

Blacktown Mail

Preparing Boys for their Future since 1959
Partially Selective Boys High School since 2010



Message from the Principal - Mr David Calleja



I have had the pleasure of being a NSW State School teacher for the past 38 years. I have taught at 7 different high schools over the span of 24 years and administered two schools as a Deputy Principal and Principal for the past 14 years. Over this period I have seen significant change, some for the better, but also some not so good. I want to share some observations I have made in this my final newsletter:

I started teaching in 1986 before we had computers and mobile phones at our fingertips. We would hand-write our lesson plans with the main form of technology being a blackboard, gestetner (mobile spirit printer) and an overhead projector. Reports were all written by hand and examinations typed by typists in the front office. It was in my third year of teaching when my faculty purchased an Apple 2E at Pendle Hill High School. Its function was one step above a basic calculator. It could do basic word processing, basic mathematical calculations and a basic spreadsheet. The internet had not been invented and made available to the world yet, so we still relied on encyclopaedias in the school library for information and

to communicate with others we would use a standard dial telephone, letters and telegrams to communicate with people at home and abroad. To seek information, students would visit the library where they would borrow a book to answer questions their teacher would set them as homework or as part of an assignment. Assignments were all hand-written. Today, we live in a world which revolves around instant information and communication. Our computers are our 'go-to' for entertainment, communication, calculation, information, etc. The computer allows us to talk and see people in other countries, it allows us to tap into libraries and places of interest in every corner of the world. If I want to see what the surf is like in California, at Venice Beach, I can tap into a live cam. If I want to view the Trevi Fountain in Rome, I can see what is happening live. As a young Social Sciences teacher at Pendle Hill High School, I never imagined the possibilities teachers and students would have at their fingertips as they do today. Nor did I fathom the explosion in the depth of knowledge we now carry. Our reliance on computer technology is astronomical and as a school we ensured that we invested heavily, over the past four years, in the upgrading of our computer labs, library and our mobile faculty laptops so that our students have the best technology available to them. I firmly believe we made the right choice to supply students with computers as opposed to the policy of 'bring my own device'. No child at Blacktown Boys High School is disadvantaged when it comes to the availability of technology for their education. Resultantly, our students are more knowledgeable today than previous generations.

When I was at school as a student in the 1970's and 80's (I'm 60 years old) single sex schools dominated the landscape. It was at this time that someone proposed that boys performed better academically in a co-educational setting than a single gender school and as a result, many schools were subsequently built to accommodate both genders. Currently, this again seems to be the vogue thing to shift to amongst the Eastern Suburbs, private and the Inner West schools. Personally, I think our strength academically, at Blacktown Boys High School lays with our current direction. Our single gender direction. Our boys are not distracted by girls, our teachers are professionally skilled to teach Boys, our curriculum is tailored to address their needs, aspirations and career pathways and our wellbeing curriculum is designed to assist them along their journey. Our Careers teachers, Mr Hodges and Ms Marsh specifically target pathways to ensure our boys can attain a trade, a career or university entrance. Like a well-tuned machine my team of teachers are working together to ensure the best future for every boy at this school. I believe it is an advantage being at a single gender school, focussed on learning and personal achievement. Something I was glad to see the end of

Last Day Term 1, 2024

Friday 12th April, 2024

First Day Term 2, 2024

Tuesday 30th April, 2024

was corporal punishment. This archaic form of domination was removed from our schools in the late 80's. When someone did something wrong, they were strapped, caned and generally humiliated in front of their peers. On numerous occasions I received the cane or the strap, not because I did something wrong, but the policy at the time was that if someone did something wrong, everyone was punished. Did I learn anything from this? Yes....violence in any form is unacceptable and that many of our problems can be resolved without resorting to a physical level. It was a breath of fresh air to see the Department of Education impose a ban on the cane in the 1980's. Today; I make no apology for suspending students who break our rules. Removal from the cohort is a more effective form of punishment than beating someone with a stick! Reasoning, discussion, warnings and education is a more effective method to teach students right from wrong. Since my arrival here four years ago, the number of suspensions have decreased as have the number of incidents in the playground and in the classroom. We still have a long way to go, but we are closely working with our boys to make the school a safer, more tolerant environment where someone can attain the best education possible. We must remember that a school is a microcosm of the local community. By working together, we can all lift the standards of behaviour amongst our students, from improving attendance, to the general etiquette and behaviour of everyone in the classroom and the playground. Parents and teachers working together to call-out poor behaviour will effectively improve discipline across the school.

When I first started as a teacher and something evident when I was at school, was the large number of students who left at the end of Year 10 to begin an apprenticeship or start work. Very few students at the time would go onto University or graduate from Year 12. Today, because of the nature of our workforce and the competition for limited numbers of jobs, students are attaining a higher level of education. More students are going to university and more students are continuing school until they can successfully secure a career. One thing I do say to my students is: "a person can be stripped of all their worldly possessions, but one thing that can never be taken away from you, is your education"! I am so very proud of the achievements of our boys over the past few years. The mindset has shifted towards educational achievement and success. Four years ago Blacktown Boys High School was nowhere near the top academic achievers. We now sit amongst the top 200 Secondary High Schools in the state. In 2022, we achieved the best result ever; 111th in the state. I predict that the school will continue to perform in leaps and bounds and maintain and improve its position in the top 200. This school academically whips other schools in the area and other schools trying to poach our students such as St Mary's Senior High School. I emphasise that our unique and targeted pattern of education as a Boys school is the best mix for success and ask parents to seriously question whether a move to a senior high school is a better option for their child. I seriously believe it's not! I don't see any advantage in truncating a student from a highly successful setting, (ours) to one where a school is at least 50 to 100 places behind us in the academic pecking order! It's not rocket science, but it could mean not getting into rocket science at university! Please consider the

choice of where to send your child carefully.

There are many things I could discuss further, however I would write forever. As I sit here in my office one last time to write in our school newsletter, I look at the achievements we have made as a school in the past four years and can honestly say we are doing a great job as a team here at Blacktown Boys High School. Our Academic results in the past four years are fantastic and have placed us in the top 200 secondary schools, we are the envy of other schools, are being noticed and visited to see what makes us tick. We have invested in a quality learning environment and have excellent facilities with a new library, senior study, COLA, sporting facilities including a volleyball court and basketball courts. We have outdoor learning areas for our inclusive education unit and all students have access to modern technology and more than sufficient computer technology across the school. When I walk around the school, students are proud to wear their uniform, are focussed towards success and are truly engaged in their learning. They have specialist teachers expert in Boys Education who are professional in the delivery of their subject matter. We have updated, fully equipped science laboratories, woodwork rooms and an Industrial style kitchen. Our students consequently thrive in an environment rich in resources. Once again, they have things previous generations lacked.

With success comes a great dilemma. Our school has exploded in numbers from 715 when I started in 2020 to 910 in our last census. I have now stopped accepting students from outside our drawing area as we have no room for them. Blacktown Boys High School has turned a significant corner as parents and the community see the significant transformation of the school physically, academically and culturally. We are a school now being noticed and one which will have a strong academic performance in the HSC, because the attitude amongst our boys is to drive towards personal success. Success socially, personally and academically. The nice thing about all this, is that our boys know that we must perform as a cohort and as a result help each other and in-turn lift each other to higher levels of accomplishment.

Education in the 38 years that I have been a teacher has come a long way. I have seen many students achieve success across different fields of endeavour, from sport having taught three Olympians to finance, law and medicine. My greatest successes were never the smartest and brightest but those who tried and tried, who felt the work was beyond them and then had a eureka moment and that doubt and impending sense of failure on their faces was replaced with the greatest smile because they suddenly understood the work. I will miss the classroom and I will miss the honour of being the 10th Principal of this fabulous school. I have educated many people in 38 years, directly and indirectly I estimate close to 10000 people, but I would say I left the best for last. The boys of Blacktown have left an

indelible mark in my heart. I will not forget my time here and leave with my head held high knowing that under my tenure, we spent over three million dollars to improve facilities, that the students experienced the best education possible, (top 200), that they are in expert hands and that the school will

build upon the foundations that have been set to academically prosper for years to come. I wish each and every boy a safe and academically successful future and I wish every family prosperity and good health. I leave knowing your sons are in the hands of the best teachers and supporting staff in NSW with facilities second to none. So on that note, Goodbye and Good Luck to each and every one of you!

