

2017

NGO AND SONS ACADEMIC COACHING

MESSAGE

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

We've proven 2017 to be another successful year.

This has been another productive year at Ngo and Sons. In 2017, we welcomed the opening of our primary school centre, Ngo and Sons Preparatory College, we began implementing our new syllabus based on the NESA changes, and we are preparing for the introduction of Chemistry and Physics classes at our Parramatta campus in August 2018.

On a more special note, and on behalf of all of the staff at Ngo and Sons, I would like to extend a big congratulations to our students who have achieved tremendous results in their HSC, as displayed in the Honour Roll at the end of this newsletter.

I would also like to recognise all of our students who have tried their best throughout the year. At Ngo and Sons, we are so proud of all of our students, for working hard and achieving their personal best; those who continually give themselves a chance, by seeking to improve themselves. They are not afraid to ask questions, and will go beyond the set homework and seek out extra resources, all the while helping their peers when needed. It is my belief that at the end of the day, success is not limited to the ATAR that a student receives or the job that they attain, it is about being able to do what they are passionate about, and making a difference while doing that.

Dr Truong Ngo

What's New?



Grand opening
of Ngo and
Sons
Preparatory
College



Science,
Chemistry and
Physics at
Parramatta



Ngo and Sons
UMAT





PREPARATORY COLLEGE

**Dr Truong Ngo
Principal**

On the 14th of January 2017, Ngo and Sons launched its primary education centre Ngo and Sons Preparatory College (NSPC) at William Street. The launch of NSPC came with great expectations and excitement as the directors had spent some months before that preparing content tailored to consolidate foundational skills for Maths and English, and help students succeed at primary level.

As with Ngo and Son's high school curriculum, the primary program created by the directors focuses on teaching techniques. This highly structured teaching method is designed to help students remember what they have been taught, and thus increases confidence while also developing greater understanding.

In August the great expectations for the centre were realised when NSPC moved to a larger premise at 45-46 Smart St, Fairfield, in response to the greater demand for positions in the classes, indicating the positive impact that NSPC was making to the learning of its students.

As is usual for new establishments, the directors spent a lot of time reviewing and evaluating NSPC's programs, approaches and strategies. Through the initiative and forward-thinking of staff (as well as valuable feedback from parents and students), the centre has been able to make vast improvements to the content it provides. The most significant changes comprise of better worksheets across all courses, and a more effective operation of homework classes.

As for the coming year, the directors of NSPC anticipate further developments, such as:

1. Revising Year 2 resources to include more lateral thinking activities;
2. Revising Year 4 resources to include more geometry questions;
3. Revising mock exam questions for the OC and Selective School courses to ensure that students are receiving the best guidance;
4. Revising the 'Einstein' courses across Year 2-6 to include more fundamental concepts for students who are struggling with the content;
5. Making General Ability solutions available on our website.

On top of these changes, a new computer system has been installed, optimising efficiency in relation to the process of handling fees and producing invoices. As well, the system allows for collection of student's marks and distribution of detailed reports for the Core classes, and OC and Selective School courses.

What students can do to keep improving

The directors of NSPC recognise this range of ability among the students, and will work to provide parents with information to facilitate the nurturing of all students. Based on the collective experience of staff members, it is evident that the factors that play an important part in a student's development include:

1. Parental Supervision: Greater supervision and involvement in the student's learning will help improve their overall performance in homework. Without parents, students will often guess answers or not provide adequate working out or reasoning.

2. Learning respect and discipline: At NSPC, the directors find that the traditional practices of bowing when greeting older people and addressing teachers as "Sir" or "Miss" are effective in creating a more effective learning environment. Learning respect for other people (whether they be staff or fellow students) cultivates discipline which carries over in improving concentration and effort in class.

3. Reading widely and regularly: Students who read on a regular basis (in this case, at least 2-3 books per week) perform much better in English, Maths and General Ability than those who do not. At NSPC, the Top 10% of the cohort tend to read more broadly and choose books that are of a higher reading level. Enthusiasm for reading should be encouraged at a young age, and it is never too late to start!

Courses Available in 2018

Core classes are available for years 2 to 6. These classes teach students the fundamentals of Maths, English and General ability in a structured way, so that students not only understand but remember what has been taught. The material given is divided into Section A (class work) and Section B is for students to attempt at home. In years 4 to 6, there is a separate section for General Ability and the solutions to these questions will be available on our website.

