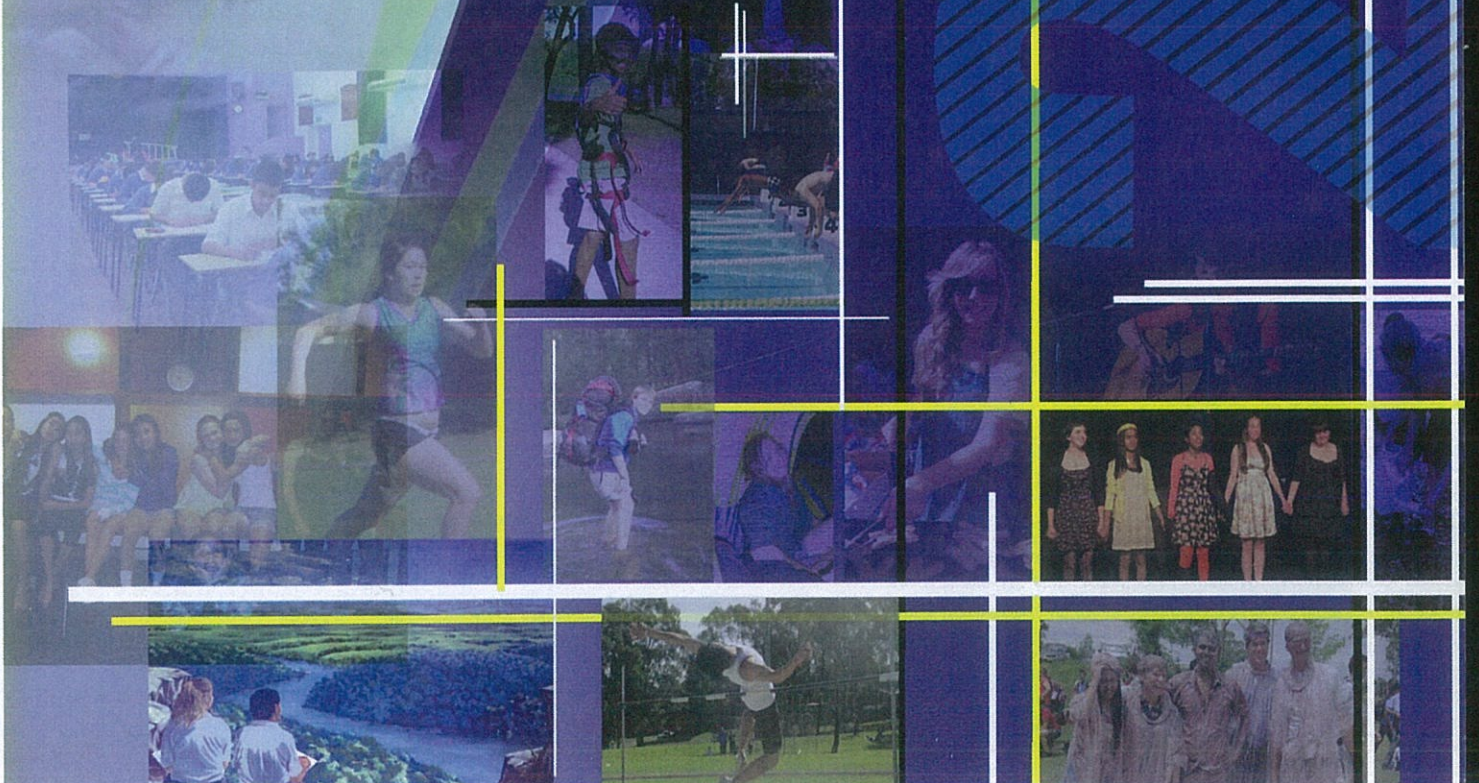
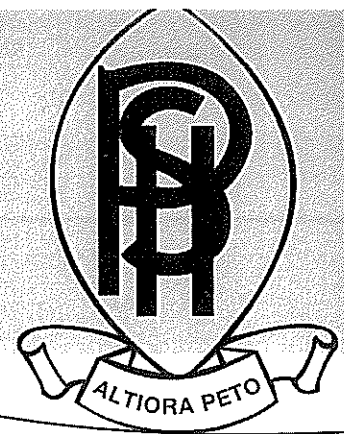


**PENRITH ACADEMIC
SELECTIVE HIGH SCHOOL**

TOWERS



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John Elton PRINCIPAL



In my first year at Penrith High School I have been impressed by the vibrant learning environment, and exceptional student involvement and achievement, that is so much part of the culture of the exceptional school. This edition of *The Towers* effectively showcases some of the achievements and memories of 2011, but in reality it can only scratch the surface of what happens at the school on a daily basis.

In some ways this year has been a year of change, with a new senior executive and two new Head Teachers. Change is always important for any school and provides an opportunity for reflection and reinvigoration. The challenge for the new leadership team has been to build on the strengths of the past and introduce a vision that will take us through the next 5 years. We have increasingly come to know and understand the school, the students and the teachers and look forward to what the new year will bring.

2011 finally saw the schools sister school relationship with Chinxiao Middle School in Ningbo come to fruition. It is now 4 years since the Sister School Agreement was signed but it was not until this year that we hosted the first group of Chinese students. The visit was a great success and we have been invited to visit China in 2012.

There are many aspects of the school that have been noticeable to a 'newcomer'. Most noteworthy is the level of student involvement in leadership, sport, and extra-curricular activities such as music, dance, volunteering and public speaking. Students have more opportunities and do more than at most other schools. I have had the pleasure of spending many evenings supporting our students in a range of activities, including regional and state drama, dance and music

showcases, Youth of the Year competitions and awards ceremonies. I was stunned by the level of involvement at our sporting carnivals. No doubt the high participation rate contributed to winning both the zone cross country and athletics carnivals for the first time. Our school spirit was always evident.

A majority of students will leave Penrith after 6 years with the most impressive catalogue of school involvement and achievements. These have been earned and will stay with students for the rest of their lives. That many of these achievements are student initiated and driven makes them all the more noteworthy.

Such opportunities only come about with the appropriate level of support from the school, and here I cannot sing too loudly my praise for the teaching staff at Penrith. We have a staff that cares about the academic and social welfare of students. They are committed to student success and breadth of experience. It is great to work in a school in which staff are both experienced and energetic. Ultimately teachers have the biggest impact on students at school and I am confident that students at Penrith High School have an enviable advantage.

This year the school has farewelled two outstanding Mathematics teachers in Mr Kopp and Mr Cantlon, who have given so much to the school over a long period of time. I wish them well in their retirement.

I would like to thank Mr Wilcox and the outstanding *Towers* team for putting together such a fine publication that chronicles Penrith Selective School in 2011.