Deputy Principal, Mr Robert Murie



I would like to take this opportunity to formally welcome parents, students, staff, and all members of our school community to a new school year. In walking through the playground and talking with students, it is great to hear they are energised, excited and have high expectations for learning and achievement in 2024. I know our teachers have spent many hours preparing engaging lessons for your sons and are excited to be working with them to

make 2024 a memorable year.

Congratulations must go to our class of 2023 who like previous HSC cohorts have achieved excellent results in the HSC. It must also be noted that our overall HSC statewide ranking has improved by 40 places in 2023 and I believe all our community members should celebrate our ongoing success and be proud that Blacktown Boys High School is a place where young men can receive an excellent education that sets them on a path for success long after school has finished.

Term 1 is a very exciting time, with new Year 7 students settling in, and attending camp, Year 12 students preparing for successful completion of the HSC and all other students continuing to position themselves for ongoing growth and development. It is also a great time to remind parents, carers and students that school attendance matters, as school absenteeism can have a negative impact on your son's academic achievement and wellbeing. If your son is upset or reluctant about going to school, please contact a Deputy Principal or Year Adviser for support. More information for parents about school attendance can be found on the department's website or by clicking this link [Attendance information for parents](#).

At Blacktown Boys High School, it is important to us that your sons are happy at school, and we are very aware that students with positive wellbeing are more successful in every other aspect of their lives. In classrooms, teachers are using evidence based Restorative Practices to build relationships with students and encourage and support positive behaviour aligned with our school values of Safety, Respect and Learning. More information about Restorative Practices and our student behaviour and management plan can be found on our school website. An information session for parents will be held later in the year to develop parent understanding about how our teachers are collaborating to elevate student behaviour restoratively. On top of great learning in our classrooms, your sons are also participating

in a vast array of wellbeing activities to help support their social development, mental health, and overall wellbeing. This includes Year 7 to 10 students participating in our 'Learn to Live' wellbeing curriculum, where students develop their resilience and build their social and emotional skills by working with teachers and a host of guest speakers who will be attending the school throughout the year to talk with the boys. The school Student Support Officer, Mr Knight, also hosts a variety of programs during lunchtimes for our boys to participate in, including chess club, art club, movie club, sporting events and various games. This is a great opportunity for students to be involved in activities that build friendships and provide time away from screen-based activities.

Finally at Blacktown Boys High school, all members of the school community are active participants in building a welcoming school culture that values diversity and fosters positive relationships. We have a zero tolerance for bullying and a key component of our supportive and inclusive school culture is building respectful relationships and an ethos that bullying is not accepted, in both online and offline environments. Our teachers will actively respond to student bullying behaviour and if your child informs you that they are experiencing bullying then please contact their teacher. Our school's Anti-bullying Plan can be found on our website.

Have a great term!

Head Teacher, English

Ms Erin Wagner



Welcome back to 2024! This year we welcome Ms Kaur and Mr Smith into the English faculty.

The 2024 English faculty:

Ms Wagner (Head Teacher)

Ms Bagatua

Ms Kaur

Mr Martin (Head Teacher Teaching and Learning)

Mr Masera

Ms Mavanna

Ms Semerci (Mon, Tue, Thu, Fri)

Ms Sharma (EAL/D)

Mr Smith

Congratulations to Year 12 2023 on their HSC results. Two thirds of our Advanced cohort achieved a Band 5 and well done to our Standard students who exceeded our expectations with their results, with a significant proportion of the grade achieving high results in Bands 4 and 5. And of course my thanks go out to the teachers who took these students through their HSC and pushed them to achieve their best.

Year 12 2024 have hit the ground running as they continue working towards their HSC. Advanced are working on Module A: Textual Conversations, studying *The Tempest* and *Hag-Seed*, Standard are studying Module B: Close Study of Literature, exploring the novel *Feed*, and Studies have begun their MiTunes unit. The Advanced, Standard and Studies assessments are approaching in Week 8. HSC students are strongly encouraged to ensure they are continuing to keep up with their workload and using their study time to consolidate their notes on the texts and concepts studied thus far. Practice responses are essential for English so students should take all opportunities offered to them in order to deepen their skills. As always, your teachers are here to support you and see you improve.

In Year 11, Advanced and Standard have begun the Common Module: Reading to Write, where students will study a variety of texts to build their capacity as writers. Studies students have been studying Achieving Through English: English and the Worlds of Education, Careers and Community. 11 is an essential preparatory year for the HSC and student engage-

ment is paramount to ensure students transition smoothly into Year 12 in Term 4 this year.

Year 10 commenced with a unit called 'Finding Your Voice' where students will build upon their imaginative writing skills as they begin their preparation for the senior years. Year 9 students have been exploring the idea of gender in society and texts through the lens of a Shakespearean text. Year 9 teachers are eagerly anticipating the presentations that students will share later this term for their assessment. Year 8 students have commenced the year with a study of villains within literature, building upon their study of heroic characters last year. We hope they are looking forward to crafting some devious villains for their narrative assessment this term.

And finally we welcome Year 7 to BBHS! We have begun our start to the high school English journey with a study of heroes. They will learn how to write informatively and persuasively, and their assessment will require them to write a biography of a hero and present a speech to the class persuading them of their chosen hero's importance.

Students in Year 7 and 8 will also notice that they have 'WSL' periods on their timetable which stands for Whole School Literacy. During these lessons, students will learn about the use of particular literacy skills, starting with their narrative writing skills.

Debating will start back up again soon. This year, students can speak with the following coaches about debating.

Years 11 and 12: Mr Masera

Years 9 and 10: Ms Sharma

Years 7 and 8: Ms Semerci

Listen out for notices coming up soon about upcoming events.

We look forward to seeing the students grow and learn in English this year!

Head Teacher, Mathematics

Ms Xiao Chirgwin



Welcome back to another fantastic year of Mathematics!

2023 HSC Mathematics Results

Again, our boys achieved amazing results in the 2023 HSC Mathematics courses and performed well above the state average!



BBHS MATHEMATICS HSC HONOUR ROLL 2023

MATHEMATICS EXTENSION 2

Shloak Adhikari	Mohammad Hussain
Samirali Maqsudali Ami	Ivanshu Patel
Rosan Bhattarai	Abishek Vinay Satheeshkannan

MATHEMATICS EXTENSION 1

Shloak Adhikari	Nishad Jhuvar	Om Prajapati
Samirali Maqsudali Ami	Saarugan Nadagobalan	Abishek Vinay Satheeshkannan
Harshil Bhatt	Kalp Panchal	Jeffery Wang
Rosan Bhattari	Ivanshu Patel	Woonlee Wong
Mohammad Hussain	Jay Yakshesh Pathak	Kevin Xavier

MATHEMATICS ADVANCED

MD Naved Ali	Jay Yakshesh Pathak	Haojun Tang
Harshil Bhatt	Om Prajapati	Hardik Verma
Rishi Chidambaram	Jun Qiu	Jeffery Wang
Peter Ferguson	Brunthen Sithyvinayagalingam	Woonlee Wong
Nishad Jhuvar	Akilesh Sivathas	Kevin Xavier
Benjamin Kim	Uchit Soni	Ali Yuldashev
Saarugan Nadagobalan	Krishh Sood	
Kalp Panchal	Bhuvan Sreenivasan	
Arjun Patel	Brinthikkan Surendran	

MATHEMATICS STANDARD 2

Anurag Choudhary
Darren Christopher
Sameer Mukhi
Ali Naderi Tehrani
Husam Nasser
Maximus Pondal
Kunwardeep Singh

MATHEMATICS STANDARD 1

Alexander Johnson

dents have achieved the top two bands. Samirali Maqsudali Ami ranked first in this course with a HSC mark of 96. Closely tailed by Mohammad Hussain with a HSC mark of 95 and Shloak Adhikari with 92.

In the Mathematics Advanced course, 90% of our students have achieved the top three bands. Kalp Panchal ranked first in this course with a HSC mark of 97. Closely followed by Nishad Jhuvar and Krishh Sood with a HSC mark of 96 and Hardik Verma with 95.

In the Mathematics Standard 2 course, 54% of our students have achieved the top three bands. Kunwardeep Singh ranked first in this course and gained a solid Band 6 with a near perfect HSC mark of 99. Husam Nasser ranked second with a HSC mark of 94, and Darren Christopher and Maximus Pondal came equal third with a HSC mark of 90.

