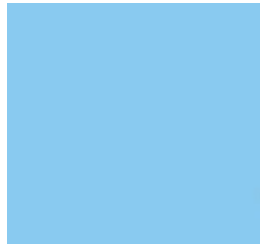


2009 Annual School Report West Wallsend High School

NSW Public Schools – Leading the way



Our school at a glance

Students

Our school enrolment in 2009 at the end of the year was 570 students, of which 311 were boys and 259 were girls. This figure does not include the 24 students enrolled at Lake Macquarie Adolescent Support.

Staff

In 2009, our school had a Principal, 1 teaching Deputy Principal, 7 Head Teachers and 34 Classroom Teachers. Additionally, we had a Teacher of Mild Intellectual Disabilities, a Teacher-Librarian, an STLA (Support Teacher Learning Assistance) and 2 School Counsellors who shared the role. Lake Macquarie Adolescent Support (LMAS) had a Head Teacher Support and 3 teachers.

Our school administrative and support staff consisted of a School Administrative Manager, School Administrative Officers, a General Assistant, a Farm Assistant and part-time School Learning Officers.

All teaching staff meet the professional requirements for teaching in NSW public schools.

Significant programs and initiatives

West Wallsend High School is a great school which aims to maximise learning opportunities and outcomes for all students. Our school affords students many experiences and activities that enrich their education. During 2009 we have implemented or initiated:

- A leadership and mentoring program which raised the profile and increased the role of the Student Representative Council and provided opportunities for talented students.
- Various programs to improve literacy and numeracy across the school. These included involvement in the Premier's Reading Challenge, strengthening of intensive literacy and numeracy groups, author workshop for Year 7 students, focus on writing in Year 7 and 9 classrooms and staff development activities.
- Introduction of the STRENGTH program for boys and continuation of the SHINE program for girls.
- Introduction of the STRIVE 8 Program which supported the learning and self-reflection of all Year 8 students. Strengthening of the STRIVE 10 Program which entailed all Year 10 students presenting for an interview at the conclusion of their School Certificate.

- Development of K-12 Learning Continuum with staff from all schools in the West Wallsend LMG developing a Thinking Skills Resource and the organisation of a combined Term 3 School Development Day.
- An Environmental Club.
- Waterwatch Program at Flaggy Creek involving Year 12 students.
- A full school celebration of NAIDOC Day.
- A GATS special interest program for 15 junior students.
- Successful application for Enterprise Learning Project, which involved Year 8 students developing a Heritage Walk for West Wallsend.
- An Enrichment Class in Year 7 and 8 who continually were presented with challenging tasks across the curriculum.
- A successful application for the ME Program, a federal government initiative which forges links with industries and enhances staff and student knowledge of careers in the advanced manufacturing area.
- University links established with 19 teachers attending Teachers Open Day and Science, Mathematics and Computer Studies faculties meeting with university staff and taking students to university to view facilities.

West Wallsend LMG consists of West Wallsend High School and its partner primary schools: West Wallsend Public, Edgeworth Heights Public and Barnsley Public. Together we have worked to implement consistent discipline codes and behavioural expectations and have developed a K-12 Thinking Skills Resource.

Student achievement in 2009

Literacy – NAPLAN Year 7

Students demonstrated significant growth in all areas. Highlight was reading results.

Numeracy – NAPLAN Year 7

Students demonstrated growth.

Literacy – NAPLAN Year 9

Students demonstrated significant growth in reading, writing and spelling. Movement of students into the upper bands.

Numeracy – NAPLAN Year 9

Students demonstrated growth.

School Certificate

Outstanding results, three band sixes and 61 band fives. Computer Studies and Science

results were excellent. Significant improvement in Australian Geography, Civics and Citizenship results.

Higher School Certificate

Overall results were outstanding. Mathematics and Technology and Applied Studies results were excellent.

Messages

Principal's message

I feel very privileged to be Principal at West Wallsend High School. It is an excellent school with a promising future.

West Wallsend High School is a wonderful community-focussed school which serves a proud local area and has extremely strong links with the local community and our three partner schools.

Our school shares the core values recognised by the NSW/DET and NSW Government as representing the aspirations and beliefs of the Australian community as a whole.

These include: integrity, excellence, respect, responsibility, cooperation, participation, care, fairness and democracy.

West Wallsend has excellent, dedicated, caring teachers and friendly, helpful support staff. Strong working partnerships have been developed between the school staff, the parents and the wider community members.

Our students are encouraged to strive to do their best. This is reflected in our school motto, "Always Striving". We also encourage the students to maximise their learning opportunities by providing opportunities for performing arts, sport and excursions as well as ensuring that sound developments are achieved in literacy and numeracy. We are strongly committed to providing students with the academic and social skills required to be successful and are happy when they leave school and to help them achieve their life goals.

I trust that the community is as proud of its school as I am and that it shares with me the pride that I take in reflecting upon the achievements of our staff, students and community in 2009.

I certify that the information in this report is the result of a rigorous school self-evaluation process and is a balanced and genuine account of the school's achievements and areas for development.

Ann Campbell

Principal

P&C Message

2009 was a most successful year for our P&C. Meetings are informative with a great deal of information provided about school programs and initiatives.

