Parent and Student Guide
to the
Annual Presentation Ball

Wests City, formerly Newcastle Panthers
Cnr King and Union Sts, Newcastle West
Friday 23 September 2016
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What is the Presentation Ball?

Since 1990, the School has held a formal Presentation Ball for Year 11 students. The Ball is similar to a debutante ball in that the boys wear black tie and the girls white gowns. Each student has a partner and is introduced to the guests while standing on stage before they make their way down the stairs onto the dance floor. Once all students have been introduced they then proceed to dance.

It is called the Presentation Ball because students of Year 11 are presented to the School Community as the new leaders of the School. Incoming leaders for 2016 will be introduced.

The Ball takes place on the last day of Term 3, which marks Year 12’s last week of school and Year 11’s last day of the Preliminary Course before they return in Term 4 to commence Year 12. All students are encouraged to attend; it is an opportunity for them to interact with the whole year in both a formal and social setting and provides them with a memorable introduction to their last year of School. Attendance is not compulsory, but we would hope that all students will take part in this significant event.

It is important that all parents and students understand the requirements of the evening and the expectations of the School. It will be held in licensed premises and this in itself creates special requirements. Current Year 12 students will be in attendance and it has been the custom that students who are 18 years and over may consume alcohol, if it is their choice. It is important that parents of Year 11 students are aware of this.

In order to ensure efficient organisation, particularly on the day, students and parents need to be aware of the importance of appropriate behaviour and time management. This booklet contains all the information you need to know and should be kept handy for easy reference leading up to the event.
Organisation on the Day

MORNING REHEARSAL 9.00am - 12.00pm

Wests City (formerly Panthers Newcastle)

Rehearsal will be held on the morning of the Ball, Friday 23 September, at the venue commencing at 9.00am. Students will be dismissed from Newcastle at 12 noon. Students are required to make their own way to and from the venue.

ARRIVAL - Students from 4.30pm

Students are to arrive from 4.30pm depending on their scheduled session with the photographer. Once the couple and individual photos are complete, the group photo will be taken (see below). All participating students must be at the venue no later than 5:45pm for the group photo.

ARRIVAL – Guests from 5.45pm

The doors to the Main Auditorium open at 5.45pm and guests should be seated by 6.20pm ready for service at approximately 6.30pm.

The bar will be closed during the formal part of the evening. Approximately 7:00pm - 8.30pm. Admission by ticket holders only.

TICKETS

Can be purchased via the Qkr app only. The link will also be available on the school website when tickets are available. Instructions for Qkr will be enclosed in the ball package that will be posted home.
Girls Dress Requirements

All girls are to wear long white floor length dresses with no coloured trimmings and with substantial straps. Cream or off-white dresses are not suitable for the occasion.

The following dress designs are not suitable for the occasion:

- Strapless
- Fishtail or train
- Backless
- Plunging necklines

All shoes are to be white.

Gloves must be worn – girls purchase their own in their preferred length.

A tartan sash will be supplied by the School on the morning of the ball and it must be returned at the end of the evening to Mrs Oliver or Mrs Curran-Peters.

Girls will also receive a bouquet of flowers.

A photograph of the dress or similar must be shown to Mrs Oliver or Mrs Curran-Peters to check it is suitable. This is to be done by the end of Term 2 (this avoids any obvious embarrassment on the night).
Boys Dress Requirements

BOYS HIRE SUIT COST - $130.00

Boys wear a hire suit from Gentleman’s Outfitters Newcastle. This includes, pants, jacket, shirt, gloves and shoes.

FITTING – Wednesday 3 August

Boys will be measured for their suits at 3.00pm Wednesday 3 August, as part of dance practice.

PAYMENT – Friday 19 August

Via the Qkr app. Please see instructions sheet which will be forthcoming via mail. Payment must be made no later than Friday 19 August.

COLLECTION OF SUIT - Tuesday 20 September

Suits will be ready to pick up from the Schools Admin office. It is essential that suits are collected promptly and they are tried on early to ensure that any fitting issues may be rectified prior to the Friday. If there is an issue with the suit then you must contact Gentlemen’s Outfitters directly on 49291399.

