mum I would only go if I found one we could afford. Through a friend, I was introduced to Ngo & Sons. Dr. Ngo told me to sit an impromptu grading exam, which was a class test being conducted in one of the accelerated classes. It was on integration, and unfortunately, I had only learnt differentiation at that stage. Obviously, I got destroyed. Dr. Ngo was still nice enough to let me join despite my horrendous exam result, and I thrived under his unique teaching style from then on.

But English is where my improvement was most palpable. It didn't start well at first. I ranked in the triple digits after my first English HSC assessment, but somehow managed to rank seventh by the HSC Trials. I think my teacher was more shocked than I was. Although my HSC mark for English was my lowest at 92, compared to everything else, it was where I'd fought the hardest. I received an ATAR of 99.75, and by then, I'm sure most people thought I was a genius who had it in me all along. But I know that is nowhere close to the truth.

However, there is always a higher mountain to climb. Without any real understanding of what 'Actuarial Studies' was, I decided to become an actuary on a whim. And soon I realised that there is a lot more to life than just your ATAR; you need a whole range of skills in life, like teamwork, leadership and communication. So, while I worked hard to maintain my academics, I also started to work hard in a new direction: to make myself a better rounded person. Eventually, I became the Vice President of the Actuarial Society of UNSW and gradually built up my confidence for public speaking. By this stage, I was basically a native English speaker; nothing could give away that I wasn't born here... except perhaps my name.

Last year, I had seven offers to join some of the biggest actuarial firms in Australia, as well as a prestigious scholarship worth \$16,000 a year (which I turned down due to other commitments). It was then that I realised I had become one of 'those people' that I never thought I could ever become. And it wasn't because I had a natural gift. It was simply because, from the very start, I never counted myself out.

This year, after accepting an offer from an international firm to start full-time work next year, I have finally decided to take a break from everything. With my immediate future settled, I had the luxury of taking on only one quarter of the normal student study load, allowing me the extra time to teach at the university and work part-time at a start-up company. I have become self-sufficient and financially independent and thus, am proud to have finally achieved my goal to not be a burden to anyone else, which I arbitrarily set for myself over ten years ago.

*“Despite however slim you may think your potential to change and succeed may be, it is guaranteed to amount to zero if you do nothing.”*

Most people are only after instant gratification nowadays, expecting that one semester of studying hard should yield better results. These people quickly become disappointed and often give up as soon as things do not go as planned. Why? Because they hear amazing stories of people magically going from nil to billionaire. But they only read the good part. They read the first chapter of how horrible the person's life was initially, and the last of how great their life becomes, and they dream about their own 'sudden' transformation. They skip over the *real* story written in the middle chapters, the pages and pages of boring, hard work.

Don't get me wrong, there are definitely people out there who have lived much harder lives than I have, and what I have achieved pales in comparison to the likes of Bill Gates or Nobel Prize winners; I am fully aware that this isn't one of those Slumdog Millionaire stories. But hopefully after reading this, you'll realise that even if you are an 'average person' and it feels like the odds are stacked against you, the potential to improve yourself is always there. But it is up to you to decide how hard you are willing to fight. How hungry you are to succeed.

Just remember that despite however slim you may think your potential to change and succeed may be, it is guaranteed to amount to zero if you do nothing.

**Zhi finished the HSC in 2011. However, he completed the 2 Unit and 3 Unit HSC Mathematics course in 2010.**

**Zhi is currently 22 years old and studying his final year in a Bachelor of Commerce, majoring in Actuarial Studies at UNSW.**



Congratulations, Class of 2014! We wish you all the best in your future studies and vocational endeavours!