During the past year, the P&C provided donations to the school so that funding could be allocated for various school programs. They continued to select a Year 12 art work for the annual Art Award which was framed and donated to the school and awards for our annual presentation celebration.

The P&C ran various fund-raising activities, including: a Pie Drive, raffles and a very successful shopping trip to Sydney

May I conclude by extending an invitation to each and every parent to come along and join the P&C.

Mrs Jennie Middlemas

Student representative's message

During 2009 the SRC was involved in a range of school activities. Regular meetings were held and these meetings were formalised during the year.

Four prefects were inducted to increase the leadership team in 2009. The Captains, Vice Captains and Prefects ran the Year 12 formal, attended the White Ribbon Day Breakfast and Seminar, ran various assemblies, attended the Education Week Church Service, the Principal's visit to the Governor General, the West Wallsend High School Business Breakfast, the West Wallsend Remembrance Day service and the School Annual Awards Night.

Students in the junior school attended the Regional Harmony Day workshop and the Altitude Conference.

Jared Dailey, Melanie Owens

School context

Student information

It is a requirement that the reporting of information for all students must be consistent with privacy and personal information policies.

Student enrolment profile

Enrolments increased in 2009, increasing overall numbers in the school. We continued to offer a broad curriculum catering for students from all ability groups to ensure that they are prepared for life beyond school.

Student Enrolment

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Male	325	306	312	301	311
Female	276	277	276	251	259

Student attendance profile

Student attendance for Year 7-12 was below state and regional average in Years 9, 10, 11 and 12.

	Year	2006	2007	2008	2009
School	7				92.0
	8				89.4
	9				86.2
	10				86.8
	11				82.3
	12				84.5
	Total	89.1	89.2	88.7	87.0
Region	7				91.5
	8				88.9
	9				87.8
	10				87.6
	11				88.2
	12				88.4
	Total	89.1	89.0	88.9	88.7
State	7				92.3
	8				90.0
	9				88.8
	10				88.7
	11				89.4
	12				89.4
	Total	89.8	89.9	89.9	89.7

Management of non-attendance

Attendance is monitored rigorously and students with attendance of concern are counselled and linked with the Home School Liaison Officer. We have planned to discontinue the Period 0 for senior students in 2010, as a means to improve senior attendance.

Structure of classes

In the Year 7-10 classes, students undertake the mandatory courses of the curriculum and have choice of elective courses in Year 8, 9 and 10. Year 7 classes are determined by consultation with partner school staff; however, an Enrichment Class is selected using an interview process and literacy and numeracy tests.

In the senior school, following the NSW Board of Studies requirements, English is the only compulsory subject. Students choose their remaining five subjects – their options determine which subjects are taught.

Retention to Year 12

Retention to Year 12 decreased in 2009. This was a result of a rigorous interview process for students with the Careers Adviser to ensure that they had a career plan and understood what they had to do to achieve their dream. A number of students took up pre-apprenticeships during the

year with many of these students gaining apprenticeships and full-time employment. All students who left school moved into further training or employment.

Post-school destinations

Year 12 students undertaking vocational or trade training

A large interest was shown by students at the school in vocational or trade training in 2009. 80% of students undertook a VET course at school or a course at TAFE. Results in VET subjects in the HSC were outstanding and work experience reports were favourable in all cases.

Year 12 students attaining HSC or equivalent vocational educational qualification

100% of students who completed Year 12 attained the HSC in 2009.

25% of students have moved to University studies. 25% of the students have accepted careers in trades and trade training. 45% have undertaken casual and full-time employment and at the time of our survey 5% were seeking work.

Staff information

It is a requirement that the reporting of information for all staff must be consistent with privacy and personal information policies.

The staff of West Wallsend High School is made up of experienced and enthusiastic teachers. They place high value on their individual professional learning and on student outcomes.

During the year Mr Michael Cowling was appointed as Head Teacher Computing Studies and Mr Paul Johnson gained a permanent position on the Computing Studies staff. Mr Phil Gordon gained a transfer to Warners Bay High School and was replaced by Mr Anthony Layton on the Mathematics staff.

Staff establishment

Position	Number
Principal	1
Deputy Principal(s)	1
Head Teachers	7
Classroom Teachers	34
Teacher of Emotional Disabilities	3
Teacher of Mild Intellectual Disabilities	1
Support Teacher Learning Assistance	1
Teacher Librarian	1
Counsellor	1
School Administrative & Support Staff (SASS)	16
Total	66

There are two indigenous school learning support officers at the school.

Teacher qualifications

All teaching staff meet the professional requirements for teaching in NSW public schools.

Qualifications	% of staff
Degree or Diploma	100
Postgraduate	18

Financial summary

This summary covers funds for operating costs and does not involve expenditure areas such as permanent salaries, building and major maintenance.

