

Blacktown Mail

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



Message from the Principal - Mr David Calleja



It is always rewarding when we see another group of our students complete their education and graduate from school. These students. The Class of 2022, our newest Alumni, after 13 years of formal education, will branch out, join society and the workforce, and contribute towards our nation's exponential growth and prosperity.

The satisfaction I gain as a principal is to see the impact our boys have in society. Blacktown Boys breaking down barriers, destroying stereotypical impressions and displaying the attitude that they can do anything. Our Boys are showing the world the value of public education and the value of coming to our great school. Prior to the HSC forty five of our students had already been accepted into various universities.

As a school we are punching above

our weight and will continue to improve in years to come. This improvement is due to the professionalism and dedication of our staff and the tailoring of lessons to meet the specific needs of our boys.

As a school we know our boys and how they learn: we are a medium sized school and therefore none of our boys are lost in the crowd: we know their idiosyncrasies and we know how to teach them. For most, they have had the same teachers since they started in Year 7. Like any relationship, time has allowed us to grow, nurture and develop that special bond between teacher and student with the ultimate aim of graduation and educational success.

Educational success can take many forms ranging from university to an apprenticeship to working and running the family business. None of these are better than the other. Different students with different backgrounds, interests and aspirations will choose to take on different paths in society. We can't all be teachers or doctors or plumbers. This is the great thing about Blacktown Boys High School. Our students can all attend school, attain a differentiated education and be successful, no matter what they choose to do in life. This is what makes our school unique and the strength and success behind our public education system. Teachers working hard in a multicultural school in the heart of Western Sydney.

COMING EVENTS

TERM 4

7th November
Year 12 Sign Out

9th November
P & C Meeting 5:30pm

17th November
Men's Health Day

18th November
Year 12 Formal

22nd November
Year 7 Camp

25th November
White Ribbon Day

29th November
Year 6 – 7 Orientation Day

6th December
School Presentation Day

12th December
Year 10 Work Experience Week

15th December
Year 7, Swim Safe

16th December
Students last day of term

*Wishing you a Merry
Christmas
& Safe and Happy New
Year*



Blacktown Boys is certainly a great place for learning. Our school is certainly doing an exceptional job when it comes to placing students in University. As I previously mentioned, forty five of our students had been accepted into University prior to sitting their HSC. This is a great achievement before we have even put pencil to paper in the HSC. In saying this, the 2023 Macquarie University Leaders and Achievers early entry scheme has seen 28 of our students being offered places in a range of subjects including Engineering, Commerce, Applied Finance and Accounting, Medical Sciences, Business analytics, Education and Cyber Security. This is reflective of the high levels of achievement this school is attaining. I hope one of our boys will emulate Woonhui Wong our Dux in 2021 who achieved an ATAR of 99.15 and then went on to do Actuary Studies. To all these boys, I wish them the best of luck in their HSC and look forward to our results in December.

Our building projects are slowly progressing. Our Senior Study area is now open and available for our Year 12 students. I hope to be able to inform you in our next newsletter that the Outdoor Learning Area over the main quad is complete or a final date for completion is given. This will allow us to have an all-weather area where our students can eat, play and learn without being burnt by the sun or rained on during poor weather. Other projects in the pipeline include the re-surface and levelling of the junior basketball court, re-cabling across the school to get our internet and technology up to date and modernised; new toilet and staffroom facilities for our female staff and a new entrance to our library in preparation for a total refurbishment over the next two years.

As this newsletter goes to print, we have been informed that there will be slight changes to the front of the school. The school will, next term have new electronic gates at the front of Fifth Avenue where visitors will have to be buzzed in to get into the school. Can I remind parents that the carpark is exclusively for staff use and has a limited number of spaces for visitors. The existing driveway to the school will be a one way entry and a new exit will be built closer to Sunnyholt Road. This will streamline traffic in the mornings and afternoons. A separate pedestrian access gate will also be available to enter and exit the school. Visitors to the school are asked to park on Fifth Avenue.

As we continue to improve the aesthetics of the school, we continue to develop and improve learning and teaching. We continue to maintain a strong working relationship with Real Schools who are collaborating with staff to develop and improve management skills in the classroom. By focussing student's attention to where it matters, results across the board should continue to improve as students engage in their learning. As a segue to this, the school is researching the introduction in 2023 of Yondr Pouches which will hold student phones for the duration of the day. This allows for fewer disruptions and cuts down on the potential for cyber-bullying. The staff are unanimous in deciding that this valuable resource be implemented across the school.

In the area of staff professional development, we are focussing our attention towards improving the literacy and numeracy of our students. By utilising NAPLAN and other tools we hope to see continual growth and improvement into the future. Undoubtedly, this has a significant impact upon the outcomes of the HSC. It is our aim to continue to be the top academic school in Blacktown, serving our students and giving them every opportunity to find their place in society. Hand in hand with our academic paths towards University and higher forms of education.

Mr Hodges, our Careers Adviser is working tirelessly with the staff to prepare our boys who do not want to go onto tertiary education, but into apprenticeships, traineeships, jobs in the local area and TAFE. Our aim as a school is to meet the needs of all our students, covering all bases to ensure they succeed and thrive once they have left secondary education. We are dedicated and make no apologies for pushing our boys to achieve their best!

I encourage all parents to attend our P&C meetings. Our P&C meetings are held on Wednesday week 5 of each term from 5:30pm in 2023.

As this is the final newsletter for the year, I would like to extend my warmest wishes to all our Blacktown Boys High School families during the festive season. Merry Christmas to those who celebrate Christmas, but above all, a very happy and prosperous year ahead to all of you. I look forward to seeing you all in the New Year, working together to ensure the ongoing academic success of our students, your children.

Deputy Principal message:

Mrs Trish Matthews



In our final Newsletter for 2022, I would like to take the opportunity to wish Year 12 farewell and wish them all the best for their futures. It is not the last time we will meet and there will be plenty of opportunities for me and the staff to give best wishes to these boys, whom I have, in the main, known for the past six years of their lives. It is always the greatest

pleasure for teachers to watch boys grow into young men, and this group is no exception. I am proud to be associated with all of them and wish them a bright and hopeful future where they have the confidence to be what they want to be and add positively to their own ever-growing communities. Congratulations Year 12 and have a good life!

Some people think that Term 4 is a downhill run until the end of the year. Not so at Blacktown Boys High School! It is a time of new beginnings and ongoing planning and development.

At Blacktown Boys we proudly focus on meeting the needs of students and are already in communication with Year 6 students transitioning to Year 7 in 2023. We look forward to welcoming students who have applied for our Everest Program in 2023, and meeting all students on Orientation Day on Tuesday 29th November. Peer support leaders for 2023 are currently being trained to support the transition of Year 7 2023 into our community.