In the Mathematics Standard 1 course, Alexander Johnson ranked first with a HSC mark of 82.

We are extremely proud of all of our students whose achievements are the direct result of their hard work, dedication and determination throughout the two years of Stage 6 learning. They worked hand in hand with our dedicated and encouraging staff to maximise their learning and achieved the best they could. We would also like to thank all the parents for the ongoing support they have provided for our students behind the scenes. We expect to see great results to continue with our current Year 12 cohort for the 2024 HSC.

Our Team

Mrs Chirgwin (Head Teacher)

Mrs Chhabra

Mr Govender

Mr Kumar

Miss McKenzie

Mrs Publico (Year 12 Year Advisor)

Mrs Sanjeevan

If you have any concerns about your son's learning throughout the year, please feel free to contact their teacher or Mrs Chirgwin.

Textbooks

Like previous years, students in Year 7 – 12 will use the Cambridge Mathematics textbook in class. Students will not be issued with an individual hard copy of textbook. All resources including textbooks will be uploaded to Google classroom for students to complete homework and any extra study to improve their learning and understanding.

In the Mathematics Extension 2 course, all of our students have achieved a Band 6. Samirali Maqsudali Ami ranked first in this course with a HSC mark of 93 and followed closely by Mohammad Hussain with a HSC mark of 92 and Rosan Bhattarai with 90.

In the Mathematics Extension 1 course, 80% of our stu-

Calculators

It is extremely crucial that every student have their own calculator and they bring their calculator to each lesson. We recommend the CASIO FX82 Plus II or CASIO FX100 or CASIO FX8200, as they are NESA approved calculators. Students will need NESA approved calculators for NAPLAN and HSC examinations. Having their own calculator and practising the functions regularly helps students to build their fluency and improve their skills to respond to problems quickly.

NESA does NOT accept mobile phones as calculators for NAPLAN and HSC examinations and the Mathematics Faculty at Blacktown Boys High School also follows the same requirements to ensure your son(s) are prepared for these important examinations.

Homework and Google Classroom

Students will have Mathematics homework after almost every lesson. This usually consists of individual practice including the completion of exercises from the textbook or worksheets. Some teachers may keep the record of homework on Google Classroom alongside with other resources that are uploaded on there. Google Classroom is a virtual learning space where students can work collaboratively.

It is important that students attempt homework regularly. Homework is one of the methods to help students to review and consolidate their understanding of the concepts taught in class. It is also a great self-assessment tool for students where they can identify their own areas of weakness. We encourage your son(s) to seek help from their teachers with any issues from their homework or attend Mathematics Peer Tutoring sessions.

Assessment Tasks

All formal assessment tasks will be notified with an assessment task notification which would be given out prior to the due date of the task.

Parents can help the students prepare for each assessment task by:

- Ensuring that all homework are up to date
- Seeking help from the teacher
- Promoting a regular study and revision regime at home
- Encouraging thorough revision before the assessment task
- Being vigilant about attendance so that your son(s) doesn't miss out on essential information
- Ensuring that students bring all necessary equipment including a NESA approved calculator to

their assessment tasks

Year 12 students are already well into their courses with their first assessment task completed in Term 4 last year. Their second assessment task will be in the second half of Term 1.

Mathematics Competitions

APSMO Mathematics Olympiad Competition

We have had great enthusiasm from our students participating in the APSMO Mathematics Olympiad Competition in the last four years. This year, our students from Year 7 and 8 Selective and Everest classes are going to participate in this competition. This is a fantastic opportunity for students to develop flexibility for problem solving, foster creativity, and stimulate enthusiasms for mathematics.

Australian Mathematics Competition

All students are invited to participate in the Australian Mathematics Competitions (AMC) which is held in early August this year.

Assessment Schedule for Term 1

Year 7	Week 6
Year 8	Week 8
Year 9	Week 6
Year 10	Week 6
Year 11 Standard	Week 8
Year 11 Advanced	Week 8
Year 11 Extension 1	Week 9
Year 12 Standard 1	Week 7
Year 12 Standard 2	Week 7
Year 12 Advanced	Week 7
Year 12 Extension 1	Week 6
Year 12 Extension 2	Week 8

Fun Fact of 2024

$$2^3 + 3^3 + 4^3 + 5^3 + 6^3 + 7^3 + 8^3 + 9^3 = 2024$$

Head Teacher, Administration

Mrs Natalie Simon



Welcome back to 2024! Term 1 always brings a fresh new start to the school year and for Year 7 students, it brings a new environment with high expectations. These expectations include attending school on time and regularly. For those new parents with students to the school, please ensure that any absences are explained within 7 calendar days. The easiest way to do this is by responding to the text message which goes

out to all parents if your son has been marked absent during roll call. Other ways include writing a note for your child to bring on their return to school or calling the front office and speaking to one of our lovely administrative staff. A reminder that if a student is absent 3 or more days then a medical certificate is required to explain your child's absence.

If you are planning for your child to not attend school for an extended period of time (5 or more days) then you must submit an Exemption from Attendance form and submit this to the front office a minimum TWO weeks before your child takes leave. It will be then evaluated by the Principal who can choose deny this leave. Just remember any absences from school impact upon your child's learning and ability to meet course outcomes.

Moving into this year, it is more important than ever that all parents and carers have access to the Sentral Parent Portal. This is where you can monitor and explain your child's attendance, where Parent Teacher nights will need to be booked and more important, where you will now access your child's Reports. Everyone should have access and if you do not, then please contact the front office. School Bytes is the other platform that is used here at Blacktown Boys HS. This is where parents pay for fees and excursions as well as approve excursion notes online. Again, if you do not have access to School Bytes, please contact the front office.

School photographs are fast approaching and all students will be required to have their photos taken, regardless of whether parents are purchasing. All students will now be receiving an ID card which students will use to borrow books, sign in/out and use as a toilet pass. Students must have these cards on them everyday. If a student loses their card then there will be a charge

to be issued with another one. Instructions on how to pay will be on the envelope. Please ensure that a student is paying on the day that the correct amount of money is contained within the envelope. No change will be available. If a student would like to purchase after these dates, then parents can contact The School Photographer.

Lastly, students need to be in uniform everyday. If a student is out of uniform, they need to see me in my office, with a signed note from their parent/carer for a uniform pass BEFORE the 8.10am bell for roll call. Remember that your child needs to bring their sport uniform for PE lessons and are only permitted to wear sports uniform on the sport day-Wednesday. Have a great first term!

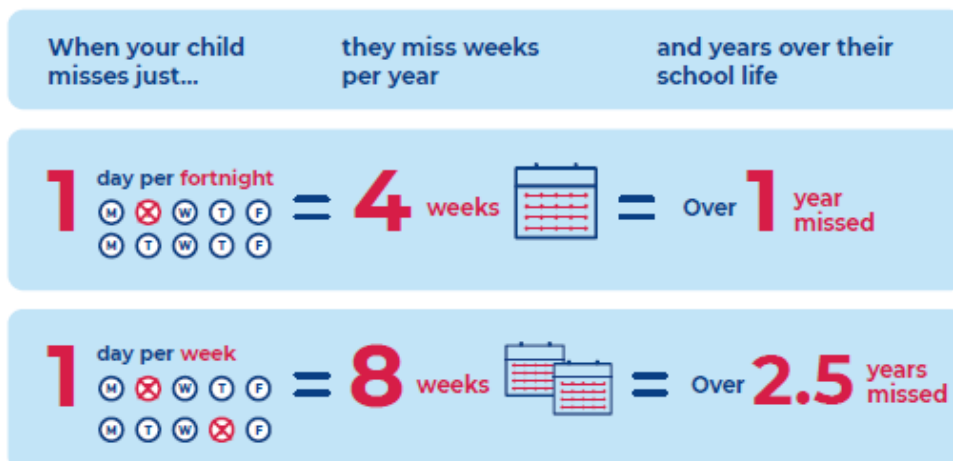
Planning and preparing for 2024, parents need to ensure they have access to the Sentral Parent portal. All parents/carers currently have the ability to check their son's attendance and reply to any absences through this portal. Next year, it will be crucial for all parents to be active as this is where academic reports will be published. We will no longer be printing Half Yearly and Yearly reports so it is imperative that parents are actively engaging with this format. This portal is different to the School Bytes portal, where school fees and excursions are paid. Please make sure that you as a parent have access to both of these forums. If you require assistance please call the school.