Date of financial summary:	30/11/2009
Income	\$
Balance brought forward	319 053.37
Global funds	464 286.04
Tied funds	240 685.13
School & community sources	201 820.32
Interest	11 553.05
Trust receipts	40 362.37
Canteen	169 183.43
<i>Total income</i>	<u>1 446 943.71</u>
Expenditure	
Teaching & learning	
Key learning areas	81 784.38
Excursions	89 887.16
Extracurricular dissections	83 554.22
Library	11 388.88
Training & development	1 160.94
Tied funds	323 520.15
Casual relief teachers	101 553.21
Administration & office	109 554.67
School-operated canteen	146 717.71
Utilities	75 238.04
Maintenance	122 990.50
Trust accounts	36 878.13
Capital programs	17 133.29
<i>Total expenditure</i>	<u>1 201 361.28</u>
Balance carried forward	<u>245 582.43</u>

A large percentage of the balance that is carried forward consists of funds that are tied to particular programs. These funds cannot be spent in other areas of the school.

There is one paid manager of the school canteen with all other assistance being volunteers from the local community. Funds raised by the canteen are used to provide educational resources for the students.

A full copy of the school's 2009 financial statement is tabled at the annual general meetings of the P&C. Further details concerning the statement can be obtained by contacting the school.

School performance 2009

During 2009 achievements were made in the areas of literacy and numeracy, welfare, staff development, community and improvements in student learning outcomes.

Achievements

Arts

Visual Arts

During Term 1, Senior and Junior Visual Art students attended the Regional Exhibition of Art Express which showcases the best works from the HSC, at the Newcastle Regional Art Gallery.

Senior Art students visited Lake Macquarie Gallery, gaining inspiration for their own art-making throughout the term.

Two multi-media experimental workshops were offered to senior students so students had the opportunity to investigate a range of materials in the development of a major work.

Year 10 and Year 11 students had the opportunity to explore a variety of painting techniques with the assistance of well-known artist Limerick Kay, guiding them in the creation of a portrait on canvas which later led to a group exhibition displayed in the school.

Anthony Blanch attended a gifted junior boy's two-day workshop at the National Art School and Newcastle Regional Gallery, along with 26 students from the region.

Rhearna Cox and Melanie Orr attended a two-day workshop at the Regional Art Gallery working with a group of Year 11 students across the area, experimenting with drawing and painting techniques.

Two major exhibitions were displayed during Term 4, showcasing the quality work of both the Year 10 students and the HSC major works completed by West Wallsend High School students.

Paige McBain won the P&C Art Prize with a charcoal drawing of Elizabeth Taylor.

Dance and Drama

Talented students were involved in numerous memorable performances on assemblies and at other school functions. Of note was the performance at the Year 10 Farewell Assembly by students from the Year 10 Drama Group.

Students were involved in MADD night which included drama skits, small group dances and larger group performances.

Students participated in the audition, rehearsal and performances for Star Struck for both dance and drama. Erin Keating was selected as a choreographer for a major dance group for Star Struck.

West Wallsend drama performances caught the eye of the producer as a result of their talent and focus, and were used as an example for other schools to model. For other Star Struck items, the quality audition pieces researched and composed by the students were included directly in the show.

Students participated in the Hunter Schools Dance Festival in July. This is an opportunity to perform in a professional environment at a regional level. Competition to be invited to perform is fierce and so it is creditable that West Wallsend High School students were included in the program.

Senior Drama students attended the play 'Ruby Moon' during the year and Year 12 Drama performances for selected student audiences and staff were a high point in 2009.

Year 10 Drama students were selected as a large group to participate in the Hunter/Central Coast Drama Festival. The quality of the drama performances prepared during workshops led to an invitation to perform at the State Drama Festival.

Selected students were invited to attend an indigenous Dance camp. Students were chosen at a regional level on the quality of their applications, outlining their experience and commitment to dance.

Music

Senior music students attended an HSC Music Day at the Conservatorium early in Term 1. The day provided students with much valuable information and included performances by HSC candidates followed by critiques from senior markers. A highlight of the day was a performance by The University of Newcastle Chamber Choir who was the winner of the "Battle of the Choirs" competition in 2008.

In Term 2 the School Band and Year 12 music students performed at Westfield, Kotara in an event organised by Latham's Music to celebrate Education Week.

Year 12 students Caleb Sandford, Katelyn Pickstone and Andrew Lane together with Joseph Oubridge and John Mudd provided musical entertainment at our annual Business Breakfast.

Jasmine Johnson was a featured soloist at 'Star Struck' 2009 for the third consecutive year. Zachary Forrest and Matthew Roberts performed in Star Struck as members of the 'Boys Vocal Ensemble' while 15 students from Years 7-10 were members of the Star Struck Choir. These students were able to experience the excitement, commitment and effort involved in a large-scale production.

The MADD night at the end of Term 2 included performances from the school band, vocal group, Star Struck singers and music elective students performing a wide variety of items.

In Term 3, HSC Music students performed for staff, students, family and friends at an evening concert. This provided an invaluable performance opportunity in the lead-up to the HSC practical examination.

During Term 4, Year 11 students Nicholas Adnum, Celeste Ortega-Edwards and Leah Rees performed at the annual Sports Award Dinner.

In December, the School Band, vocal group members and music elective students from Years 8/9 performed for residents at the Hawkins Masonic Village.

Throughout the year regular special assemblies and presentation ceremonies provided many students with the opportunity to showcase their talents.