For Year 11, their Preliminary exams signalled the end of year 11 with the rigours of the HSC course starting Day 1 Term 4. It is important that all students maintain 100% attendance and punctuality to maximise their post-school options. Blacktown Boys is the perfect place for students to be nurtured during these final two years, with a staff that know and understand their needs and learning styles, where we are not so big that we cannot give them the individual attention that they need and deserve.

It may come as a shock to Current year 10 students that they will start their HSC course in less than twelve months' time. Subject selections have already been made by Year 10 after a well-considered planning and interviewing process that started at the end of Term 2, involving teachers, Head Teachers, the Year Advisor, the Careers Advisor, parents, and most importantly the students themselves. This term they will be part of the StepUp Program. They will all be completing the mandatory requirement of NESA "All My Own Work" prior to commencing their Preliminary year. NESA supports students, and mandates the requirements

for the attainment of RoSA, and Preliminary and HSC courses.

For Year 9 the formal part of the RoSA has begun. Students need to demonstrate that they are attempting all course outcomes with diligence. In three terms time they will be selecting course for their Preliminary and HSC study. It is never too early to start thinking about future pathways and interests that they would like to follow, by focussing on their work, researching, and asking questions of teachers, family and friends. For Year 8, subject selections have been made for their three electives in Years 9 and 10.

Year 7 and Year 9 have already received their NAPLAN results, which are essentially a tool to guide planning to build Literacy and Numeracy skills of students. BBHS continues to add growth to students' skills, and this information adds to the wealth of knowledge that teachers have about the way that your son learns, in order to guide programming, and differentiated learning.

I would like to draw the attention of every parent to the issue of vaping, which has been increasing in all schools throughout NSW since 2019. Every generation experiences challenges that impact on health and safety. Currently the challenge is vaping, which has been specifically targeting young people through packaging and flavouring that masquerade the real danger of the practice.

This link: <https://education.nsw.gov.au/parents-and-carers/wellbeing/health-and-safety/what-you-need-to-know-about-vaping> provides advice to parents and carers. Knowledge is empowering for parents, caregivers and students and I would encourage you to have the conversation about vaping with your son and family.

I can always be contacted at the school if you have any enquiries, so please do get in touch. We look forward to working with you so that you can achieve all that your son wants in life, and more.

Term Dates for 2023

First day for Years 7, 11 & 12

Tuesday 31 January

First day for Years 8, 9 & 10

Wednesday 1 February

Term 2 starts - Wednesday 26 April

and ends – Friday 14 July

Term 3 starts - Tuesday 18 July

and ends – Friday 22 September

Term 4 starts - Monday 9 October and ends –
Monday 18 December 2023

Deputy Principal message:

Mr Rob Murie



With the HSC examinations finally finished, I would like to congratulate all the boys from the class of 2022 on a job well done and thank them for the contributions they have made to our wonderful school community. As your time at this school comes to an end and you look forward to a bright future, I wish you well for your journeys beyond Black-

town Boys High School. In particular, I would like to congratulate the forty-eight students who have received early entry into the university course of their choice. This record number of early entry offers for our school is a significant achievement and reflects the hard work of students and teachers to ensure every student can maximise their results every year.

As the end of year approaches, planning for 2023 is well underway with teachers collaborating to evaluate lessons and programs, ensuring they continue to create engaging classrooms and curriculum that promotes high levels of student achievement. In our upcoming wellbeing conference, the school wellbeing team will be analysing programs to ensure students build on the skills developed in their 'Learn to Live' classes this year and continue to develop resilience, respect, connectedness, high emotional intelligence, and strong social skills so that every student at Blacktown Boys High School can connect, succeed, and thrive.

We are also looking into the possibility of making our school a phone free space in 2023 by implementing a system called Yondr. In schools that have implemented this system, where students lock their phones away in a secure pouch for the day, data has shown large improvements in student engagement, behaviour, and academic performance. Currently we are in the initial planning phase and still working through the logistics of how the system will work in our school, so watch this space for further information!

The Department of Education is inviting parents and carers to share their opinions about how to make schools more successful in the future. If you are interested in sharing your ideas, then please see the attached information in this newsletter.

Finally, as the year draws to a close, I would like to take the opportunity to wish everyone in our school community all the best for the upcoming holiday period and thank parents, students, and teachers for the contributions you have made to making our school such a wonderful and vibrant place to be working in. In my opinion, not only the best

performing academic school in Western Sydney but also the best school to provide young men with an amazing education that establishes a strong foundation for the future.

2023 TIMETABLE CHANGES

Please note that there will be a change to the Friday timetable for 2023. Information has not yet been confirmed so details will be communicated in the near future.

Have your say on what school success looks like

Dear parents and carers,

Reflecting on the challenges of the last few years, the NSW Department of Education is in the process of reviewing and evaluating what school success looks like now and in the future. It's enhancing ways to support student success and wellbeing as part of ongoing school reform. The goal is to support our schools in a way that is more responsive to their needs and priorities.

To inform this work, the department is inviting parents and carers to share their perspectives on what the school and the department could do to improve the schooling experience. By participating, parents and carers will inform the department what is working well, what needs to be improved, and will be involved in shaping new and innovative initiatives.

If you would like to be part of the discussion, there are face-to-face and online forums being held in weeks 6 and 7 of Term 4 (7 – 25 November). You can register your interest and find more information at [Have your say on what school success looks like](#), including the locations and timing of sessions.

Contact Details:

Blacktown Boys High School Contact details:

- Address: Fifth Avenue, Blacktown NSW, 2148
- Telephone: 02 9622 1558
- Email: blacktownb-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au

Acting Head Teacher Administration Ms Vidhi Sharma



Welcome back to Term - 4!

As always Term 4 is a busy one for a variety of reasons.

Yearly Examinations for Years 7 - 10 will be held during Weeks 2, 3, 4 & 5.

All students are encouraged to develop and implement an organised study and revision schedule, discuss any queries with their teachers and give themselves ample time to plan and prepare for tasks and examinations. I would encourage students to get organised by putting the dates for all assessments onto a calendar at home and working steadily towards those assessments.

Term 4 means the weather will be warmer, therefore, students are to wear the (correct) summer uniform.

A reminder to all students that PE uniform is only to be worn for PE lessons and on Wednesdays for Sport (Years 7 - 10). Non-BBHS jumpers, pants, shorts, or shirts are not accepted, nor are hoodies. Please be reminded that hoodies and non-school uniform jumpers are not acceptable clothing options for school. Parents/carers or students who may require support with uniform are welcome to contact the school for assistance. Correct uniform fosters a sense of school pride and identity and provides safety for the ease of identifying our students both at school and in the community.

Also, a reminder for the students coming late to school. The bell rings at 8.10 and roll call finishes at 8.20am. If students have a valid reason lateness will then be recorded as an explained absence. The reason must be supported by a note from a parent or guardian. It should be dated and signed. Parents can also phone or reply to the text message from the school advising of their sons' lateness.

Students leaving early on occasions must bring in a signed note by parents and hand it to the Head Teacher Administration. Most of our students are demonstrating a positive attitude towards learning which reflects through their attendance. I am pleased to see the increase in the attendance percentage from last term.

