

Secrets from Mr 100 per cent

By DANIELLE TEUTSCH

FOR parents desperate to get their children into one of the state's selective high schools, this man is Mr 100 per cent.

Mr Ye, as he wishes to be known, runs a small coaching college in suburban Campsie where, he says, all his students are offered a highly coveted place in an elite school. Last year 48 of his students made it into year 7 at James Ruse Agricultural High School - NSW's top-ranked school for HSC results. The total year 7 intake at James Ruse last year was 120.

The rest of his 129 students all made it into selective schools. Chinese-background Australians make up the majority of his students. More than 13,200 year 6 students will vie for 4127 selective high school places when they sit the selective school test on March 18.

Mr Ye has a competitor. At Sydney's biggest coaching outfit, Pre-Uni New College, manager David Lee boasts that 67 of its students got into James Ruse last year. If the claims of both men are correct, it means the two colleges between them are responsible for coaching 95 per cent of James Ruse's annual intake.

Pre-Uni New College, with 20 branches across the city, prepares about 1500 students each year. Mr Lee said that last year 1051 students won a selective school place - meaning a quarter of all those who



‘ If students want to excel, you need to work harder and get ahead of the others.’

MR YE, tutor

Top honours ... Mr Ye carefully selects who he coaches and drills them with mock exams. win a selective school place pass through the college.

The college charges \$3640 for the year-long selective schools test preparation course, which includes multiple mock tests. The state Education Department provides sample papers on its website.

Mr Ye, 58, who was a teacher in China, does not advertise and charges \$42 for a three-hour session. He takes only about 300 students, but is in high demand. His college is three slightly dingy

rooms, with faded blue carpet, above a shop. He said there was no secret to his teaching technique.

“It’s the students,” he said. “Good students will get the results, in a motivated learning atmosphere. If students want to excel in school, you need to work harder and get ahead of the others.”

Mr Ye concedes that only good students attend his college - they are tested before they can be admitted. For the nine months before the selective school test they are rigor-

ously coached, sitting about 25 mock exams in total.

Australian Tutoring Association spokesman Mohan Dhall said there was some advantage to practising test papers but intensive programs were unnecessary.

“Someone with a high IQ and self-discipline does not need much coaching at all,” Mr Dhall said.

The Education Department said coaching was “a private matter for parents”. The principal of James Ruse did not comment.

Photo: Helen Nezdropa

Intruder sprays woman, 94, with petrol

By MANUEL MITTERNACHT

AMAN threw petrol in the face of an elderly woman during a home invasion that has rocked her neighbourhood.

The 94-year-old woman, Marie Henery, was confronted by the man, who was armed with a knife, at her home in Blackalls Park, Lake Macquarie, about 9.30pm on Friday.

The man sprayed petrol in her face, then dragged her into the living room, where he attempted to gag her before leaving her on the floor. Several rooms of the woman's house were ransacked before the man ran from the scene. It was not known if anything was stolen.

The victim alerted neighbours, who contacted police. She was treated by ambulance paramedics, and did not need to go to hospital.

“She is very old and we don't see her much because she doesn't leave the house that often,” a Blackalls Park businesswoman said yesterday. “But what I can say is that she is a very courageous woman.”

Police said the woman was recovering. “She is obviously in a bit of shock but, apart from that, [she is] rather well,” Inspector Craig Reid said.

Police said the offender was of thin build and about 183 centimetres tall. They said he was wearing a dark hooded jumper.

Anyone with information should call Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000.