Sport

School sporting carnivals were once again held for swimming, cross country and athletics. At the School swimming carnival at East Maitland Pool in February, Stockrington proved to be champions in the pool. Stockrington were also victorious come Cross Country carnival time and when the Athletics carnival came around, Stockrington were short-priced favourites to make it a clean sweep; repeating their effort in 2008. Sugarloaf competitors had other ideas and with a great team effort were crowned champions on the Athletics field. Stockrington are, never the less, undisputed House champions for the year.

West Wallsend High, which is the smallest school in our zone, once again performed very well in the Westlakes Zone Carnivals conducted throughout the year. We have four students confirmed as Zone Champions in swimming, cross country and Athletics (compared to two in 2008).

Eighty students were selected to represent Westlakes Zone at Hunter Regional Carnivals which is almost twice the number of

representatives in 2008. Nine students from these carnivals went on to represent the Hunter at State Carnivals in swimming, golf and athletics (up from six in 2008). Athlete, Jared Dailey has represented at a higher level again, when he recently represented N.S.W. C.H.S. at the All Schools Carnival; winning the hammer throw event.

The sporting success for the students of our school is nurtured and supported by many dedicated and committed teachers. Much of this occurs as a result of the effort and encouragement of our school's PE staff. Thank you to Mr Graham, Miss McCaffrey, Mrs Breasley, Mr Munro and Mr Watts, for your teaching, coaching and managerial skills and your support for sport at West Wallsend High School.

In the Grade competitions in 2009, West Wallsend has a record-equalling six champion teams. This is from 12 competitions, so with a winning percentage of 50 per cent, our students dominate on the Grade Sporting fields.

West Wallsend again competed in a large number of State K.O. competitions with mixed success. Our junior boys cricket team reached the top four in the Hunter region.

The culmination of Year 7 sport is the annual Sporting Gala Day against Newcastle High School. In 2009, revenge was ours with our students winning the competition convincingly. This follows wins by Newcastle in 2006 and 2007. Well done to all Year 7 students.

The opportunity for the sportsmen and women of West Wallsend High School to be acknowledged at our annual Awards Dinner is a highlight of the sporting year at the school. It provides us with an opportunity to focus on, and highlight, sporting achievements in our school and is a wonderful part of life at West Wallsend High School.

The presentation night in 2009 marked the 23rd anniversary of the evening. It is only possible to conduct such an event with the wonderful support from the local community. Clubs, businesses and individuals provide financial sponsorship, prizes, their time and their encouragement for the event and this is very much appreciated. Our special guest on the night was former West Wallsend High student and member of the current Jets W League women's soccer team, Nicki Jones.

Whilst 2009 provided many highlights on the sporting field, West Wallsend High School looks forward to the challenges and successes that 2010 will inevitably provide.

Academic

In the National Assessment Program, the results across the Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 literacy and numeracy assessments are reported on a scale from Band 1 to Band 10.

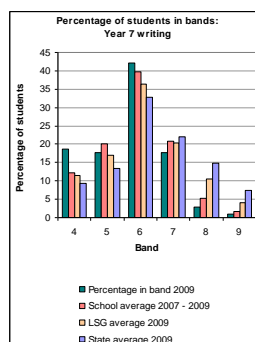
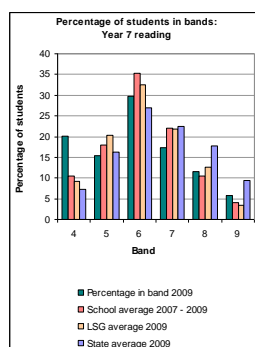
The achievement scale represents increasing levels of skills and understandings demonstrated in the assessments.

Yr 7: from Band 4 (lowest) to Band 9 (highest for Year 7)

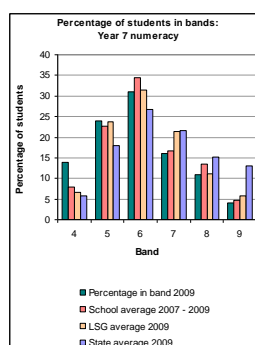
Yr 9: from Band 5 (lowest) to Band 10 (highest for Year 9)

In the School Certificate the performance of students is reported in performance bands ranging from Performance Band 1 (lowest) to Performance Band 6 (highest).

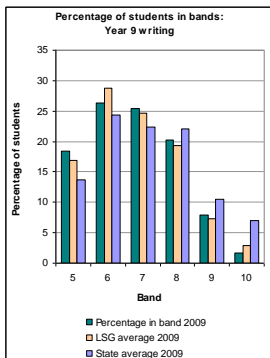
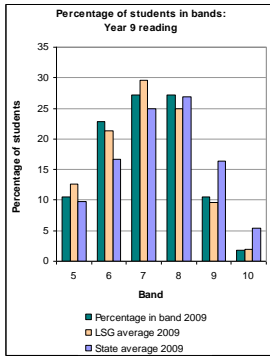
Literacy – NAPLAN Year 7



