From the NSW English Syllabus for the Australian Curriculum:

The aim of English in Years K–10 is to enable students to understand and use language effectively, appreciate, reflect on and enjoy the English language and to make meaning in ways that are imaginative, creative, interpretive, critical and powerful. Developing proficiency in English enables students to take their place as confident communicators, critical and imaginative thinkers, lifelong learners and informed, active participants in Australian society. It supports the development and expression of a system of personal values, based on students’ understanding of moral and ethical matters, and gives expression to their hopes and ideals. The study of English should develop a love of literature and learning and be challenging and enjoyable. It develops skills to enable students to experiment with ideas and expression, to become active, independent and lifelong learners, to work with each other and to reflect on their learning.

Here at the Tuncurry Campus our faculty aims to provide opportunities for all students to succeed in English. Our current focus is on writing, everything from letters and blog entries to newspaper reports and short stories. We have access to a pod of laptops to facilitate greater creativity and ways of composing and responding.

Our book-room is full of appropriate texts for a wide range of ages, interests and abilities, and include works of poetry, plays by Shakespeare, award winning picture books, and novels by many of Australia’s most outstanding authors, including Tim Winton, Sonya Hartnett, Markus Zusak and Jackie French.

Each classroom has technology to allow teachers to bring multimedia and the world wide web into their structured learning environment. Quality work is published and displayed and awarded publicly. Our annual Public Speaking Competition will again be held this year in Term 3.

More information and samples of outstanding work will be provided in our regular updates. Watch this space.
Great Lakes College – Tuncurry Campus
History Faculty

From the NSW Syllabus for the Australian Curriculum:

The aim of the History syllabus is to stimulate students’ interest in and enjoyment of exploring the past, to develop a critical understanding of the past and its impact on the present, to develop the critical skills of historical inquiry and to enable students to participate as active, informed and responsible citizens.

History as a discipline has its own methods and procedures. It is much more than the simple presentation of facts and dates from the past. History provides the skills for students to answer the question ‘How do we know?’ An investigation of an historical issue through a range of sources can stimulate curiosity and develop problem-solving, research and critical thinking skills. It develops language specific to the discipline of History and provides opportunities to further develop literacy skills. Students learn to critically analyse and interpret sources of evidence in order to construct reasoned explanations and a rational and informed argument based on evidence, drawn from the remains of the past. Students engage in research involving traditional methods and ICT, including evaluating web-based sources and using a range of technologies for historical research and communication.

In Stage 4, Year 7 students study Ancient Australia, Egypt, India or China. In Year 8 they study Medieval Europe, Japan under the Shoguns and the Spanish conquest of the Americas. In Stage 5 the focus is on the making of the modern world and Australia. We look at the Industrial Revolution, Slavery, Convicts and of course the World Wars. We also look at the work of Martin Luther King, Nelson Mandela and Charles Perkins, which students find challenging and significant to their world.

All History teachers take advantage of opportunities to use the internet and technology to both teach and help students develop their research skills. The Pod of laptops is regularly in the classroom, and the library also supports classroom teaching.

There are wonderful displays of artefacts and models produced by our students, and creative ways are offered to allow students to show their understanding of past lives.

An event that is coming up soon for Year 10 is the ever-popular 60s Day. Watch this space.