Attendance equals Success!

Have a great Term 4!



From the Administration team , Ms Pennie Holley



The final term of each year is a very busy time for us all so we would like to thank the families who have already paid their voluntary contributions and elective fees this year. You can also request a statement of fees at any time throughout the school term.

Invoices for any unpaid fees will be posted to families this term.

Your contributions help greatly in our provision of quality learning experiences for all students. Elective subject levies are necessary for a student's elective subjects to continue to provide the equipment and resources required.

For your convenience, payment of these contributions may be made in full or in regular small instalments at the front office using: eftpos or cash, or alternatively payments may be made online via the parent portal on our website. Please note that a change is coming to the way parents can pay for fees and excursions in the coming year. More information will be on our website in the near future.

We are most fortunate that our parents and our community do so strongly support the school and value the education that their sons receive. The Contribution Schedule for 2023 will be available on our website in the coming days. Please take some time to take a look at it and our events and activities pages.

The administration team would like to congratulate all the students in year 12 for their efforts in completing their final year at high school. We have been involved in their education from their first day in year 7 at our school and bid them farewell and wish them well in their future endeavours.

Change of Student Details (forms available on our website)

As we draw closer to the end of the year, contact with parent / carers becomes more regular with presentations, reports, graduations etc. Please ensure that the school has all your up to date contact details so we are able to keep you informed of the many events happening at our school.

A change of details form is available on our website for you to print and forward to the school either by email or with your son as soon as possible.

To all our families we wish you a safe and happy Christmas and look forward to welcoming you on your return in 2023.

Acting Head Teacher, English Ms Erin Wagner



Welcome to our fourth and final term!

The English faculty would like to welcome

Mr Gokhan Masera, who joins us on a permanent basis. We are very excited to have you as part of the BBHS school community!

Congratulations to the class of 2022 for completing their English HSC exams. HSC students across the state completed Paper 1 and Paper 2 in Week 1 of term, and the BBHS cohort left their exams with positive reports. A reminder that on Year 12 sign out day, they will need to return copies of any texts studied, including *1984*, *The Tempest* and *Hag-Seed* for Advanced students, and *Feed* for Standard students.

We wish Year 12 all the best with their future endeavours!

As the previous Year 12 cohort finish their studies and move onto their next chapter, we welcome the new Year 12s as they begin their HSC content. This term, students begin their study with the following:

Year 12 Studies – Common Module: Texts and Human Experience (*Billy Elliot*, Daldry)

Year 12 Standard – Common Module: Texts and Human Experience (*Waste Land*, Walker)

Year 12 Advanced – Common Module: Texts and Human Experience (*1984*, Orwell)

Year 12 Extension 1 – Literary Worlds and Reimagined Worlds (Coleridge poetry)

All students have been issued a copy of the scope and sequence, as well as the assessment schedule, for their HSC year so that they can begin to prepare for the year ahead. We encourage all HSC students to begin with a positive and focused mindset, preparing class notes with textual analysis as they study the prescribed texts. In English, practice responses and the application of feedback are paramount to success so it is imperative that students use opportunities for feedback that teachers will regularly provide.

Year 7 were hard at work last term completing their Maker Model task for their novel study, completing their choice of video, debate, podcast, board game, drama performance or diorama. It was so pleasing to see the hard work students put into their projects, and the teamwork that everyone demonstrated.

The final products were a testament to this.



Maker Model task for their novel study

In English this term, Years 7-10 have been completing their assessment work. It is important to build organisation and study habits in the junior years that will support students for the remainder of their schooling career, so planning ahead and preparing for these assessment weeks, as well as juggling the various tasks is an important skill to develop.

To conclude the year, students in English will be studying the following:

Year 7 – Fractured Fairy tales (including film study)

Year 8 – Consumer Culture

Year 9 – Eastern Perspectives (including film study)

Year 10 – Active Citizens

Continuing BBHS students in Year 10 will have received a letter confirming the recommendation for their Year 11 English course next year. If you did not receive this letter, and believe you should have, please speak to the Head Teacher English and a new copy will be sent home with your son. If you or your son have any further questions about their course placement, or about what to expect in senior English, they can also speak with their English teacher or the Head Teacher English.



Debating News

We've wrapped up debating for another year! Our Year 9 and 10 team finished second in our zone with two wins and one loss.

Our Year 7 and 8 team won all three debates in our zone and came out as zone champions! Then they went face to face with Glenwood High School on the topic: "That schools should ban students from using personal electronic devices at school". Unfortunately, Glenwood took the win on the day. This has been a very successful year for all our teams. Thanks for your hard work and dedication teams!



Congratulations to all our debaters, and a huge thank you to Ms Scarcella for all her work to support our debating teams this year! Debating will be back again next year so if you are interested in being part of the teams, listen out for information early Term 1.

Head Teacher, Mathematics Ms Xiao Chirgwin



Term 4 is always a monumental term as our Year 12 students complete their final leg of their race with their HSC examinations. The Mathematics faculty wishes 2022 Year 12 students all the best and farewells them onto their next chapter of their amazing journey. We also like to warmly welcome Year 11 transitioning into Year 12 and starting their HSC course this

term.

Year 7 to Year 10 students are working hard to finish off their yearly examinations this term, starting with Year 10 in Week 2, Year 9 in Week 3, Year 8 in Week 4, and Year 7 in Week 5.

Australian Mathematics Competition

This year, we had approximately 62 students entering the Australian Mathematics Competition. Please see below for a list of students who have obtained High Distinctions and Distinctions Awards.

High Distinction and Best in School Award

Yoghan Saravanakumar Gomathy (Year 7)

High Distinction

Tanveer Singh (Year 8)

Distinction Award

Shahziyan Islam (Year 7)

Hriman Joshi (Year 7)

Arman Khan (Year 7)

Mahir Patel (Year 7)

Georon Un (Year 7)

Vikramjit Walia (Year 7)

Arya Gandhi (Year 8)

Shion Khan (Year 8)

Kevin Chen (Year 9)

Aryan Swar (Year 9)

Nashwin Uddin (Year 9)

We would like to congratulate all the participating students for their fantastic effort and outstanding results. The certificates will be awarded to the students later this term. Thank you to Mr Kumar and Mr Singh for organising this competition

APSMO Mathematics Olympiad Competition

All five sessions for this year's APSMO concluded by the end of Term 3. Students in the two selective classes were challenged to think critically and employed a variety of problem solving strategies. First place in 7MATH goes to Li Xian and first place in 8MATH goes to Tanveer Singh. Both students came in top 10%. Other students who are in the top 10% are: Parin Gadhesaria (Year 7), Vishishth Kuchhal (Year 8), Ridaan Patel (Year 8), Daksh Kalyani (Year 8), and Shion Khan (Year 8).

Special congratulations to our 8MATH team for achieving in the top 25% of team scores in the Senior Division for this Year's APSMO Maths Olympiad.