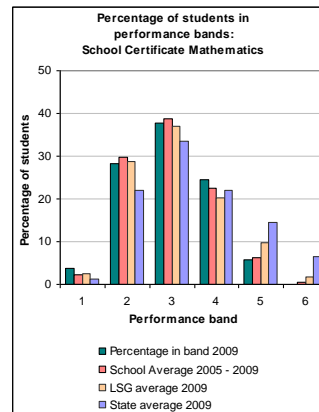
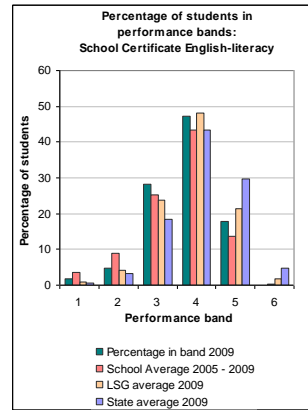
Numeracy – NAPLAN Year 7



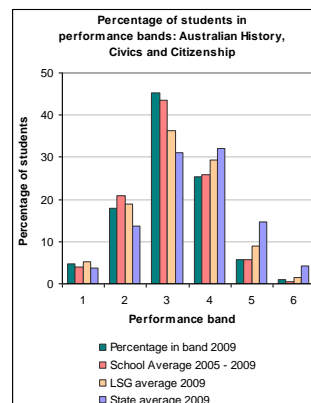
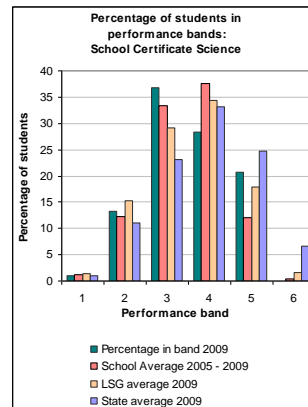
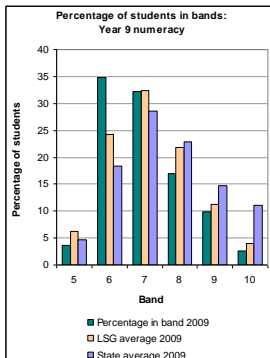
Literacy – NAPLAN Year 9



School Certificate

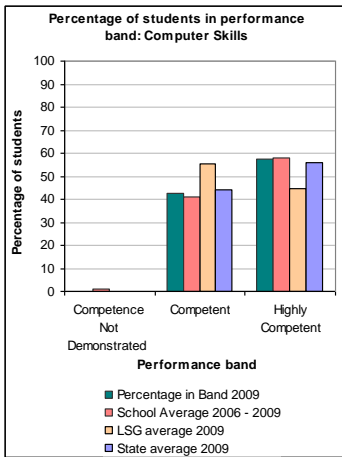
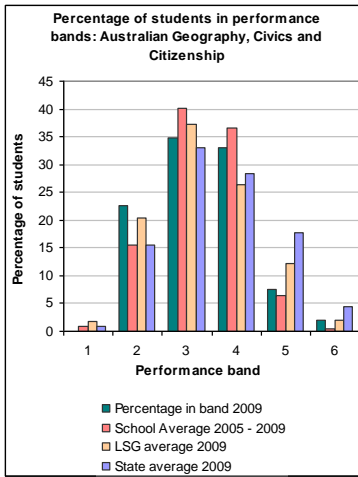


Numeracy – NAPLAN Year 9

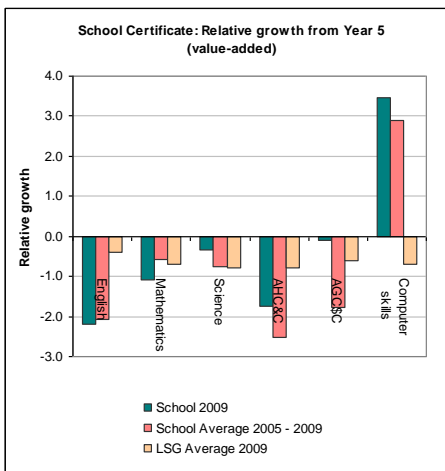


Progress in literacy and numeracy

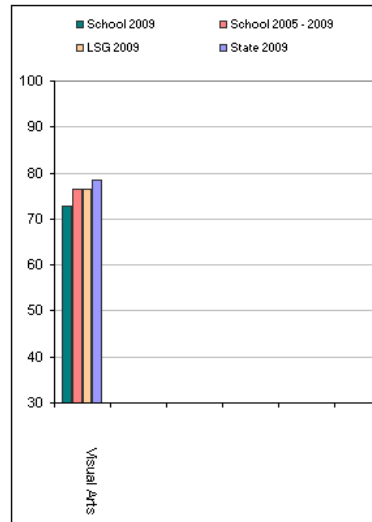
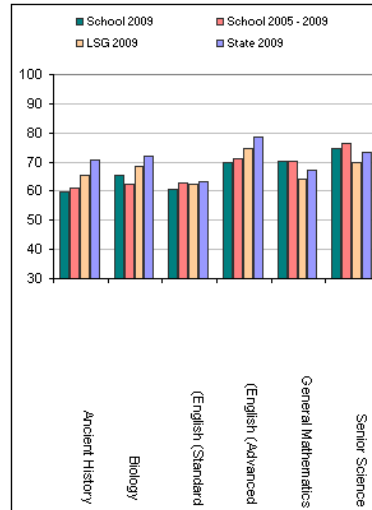
Significant increases were made in literacy and numeracy growth in Year 9. Both literacy and numeracy tasks are included across the curriculum with a number of professional learning activities for staff to enhance their teaching strategies.