Coming into the hotter months, please make sure students have updated their uniform. Lowes at Blacktown has lots of summer stock, so there are no excuses for students not to have the correct uniform. If a student does not have the correct uniform on, then they must see the HT Administration BEFORE 8.10am to attain a uniform pass for the day.

And lastly, I hope that everyone has a great term and a safe holiday during the new year. School returns on Thursday 1st February for Years 11 and 12, whilst years 8,9 and 10 return on Friday 2nd February 2024.

Days missed = years lost

A day here and there doesn't seem like much, but...



Head Teacher, HSIE

Mrs Gina Jackson



Welcome back to all our students returning for another exciting academic year! We hope that after a restful and enjoyable break students are ready to immerse themselves in learning and proactively participate in all learning experiences in and outside the classroom.

A special warm welcome to all the new students from Year 7 to Year 12, who have joined our school community this year. HSIE staff are thrilled to have you with us and are committed to ensuring that your transition into the school is smooth and enjoyable. We are excited to see all the amazing things you will achieve.

Celebrating Success

I would like to start by congratulating all our Human Society and Its Environment (HSIE) students who completed their Higher School Certificate last year. Their hard work, dedication, and perseverance were rewarded with excellent results in Economics, Business Studies, Legal Studies, and Modern History. We are incredibly proud of their achievements and wish them success in their future endeavors.

Introducing New Members

I am also delighted to announce the addition of two new staff members to the HSIE faculty for 2024: Dr. Bhabra and Miss G. Gungan. They bring a wealth of knowledge, passion, and enthusiasm to our team, and they are eager to make valuable contributions to your son's/wards' learning experiences.

A Message from Dr. Rekha Bhabra



I want to let you know that every one of you has made my transition to Blacktown Boys HS simply fabulous. Thank you so much for the warmth you have shown.

My journey began on the island of Borneo, in a city called Kota Kinabalu, a place close to the equator with a mountain so high that it's well below freezing on the summit. I attended a public

school where English was just one of the languages taught, our medium of instruction was Malay.

I remember being an avid reader, easily reading a book a week, and this, along with a strong work ethic, helped me

earn a scholarship to study in Australia. I was 18 years old when I joined the University of Wollongong.

At university, I studied commerce, then passed the CPA exam, and began a career that took me to classrooms, boardrooms, and investment roadshows around the world. Years later, I received a scholarship to research the stages of growth of businesses within business incubators to complete a PhD.

My education provided me with many opportunities and experiences, but most precious of all are the people, the memories, and the friends I made along the way.

More recently, I made the decision to become a high school teacher. I enrolled at the University of NSW for the Master of Teaching degree, and I feel like I've come full circle, back to the classroom – but with so much more knowledge and a wealth of experience that I want to share.

This year, this time, and with this fresh start at Blacktown Boys HS, I am excited for a number of reasons: to meet new people, make more memories, expand my circle of friends – but most of all, to assist you with your learning insights, improve your overall interest and understanding of the HSIE subjects, and nurture that internal efficacy; that voice of confidence and ability within us that lets us believe - we can.

A Message from Miss G. Gungan



My teaching philosophy revolves around creating an inclusive and engaging classroom where every student feels valued and empowered to reach their full potential.

I arrived at BBHS equipped with bachelor's and master's degrees in business studies, brimming with enthusiasm and a passion for education, ready to embark on a journey of growth and learning alongside my dedicated students. Beyond the confines of the classroom, I am often exploring diverse cuisines, a pursuit that not only enriches my own experiences but also strengthens my connection with the community at large.

My ultimate objective is to ignite passion for learning within every child, ensuring they are inspired to learn and grow.

Up Coming Events

Australian History and Geography Competitions

In Term 2, the HSIE faculty will host the Australian History and Geography Competitions. The competitions test students' general knowledge of Geography and History, applied skills, and data analysis. The Australian History Competition is open to Years 7-10 and costs \$9 to participate. The Geography competition is open to students in Years 7-12 and costs \$7 to participate. Please check emails closer to the date for permission notes, and if you have any ques-

tions, please see Ms Viola or Ms Limbu in the HSIE faculty.

Mock Trial Competition

The selection process for the Year 11 Mock Trial team has begun! The team will go head-to-head against other schools across the state, filling the roles of barristers, solicitors, court officers, and key witnesses. Real lawyers will decide the outcome of each case. Good luck BBHS Mock Trial team!



REMINDER!

When paying for excursions and fees at the front office.

PLEASE ensure you send your child with the **CORRECT MONEY**.

No change will be issued.



Upcoming important dates

**6 - 7 Information Evening -
Wednesday 20th March**

Athletics Carnival -

Tuesday 14th May, 2024

**Blacktown International Sports
Park**

7, 11, 12 Parent Teacher Evening

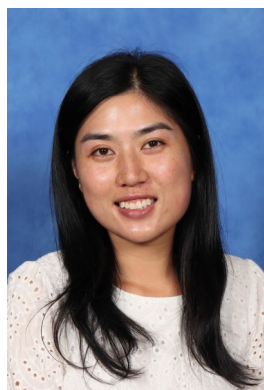
Thursday 13th June, 2024

8, 9, 10 Parent Teacher Evening

Thursday 4th July, 2024

Acting Head Teacher, Science

Ms Cindy Tang



Welcome to Term 1 2024!

To our Students and Parents, welcome back to school, and I hope you are all ready for another exciting year of exploration and learning.

I would like to start by welcoming Mrs Kithalawalana who has joined the Science Faculty. Along with the rest of the Science Faculty Team, we are looking forward to working with

you and the students to improve their Science understanding.

I would also like to extend a big congratulation to our 2023 Year 12 Cohort on their amazing efforts and achievements in the 2023 HSC. Between our three HSC Science subjects, there were eight Band 6s and fifteen Band 5s. These are fantastic results and are reflective of the diligent efforts of the students and their teachers throughout Year 12.

Stage 4

Year 7 students are settling in well with the high school routine and have actively carried out first-hand investigations. For the first few weeks of Term 1, students will be working on the "Working Scientifically" Booklet which will help them build a solid foundation in practical aspects of the syllabus. By the end of Term 1, students should be comfortable with the Scientific Method, naming and using common laboratory equipment and using a Bunsen Burner.

Due to the experimental nature of the Term 1 energy topic, year 8 students have honed their scientific skills by exploring various energy sources and looking at energy transformation. The first assessment task will be a scientific report, where students will be designing, creating and conducting an experiment that investigates energy efficiencies.

Stage 5

A reminder to all Stage 5 students to start considering the Science electives offered in Stage 6 and to explore the disciplines of Science during each term to get a better idea of what interests each student.

Year 9s have been exploring the functioning of the human body, and particularly the immune system and causes of diseases. They will be required to work on their explanation and creativity skills in this term's assessment task. Year 10s will be working on the Chemistry unit which will heavily involve practical investigations. Stage 5 students are reminded that they will be required to regularly revise the

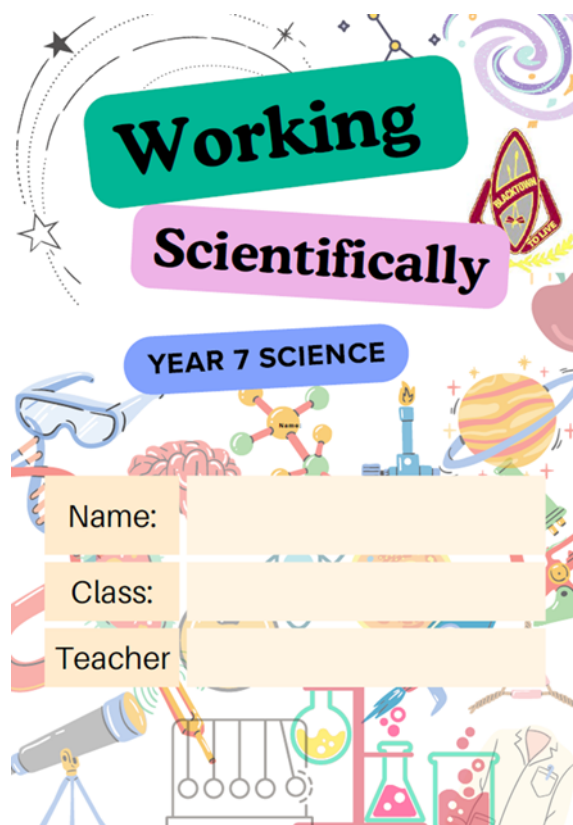
content at home and to make summary notes in preparing for assessments.