| NAME          | SCHOOL                              | ATAR  | 2U | 3U | 4U |
|---------------|-------------------------------------|-------|----|----|----|
| A. Chau       | Patrician Brothers' College         | 86.35 | 86 | 82 |    |
| A. El-Sabbagh | Parramatta Marist High School       | 97.10 |    | 98 | 93 |
| A. Kittikhoun | St. Johns Park High School          | 95.50 |    | 97 | 85 |
| A. Lam        | Carlingford High School             | 99.00 |    | 95 | 93 |
| A. Lay        | Canley Vale High School             | 95.05 |    | 93 | 91 |
| A. Loi        | Sydney Boys High School             | 99.90 |    | 99 | 98 |
| A. Nguyen     | Macquarie Fields High School        |       |    | 96 | 91 |
| A. Nguyen     | Trinity Catholic College            |       | 94 | 94 |    |
| A. Ru         | Arthur Phillip High School          | 91.10 | 91 | 86 |    |
| A. Shi        | Sydney Boys High School             | 97.60 |    | 86 |    |
| A. Xu         | Fort Street High School             | 96.75 |    | 93 | 92 |
| B. Do         | Macquarie Fields High School        | 95.50 |    | 96 | 89 |
| B. Fu         | Fort Street High School             | 98.80 | 95 | 94 |    |
| B. Hua        | Hurlstone Agricultural High School  | 98.30 |    | 95 | 91 |
| B. Lam        | Hurlstone Agricultural High School  | 96.20 |    | 95 | 92 |
| B. Ly         | Sefton High School                  | 94.05 | 96 | 94 |    |
| B. Ngo        | Blackwattle Bay High School         | 96.50 |    | 97 | 83 |
| B. Pang       | Sefton High School                  | 91.30 | 89 | 86 |    |
| B. Phan       | Patrician Brothers' College         | 73.00 | 87 | 74 |    |
| B. Ta         | Fort Street High School             | 94.75 |    | 85 | 77 |
| B. Trinh      | Fairvale High School                | 81.00 | 92 | 90 |    |
| C. Chan       | James Ruse Agricultural High School | 99.70 |    | 98 | 96 |
| C. Jin        | Macarthur Girls High School         | 90.75 | 90 | 86 |    |
| C. Le         | Macquarie Fields High School        |       | 72 | 66 |    |
| C. Lu         | Burwood Girls High School           |       | 85 | 78 |    |
| C. Luu        | St. Johns Park High School          | 95.30 |    | 94 | 87 |
| C. Ngo        | Sefton High School                  | 98.75 | 96 | 90 |    |
| C. Pham       | Westfields Sports High School       |       | 80 | 72 |    |
| C. Wang       | James Ruse Agricultural High School | 99.70 |    | 99 | 96 |
| C. Zeng       | Sydney Boys High School             | 99.00 |    | 99 | 96 |
| D. Du         | Hurlstone Agricultural High School  | 97.20 |    | 96 | 89 |
| D. Lee        | Homebush Boys High School           | 93.95 |    | 91 | 90 |
| D. Liem       | Hurlstone Agricultural High School  | 98.75 | 96 | 94 |    |
| D. Liem       | Hurlstone Agricultural High School  | 99.30 | 99 | 96 |    |
| D. Lim        | Hurlstone Agricultural High School  | 99.30 | 96 |    |    |
| D. Pan        | William Carey Christian High School | 84.80 | 94 | 84 |    |
| D. Peng       | James Ruse Agricultural High School | 99.90 |    | 99 | 98 |