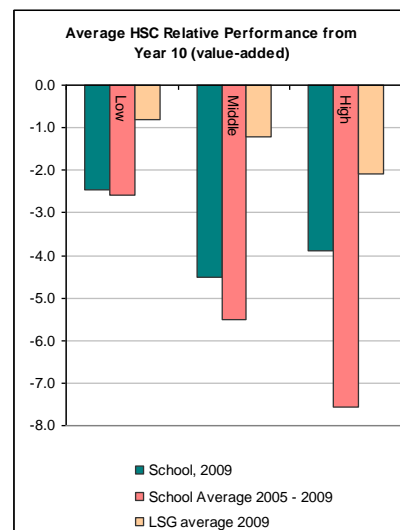
School Certificate relative performance comparison to Year 5 (value-adding)



Higher School Certificate



Higher School Certificate relative performance comparison to School Certificate (value-adding)



Minimum standards

The Commonwealth Government sets minimum standards for reading, writing, grammar and punctuation, spelling and numeracy for Years 3, 5, 7 and 9.

The performance of the students in our school in the National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy is compared to these minimum standards. The percentages of our students achieving at or above these standards are reported below.

Percentage of Year 7 students achieving at and above minimum standard	
Reading	79.8
Writing	81.4
Spelling	83.3
Punctuation and grammar	76.5
Numeracy	86.0

Percentage of Year 9 students in our school achieving at or above the minimum standard in 2009

Percentage of Year 9 students achieving at and above minimum standard	
Reading	89.5
Writing	81.6
Spelling	82.5
Punctuation and grammar	79.8
Numeracy	96.4

Significant programs and initiatives

The following new initiatives were introduced in 2009:

- Four focus day workshop sessions for each year group
- Athletics Program purchased and used across all year groups
- Year 10 Five Star Award for Numeracy
- K-12 Continuum extended with team preparing professional learning materials, attending training and development workshops and organising common school development day in Term 3

- Professional learning for staff in Digital Education Revolution
- Links established with University of Newcastle in faculties of Mathematics, Science and Information Technology, with all staff members spending a day with university staff and a student visit organised
- 19 teachers attended the University Open Day for teachers
- STRENGTH Program
- Early morning and lunch fitness classes
- Whole school Anti-Bullying Program incorporating Cyber Bullying Workshop
- Youth Week Grant – Chalk the Walk
- Development of Heritage Walk for West Wallsend
- Work readiness program for Life Skills students in local community
- Participation in the “Model United Nations Assembly”
- Year 7 History Medieval Day
- Year 9 Laptop Rollout
- Mathematicians in Schools Program
- STRIVE 8 Program

Aboriginal education

Successful initiatives in 2009 include:

- Visit to Maitland Goal
- Participation in the Koori Touch Football Competition
- Involvement and leadership roles in Naidoc Day activities at West Wallsend Public School and Barnsley Public School
- Organisation of Naidoc Day activities at West Wallsend High School
- Winner of the Naidoc Day Art Prize
- Lyn Brown elected as Vice President on the Board of the AECG Junior Members elected on the Board were Curtis Brown, Mandy Standing, Sharni McCann and Max Markwort
- Mandy Standing and Curtis Brown were awarded Senior Scholarship Awards to support their senior studies
- Newcastle Knights representatives working with our students

- Celebration of Sorry Day
- Marook Camp at Nelson Bay
- Aboriginal dancing at the local pre-schools
- Australia Walkabout
- Leadership Camp at Wollombi
- Elder Dinner at the Loft
- Three on Three Basketball Competition
- Drug and Alcohol Workshops with Hunter Life Education
- Meet the Mob at Beresfield

Multicultural education

West Wallsend High School's student enrolment is basically of Caucasian descent, apart from the 54 Aboriginal students and some minority groups. Students and staff embrace cultural differences, treating all students as individuals. The values and attitudes developed by the school reflect respect for individuals and tolerance of other cultures.

Respect and responsibility

At West Wallsend High School, students are expected to respect other people, the environment and themselves. The discipline and welfare system is set up to provide students with the strategies to take responsibility for their behaviour. Many programs are implemented which provide students with these self-management strategies.

Information Technology

2009 was another busy, productive and successful year for the IT Faculty. Mr. Cowling successfully applied for the Position of Head Teacher Computing and Mr. Johnson successfully applied for the position of Computing Teacher left vacant by Mr. Cowling.

School Certificate Results

Student results in the Computing Skills Examination were excellent. All students sat for the examination. All of our students were in either the Highly Competent or Competent categories with no student in the Elementary Achievement category (Lowest category).

Students at West Wallsend High School performed at above the State average (+1.1%) and out-performed our Like School Group (LSG) by +3.8%. In addition, WWHS showed outstanding value-added growth.

Higher School Certificate Results

Courses offered in 2009: Information Technology, Information Processes and Technology and Software Design and Development.