Year 11

It is fantastic to see a strong start to our Year 11 cohort, with students consistently submitting homework and asking questions about the content with their teacher. Year 11 Biology students will be attending an excursion to Penrith Lakes in week 5, and will be using the field trip as a base for their Depth Study Assessment. Both Physics and Chemistry students will need to deepen their working scientific knowledge as they undertake a Skills Assessment this term.

Year 12

Year 12 Science students would have received feedback on their first HSC assessment task from Term 4. It is important for students to reflect on the teacher's feedback to help them continue to improve their understanding and study techniques for the HSC.



I would also like to remind Stage 5 and 6 students about the online platforms that they can use to supplement their Science knowledge at home. These online platforms consist of videos, questions and interactive quizzes that students can use to revise and prepare themselves for their assessments. Stage 5 and Stage 6 students have access to 'atomi'. Students will need to use their school email and password to log in.

For Stage 4 students, in addition to the resources provided in class, students are also encouraged to use online resources

such as “BBC bitesize, "Phet " as well as video sites such as “Youtube” and “Clickview” to consolidate their learning.

Here are some suggestions for Science related Youtube channels that students can explore at home:

Questacon
Veritasium
Kurzgesagt
AsapSCIENCE

Term 1 topics and assessments

Assessments for Science students this term can consist of assignments, in-class tests and practical exams. All formal assessment tasks will be notified with an assessment task notification which would be given out at least 2 weeks prior to the due date of the task. Students are encouraged to refer to the assessment notification that was issued to them during class, and to ensure that they are continuously preparing for the task by writing weekly summary notes of the content covered in class.

Here is an overview of the topics covered this term.

Checklist for Students in Term 1:

Stage 4:

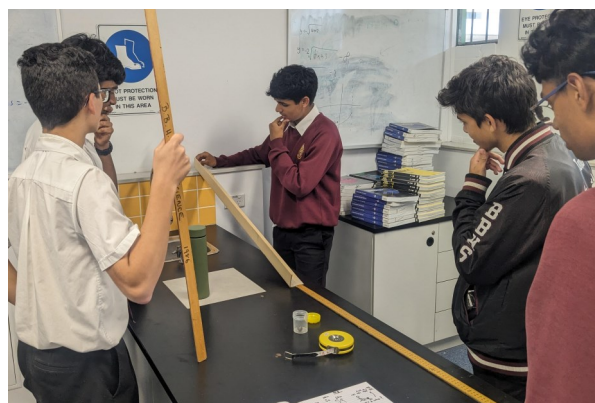
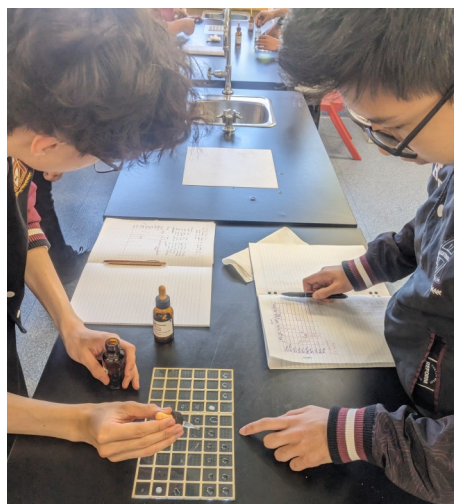
Year	Topic	Assessment Task
7	All mixed up (Chemistry)	Week 9 Skills Test
8	What's the Buzz? (Physics)	Week 6 Investigation and Scientific Report
9	Balance in the Living World (Biology)	Week 7 Research Task
10	Making, Breaking & Rearranging	Week 8 Skills Test
11	Biology - Module 3 & 4 Chemistry - Module 1 Physics - Module 1	Week 9 Depth Study Week 7 Skills Assessment Week 7 Skills Assessment
12	Biology - Module 6 Chemistry - Module 6 Physics - Module 6	Week 7 Biotechnology task Week 8 Depth Study Week 9

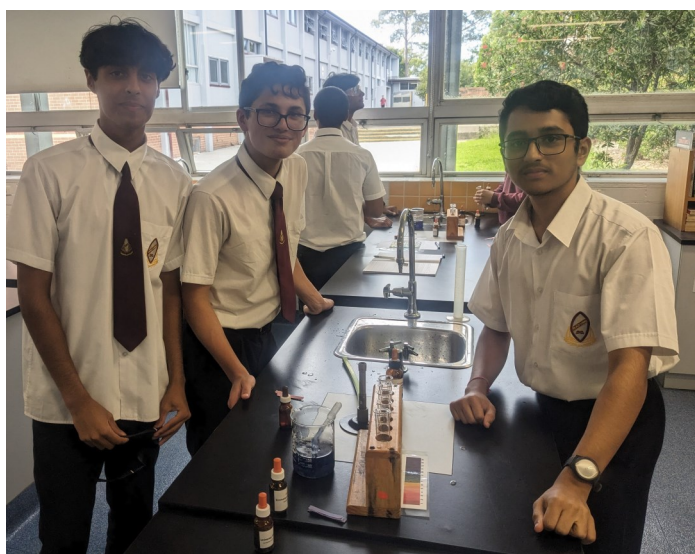
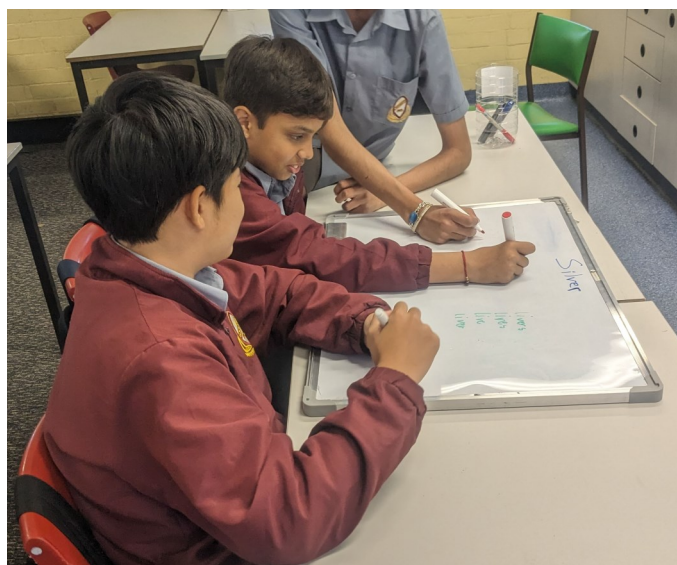
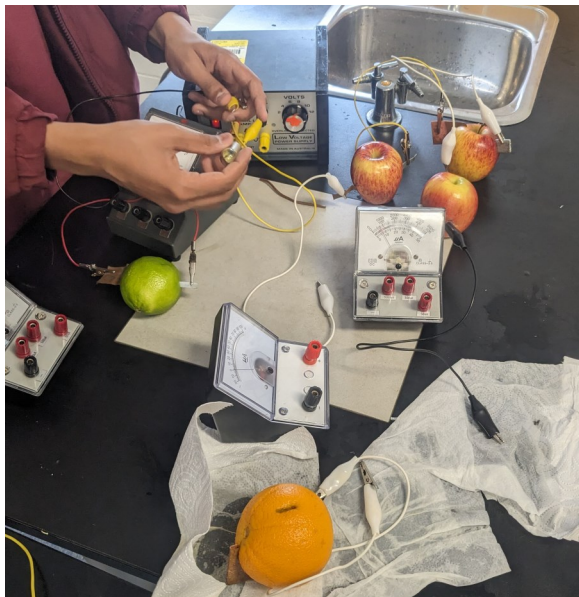
- Joined the Science Google Classroom
- Wears covered leather shoes to school
- Has a Science book and writing equipment
- Has signed and returned the lab safety form
- Is noting down homework due dates and ensuring that all homework is up to date

- Is completing revision at home

Stage 5 & 6

- Joined the Science Google Classroom
- Wears covered leather shoes to school
- Has signed and returned the lab safety form
- Has a Science book and writing equipment
- Has a copy of the scope and sequence
- Is accessing Atomi (online learning platform that can be accessed at home)
- Is ensuring that all homework is up to date
- Is completing revision regularly at home





Head Teacher, CAPA

Ms Kate Burne



CAPA Staff Professional Learning: The faculty began 2024 with the National Art Educators Conference at the National Art Gallery in Canberra. The event being attended by all of the Visual Arts team. This event was at the national capital with keynote speakers from Singapore, Hong Kong, New York, the Northern Territory, Sydney, and Brisbane. An epic

exhibition of Emily Kam Ngwarreye's work was highlighted, as well as focused presentations on the place of modern technologies, apps, social media within the arts. The works were controversial, mainstream, or innovative. The conference allowed the Visual Arts staff to connect with other educators on inspiring and innovative practices within learning and the arts.