|              |   |       |    |     |    |
|--------------|---|-------|----|-----|----|
| D. Soy       | Cabramatta High School                  | 87.10 | 89 | 88  |    |
| D. Tran      | Canley Vale High School                 | 84.50 | 91 | 86  |    |
| D. Tu        | Westfields Sports High School           | 94.00 | 94 | 88  |    |
| D. Vo        | Bonnyrigg High School                   | 91.95 | 90 | 88  |    |
| D. Yu        | Baulkham Hills High School              | 99.15 |    | 93  | 97 |
| E. Le        | Fairvale High School                    | 86.00 |    | 87  |    |
| E. To        | Fort Street High School                 | 98.80 |    | 98  | 95 |
| E. Trang     | Hurlstone Agricultural High School      | 99.90 |    | 100 | 96 |
| E. Yie       | Bonnyrigg High School                   | 97.60 |    | 93  | 93 |
| G. Chen      | Trinity Catholic College                | 97.30 |    | 96  | 91 |
| G. Lee       | Baulkham Hills High School              | 99.35 |    | 99  | 97 |
| G. Loi       | Trinity Catholic College                | 90.40 | 93 | 88  |    |
| H. Nguyen    | Fort Street High School                 | 96.10 |    | 87  |    |
| H. Nguyen    | Parramatta High School                  | 79.00 | 89 | 82  |    |
| H. Tran      | Bossley Park High School                | 94.45 |    | 87  | 85 |
| H. Ung       | Sefton High School                      | 87.05 | 97 | 90  |    |
| H. Vu        | Catherine McAuley High School           | 86.65 | 85 | 84  |    |
| H. Vu        | Macquarie Fields High School            | 90.15 | 93 | 84  |    |
| J. Chen      | Baulkham Hills High School              | 98.20 |    | 94  | 80 |
| J. Diep      | All Saints Senior Catholic College      | 93.30 | 90 | 78  |    |
| J. Dieu      | Patrician Brothers' College             | 84.00 | 84 | 80  |    |
| J. Dinh      | Freeman Catholic College                | 93.50 | 93 | 86  |    |
| J. Hoang     | Trinity Catholic College                | 77.00 | 77 | 78  |    |
| J. Huynh     | Fairvale High School                    |       | 90 | 86  |    |
| J. Huynh     | Georges River Grammar High School       | 80.35 |    | 80  | 63 |
| J. Loi       | St. Johns Park High School              | 94.85 |    | 95  | 83 |
| J. Nguyen    | Cabramatta High School                  | 98.95 |    | 98  | 93 |
| J. Nguyen    | Canley Vale High School                 | 89.55 | 94 | 92  |    |
| J. Phung     | East Hills Girls Technology High School | 92.50 | 90 | 84  |    |
| J. To        | Arthur Phillip High School              | 76.50 | 77 | 82  |    |
| J. Trang     | Hurlstone Agricultural High School      | 99.15 |    | 97  | 93 |
| J. Truong    | Fairvale High School                    | 82.65 |    | 88  | 72 |
| J. Truong    | Sefton High School                      | 92.00 | 92 | 85  |    |
| J. Vu        | Fairvale High School                    |       | 86 | 84  |    |
| J. Wang      | Hurlstone Agricultural High School      | 99.10 |    |     | 93 |
| K. Bui       | Cabramatta High School                  | 86.80 | 87 | 78  |    |
| K. Chan      | All Saints Senior Catholic College      | 90.25 | 94 | 86  |    |
| K. Gan       | Baulkham Hills High School              | 99.90 |    | 97  | 90 |
| K. Guo       | St. George Girls High School            | 99.90 |    | 97  | 96 |
| K. Ha        | Sefton High School                      | 92.30 | 90 | 84  |    |
| K. Jayakumar | Girraween High School                   | 94.55 | 91 | 74  |    |
| K. Lam       | Hurlstone Agricultural High School      | 99.00 |    | 98  | 96 |
| K. Lay       | Hurlstone Agricultural High School      | 96.05 |    | 94  | 88 |
| K. Le        | Liverpool Boys High School              | 88.40 |    | 89  | 78 |
| K. Le        | Macquarie Fields High School            | 97.35 | 93 | 92  |    |
| K. Leung     | Sydney Girls High School                | 97.05 |    | 95  | 92 |
| K. Nguyen    | Trinity Catholic College                | 94.10 |    | 91  | 89 |
| K. Nhan      | Sefton High School                      | 87.00 | 87 | 70  |    |
| L. Kha       | Canley Vale High School (Accelerated)   |       |    | 94  |    |
| L. Mach      | Baulkham Hills High School              | 98.70 |    | 95  | 90 |
| L. Nguyen    | Hurlstone Agricultural High School      | 98.00 |    | 93  | 92 |
| L. Nguyen    | Trinity Catholic College                | 91.55 | 86 | 78  |    |
| L. Tran      | Fort Street High School                 | 98.95 |    | 95  | 92 |
| L. Vu        | Sydney Girls High School                | 96.10 |    | 91  |    |