OC classes will be available for students starting in term 3 year 3 to term 2 year 4. Selective School Training classes are available to students in year 5 starting term 2 and will end in year 6 term 1. In these classes students will sit mock exams each week and teachers will show students unique techniques formulated by the Directors of Ngo and Sons, on how to solve these questions. These classes are reserved for students who are attempting the OC and Selective School exams since they contain much harder questions than those given in the core classes. Parents will be able to see weekly exam results and how their child has performed in comparison to other students.

2018 Enrolment

In 2018, Years 2 to 6 classes will resume on Saturday 20th of January. If you would like to enrol, please visit our website: www.ngoandsons.com.au. All students wishing to attend NSPC will be required to sit an exam to determine the most suitable class for the student.

Junior Mathematics

Kim Hua & Genevieve Loi

Coordinator for Junior School at Fairfield and
Coordinator for Junior School at Parramatta

What a year 2017 has been at Ngo and Sons. This year has brought about some of the biggest changes at our centre's junior Mathematics department. Over the past two years, with the assistance of our dedicated staff, our Ngo and Sons team have vigorously analysed the Australian Mathematics curriculum, as well as school syllabuses and examination papers from different schools across the state. This has not only allowed us to refine our syllabus, but has also allowed us to introduce new focus classes and additional materials to cater for our students' needs. Some of our most exciting achievements include:

School Specific Focus Classes

One of the most exciting accomplishments was the introduction of focus classes for local schools and selective schools at both of our Fairfield and Parramatta campuses. Our focus classes are tailored specifically to the syllabus of the target school, ensuring that students are familiar with the content covered at school as well as being ahead. To cater for this, we have generated resources and expose students to exam style questions specific to that of their school to ensure our students have a leading edge.

Year 8 Accelerated Class

In November saw the introduction of our first ever Year 8 accelerated class at our Fairfield campus. Within the Fairfield area, many schools opted to allow students to accelerate their Mathematics course, meaning they could sit their HSC in Year 10 or Year 11. To accommodate for this, Ngo and Sons opened our Year 8 accelerated class early ensuring that these students were learning content which was on par, if not ahead of school. Our junior Mathematics department also incorporated resources such as exam style questions and quizzes allowing teachers to focus on students so they do not fall behind.

Extra Material in Our Homework Booklets

With the implementation of the new Mathematics syllabus for Stage 6, NESA has incorporated an extra 'Working Mathematically' outcome called "Justification Students will not only be required to provide the correct answer to questions with full working out, but they will now also need to justify their solution. In other words, students must explain the "reasonableness of [their] findings".

At our centre, we want all students to be prepared for questions that require them to justify their answer. For students to develop this skill, it is important that they have a clear understanding of the fundamental mathematical concepts from the start of Year 7 and 8.

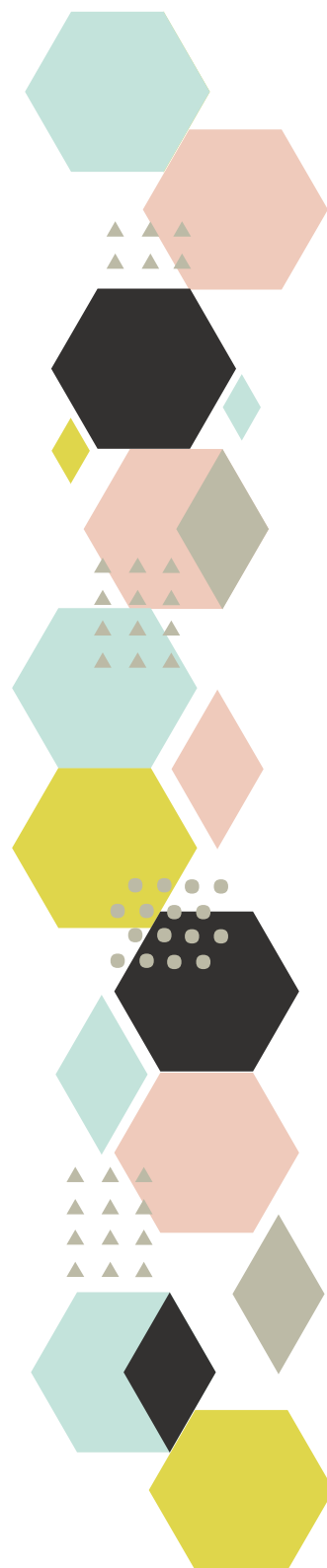
To build students' foundation in Mathematics, we have incorporated several investigative resources at the end of the homework booklets. This has allowed students to understand why different mathematical concepts work. For example, students will investigate how the area formulae of different plane shapes came to be.