Welcome to all Year 7, 2024. We look forward to seeing you in class and connecting with your parents through the space provided by our information sites. To make it a little easier it is worth noting that CAPA includes Visual Arts, Visual Design, and Music courses and LOTE is Italian Language.

Key Staff Names :

Head Teacher CAPA & LOTE : Mrs K. Burne

Visual Arts & Visual Design Teachers: Mrs Burne, Mr Conley, Ms Hunter & Ms Miggins

Music Teachers: Mrs Simon, Mr Conley & Ms Miggins

LOTE Teachers : Mr Pace & Mr Taylor

Welcome: back to school to all our Stage 4, 5 and 6 students. We look forward to a fun and engaged year in the faculty. Be clear, Be on time, Be organised, Be a part of the class and the faculty, as there is much to do this year.

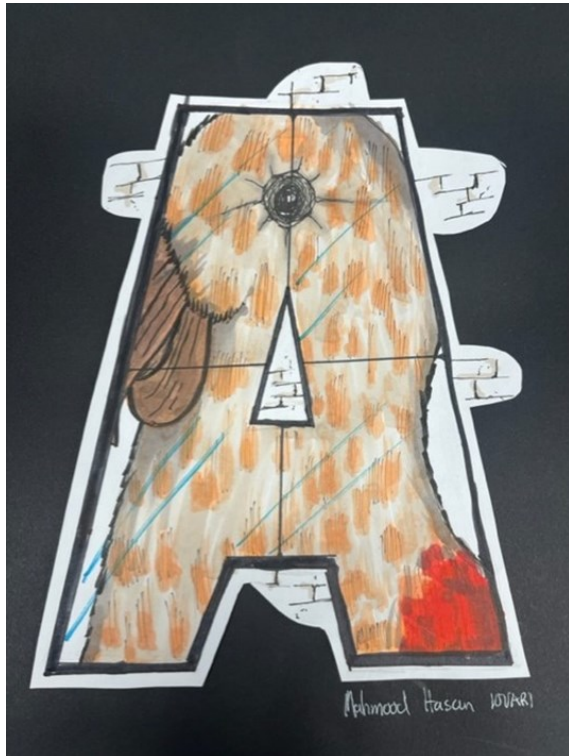
Music: in partnership with PCYC Blacktown Upbeat, is able to access sound engineering and recording studios within the course electives. This is innovative and an exciting move forward for Mrs Simon and her students.

LOTE: the popular Ario Pace airway program is under review for the incoming cohort, complete with ticketing, seating, and rewards trolley. Culture and communication are at the centre of this popular space with a collaboration on the board for 2024, with Mrs Simon and Mr Pace. Watch this space!

Café d' Art is always on our mind and although it is held in August each year, the planning and work delivery starts

now. Be a part of this exhibition and performance space as it is an assessable task, a community scrutinised event, and most of all a reward and fun experience for all the students in CAPA and LOTE faculty. Our many gifted and talented students take opportunity to group performance and art-making, and oral communication through this event.

Enjoy it!



EaL/D, Ms Vidhi Sharma



Welcome back to another school year! We hope you had a wonderful break and are ready for the exciting adventures that lie ahead. Whether you are returning to our school or joining us for the first time, we are thrilled to have you as part of our diverse and dynamic school community.

Navigating high school can be both challenging and rewarding. Rest assured, our school is committed to providing you with the support and resources you need to thrive academically and personally. This term is a busy term as I am busy testing the new arrivals mainly Year 7's and updating the details on the ERN data for the EAL/D survey. This is a rigorous process as based on the testing we create an individual profile for our EAL/D students. The process also involves meeting teachers across KLA's and suggest them the pedagogies that would assist these students.

We encourage you to embrace the opportunities to practice English, engage with your peers, and take part in the various cultural activities that our school has to offer. I would like to welcome the parents to be a part of the activities and support us.

Together, let us make this school year one filled with growth, friendship, and success. If you ever have questions or need assistance, do not hesitate to reach out. We are here for you!

Wishing you a fantastic and fulfilling school year ahead!



Sport Coordinator

Mr Stephen Wilson

School sport days this year are Wednesdays for our 7-10 cohorts. Students are reminded to wear their sports uniform and running shoes all day on sport days. This allows for maximum participation, movement, and hygiene. This term sees students in 8 and 9 participating in 2 of 5 sports each week, volleyball, dodgeball, slide hockey, European Handball and basketball with year 7 participating in a team vs team round robin format in cricket till week 7 and soccer weekly. Year 10 have chosen their own sport to participate in this term.

Scores are recorded and maintained for a yearlong results table. The teams with the most wins at the end of the year, will be rewarded with a 'rewards excursion/event'. 1 student from each game will also be rewarded with Man of the Match points. Man of the match points are awarded for sportsmanship, leadership, communication, effort, improvement and/or spirit. These names are recorded weekly and the student with the most man of the matches is awarded junior sportsman of the year at the end of 2022. The sports this year for school sport include, but are not limited to, European Handball, Ultimate Frisbee, Volleyball, Table Tennis, Basketball, Oztag, Cricket and more.

KNOCKOUT SPORT

Knockout teams This year we are 'hitting the ground running' with all the sports events taking place so early on. All our school team knockouts have either begun or will begin their trials soon. Our BBHS school teams that will be competing in the Sydney West knockout tournaments this year include; baseball, basketball, U15s basketball, cricket, rugby league, U15s rugby league, soccer, Junior soccer, table tennis, tennis, touch football and volleyball. Please listen for information on these in assemblies and daily notices. Some information is at times also posted on the Sports Noticeboard outside of the PDHPE staffroom. Zone teams are also currently trialling with students attending both the zone soccer and zone rugby league team trials recently. Congratulations to these students on their efforts and attitudes at these trials. Announcements on successful selections soon.



2024 SWIMMING CARNIVAL

Congratulations to all who attended and participated to make a great day. Zone notes have been emailed.

House champions

- 1st - Hall
- 2nd - Macquarie
- 3rd - Waugh
- 4th - Bradman

Age champions

- 12yrs - Aarav
- 13yrs - Zachery
- 14yrs - Suren
- 15yrs - Nishchal and Elijah
- 16yrs - Jacob
- 17+yrs - Ezekiel



Head Teacher PDHPE

Ms Tahnee Lovering



Practical Lesson expectations

For usual PE Practical lessons, students must come prepared with their sport uniform packed ready to change before and after the practical lesson. Unfortunately,

due to present covid restrictions, we are currently not using the change-rooms. This means that students may wear their sports uniforms all day on days when their timetable consists of PE or PASS practical lesson (PEP on timetable)

The sports uniform consists of the school's maroon polo shirt, black shorts or tracksuit pants, school hat and appropriate footwear (runners). If students are unable to wear the school's nominated sports uniform, another change of appropriate clothing may be worn accompanied with a note from parents/carers, explaining the reason why the student is out of uniform. This ensures your son can still participate in the practical activities and further his movement-related skills. Theory PE or PASS lessons require regular school uniform including black leather shoes. The 'Dress for Success' information explains the importance of having the PE prac uniform prepared for each prac lesson.

School Gym Club

2024 Gym club has opened for the year and will run from week 4 onwards on scheduled afternoons from 2.30-3.30pm. To register please see Miss Lovering for permission notes and requirements.