Congratulations to all of our students for their fantastic effort in the 2022 APSMO.



Maths Wrap up!

Preparation for 2023

Thinking and planning for 2023, we would like to remind all the parents and students to recharge and prepare over the Christmas break. All students are reminded that a NESA approved scientific calculator is part of their learning equipment just like pens, pencils, rulers, and exercise books. We recommend the Casio FX82AU Plus II or FX100AU Plus calculators

Wrapping up 2022

As we approach the end of 2022, it is always good to wrap the year up with some mathematics.

$$(10 + 9) \times 8 \times (7 + 6) + (5 + 4) \times (3 + 2) + 1 = 2022$$

Acting Head Teacher, Science Ms Pembe Hussein



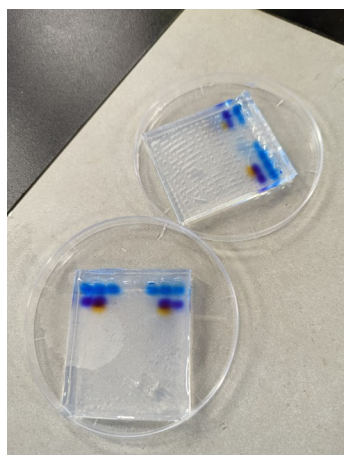
Hello Students and Parents,

As we enter Term 4, we reflect on the fantastic achievements our students have accomplished and also on the new and familiar faces of parents we have had the pleasure of meeting.

Term 3 finished with a successful Science Week, where our dedicated Science Teachers held an array of science activities that engaged and brought joy to our students. Blacktown Boys had a blast celebrating Science week with various entertaining activities and adventures. Throughout the week, there were a myriad of activities available for students in the Science labs. Students employed their engineering skills by building giant marshmallow towers.

The students creatively used skewers and a bag of marshmallows to withstand the pressure of a bar of chocolate and the winners won the chocolate! On the following days, the students participated in the creation of instant crystals using sodium bicarbonate, and there was also trivia, exciting elephants' toothpaste and the making of bioplastic.

We concluded Science Week with Periodic Table cookies, where students decorated cookies with edible icing with different elemental information. This activity was followed by an amazing Science themed cake baked by our Science teacher, Ms Saluja. Such a great conclusion to another amazing Science week at BBHS.



In other exciting news, BBHS partnered with the University of Sydney to run the



Amgen Biotech Experience with Year 12 Biology students. Students explored the concept of recombinant DNA in bacteria through first-hand investigations and were able to use equipment such as micropipettes, gel electrophoresis and PCR. Our Year 12 students worked well during the program and were able to see themselves as a Microbiology undergraduate student, working in the University Laboratory.

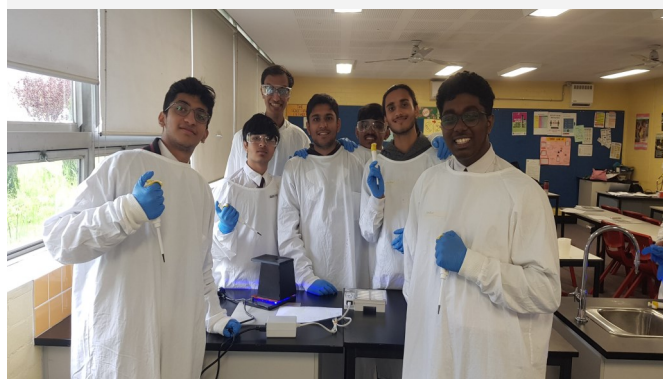
This term, Year 8 students have sat the NSW online Science examination, VALID. Testing ran very smoothly and we appreciate Year 8's focus and diligence when completing the examination. Preliminary results are released at the end of the term, however, letters will be sent home in mid 2023 explaining student results with further details.

Assessments for Junior Science students this term will be their Yearly Examinations. Students are encouraged to refer to the assessment notification that was issued to them during class and to follow the explicit instructions outlined in the notification to prepare for the task.

During Science classes, students will be taken through revision content and techniques to empower them for their upcoming assessment. In order to further prepare for the upcoming examinations, students are encouraged to develop concept maps that outline and link the subtopics within the overarching topic. Students can use this as a checklist to recognise their fantastic progress throughout the year.

The Science faculty will be focusing on STEM-related activities in Term 4, employing engineering skills and computer skills.

We send our farewells to Year 12 and wish them all the best in their future endeavours. We are proud of their accomplishments and look forward to celebrating their achievements in the future.



Head Teacher, Human Society and its Environment

Mrs Gina Jackson



Our year 12 students are currently completing their HSC examination and I would like to take the opportunity to wish all Year 12 success in the HSC examination and in their future post-school life. HSIE staff continue to work tirelessly to provide experiences outside the classroom to deepen their students understanding of class content.

Ms. Narayan has organized an excursion in Week 5 for Year 10 Commerce to Parliament House as part of their topic "Law, Society, and Political Involvement". In Week 6, Year 9 Commerce will be putting their theoretical knowledge into practice by running several pop-up food stores during Men's Health Day to demonstrate their understanding of promotional strategies and the skills required to be a successful entrepreneur.

Year 7 Geography Excursion

Earlier this term, Year 7 Geography students attended the Ranger Jamie Tour at The Gap in Sydney Harbour National Park. Students investigated how the site has been managed, changed, and preserved over time. We saw a range of geomorphic hazards and conducted a bioindicator survey to assess how healthy the Greenpoint Gastropod populations were. The boys had a wonderful time and are to be commended on their excellent behaviour and curiosity with a range of interesting questions and overall good participation from all students!



Cultural Exchange Conference

Miss Nguyen's 7H class have been engaged in a virtual exchange program with students from YongJeong High School in South Korea. Every couple of weeks students have prepared slides and speeches about various geography-related topics to present to the South Korean school. Students have been able to share Australian history, environment, culture, and ways of living in exchange for learning about their South Korean counterpart. Students have thoroughly enjoyed the experience and learning the differences and

similarities between themselves and South Korean students.

SUCCESS IN HSIE

Competitions

Maximus Pondal in Year 11 has been invited to attend the NSW Schools Constitutional Convention. He was selected to attend the convention based on an essay on ministerial accountability that he submitted to parliament. Maximus will attend parliament to be involved in discussions about parliamentary customs and legal requirements. Congratulations, Maximus!

Australian History Competition

Around fifty-five students from Years, 7 – 10 sat for the Australian History Competition in Term 2. This competition assessed historical knowledge and skills. They aimed to encourage student interest in History and to reward student excellence. We would like to congratulate all the students who participated and especially the students who have achieved high distinction, distinction, credits, merits and participation.