Furthermore, it is important that students understand the mathematical ideas thoroughly, rather than rote learning the concepts. By completing these investigative tasks, we have already seen a huge improvement in students' understanding and results as they make mathematical concepts less abstract for the students.

New Resources & Materials

The Ngo and Sons Junior Mathematics team has worked to ensure that our students get the best materials to ensure they excel in their studies. This year brought about the refinement of our homework worksheets such as the addition of "supplementary set". New exams and quizzes have been produced and is slowly being integrated into all classes. These exams and quizzes have been added to ensure that all students are well prepared to school examination and for continued monitoring of a student's performance.

In the coming year, we will continue to familiarise ourselves with syllabus of schools with the purpose of developing and integrating more school style exam questions in classrooms. The vision for 2018 is the introduction of more School Specific Focus Classes for both non-selective and selective students. Additionally, on top of our new resources and quizzes, we intend on implementing a reporting system to guarantee that parents are up to date with the student's progress actively involved with the student's education.



EXTENSION 1 MATHEMATICS

IN TODAY'S WORLD WHERE SITUATIONS SEEM **COMPLEX**, IT IS DIFFICULT TO STAY **POSITIVE** AND WE MAY NEED A **SINE** THAT WE ARE HEADING IN THE **RIGHT** DIRECTION, MATHEMATICS REMINDS US THAT FOR EVERY **PROBLEM**, THERE IS A **SOLUTION**.

Emily Ma & Shannon Duong
Coordinator for Senior School at Parramatta and
Coordinator for Senior School at Fairfield

In 2017, the Mathematics Extension 1 teaching team had another successful year with our spectacular 3unit Mathematics students who showed great enthusiasm and dedication to their learning. From absolute values to differentiation to binomials to projectile motions to permutations and combinations, our students were exposed to unique methods of learning these once difficult concepts.

Our students were also exposed to a vast array of trial and HSC-style questions and taught the tricks to attack each question with speed and accuracy. Some of our questions ultimately appeared in school assessments and trial exams. In order to succeed in Mathematics, our top advice is that students practise. Our teachers provide structured techniques to answering questions, and try to prepare as many exam-style questions as possible, but with the limited contact hours in a week, it is important for students to continue practising as many past HSC and school exam papers as possible.

We understand that Mathematics can be difficult for some students, but we always strive to make it straightforward through our clear techniques and adjusting our teaching style to cater for all of our students. We encourage our students to ask questions, no matter big or small, and to think beyond the final answer to see what the result means.

In addition to teaching our students Mathematics, we also try to provide our students with guidance, by sharing the knowledge and experiences that we have acquired at university and at work. We try to emphasise the importance of being humble, respectful and filial.

We are extremely proud of our class of 2017 for their hard work throughout their time as students at the centre. They asked questions, raised important points, all the while contributing to the competitive and enriching classroom learning environment. We wish them all the very best in all of their future endeavours.

We look forward to raising the bar with the new class of 2018 in the year ahead, as we continue to strive to improve our teaching content, incorporate more advanced questions and help our students to better understand all mathematical concepts, in order to succeed in their HSC and beyond.

EXTENSION 2 MATHEMATICS

Jonathan Lam

Coordinator for Advanced Mathematics

The Extension 2 Mathematics program at Ngo and Sons saw a few changes in 2017 which diverged from the past methods. These changes mainly focused on additional online support and providing students with supplementary resources to aid in their learning, including extra notes and materials, questions and homework hints.

The final six weeks of classes were dedicated to revision, and included a 15 minute "Mini Trial" with questions testing students' common errors. Students were provided with marks and personalised feedback for these quizzes, via email.

We noticed that exam questions are based on a common theme as such, step-by-step strategies and generalisations were provided to students through these revision sessions and handouts. The revision handouts included a summary of the particular module covered in the lesson, classic questions and challenging questions. The aim of the classic questions is for students to familiarise themselves with the styles of questions that are frequently asked in the HSC exams. Challenging questions are aimed at the top students who seek to challenge themselves or who attend competitive schools, allowing our students to practise answering questions that can score them a state rank. The handouts contain additional resources on some concepts relating to university level mathematics, which interested students could explore in their own time.

A mock HSC extension 2 mathematics trial exam was made available, and provided students with an opportunity to use the skills they had learnt over the last two years, in an exam environment similar to the HSC. The questions were intended to be challenging, whilst specifically testing areas and question styles known to be frequently examined in school exams and HSC exams. Each student was emailed their results along with a breakdown in their performance by question.