Term 1 topics and assessment tasks

Year/ Course	Unit name	Assessment task	Due week
7 PDHPE	Prac- Fundamental Movement Skills and Athletics Theory- Change & Challenge	Nil	N/A
8 PDHPE	Prac- Invade & Conquer Theory- Health Literacy	Invade & Conquer	8
9PDHPE	Prac- We're all in this together Theory- Real Connections	We're all in this together	7
10PDHPE			
9PAS	Event Management	Event Management	10
10PDHPE	Prac- Fitness games Theory- Relationships	Fitness Games	Pre testing wk 2 onwards and post testing week 8 onwards
10PAS	Event Management	Event Management	10
11PDHPE	Better Health for Individuals	Better health for individuals	10
11SLR	Resistance Training	Resistance training	8
12PDHPE	Sports Medicine	Sports Medicine	10
12SLR	Individual games and applications	Individual games and applications	7





Head Teacher, Teaching & Learning Mr David Martin



Welcome back to another year, and on behalf of the Learning Support Team, we are looking forward to being able to work with students to help them improve once again. Throughout the year we will be collecting data about student academic performance, including NAPLAN and other assessments, as well as observing how students perform in their classes. This allows us to identify areas where students need support, and plan for how

we can support them.

NAPLAN will be running in Weeks 7-8 for Years 7 and 9, with separate information being provided closer to the date. Students are encouraged to provide their own earphones/headphones that can be plugged into a school computer (standard AUX is preferred). If a student is absent during the NAPLAN testing window, the best efforts will be made to have the student complete the test, however, this will not always be possible. If a student has an issue during a NAPLAN test, they must inform the teacher supervising their test immediately. Once a test is submitted, or a student proceeds past a locked section, it is not possible to resolve any issues with a test.

In Term 2 we participate in the EAL/D survey, which is used by the Department of Education to identify students who are learning English as an Additional Language or Dialect. In Term 3 we also participate in the NCCD, which provides information about students with a disability to the Australian Government. Both of these surveys are compulsory, and data remains confidential. If you have any questions about these surveys, please do not hesitate to contact the school, or go to <https://education.nsw.gov.au/teaching-and-learning/curriculum/multicultural-education/english-as-an-additional-language-or-dialect/planning-eald-support/data-collection> and <https://www.nccd.edu.au/> respectively for more information.

Within my role, I will also be working with staff across the school to help them in their development, as well as focusing on how we can help students achieve to the best of their potential. There are also a range of extra-curricular activities for students to engage in throughout the year that can be used to develop a wider range of skills, as well as help prepare students for their future.

Head Teacher, Inclusive Education Ms Sevenoaks



We've had a busy start to the year and I'd like to welcome our new cohort of students to the Inclusive Education faculty. I'd also like to welcome our new teacher Miss William to the faculty. This year all three classes will be participating in extensive Numeracy, Literacy, TAS, Visual arts, PDHPE and cross-curricular Science and HSIE programs. This term we'll be running

several exciting activities, including visits to the agriculture plot, therapy dog incursions and regular community access excursions. Our community access excursions are vital in strengthening our students' social and functional living skills.

We've also continued our food technology lessons, with a focus on Australian and Indigenous food. Students are learning vital cooking skills to prepare them for a successful future. In Visual Arts students have been learning about famous Australian artists and exploring the ways in which artists express themselves and recreate the natural and man made world around them. We will be continuing to build upon Numeracy and job ready skills, with a goal of students from year 10 to 12 to participate in work experience opportunities. Our main focus in the support unit has been on improving wellbeing, with an emphasis on creating lifelong learners. We're looking forward to another amazing year of growth for our students and we hope to support each student to achieve their individual goals.

We acknowledge the homelands of all Aboriginal people
and pay our respects to Country.

DRESS FOR SUCCESS



in physical education and physical activity

ThePhysicalEducator.com



DRESS FOR SUCCESS & BE HEALTHY

As you exercise, your clothes become soiled with things like sweat, oil, and dead skin cells that rub off due to friction. When left in clothes, these body soils can form bacteria that can cause odour, blocked skin pores, and skin rashes.

Although it is important to wear athletic clothing when being active, it is also important to change out of those clothes once you are done (washing them is a good idea too!)

ThePhysicalEducator.com



DRESS FOR SUCCESS & BE FREE

One of the joys of living a healthy, active lifestyle is the opportunity to experience and enjoy movement in all kinds of new environments.

When we wear clothing that is appropriate for physical activity, we get to move as freely as we can without worrying about our clothes limiting our movements.

Don't let your clothes slow you down!

ThePhysicalEducator.com



DRESS FOR SUCCESS & BE SAFE

Being active requires us to be able to quickly change levels, speed, direction, and force at a moment's notice.

Clothing that is not appropriate for physical activity can cause slips, trips, and limited movements. In turn, this can lead to injuries that could keep you sidelined from your favourite physical activities. Be safe by wearing appropriate clothing & footwear when being active!

ThePhysicalEducator.com



DRESS FOR SUCCESS & BE READY

Leading a healthy, physically active lifestyle means that adventure might come knocking at your door when you least expect it. When it does, you want to make sure that you are ready for it! This involves having the competence, confidence, and clothing that will allow you to be a part of the adventure!

When you bring your clothes to P.E. class, you're building a habit that involves planning ahead so that you're ready to include as much physical activity into your day as possible!

ThePhysicalEducator.com

Year 7, 2024

Mr Gokhan Masera



A very big welcome to our year 7 students and parents - Welcome to BBHS! I hope you have all been enjoying the aspects of high school so far. Term 1 has been a busy term for all of us. Everyone is finding their feet with navigating around the school and classes, making new friends and learning in each subject. I encourage all year 7 stu-

dents to make the most of their school day by fully engaging themselves to their studies and asking questions and seeking feedback to improve their learning. Year 7 is an amazing year of high school and I encourage our year 7 students to fully invest themselves in every facet of their first year in high school.

Here are some reminders for Year 7s:

School Diaries - All year 7's should try to use your school diary as much as possible to help with organization for upcoming events, homework, and assessment task due dates.

Packing for week A & B - Always check your timetable and pack your bag the night before to ensure that you have the correct books. All year 7s have received individualized timetables. It is important to have a copy of this at school so you can check where you are supposed to be. If you are lost, go to the front office.

Year 7 Cohort Google Classroom - There is a google classroom for communication between myself and year 7s. I post up important information for year 7s such as camp information, sport trials, debating and the various extracurricular groups that year 7s can join at recess and lunch.

Attendance & Being late - The bell for school rings at 8:10am and students should be at their homeroom by then. There is a warning bell at 8:05am to signify that it is time for students to go to their homeroom. If you arrive at school after 8:10am, you need to go to the front office to get a late note.

Hint: If you arrive at school and do not see anyone in the quad, you are late and need to go to the front office.

Year 7 Camp- Year 7 Camp is coming very soon on the 6th – 8th of March at Camp Yarramundi in Yarramundi. Information about what to pack, menus and cabin groups will be posted on the Year 7 Google Classroom. It is imperative that students are ready and packed for a great camp experience on Wednesday morning.

Questions about school - students are encouraged to talk to their teachers or myself if they have any questions or concerns about school, their classes, homework or peer relationships. Parents who have questions can email the school or contact myself via the school phone.

Year 7 Vaccination Day - The vaccination visits for the HPV and dTpa vaccine is on Term 3 19th of August with catch ups on the 16th of September. More information on the consent forms will be sent home to parents.

I am really looking forward to working with all of you and I hope that you all have a fantastic Term 1 at BBHS!

Year 8 Adviser 2024, Ms Malar Mavanna



Welcome to 2024. I hope everyone had a fantastic and well-deserved break. I would like to welcome our new Year 8 students who joined BBHS community this year. This year, we will take on new adventures, make more memories and learn a wealth of knowledge.

Our “Learn to Live” Program also continues this year, this time addressing topics, such as: Goal Setting, Personal Hygiene, Respectful Relationships, Managing Stress and Risk Taking. We also have guest speakers from organisations like Headspace that will help bring these topics to the forefront of our efforts in supporting emotional and social wellbeing.

There are even more opportunities to grow outside the classroom with extra curricular activities, like school sports teams, Student Representative Council, Library Monitor roles, the Rock and Water Program and ABCN Full STEAM Ahead. We encourage our students to reach outside of their comfort zones and engage with these fantastic opportunities throughout the year.

Here are some announcements and reminders:

Attendance

(start of school and to each period)

Just a reminder that students need to be at their homeroom by 8:10am every day. There is a warning music bell that goes at 8:05am to signify that it is time to go to homeroom. If students arrive at school after 8:10am, they need to go to the front office to get a late note. Students need to also be mindful about when recess and lunch ends and need to actively make their way to their classroom when the 5-minute warning bell rings to signify the end of recess and lunch.

