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To support and Encourage the Teaching of Special Religious Education (SRE) at Hornsby and Normanhurst High Schools.

I wish to make a financial contribution to the work of the Normanhurst Christian Education Association which provides Christian Studies programs at Hornsby Girls' and Normanhurst Boys' High Schools.

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Post to: **Normanhurst Christian Education Association Inc.**
PO Box 2061, NORMANHURST, NSW 2076

(ABN 27 478 553 930)

ALL DONATIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE

Enquiries to the Treasurer - Mrs Glenys Porter – Phone 9489 3568



For more information go to <https://ncea.net.au>

CHURCHES LINKED TO THE ASSOCIATION

Chinese and Australian Baptist Church, Thornleigh	Northern Life Baptist Church, Hornsby
Hornsby Uniting Church	Normanhurst Uniting Church
Wahroonga Anglican Church	St Peter's Anglican Church, Hornsby
St Stephen's Anglican Church, Normanhurst	Thornleigh Community Baptist Church
Thornleigh Hillcrest Uniting Church	Wahroonga Presbyterian Church
Waitara Gospel Chapel	

The 7 Signs in John's Gospel.



In Term 4, Year 10 students at Normanhurst Boys' High School, will be looking at the 7 signs of Jesus in John's gospel. The lessons are not so much about giving the boys the answer to the question "Who is Jesus?", as we began with in Year 7, but bringing things back full circle after 4 years of classes, so that they can better piece together for themselves, what John reveals in his gospel. We look at how John does not write in isolation, but draws on themes and ideas from all of Scripture, impregnating his stories of the miracles of Jesus with deeper meaning than a surface reading of the text might suggest. Even his choice of just seven signs is an indicator that John thinks these signs are sufficient for providing us with a complete picture of what we need to know about who Jesus is. As this unit is the final set of lessons that the boys will receive, it is my last chance to impress upon them the beauty and the power of Scripture, and so challenge them not to forget the things they have learnt in SRE lessons, but to pursue truth in life through continuing to always engage with God's Word. **It is my prayer that these boys will go on to keep reading the Bible, growing in their understanding of God, being challenged to live lives to his glory. May this be your prayer for the Year 10 students at Normanhurst too.**



Tony Jones, SRE Teacher NBHS

Exploring Faith Beyond the Classroom



It is that time of year when graduation activities and celebrations are in full swing, alongside conversations with Year 12 students about life beyond school. These moments have prompted me to reflect on **one of the purposes of SRE, which is to equip students to explore faith beyond the classroom, and for Christianity to remain openly attractive.**

This sentiment was present in Year 10's final lesson which focused on the topic of 'church.' We can be encouraged that students generally had positive associations with church and could describe some of the key aspects of our gatherings. They were aware of the number of churches around school, which prompted questions like: "Why are there so many?" "What's the difference between denominations?" "How do I know if I'm going to the right one?" and "Why is my church seen as a cult?"

Using the Corinthian church as a case study, we explored how church is a community of sinners who are learning to follow Jesus together. Each person is valued and needed as God brings together natural enemies to form a family. An unexpected highlight was their interest in exploring NCEA church websites, as well as those of their friends' churches. For some, this reignited curiosity about church after years of absence - whether due to COVID lockdowns or busyness. **As we partner in sharing Jesus with students, may God direct many of them into your communities, where they can continue their faith journey, and get a taste of how good life in God's kingdom can be.**

Christine Chin, SRE Teacher HGHS

PRAYER POINTS

Hornsby Girls'

- Pray that Year 10, 11 and 12 students will get connected with a Christian community (e.g. Highlite, ISCF, local youth group, church)
- Pray that Christian students will have the courage and conviction to invite their friends to church and will be faithful witnesses in word and action.
- Pray that the lunchtime Christian group Highlite will remain a welcoming, vibrant, and life-giving Christian community, with students growing in faith as they study Ephesians.

- Pray that there will be more opportunities to have gospel conversations both in and outside the classroom.
- Pray that students in SRE classes would taste and see that the Lord is good.

Normanhurst Boys'

- Pray that Year 7 students will read the Bible for themselves, and think about their own answer to the question, "Who is Jesus?"
- Pray that Year 8 will come to comprehend how Jesus addresses all the needs we have, whatever our cultural background might be.
- Pray Year 9 recognize that true meaning in life is ultimately only found in a relationship with God through Jesus Christ.
- Give thanks that the Christian lunchtime group 'Connect,' has permission to meet again, and for the teacher who has stepped in to the supervisor role. Pray that more Christian boys would be keen to come along and invite friends.
- Give thanks for the encouragement Tony receives, as he visits supporting churches to share how God is at work in students at NBHS.

FINANCIAL NEWS!

We give thanks to God for His generosity through supporting churches and individuals. At the 13th September, \$103,000 had been received. Our budget for 2025 is \$153,000, leaving a balance of \$50,000 to be raised in the remainder of 2025.

Please consider supporting NCEA financially before 31st December, and pray, that God through His people, will supply the remaining finances needed.

Thank you to all of you who have so generously supported.

The Australian Tax Office has endorsed the Normanhurst Christian Education RIGS(Religious Instruction In Government Schools in Australia) Fund as a tax deductible gift recipient. Our bank account details are identified over the page. However, receipts reflect the name Normanhurst Christian Education RIGS Fund.

Donations to support this ministry can be forwarded by cash, cheque, online direct debit, or credit card (see over page).

Glenys Porter, NCEA Treasurer, October 2025