Revision sessions for extension 2 mathematics were also held after the completion of the content, up until the HSC. These classes covered various topics, catering the needs of the students who attended. Topics included more advanced techniques to solve problems in polynomials, inequalities, plane geometry, integration and conics. We also ran sessions focusing on harder 3 unit and methods on how to tackle these problems, providing a systematic way to approach problem solving questions.

In 2017, the Senior Problems Committee also wrote solutions to the Extension 1 and Extension 2 Mathematics HSC exams. These included thorough explanations of the logic and reasoning behind each solution.

Ngo and Sons Junior English

Amanda Nguyen
Head of English



“Education is not preparation for life.
Education is life itself.” – John Dewey

In our experience as English tutors, one question we hear more than any other is “Why do we need to study English?” The study of English is important for one reason: it teaches students to appreciate their world. As a high school subject, English is much more than being able to read, write and spell. English is a subject in which students engage with complex ideas and learn to communicate their views with clarity and flair. While studying texts and writing essays may not seem applicable to the ‘real world’, the study of English teaches students to think about global issues, and to question what they know. At Ngo & Sons, we recognise how important English is, not just because it is a compulsory HSC subject, but also in fostering intellectual engagement and developing articulate communication; skills that are essential in life beyond high school.

2017 has been a busy year for the English department at Ngo & Sons. We have been busying refining and updating our English programs to prepare for the new changes in the Australian Curriculum. Over the past two years, we have programmed new and improved content aimed at increasing literacy and developing critical thinking, while preparing students for the content that they can expect to encounter at school.

Changes to the Years 6 to 10 programs include a greater focus on vocabulary, more variety of texts included for close study, updated annotations to provide more in-depth look at texts, and developing writing ability that engages with current events.

As well, this year was the first in which we held a mock trial HSC exam for students studying Advanced English. The exam was held at our Parramatta centre in September, ahead of the external HSC exams that students would sit in October. Our dedicated markers worked quickly and successfully to grade and deliver extensive feedback for our students to use in preparation for their final exams.

In the coming year, we hope to expand our program to include holiday classes aimed at covering the essay writing, creative writing and comprehension skills at junior level, and HSC focus classes at senior level.

On top of a productive year of teaching, some of our teachers have achieved personal successes in the field of education or have extended undertaken initiatives to extend on their pedagogy.

- Ms Cindy Ngo was nominated as President of the UNSW Education Society this year and has been closely collaborating with the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences for new mentoring programs. Cindy is also in talks with the University of Sydney and Macquarie University to organise teacher-student meetings to improve on the quality of educators produced at university.

- Ms Siobhan James has undertaken a Masters of Education (Teacher Librarianship) at Charles Sturt University which will further contribute towards her future career in education and research studies at a university level. Siobhan’s course specifically trains her to prepare school libraries for the 21st century and how technology will become an important tool in the classroom, for both educators and students alike.

- Ms Maria Nguyen has been awarded the Walter and Eliza Hall Trust Opportunity Scholarship which will assist her with her studies and future career. As well Maria recently acquired a place in the highly sought-after New Colombo Plan Scholarship Program. As a fellow of the program, Maria will be studying special education and Pacific studies at the University of the South Pacific, and undertaking a teaching practicum at a primary school in Vanuatu. We wish Maria the very best in what will be an exciting year ahead!



SENIOR ENGLISH TUTORING

with Zenna Diab & Co.

Zenna Diab Director of SET

At Senior English Tutoring with Zenna Diab and Co., we would first like to commend all our HSC students who, at the end of their schooling careers, have achieved their personal best. S.E.T has always operated under the philosophy that all students are unique and capable learners. In keeping with this, we provide varied learning modes, including our weekly lessons, which are developed and refined by Ms Diab, a head teacher with over 20 years of teaching experience. A distinguished feature at English Teachers' Association conferences and other professional learning symposiums, Ms Diab synthesises cutting edge teaching techniques and the latest standards for the HSC into her program. With her external HSC marking experience over the past five years, Ms Diab also offers her students exclusive knowledge of the expectations and requirements at HSC level. As a firm advocate of personal and professional development, Ms Diab leads S.E.T with an unparalleled dedication to developing her staff to ensure optimal teaching and learning within her centre.

Teaching with Ms Diab's philosophy and resources, Ms Robson, Mr Ha and Mr Ly are committed to students' improvement and achievement of their personal best.