Information Technology

We had one class sit for the HSC in 2009. The results were very sound. In summary;

- Above State representation in Bands 5 and 4,
- Below State representation in Band 3,
- No students in Band 2 or 1.

Our average mark was 75.7%, which is 6.6% above state average (69.1%). This result puts one of our students in the top 3% of the State and one in the top 10%.

Software Design and Development

We had one small class of two students sit for the HSC in 2009. In summary;

- One student in Band 4,
- One student in Band 3,
- No students in Bands 2 or 1.

Our average mark was 69.5%, which is 2.2% below State average (71.7%). This result showed a solid positive value-added result.

Information Processes and Technology

We had one class sit for the HSC in 2009. In summary;

- Below State representation in Bands 5 and 4,
- Above State representation in Band 3,
- No students in Bands 2 or 1.

Our average mark for Information Technology was 66.4%, which is 6.4% below State average (72.9%). This is a disappointing result. However, students still recorded a solid positive value-added result.

Achievements

- Above State average in Information Technology (HSC);
- Solid value-added student performance in all HSC courses;
- State average in Computing Skills Examination (SC) and outstanding value-added student performance;

- Successful completion of Phase 1 of DET Wireless Network;
- Installation of two (2) Interactive Whiteboards;
- Setup and launch of Moodle;
- Installation of two new servers to run Moodle, Student Welfare System and provide secure filtered access to the Internet;
- Development of links with the University of Newcastle and Ampcontrol.

Targets for 2010

- Continuation of improvement in student results in the School certificate and Higher School Certificate;
- Installation of a minimum of five (5) Interactive Whiteboards;
- Development of resources and infrastructure to enhance the use of student laptops both at school and at home;
- Remote access from home to the school network for all students;
- Continued development of Moodle as a valuable learning tool for all students.

Vocational Education

Currently West Wallsend High School delivers Vocational Education in the Industry Frameworks of Retail, Business Services, Metals and Engineering, Information Technology, Hospitality and Construction. Additionally students can access industry specific training via TAFE-delivered courses (TVET) offered at various Hunter TAFE campuses.

In 2009 Stage 5 (Year 10) VET was offered in the Hospitality framework and successfully completed by four students. In 2010 planning is underway to offer Business Services to Year 10 students.

Vocational Education student work placement is coordinated by Career Links Incorporated, enabling students access to quality workplace opportunities to enhance their employment skills.

During November 2009, West Wallsend High School participated in an audit that identified the school-delivered VET at a high level with many best practice examples and quality student outcomes.

VET teachers continue to gain industry currency learning and professional development via teacher network meetings and workshops. Currently a staff member is training in Primary Industries/Horticulture with the intention of delivering the course in 2011.

Supporting Vocational Education at West Wallsend High School is the Career Education program. This program aims to provide assistance and guidance to Year 9 to 12 students in planning their career pathway.

Partnership Career Education programs with other providers have enabled quality programs to be delivered such as Plan-it-Youth and Jobquest.

During the year links were forged with Newcastle University, Tighes Hill TAFE and Castle Employment. The school successfully applied to be part of the ME Program, which will commence in 2010 and will provide opportunities for students and staff to learn more about careers in Advanced Manufacturing. The federally-funded program was launched at West Wallsend High School in November.

Progress on 2009 targets

Target 1

Improvement of Student Outcomes

Various programs were implemented to improve student outcomes, with the aim to increase the number of students in the top bands.

Our achievements include:

- Improvement in NAPLAN results.
- 3 Band 6's in the School Certificate and 61 Band 5's. 3 Band 6's in the Higher School Certificate and 29 Band 5's.
- Focus Days were implemented each term for each year group. Evaluations were extremely positive. They provided Year 12 students with quality time to work on practical projects, STRIVE 10 and STRIVE 8 project workshops, Careers Workshop for Year 9 and Road Whyz Program for Year 11. A significant amount of time was allocated for literacy development and study skill tuition.
- Mentor support program for more able students resulted in improved outcomes and extensive opportunities for participating students.
- Real Framework introduced and renamed STRIVE 8. All Year 8 students presented work portfolios at the end of the year. Students demonstrated self-reflection skills.
- Four students completed Stage 5 VET in Hospitality with one Year 10 student coming first in the senior course.

Target 2

Improved Outcomes for Students at Risk

Students at risk engaged in a number of programs to support learning.

Our achievements include:

- Modified Stage 6 Life Skills program has seen the retention of 8 students to complete a Stage 6 Life Skills HSC
- Staff professional learning resulted in modification of learning programs to accommodate the needs for students at risk. All staff trained in Non-Violent Crisis Intervention.
- Life Skills Case Worker organised work experience for Life Skills students in local businesses, a work readiness program and a weekly mentor session to support classroom learning.

Target 3

Implementation of Community-Based Learning

30 students participated in Service Learning Program at Mercy Community Services throughout the year.

Our achievements include:

- Students participated in volunteer program at Mercy Community Services in groups of three throughout Terms 2, 3 and 4. Evaluations from students, Mercy staff members and Mercy clients were extremely positive.
- Program to be extended in 2010.

Key Evaluations

It is a requirement for all NSW public schools to conduct at least two annual evaluations – one related to educational and management practice and the other related to curriculum. In 2009 our school carried out evaluations of Executive Roles and Student Motivation.