High Distinctions: Chithru Gunawardane & Paulose Manalathu

Distinctions: Aayush Munagala, Arhaan Shaikh, Arjun Sharma, Ayaan Zeeshan and Thomas Pagulayan

Credits: Varun Chepyala, Ali Khurram, Billy Liang, Ved Patel, Shion Khan, Jagath Mohan, Niketh Sajith, Nuhad Bhuiyan, Nagaraja Kuchibhotla, Chris Lee

Merits: Kamil Ahmad, Shreeshail Budhathoki, Aravith Kanadasan, Arman Khan, Yash Kusumba, Darsh Maharaja, Daud Ashar Malik, Saharsh Moriseti, Yoghana Saravanakumar, Rehan Bhavsar, Kanuusan Sankarashiva, Samin Farhan, Narain Manimaran

Participation: Adam Abdelaziz, Ibrahim Berjawi, Hunter Rowley, Harshagan Singh Deol, Bhaavesh Vemula, Ernest Alai, Ashams Anish Kumar, Om Darji, Kahu Martin, Dhavaneet Newasker, Ranvir Singh Randhawa, Akshay Venkatraman, Ayan Ata, Rajithan Celvavinayagan, Parth Patel, Samuel Jacob, Calvin Nguyen, Danush Palya, Kanwar Singh



ABORIGINAL EDUCATION

This year we are currently participating in the Walanga Muru Program run by Macquarie University which focuses on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students in years 7-10. The aim of the program is to help students reach their educational goals and develop their Cultural understanding and knowledge. So far students have participated in five lessons led by Aboriginal mentors which included activities such as understanding the different Aboriginal nations and their art symbols and activities such as the one above, depicting interconnections, leadership skills, and cultural learning.



Date: 21/11/2022 07:00am - 23/11/2022 02:30pm

Description: The Year 7 camp is a valuable experience at the beginning of the high school journey. This camp provides Year 7 students with an opportunity to develop skills and values of collaboration, teamwork, sportsmanship and friendship. This camp will reinforce the social and emotional values addressed in the Peer Support Program, as well as increasing students' appreciation for Australian natural environments with the guidance from the camp guides through many exciting activities.

Participants: Year 7 Students

Venue: The Outdoor Adventure Company

Attending Staff: Chloe Alfonso

Created By: Chloe Alfonso

Date: 15/11/2022 09:05am - 09:50am

Description: Rock and Water is a physical-social program that incorporates martial arts to support young people with their emotional development, decision making and conflict management.

Participants: 10 students from the year 8 cohort.

Venue: Blacktown Boys High School

Attending Staff: Perrin Knight, Cindy Tang

Created By: Perrin Knight

Head Teacher Creative and Performing Arts, Mrs Kate Burne



Congratulations to the HSC Music class on completing their practical and written exams. Students across all years were engaged in performances for the Cafe d'Art concerts. Participants are also preparing for the upcoming Talent Quest in week 6 and Multicultural day at Blacktown North public school in week 7.

"One good thing about music, when it hits you, you feel no pain" - Bob Marley

New Event— CAPA & LOTE

AGNSW Sydney Modern Project

The Art Gallery of NSW is opening the MODERN building. It is an architecturally exciting addition to the Sydney landscape. The AGNSW has sponsored 30 students to attend the preview day on November, 25th. The Gallery has provided a coach, lunch and education



packs in addition to the tour. The students will meet with architects, educators and planners. We are sending Ms Hunter and Ms Zaw to accompany the group. Students were selected on merit in addition to ongoing demonstrated motivation and interest in all things creative.

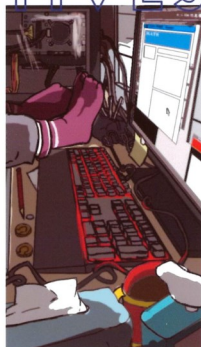
CAPA ELECTIVES



VISUAL ARTS



MUSIC



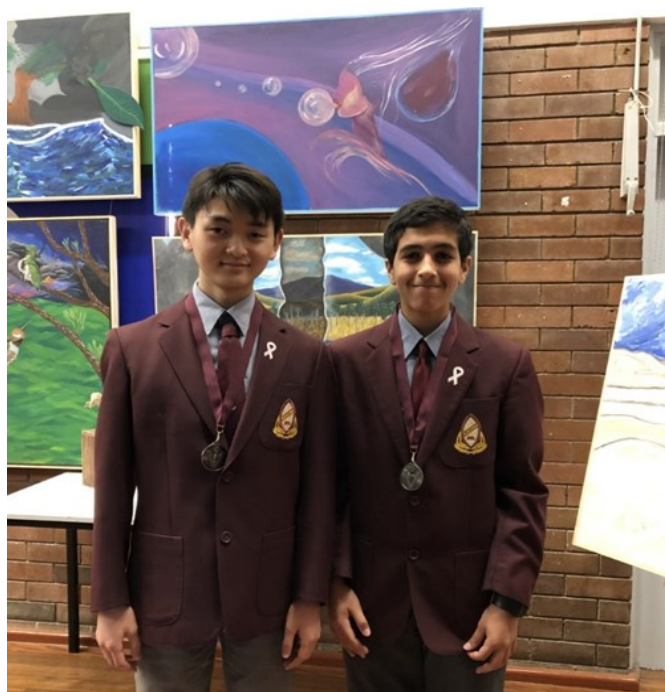
VISUAL DESIGN

bring your ideas to life - make, invent or design something original

Exciting Projects 2023—CAPA & LOTE

The MODERN WORLD requires creativity in every domain of innovation. To do this students need to be given opportunity to work on exciting projects and to discover their attitudes to learning as well as develop focused application. The CAPA faculty will be sourcing projects that link to the real world in 2023. So watch this space for the opportunities that might best reflect your interest and skills. This will apply to Visual Arts, Visual Design, Music and Italian Language

Chris Lee and Nourudeen Baghdadi - Year 9 Visual Design High Achievers nominated to preview the Sydney Modern Project



Blacktown Council Australia Day— 2023 Wake Up with the Wildlife Breakfast

Thursday, 26 January 2023 | 07:00 AM to 02:00 PM
events.team@blacktown.nsw.gov.au
tel: 98396000



Head Teacher, Teaching & Learning Mr David Martin



As the year is winding up, we are continuing to look for ways to support students and areas for improvement heading into 2023. Through the data provided by NAPLAN, Best Start and other testing, as well as student performance in their classes and internal assessments, the school is identifying what our students need to achieve their potential.

Staff have begun working on ways to further develop student literacy skills beyond their current capabilities, identifying that this is where we can make the biggest positive impact for their HSC and lives beyond school.

We are also focusing on the student transitions between grades, as well as into and out of high school. Our LaST, Ms Josan, and Careers Advisor, Mr Hodges, are supporting students in these transitions, helping students to plan and become familiar with their next steps. Students are encouraged to speak to Ms Josan and Mr Hodges about their plans for schooling and further education, training and the workforce.

Finally, we are also seeking to support student welfare and their engagement with school. The Learning Support Team works closely with Year Advisors and other staff to ensure students are known, valued and cared for, and that any students' needs are being met. As part of our Welfare approach, I had the pleasure of running our Haka Warriors program again (joining forces with Blacktown Girls High School), where students were able to express themselves through their culture, developing their resilience, teamwork and communication with an opportunity to take pride in their cultural identity.