- Ms Robson is a fully qualified teacher, a Dean's List scholar, and with more than eight years of experience with HSC English Advanced and Standard, she is deeply knowledgeable about content and pedagogy.
- Mr Ha is employed by the University of Sydney under their Widening Participation and Outreach program, and has collaborated with other educators within select, elite teams to develop and present workshops across NSW. Mr Ha won the Teacher's Mutual Bank Scholarship in 2017, which is in recognition of his dedication to the field of English teaching.
- Mr Ly is also employed by the University of Sydney under their Widening Participation and Outreach program, as a liaison for South-western Sydney schools. Mr Ly's professional priority is the encouragement of underprivileged students' academic development.

In light of NESA's new syllabus for Stage 6 English, Ms Diab has refined resources and pioneered a dynamic program to accommodate the changes to the HSC. The debut of this program has been met with professional recognition and appreciation as well as meaningful engagement from students. Ms Diab's progressive and original 100-lesson program for the new syllabus for Stage 6 English (commenced August 2017 for year 10 students) promotes sophisticated and critical understanding of the all content and outcomes required.

To complement this, we hold two offset programs for HSC students. Firstly, throughout the year we run text focus classes for text specific lessons wherein we provide a lecture style overview of the text and original resources help students gain a thorough understanding of key ideas. These lessons are available to both SET and Ngo & Sons students and ensure that our students have a cutting edge advantage in examinations. In addition, we run a 5 week HSC intensive program, wherein students complete at least 4 original mock exams that are aimed to mimic the HSC exams. Sure enough, this year, the questions set by Ms Diab were all echoed in the HSC exams. These exams are marked comprehensively by our team of markers and returned the following week, supplemented by sample answers and a detailed feedback sheet. These are unique initiatives for our students that ensure we are supporting them through to the HSC. Finally, students enrolled at SET have the added advantage of being able to send in work to the SET email for marking as well as being able to bring in work for school based tasks for our markers to go over.

S.E.T is extremely proud of our students' notable achievements in the past year, and look forward to hearing about the HSC success which is sure to continue Ms Diab's proud record of over 95% of students achieving a Band 5 or Band 6 in English.

To contact us:

- Text Ms Diab on 0404426161 and she will respond within 24 hours or
- Come visit the centre at 37-41 Ware Street Fairfield, Level 1.

SCIENCE

Andrew Lam
Head of Science

JUNIOR SCIENCE

At Ngo and Sons, we teach years 7-10 Science based on the BOSTES Stage 4 (years 7 and 8) and Stage 5 (years 9 and 10) syllabuses. The junior science course is designed to establish the foundations of science for our students, allowing for an easier transition into more specialised science topics in the senior subjects of Physics and Chemistry.

To provide strong foundations and understanding of concepts, students' homework booklets incorporate various styles of multiple choice and short answer questions. The combination of both fundamental and accelerated questions aim to train our students to answer questions both accurately and efficiently. This skill is crucial for the senior years of high school.

Additionally, an exam is held after every topic to ensure that students have an opportunity to revise and develop efficient methods of study with the assistance of our teachers. The topic exams are advantageous in indicating strong and weak points in our students, whether it is due to a lack of understanding, or a lack of interest in that branch of science (e.g. chemistry, biology, physics, earth and environmental science). Ultimately, we understand science may not be for every student. However, we try our best to open opportunities for our students. In this case, by allowing our students to understand and enjoy science we hope to promote their interest in this subject.

PHYSICS AND CHEMISTRY AT PARRAMATTA

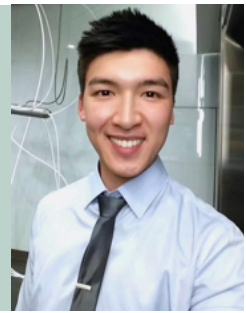
Due to the popularity and interest conveyed by our students, we are opening our new Preliminary (Year 11) Chemistry and Physics courses in August 2018 at our Parramatta Campus. Our coordinators and the science team have worked relentlessly in designing new content and teaching styles to suit the new NESA Stage 6 Syllabus for both branches of science (Physics and Chemistry), which will be taught in schools starting in 2019. Questions have been created and picked to be incorporated in homework booklets as well as weekly quizzes to test both foundation and advanced knowledge of the content.

Our teachers have high school and university level knowledge and materials to provide a holistic understanding of more challenging concepts for our students. We follow the NESA syllabus from modules 1 to 8, however we have reordered some learning outcomes within each module to allow for an accentuated understanding of certain topics.