Educational and management practice

Executive Roles

Background

An evaluation of executive roles was undertaken during Executive Meetings in order to ensure all educational and management practice areas were covered adequately and fairly.

Findings and conclusions

It was found that management could be more effective if roles were reorganised amongst members of the executive.

Management of truancy and student leadership were taken over by Head Teachers and various roles were accepted by teaching staff. The reorganisation allowed Head Teachers to focus on specific areas of whole school management in a more efficient manner.

Future directions

The analysis provided feedback for the following actions in the future:

- Review and development of student leadership.
- Collection of data related to student attendance and truancy.

Curriculum

Student Motivation

Background

In 2008 and 2009 the Science Faculty undertook an Australian Government Quality Teaching Project with the Deputy Principal, Robyn Leggatt. The project was designed to improve student motivation in Science using different teaching approaches to develop teaching units.

Findings and conclusions

Staff identified improved engagement and motivation as a result of the use of a variety of student centred teaching strategies. Student

confidence was enhanced and external examination results in Science were significantly improved.

Future directions

The Science Faculty will continue to use the “backward mapping” approach for the development of all units of work.

Robyn Leggatt worked through the approach with Head Teachers and it is planned that other faculties will adopt the approach.

Parent, student, and teacher satisfaction

In 2009 the school sought the opinions of parents, students and teachers about the school.

Their responses are presented below.

- Parents were generally happy with the school and its operation.
- Students enjoy the breadth of subject selection and believed they were well-supported by staff. They expressed a desire to have more training in leadership.
- Staff members want a transparent and consistent discipline policy to operate at the school and to be supported so that they can effectively teach in all lessons.

Professional learning

The school held three school development days in 2009. The focus areas were:

- Term 1 – Management and Learning Strategies for students at risk, particularly students with mental health issues and Strategies to Improve Literacy Skills of students.
- Term 2 – Non-Violent Crisis Intervention
- Term 3 – All staff from the LMG met to work with Ralph Pirozzo to discuss thinking skill development and learning strategies.
- Term 4 – Technology Workshops including use of Interactive Whiteboards, Moodle, Wikis and Video Technology. Sharing of strategies with other local secondary schools.

Staff participated in a range of professional learning workshops with a focus on programs to assist staff in the teaching of literacy, numeracy

and VET courses. Staff attended workshops in several Key Learning Areas, mental health and wellbeing conferences, managing challenging behaviour conferences and leadership conferences. Mandatory DET requirements for emergency care, CPR and OHS were also conducted.

Fifty teachers participated in teacher professional development courses and the average expenditure per teacher on professional development was \$500.

School development 2009 – 2011

The school continued to work through the three year plan developed in 2008.

Targets for 2010

Target 1

Enhance Student Engagement in Mathematics, Science, Engineering Studies and Information Technology

Strategies to achieve this target include:

- West Wallsend High School is a pilot school in the ME Program which is a federally-funded program to increase student and staff awareness about “advanced manufacturing” as a career pathway. Through this program it is anticipated that student engagement in technical subjects will improve.
- School will link with Ampcontrol as a partner industry.
- Staff will participate in site tours at Ampcontrol to develop their knowledge concerning student skills required to gain employment and possible career pathways.
- Establishment of a group of “school-based apprentices” from Year 9 who will participate in program, including site visits, university input, project work and work experience programs.

Our success will be measured by:

- Staff evaluations of experiences.
- Student pre and post test data concerning “advanced manufacturing”.
- Number of students who complete expression of interest to participate in program.

Target 2

Improved Outcomes for Students

Strategies to achieve this target include:

- Implementation of Certificate 1 in Laboratory Skills for selected Year 10 students.
- Further develop links with University of Newcastle to enhance staff knowledge and to provide learning experiences for students.
- Implement mentoring program for girls with successful businesswomen.
- Implementation of Certificate 1 in Work Readiness for selected Life Skills students.
- Employment of a Job Coach to work with students at risk and link them to a range of successful work experiences.

Our success will be measured by:

- Students achieving an increased number of top bands in external examinations.
- Continued improvement in value-added data.
- Improved retention of students with disabilities and Aboriginal students.

Target 3

Improved Student Leadership Opportunities

Strategies to achieve this target include:

- Formation of teacher team to focus on student leadership.
- Training of students to undertake leadership roles.
- Invitation to guest speakers to talk to students about leadership.
- Evaluation of procedures for student leader elections.
- Reintroduction of Peer Support.
- Organisation of LMG Primary/Secondary Leadership Day.

Our success will be measured by:

- Student and staff evaluations of student involvement in leadership roles around the school.
- Number of students who express an interest to become student leaders.
- Evaluations of the LMG Leadership Day.

About this report

In preparing this report, the self-evaluation committee has gathered information from evaluations conducted during the year and analysed other information about the school's practices and student learning outcomes. The self-evaluation committee and school planning committee have determined targets for the school's future development.

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Robyn Leggatt – Deputy Principal

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Parents can find out more information about Annual School Reports, how to interpret information in the reports and have the opportunity to provide feedback about these reports at:

<http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/asr>