Although we came up short once again in the final HAKA competition, it was a close finish between a few schools, and all the student participants should be proud of their efforts and performance. I would also like to recognise the leadership skills of Justice in Year 11, who organised our students and worked closely with all of them to produce such a high quality performance, and was awarded the Best Individual Leader Award out of all students involved in the program from 15 high schools.

Acting Head Teacher, Inclusive Education Ms Lana Sevenoaks



Inclusive Education students have already got back into the swing of things this term. In week 2 we visited the Powerhouse Museum and students were especially excited to explore the transport and space exhibits. It was a tiring but rewarding day, where our students were able to practise their functional living skills, whilst learning about innovative technologies of the past century.

Other exciting events happening this term include the LEGO Masters competition and Hobby Club. Students have the opportunity to compete in a LEGO building competition and win a medal of achievement. Miss Platt has also continued to run the Hobby Club twice a week on Tuesday's during recess and Thursday's during lunch. This club allows for students to work on the craft of Warhammer and socialise over other topics, such as Pokémon and Minecraft.

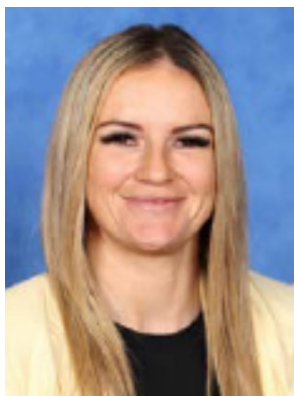
A group of year 7 and 8 students will also be heading to camp in week 7. This will be a great 3-day experience for all students and will allow for students within the support unit to collaborate with their mainstream peers. A select group of boys from the support unit will also be attending a multi-Sports day in week 8. This will be an engaging day for our students and allows for students with additional needs to participate in modified sporting activities.

Transitions of our 2023 students are also taking place this term. Our new intakes will have the opportunity to attend classes and get to know their future classmates. We look forward to the growth of the support unit and welcoming our new students. Term 4 is always a busy time, but our students are continuing to work hard to meet their individual goals, whilst enjoying their time at school.



Head Teacher PDHPE

Ms Tahnee Lovering



An encouraging start to term 4 this year with student engaged and excited for our new program topics which are full of relevant life skills. A reminder for students to keep bringing their PEP uniform for practical lessons.

Term 4 topics and assessment tasks

Year/ Course	Unit name	Assessment task	Due week
7 PDHPE	Prac- Hit it Like it's hot Theory- Active Life- styles & Behaviours	Active Lifestyles and Behaviours	5
8 PDHPE	Prac- Strategy Games Theory- Diversity	Diversity	4
9PDHPE	Prac- World Games Theory- The World Around us	The World Around Us	3
9PAS	Physical Activity and Sport for Specific Groups	Yearly exam	3
10PDHPE	Prac- Target Games Theory- To infinity and Beyond	Nil	N/A
10PAS	Physical Activity and Sport for Specific Groups	Yearly exam	2
11/12P DHPE	Health Priorities in Australia	Health Priorities in Australia	9
11/12SL R	First Aid and Sports Injuries	First Aid and Sports Injuries	7

LIFE READY YEAR 11/12

From Tuesday 13th December to Thursday 15th December, students who are in Year 12 will be completing the *mandatory Department of Education and Communities 'Life Ready' course* at BBHS.

The 'Life Ready' program provides opportunities for students to enhance their knowledge, understandings, skills and attitudes to assist them to make decisions that promote the health, safety and wellbeing of themselves and others

Life Ready is divided into six relevant and contemporary learning contexts which have been identified as most relevant in young people developing the ability to plan and respond to the many challenging circumstances that they may face in the coming years. These areas include the following;

- ◆ Independence
- ◆ Mental health & wellbeing

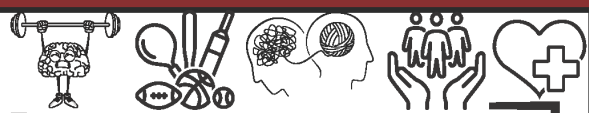
- ◆ Relationships
- ◆ Sexuality and sexual health
- ◆ Drugs and alcohol

MEN'S HEALTH DAY

Blacktown Boys' High School will be hosting its seventh annual Men's Health Day on Thursday 17th November. This day will include students participating in health-related activities for the mind, body and overall wellbeing. Men's health is an important issue in society, especially to our community of young men. The impacts of the COVID-19 outbreak, physical distancing and isolation have made and can continue to make individuals feel anxious, stressed and worried.

Therefore, as a community, BBHS values Men's Health Day more than ever. The event will allow students to look after their mental and physical wellbeing, look out for their peers around them, tackle challenges together, and have fun. Throughout the day, students and staff will be actively participating in 6 different sessions. Students have been provided with a list and description of activity options during homeroom Weeks 3 & 4, and via posters around the school with QR codes.

Full sport uniform is to be worn by all students and they are also advised to bring a school hat, sunscreen and water. The canteen will be open for recess and lunch and there will also be other catering food stall options available.




Join us for our annual

MEN'S HEALTH DAY!

This is a whole day event with lots of amazing activities where we recognise and celebrate that an individual's overall wellbeing includes physical, social, mental, emotional and spiritual health.

Scan here for the activities list



**Thursday 17th
November
(Week 6)**

Tuesday 1st November 3pm - Survey Opens via School Email
Wednesday 9th November 3pm - Survey Closes

**Bring your hat,
water & sunscreen!**

**Wear your sport
uniform!**

**Canteen
is open!**

Sport Coordinator Mr Daniel Fabricato

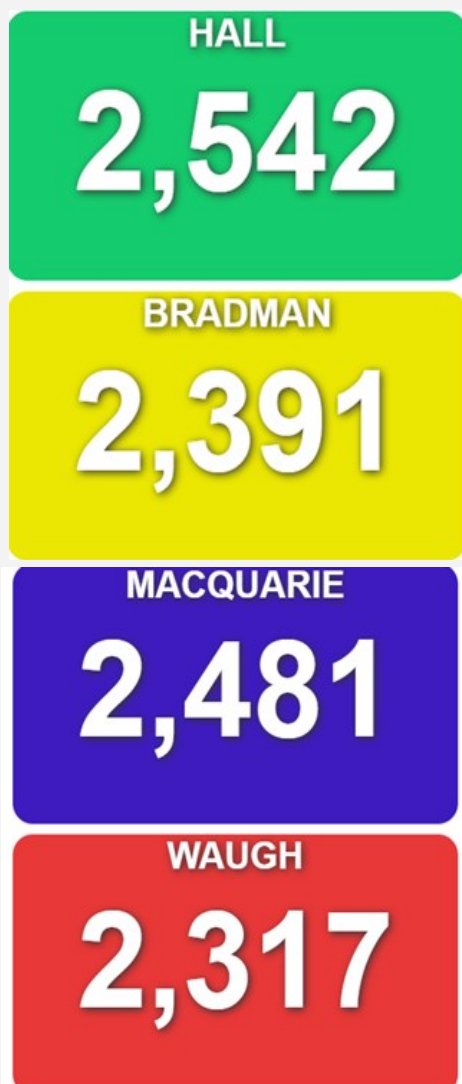


Sport Newsletter

The final term of sport is always one that the students at BBHS look forward to the most as our champion house for the year is announced. This year we were finally able to complete all of our carnivals and representative sports, as well as get through our weekly Wednesday Sport.