Student practical experiences is an important part of their learning experience in the science course. Due to the restriction of space and materials, we are unable to cater for every one of our students. However, we will dedicate certain lessons for practical demonstrations performed by the teachers, which will provide valuable learning experiences for our students as they observe.

We will also be offering an additional Physics and Chemistry course for accelerated students who wish to start the courses one year in advance. We have found this program for accelerated classes to be very beneficial in improving our students' successes in the HSC.

NGO AND SONS UMAT



Alex Ngo Director of UMAT

'Only a life lived for others is a life worthwhile.' - Albert Einstein

This year Ngo & Sons introduced UMAT training. We felt the need to help our Year 11 & Year 12 students gain an advantage in getting into Medicine & Dentistry, a process which is fiercely competitive nowadays.

In March, Ngo & Sons held its first-ever Special Medicine Information Evening (at Cabra-Vale Diggers Club). A tremendous success. Over 300 guests attended, filling the venue to capacity. We are extremely proud to teach students who are interested in Medicine & Dentistry, students who dare to dream, students who wish to make a big mark on the world. A big thank you to dedicated staff, loving parents/guardians, & you, the keen students, for supporting the event. I had great pleasure speaking at the event & meeting you, thank you very much for giving me the opportunity. We appreciate your positive feedback & hope you found the evening insightful.

In April, Intensive UMAT Courses & Mock Exam Days were run at both Fairfield & Parramatta campuses, each venue over 4 full days. Students learned effective strategies for all 3 constructs of the UMAT exam & practised many UMAT-style questions. Students who sat the Mock Exam received thorough feedback. I was delighted to witness students improve in a short period of time. Congratulations to the top 3 students in the April Mock Exam: Christina Nguyen (Gap year), Thy Pham (Year 12), & Susie Huynh (Year 11). The feedback we received for the Course was positive & we plan to implement your useful suggestions for improvements to refine the course.

The UMAT was in July. We are pleased to hear that many Years 12s did well in UMAT (the highest we know of being 97!) & received Medicine &/or Dentistry interview offers Australia-wide. Well done! We are proud of you, anxious yet incredibly excited for you. We wish you the very best. You're just one step away from medical/dental school & we expect & pray that many of you will get in.

Looking forward to 2018, Ngo & Sons will again be holding its annual Special Medicine Information Night for Year 11 & 12 students in March. This time with a few extra surprises. We anticipate the free event to be popular, so advise you to, when registrations open in January, sign up as soon as possible.

Just as in 2017, Intensive UMAT Courses & Mock Exam Days will be run, in April, 2018 (school holidays, commencing Mon 16 April). It will be an improved, strategic course, engineered to closely align with the UMAT 2017. I will be teaching the course, drawing on my 11 years of experience teaching UMAT. Enthusiastic students have already enrolled & if you would like to do the same to secure your place, please speak with the lovely receptionists at Fairfield & Parramatta campuses or SMS me on 0401 675 312 with your full name, grade, school, email, usual campus of study.

A career in health, although challenging, is altruistic, dynamic, & meaningful. Regardless of whether you pursue health or not, we will always support you in your endeavours & do our best to help you achieve your full potential. Do what you love. We believe in you.

Ngo and Sons

ADMINISTRATION

Duy Le
Administration Coordinator

Late 2016 marked the year our team redesigned our tax invoicing system to more efficiently calculate balances and better record absences.

In early 2017, the tax invoicing system was developed to a fully functional state and rolled out across all four campuses. This represents a significant achievement for our team as parents and students are now able to deduct from the balance without the need for additional papers in the occasional event their child is away. Although such systems are in place and automatically calculate balances, parents should be reminded of the payment policy:

- Tax invoices will show all absences a student has been away, but only 2 deductions will be credited unless approved otherwise.
- Absences made within one term are subtracted the following term.
- A fee reminder will be issued in Week 4 and Week 7; any payments made after the student's class in week 7 may incur an Administration Fee.

We hope that the system better breaks down to parents and students what each payment consists of, including credits of any absences that may have been taken.

As the end of 2017 comes closer, we are confident with the performance of our system and have received positive feedback to reflect the welcomed change; indicating to us that our project is nearing its final stages. Our plans for the following year involve integrating email applications so parents are notified of their children's class and exam performance, as well as a means creating a direct line of communication between parents and teachers. This addition is currently in development stages and will be expected to roll out next year!