RETURN OF SUITS – Monday 26 September

It is the responsibility of boys to ensure their suit is returned to Gentlemen’s Outfitters at 116 Hunter Street Newcastle. (They are not affiliated with the store at Charlestown)

   Days and times of business are indicated below:
   Saturday         9.00am to 4.00pm
   Sunday           10.00am to 4.00pm
   Weekdays         9.00am to 5.30pm

   Please ensure that your gloves and shoes are returned along with the suit. Failure to comply with these requirements will incur additional charges.

SASHES, BOW TIE AND CUMMBERBUNDS - These must be returned to Mrs Oliver or Mrs Curran-Peters at the completion of the evening. If not returned an amount of $20 per item will be charged to the students account to cover the cost of replacement of the items.
**Partners**

Students may advise Mrs Oliver of who they will be partnered with for the Ball. If there are not enough boys or girls, Year 12 students will join the group. It is not recommended that students partner with their boyfriend or girlfriend as the Ball is later in the year and circumstances may change.

Partners need to be decided by Monday, 30 May. The attached Presentation Ball Agreement needs to be handed in to Mrs Kennedy in the Senior Centre on or before 30 May. Partners can be found by Mrs Oliver if you prefer. Mrs Oliver will arrange partners after week 8.

**Dancing and Dance Lessons**

**TERM 3 - 3.05pm until 4.30pm (refer to attached dance practice schedule)**

Dancing Lessons commence at the start of Term 3, in the Cameron Centre.

Students will receive dance lessons with Mrs Oliver, Mrs Curran-Peters, Mr Taylor and Ms Pelichowski. It is very important that students and their partners attend all dance practices.

School uniform is to be worn but it is advisable for girls to wear the shoes they will be wearing on the night to feel comfortable dancing in them.

In 2013 a Parent/special friend dance was introduced where students danced with their mother or father or a special person of choice (not boyfriend/girlfriend). Students will practice at their normal time of 3.05pm to 4.30pm on Thursday, 25 August and the special person dance will commence at 4.30pm on the 25 August. It is advisable to attend this afternoon if you would like to learn the dance.

Once students have made the commitment to participate and partners have been allocated it is the expectation that they honour this commitment.

**Photography**

MSP Photography are the official photographers of the Presentation Ball.

Students can decide to have individual and couple photos taken in addition to the group photo. All students are to be a part of the group photo.

Students will be given an allocated time for their photo by Mrs Oliver.

Photographs must be prepaid in the envelopes which will be provided via post. Envelopes and cheques must be returned no later than Friday 19 August to Mrs Kennedy, Assistant to the Head of Students, in the Senior Centre. Cheques are to be made payable to MSP Photography. Photo times will be allocated once all envelopes have been returned. Anyone wishing to have photos with family and friends can do so following the presentation, in the Friendship Room.
Tickets

PURCHASE via Qkr App - Tickets will only be available via this option. Ticket sales will commence on Monday, 13 June 2016.

COST - Tickets are $115.00 per guest. Last day for ticket purchase is Friday, 19 August 2016. There is no cost for participating Year 11 students.

SEATING ARRANGEMENTS - PLEASE NOTE that you will not be able to select your seating online, however, you may indicate your preference when booking and we will endeavour to accommodate your request.

DIETARY REQUIREMENTS - You will also need to indicate any dietary requirements at the time of purchasing your tickets.

Tickets will need to be presented on entry to the venue.

COST OF TICKETS - Parents and other guests – $115.00

Questions or enquiries you may have regarding the Presentation Ball can be directed to Mrs Joanne Oliver during School hours on 4934 2444 or by email at oliverj@hvgs.nsw.edu.au.

Agreement – please see the attached agreement

Agreement
2016 Presentation Ball

AGREEMENT

I have read and understand the information outlined in the Presentation Ball Parent and Student Guide Handbook and requirements for the 2016 Presentation Ball.

My child and I will respect the expectations of HVGS

- Girls – I will return the school sash provided on the evening.
- Boys – I will return the cummerbund and bow tie and I understand the return of the Hire Suit to Gentleman’s Outfitters Newcastle is my responsibility.

☐ My partner for the evening will be ________________________________

☐ Or I prefer Mrs Oliver to organise a partner for me

Student name: __________________________________________________________

Parent/Guardian: _______________________________________________________

Signed ___________________________ Date: _______________

Please return to Mrs Kennedy in the Senior Centre no later than Monday 30 May, 2016.

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