|                |                                       |       |    |     |    |
|----------------|---------------------------------------|-------|----|-----|----|
| M. Chensee     | Trinity Catholic College              | 83.40 | 84 | 80  |    |
| M. Huynh       | Fairvale High School                  |       | 91 | 86  |    |
| M. Huynh       | Macquarie Fields High School          | 98.10 |    | 97  | 92 |
| M. Kumar       | Sefton High School                    | 93.00 | 92 |     |    |
| M. Nguyen      | Canley Vale High School               |       |    | 87  | 76 |
| M. Nguyen      | Freeman Catholic College              | 98.75 | 96 | 86  |    |
| M. Prakash     | Sydney Girls High School              | 99.50 |    | 97  | 95 |
| M. Tran        | Hurlstone Agricultural High School    |       |    | 89  | 89 |
| M. Zhang       | James Ruse Agricultural High School   | 99.50 |    | 96  | 93 |
| M. Zhang       | Sydney Boys High School               | 98.55 |    | 95  | 93 |
| N. Lin         | James Ruse Agricultural High School   | 99.45 |    | 99  | 94 |
| N. Tan         | Sydney Boys High School               | 98.35 |    | 95  | 92 |
| N. Van         | Bonnyrigg High School                 | 98.85 | 99 | 94  |    |
| N. Wang-Ly     | Sydney Boys High School               | 99.75 |    | 99  | 97 |
| P. Huynh       | Hurlstone Agricultural High School    | 94.75 |    | 89  | 81 |
| P. Liu         | Baulkham Hills High School            | 99.65 |    | 98  | 93 |
| P. Lu          | Fort Street High School               | 99.70 |    | 100 | 93 |
| P. Pham        | Trinity Catholic College              | 91.55 | 91 | 84  |    |
| P. Zhou        | Hurlstone Agricultural High School    | 98.00 | 98 | 96  |    |
| R. Chum        | Mary MacKillop College                | 99.45 |    | 94  | 92 |
| R. Mai         | All Saints Senior Catholic College    | 85.00 | 85 | 78  |    |
| R. Nguyen      | Hurlstone Agricultural High School    | 98.45 |    | 97  | 92 |
| R. Pohorambage | Sefton High School                    | 86.60 | 93 | 78  |    |
| R. Yang        | James Ruse Agricultural High School   | 98.00 |    | 97  | 94 |
| S. Duong       | Bonnyrigg High School                 | 97.50 | 94 | 94  |    |
| S. Huang       | Fort Street High School               | 98.30 |    | 97  | 98 |
| S. Li          | Baulkham Hills High School            | 99.60 |    | 99  | 96 |
| S. Mousa       | Sefton High School                    | 98.90 |    | 94  | 91 |
| S. Nguyen      | Freeman Catholic College              | 78.75 | 88 | 90  |    |
| S. Trang       | Blackwattle Bay High School           |       |    | 88  | 81 |
| T. Chen        | Canley Vale High School (Accelerated) |       |    | 100 |    |
| T. Ha          | Hurlstone Agricultural High School    | 99.10 |    | 95  | 90 |
| T. Huynh       | Canley Vale High School               | 81.45 | 89 | 76  |    |
| T. Huynh       | Sefton High School                    | 87.60 | 93 | 76  |    |
| T. Nguyen      | Canley Vale High School               | 88.00 |    | 91  | 73 |
| T. Nguyen      | Patrician Brothers' College           | 88.40 | 88 | 80  |    |
| T. Tran        | Hurlstone Agricultural High School    | 99.40 |    | 96  | 94 |
| V. Ly          | Fairvale High School                  | 95.95 | 96 | 93  |    |
| V. Mo          | Westfields Sports High School         | 97.25 | 93 | 88  |    |
| V. Nguyen      | Cecil Hills High School               | 82.75 | 82 | 66  |    |
| W. Bakri       | Tempe High School                     | 87.50 | 93 | 88  |    |
| W. Huynh       | Fairvale High School                  | 95.05 | 96 | 92  |    |
| W. Huynh       | Hurlstone Agricultural High School    | 93.45 |    | 93  | 89 |
| W. Li          | James Ruse Agricultural High School   | 99.90 |    | 99  | 98 |
| Y. Truong      | Sydney Girls High School              | 98.90 |    | 92  | 86 |
| Anonymous      | James Ruse Agricultural High School   | 99.55 |    | 99  | 96 |
| Anonymous      | James Ruse Agricultural High School   | 99.30 |    | 97  | 98 |