We certainly had our challenges this year with the weather as it felt as though it would never stop raining. I would like to commend our students and say thank you for their understanding and positive attitude when sport was washed out, sitting inside instead of going out and playing their favourite sport.

On behalf of the staff and whole school community at BBHS I would like to congratulate Hall on becoming house champions for 2022. It was a back and forth battle between Hall and Macquarie for most of the year so a big congratulations to Hall.



Career Adviser, Mr Trevor Hodges

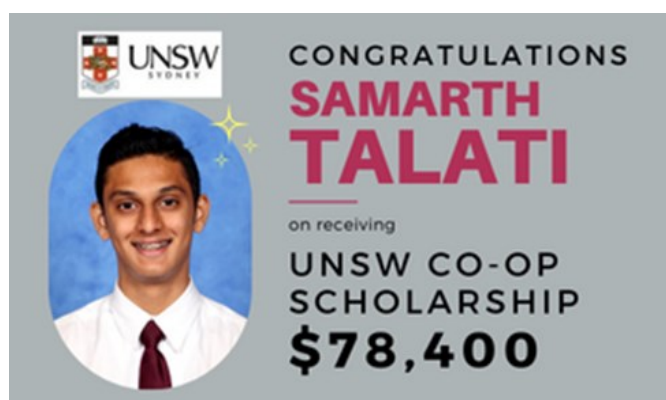


Year 10 and 12 students have been involved in extra curricula seminars with 'future students' representatives' from the University of New South Wales.

Students gain first hand knowledge of University and Pathways into courses offered under the Co-Op Scholarship. Course structures and combinations available to complete Co-Op Scholarship Degrees were discussed and explained in-depth.

These incursions are an important part of all year 12 students' education as they assist students in their pathway from school to work and further study. The University of New South Wales Co-Op Scholarship rewards successful applicants financially with \$78,000 study assistance. Blacktown Boys' High students are rewarded every year with the honour of success in being chosen for the Co-Op Scholarship.

Last year it was Samarth Talali who impressed the judges and earned himself a place at UNSW



Year 11 students completed an 'Aspirations' online incursion ZOOM conference with ABCN. The company utilised for this event was IAG Marketing. Mentors from this company assisted in further developing students career path-

ways through interactive interviewing questions. The outcome of this community input will impact on students' pathway options and expand their knowledge on the 'world of work'. Blacktown Boys' is a fervent supporter of community delivered courses and ABCN are highly valued and extend students experiences beyond those from school. ABCN work with all stages from year 7 through to year 12 and beyond.



Blacktown Boys' students have been actively involved in multiple TAFE NSW's Youth Engagement Strategy PLUS (the YES+ program), which helps students engage with learning in a hands-on environment at TAFE. Students get support to develop individual learning plans, engage in vocational taster courses and receive ongoing mentoring, counselling and career advice. The program gets students out of the school setting and into TAFE-style learning and on relevant industry sites. The YES program is based upon the idea that there are many ways and places that learning can occur and that mainstream education is not for everyone.

YES has ongoing flexible enrolments and a personalised learning approach. YES operates as a 'school within a school' with its own timetable and broad and diverse curriculum offerings from years 9 to 13. These integrate with

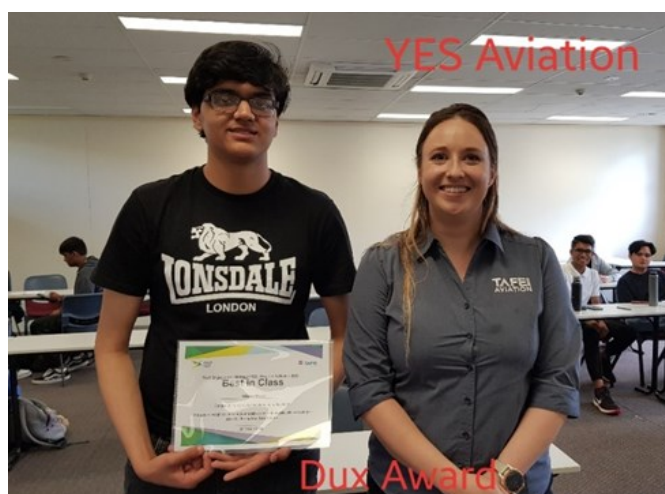


the wider school community allowing students to engage on different levels with the program as needs require or emerge. Robotics at TAFE Blacktown attracted 11 students from Blacktown Boys'. The program is concentrating on the

software programming language and peripherals in the world of robotics. This is in line with how companies like Tesla utilise robotics in car manufacturing. Cyber security was very popular with our students as 6 boys enrolled and attended the course at TAFE Blacktown. Cyber security is growing at over 12% per annum and is one of the most important industries to the safety of world economies and personal securities and freedoms. Seven students joined the YES Health program and experienced the health industry firsthand. 8 students experienced Brick Laying. 5 students flew high in TAFE Aviation. These students gained a deeper understanding of the theory of flight, as well as visiting 2 airports as part of the course. Krishh Sood was awarded the DUX of the 2022 class.

H.S.C. resources

The investment in additional H.S.C. resources to assist students' performance in their exams by the Careers Department have now arrived, and students are now borrowing these from the library on a weekly basis. It is envisaged that this will give students multiple experiences in order to val-



ue-add to their exam performance.

Year 11 & 12 students should continue to refer to the NESA HSC Study Guide available here:

<https://www.educationstandards.nsw.edu.au/wps/portal/nesa/11-12/hsc/hsc-student-guide/student-guide>

This guide provides links to quizzes, past HSC examination papers and an examination checklist.

NESA has also provided Parents with a HSC Study Guide available here <https://educationstandards.nsw.edu.au/wps/portal/nesa/parents/parent-guide/high-school-hsc>.

As much as study is important, it is also important to remember to relax and remind yourself to communicate to those around you. Students are to ensure they are prioritising their health and wellbeing. Tips on staying healthy during the HSC can be found here <https://education.nsw.gov.au/student-wellbeing/stay-healthy-HSC>

Student Support Officer, Mr Perrin Knight



As we approach the end of the year, many of our students may be feeling a bit fatigued when it comes to studying. It's useful to know that there are many different strategies out there that can help us. One of these is the Pomodoro Technique.

What is the Pomodoro Technique? It was created in the 1980s by Francesco Cirillo as a time management approach designed to maintain focus and boost productivity by incorporating structured break times.