Uniform & uniform pass

The formal school uniform for juniors consists of a grey shirt and grey pants/ shorts with leather shoes. Black pants are only for senior (year 11 & 12) students. Students should also not be wearing grey jogger pants to school. Students will be allowed to wear sport uniform on the day they have practical PE lessons. These lessons will appear as “PEP” on their timetable. If students are not coming to school with the correct uniform, they need to provide a note from their parents/guardians to the HT of Administration for a uniform pass.

Year 8 Sport Day

Year 8s have sport Period 1 and Period 2 every Wednesday. Students should be wearing their sport uniform to school on Wednesdays.

School Diary/Planner

I encourage all our year 8 students to bring a diary to school to record down when homework is due as well as other important information. By now, each student should be more familiar with how they manage time during assessment periods, and how organized they are with remembering homework and information in general.

Google Classroom for Year 8

All Year 8 students should be on the Year 8 Google Classroom. This is the same google classroom as Year 7 and will be used as a platform for communication between myself and the cohort.

SRC

Each Year 8 homeroom has a SRC member. I would like to acknowledge all the students who submitted the SRC EOI forms and were involved in the SRC elections. I look forward to working with our Year 8 SRC members this year.

Swimming Carnival

The swimming carnival is held on the 26/02 at the Blacktown Aquatic Centre and is counted as a compulsory school day.

Contact with the school

Students are encouraged to talk to their teachers or myself if they have any questions or concerns about school, their classes, homework, or peer relationships. Parents and guardians who have questions can email the school or contact me on 9622 1558. I look forward to working with our Year 8s this year.



Year 9 Adviser 2024, Ms Rabia Semerci

Dear Parents and Guardians,

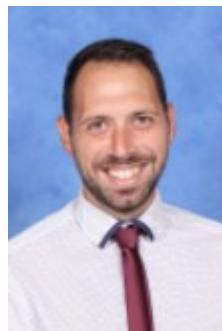
Year 9 has had a great start to Term 1, 2024. Students are enjoying their new elective courses and continued core subjects, with emphasis on Year 9 students taking a little more responsibility over their own learning. Year 9 officially begin working towards their Record of School Achievement (RoSA) which will be awarded at the end of Year 10. All details on how to satisfy requirements and proceed to Year 11 studies can be found in the Year 9 Assessment Booklet, which can be accessed on the Year 9 Google classroom.

This term Year 9 will be sitting for their NAPLAN examinations in Week 7 and Week 8.

Gentle reminders for students and parents:

- Attendance – *Every day counts in school attendance.* Absences can add up and impact your learning and peer relationships.
 - If you are absent, your parent or guardian must let the school know or you can bring a written explanation and hand it to your homeroom teacher when you return to school.
 - Join the Year 9 Google Classroom for important school business information.
 - Keep your Assessment Notifications and Year 9 Assessment Booklet in a display folder.
 - Use a diary regularly for homework and assessment reminders to self.
 - Check your student emails regularly.
 - Ask your teacher for help when you are unsure about classwork or assessment tasks.
- Find your Year Advisor in the English staffroom if you have any concerns.

Year 10 Adviser 2024, Mr Daniel Fabricato



Welcome back to Term 1 of 2024! It's going to be another busy year of learning and great opportunities for Year 10. So far, the students are off to a good start with uniform looking great and students beginning to get involved in activities around the school.

This year, Year 10 will have a lot to look forward to. They will be completing their subject selection for Yr 11 and 12 in late term 2, have the opportunity to participate in ABCN incursions such as Interview 2 Impress and try out for a variety of sport knockout teams.

Learn to Live

This year, Year 10 will be participating in a fortnightly program called Learn to Live. This program has been designed to assist year 10 students in improving and maintaining their wellbeing. Some topics that it aims to cover include creating SMART goals for the year, recognising, and managing stress, resilience and how to build organisational skills.

Assessment Booklet

All students have received an Assessment Booklet which can be found on the year groups Google Classroom, which was highlighted during our first year meeting earlier in the term. It is a booklet that summarises the requirements of each course studied, and also provides information about the RoSA (Record of School Achievement) that is awarded to students at the completion of Year 10. The booklet allows students to take a little more responsibility over their studies, as it provides the dates tasks are due as well as the outcomes that will be assessed. Students are encouraged to highlight the subjects they study in their booklet and ask their class teachers for assistance if they have any further questions.

Tips on Staying Organised

- Take on opportunities when they arise
- Join our year group Google Classroom
- Listen to homeroom notices
- Write tasks that need to be completed in a diary
- Ask questions when unsure
- Bring all equipment needed to class
- Pack your bag the night before

NAPLAN

National Assessment Program - Literacy and Numeracy
Information for parents and carers

- All students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 in Australia do NAPLAN tests in March each year.
- NAPLAN tests students' skills in reading, writing and maths.
- The test questions are presented in Standard Australian English dialect.
- Students read some of the questions and listen to others with headphones.
- The tests will get easier or harder, depending on how students are going in the test.
- Students do four different tests. The names of the four tests are:

Writing

Reading

Conventions of language
(spelling, grammar and punctuation)

Numeracy

Year 11 Adviser 2024, Ms Sharma



Welcome back to another exciting school year! I hope you had a restful break.

I value you as seniors and would look forward to your leadership, dedication, and enthusiasm as a source of inspiration for the entire school community. As you embark on this almost final chapter of your high school journey, I am confident

that you will continue to set an example for your peers and make lasting memories.

This year promises new challenges, opportunities, and adventures, and I am thrilled to have you leading the way as a new Year Advisor. I am further looking forward to seeing you all in the Senior Commitment Ceremony (Week-3) to ensure that we take responsibility for our learning and wellbeing. Google classroom is the fastest mode for communication where I post all the relevant information to keep you updated. This year also demands you to be more organised with your learning, uniform, and other commitments. Most importantly, attendance and N awards are the key areas that need to be taken seriously. Please go through the Assessment booklet thoroughly to remind yourself of the upcoming tasks.

I do understand some of you would feel overwhelmed entering into a new phase of life but discussing with your peers, creating a study group would be a good start! Come and chat with me whenever you are free to discuss! It's not just me, we have a team to support you- Career Advisor, Counsellors, Classroom teachers, Head teachers and Deputies!

Let's make this academic year one to remember! As you reconnect with friends and dive into your studies, remember that you are an integral part of our school family.

Wishing you a fantastic school year ahead!

Year 12 Adviser 2024, Ms Villanueva



Welcome back Year 12! It's been fantastic to see everyone return from the break refreshed and ready to tackle the second term of Year 12. As we dive into the new term, let's take a moment to reflect on the exciting developments happening within our cohort.

Energised and Ready to Learn

It's been a pleasure to chat with many of you upon your return and witness your enthusiasm for the term ahead. Your energy and determination are truly inspiring, and it's clear that you're all committed to making the most of this crucial year.

Adjusting to New Study Patterns

Many students have successfully adjusted their study patterns to now include at least 10 units of study. This adjustment has allowed for the incorporation of study periods in the Senior Study Centre during the day, providing valuable time to focus on coursework, assessment tasks, and exam preparation. It's great to see everyone embracing this change and using it to their advantage.

Continued Fundraising for the Formal

The fundraising efforts for the Year 12 Formal are still in full swing, and it's great to see the dedication of students towards making this celebration a memorable one. Your commitment to fundraising not only showcases your teamwork and organisational skills but also highlights your desire to create a special event to mark the end of 13 years of education.

As we embark on this term, let's continue to support each other, stay focused on our goals, and make the most of every opportunity that comes our way!

Career Guidance and Opportunities

In addition to your academic studies, it's important to start thinking about your future beyond Year 12. That's why we've introduced a careers lesson for Year 12 students every fortnight. These lessons are designed to help you create clearer goals for yourself, whether you're interested in pursuing a trade and apprenticeship or further study at a TAFE or university. You'll also learn about early entry schemes and other wonderful opportunities to kickstart your career. We encourage you to make the most of these lessons and be proactive in applying to opportunities that align with your goals.

As we embark on 2024, let's continue to support each other, stay focused on our goals, and make the most of every opportunity that comes our way. Together, we will make this year a remarkable one!