# Study Tips from the Class of 2014

## NOELLE LIN:

*'To be honest, Chemistry is one of the easiest subjects to prepare and study for. You are practically given your bible at the beginning of the year: the syllabus. Studying is really simple because you have everything you need to know... Physics also has a syllabus bible that is excellent for preparing notes, however, studying for it is slightly different... Physics is more about the application of concepts. You might have learnt how to use Newton's formulae for pulleys, but Physics needs you to recognise that you can also use them for rockets in the same way... For Physics, I suggest learning more than what is required just to satisfy your own curiosity and have a better understanding of what you have learnt, even though this extra information may not be tested in exams... Understanding how forces work in Physics is like knowing how to differentiate in Maths; you basically won't know how to do anything unless you understand the forces at work... When answering big mark questions, plan on the side first, before heading straight into it. Planning allows you to see how much you know, cross out what you don't need for the question and order your information so that it flows and answers the question succinctly...'*

## DIANA VO:

*'Tutoring is a great place to learn because you know you're able to get the extra help you need by asking questions and engaging in the lesson. To make full use of tutoring, you should ask questions when you're stuck and always pay attention in case you miss an important point. Tutoring has definitely made me get into the habit of starting work early and never giving up because you know that your tutor is always there to support you if you need help.'*

## PAI LIU:

*'For Economics, I understood the content and only memorised statistics. I also compiled a list of relevant statistics for the Australian economy/ case study country/ overseas countries (e.g. unemployment, economic growth, etc.) and also studied the trend for use in short answer responses or to reiterate a point I was making in an extended response. It is most useful when you know the trend which goes along with a statistic, rather than just the statistic at a particular time, alone...'*

## SALAYMAN MOUSA:

*'HSC English is always horrible to do... When I received my first ever Year 12 English task back, compared to the rest of the grade, I did okay, but compared to my class, I got one of the lowest marks, and therefore started the year off being ranked 20<sup>th</sup>... I persisted in submitting essays to my tutoring and school teachers and continued to fix them up. I made sure to avoid submitting near assessment dates because the teacher would be inundated with everyone else's submissions, and thus would not be able to dedicate as much time and attention to my work. In my third English assessment, after lots of hard work, I got full marks and it demonstrated that hard work DOES pay off, especially in English (after much hardship, I thankfully ended up getting a Band 6 for English). Do not ever give up on English; so many students' ATARs are ruined because of poor English marks...'*



## WENDY HUYNH:

*'Biology and Chemistry: Read ahead! Even if you don't understand much, it will definitely become clearer when your teacher goes through it. Reading ahead allows you to have a better idea of what is actually going on in class. Study notes are a must and should be done according to the dot points in the syllabus. Participate and pay attention during experiments because they pop up in exams...'*

## EDBERT TO:

*'Setting goals was one of the keys to my performance during the HSC – it allowed me to be organised and time-efficient. One day, I sat down and typed up a list of all the long-term goals I wanted to achieve e.g. 90% average in Maths exams and a minimum rank of 15<sup>th</sup> in Physics. These long-term goals gave me a purpose to my studies – each time I started to procrastinate, I reminded myself of these goals and soon enough, I would be back on track with my studying...'*

*To contribute to the newsletter, please feel free to contact the Ngo & Sons Management Team*