How does the Pomodoro Technique work?

The technique involves breaking study time into 25-minute intervals or 'pomodoros' with each interval followed by a 5-minute break. After four pomodoros there is a longer break of 20-30 minutes. This time could be used to get something to eat or even have a power nap.

How do I start using the Pomodoro Technique? To begin, grab a piece of paper and pen and put together a rough plan of the tasks you want to work on during the study time. Set your timer to 25 minutes, press start and get studying. Once the timer goes off, stop your work and mark down an 'x' for each pomodoro interval you complete. The technique is designed to use a mechanical timer or app that features an actual 'ticking' sound as the timer counts down. This acts as a stimulus to remind you to maintain concentration as your time is limited.

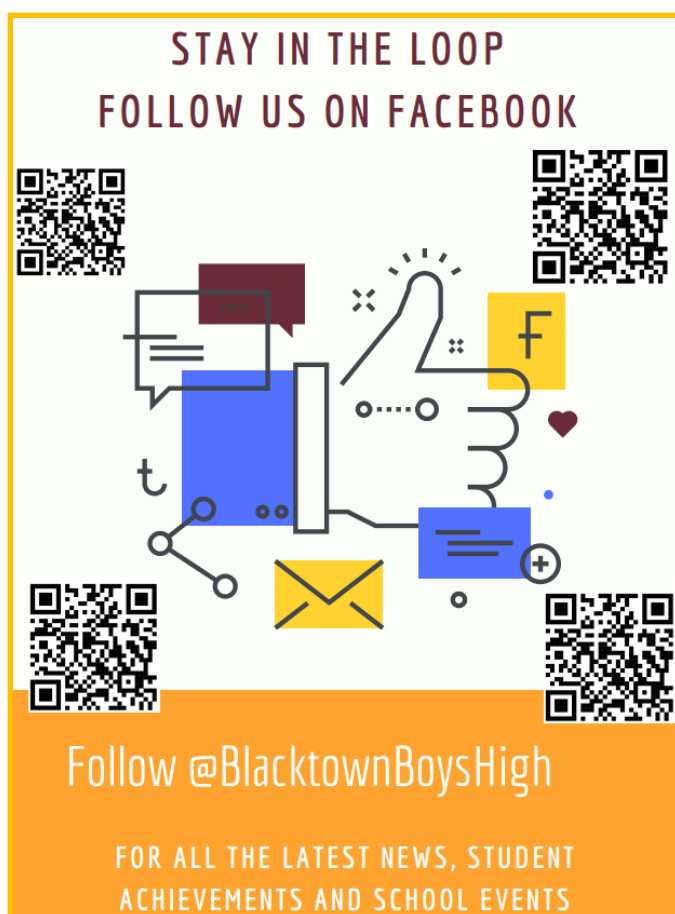
What are the benefits of the Pomodoro Technique?

By segmenting the study into timed pomodoro intervals and breaks you are given opportunities to refresh your mental energy and minimise the distractions that arise from long periods of open-ended work. As you tick off your pomodoros you get a tangible sense of achievement instead of feeling overwhelmed by the hours required for a

large task.

Lastly, why is it called the 'Pomodoro' Technique? Pomodoro is the Italian word for tomato, chosen by Cirillo because of the tomato-shaped kitchen timer he originally used to develop the technique. If you don't have one of these sitting in your kitchen, download an app or use a website to get the timer ticking.

Good luck with your study!



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

Year 7 Adviser 2022, Ms Chloe Alfonso



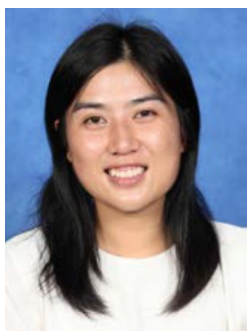
Year 7 students undergo their first Examination Week this term in Week 5 to complete their assessments for the year! This exciting and stressful period may bring mixed feelings in the group, but it's exciting to see what other end-of-year events are running too.

Year 7 Camp kicks off in Week 7 for 2 nights at the Outdoor Adventure Camp in Wiseman's Ferry. On this excursion, students will participate in team building activities like raft building, canoeing, mud mania obstacle courses. They will also experience confidence building challenges like abseiling and archery with their peers.

In Week 10, Year 7 will attend the 3-day Swim Safe program at Blacktown Aquatic Centre. Swim Safe will also encourage them to test and improve their swim survival skills. They will practise life-saving swimming drills in the water, learn water emergency procedures like CPR, and inform them of the necessity of water safety at all times.

Year 8 Adviser 2022, Ms Cindy Tang

Welcome to Term 4! Term 4 will be a busy term for year 8s as they wrap up Stage 4. They will be sitting various assessments such as VALID Science, Check-In and Yearly exams. By now, it is recommended for students to have a designated area in the house to study and complete homework.



This will help with the transition into Stage 5

It is fantastic to see our Year 8 students submit their 10 merit awards for the Bronze award. This indicates that they have been showing commitment towards their learning and also towards extracurricular activities and citizenship.

I would like to congratulate the following students for receiving their Bronze award:

**Om D, Marion, Harshit, Shewarn, Minesh, Navkarn
Jack, Akshay & Sahil**

Additionally, I would also like to congratulate Eli for receiving the Student of the Term award for Term 3.

H

***Here are some announcements and reminders
for Term 4:***

Yearly Examination Period

Year 8s have received an examination timetable with most



of their yearly examinations falling on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of Week 4. Students are reminded to check their assessment notification and talk to their teachers about how to better prepare for their assessments.

MOTIV8 ('Motive') Day

Motiv8 day is a transition program for Year 8 students going into Stage 5. Students will be learning skills in teamwork, study, organisation and motivation. This will be held on Thursday week 9 (8/12/2022) and students will not be attending their regular classes on the day. The cohort will be split into groups, and there will be challenges during recess and lunch.

Junior Subject Selection

Students will find out about which electives they will be doing next year when they receive their Year 9 timetable.

Semester 2 Reports

Year 8s will be receiving their Semester 2 reports at the end of Term 4.

Uniform

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. The PE changerooms can also not be used so students should be bringing their sport uniform on the days that they have 'PEP' on their timetables. Year 8s have sport Period 1 and Period 2 every Wednesday. Students should only be wearing their sports uniform to school on Wednesdays. 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 9 Adviser 2022, Ms Victoria Zaw



Greetings students, parents and carers, Year 9 students are progressing through a successful year. At this stage of Year 9's high school experience, students have taken on more responsibility to manage their time and assessment due dates. With an increasing workload, students should be gaining more organisational skills such as:

- ◆ Keeping your assignments and class information organised
- ◆ By subject in a folder or binders
- ◆ Use a planner to mark due dates
- ◆ Use a checklist

Congratulations to all Year 9 students in Visual Arts, Visual Design and Music. All Year 9 CAPA students had the opportunity to showcase their creativity, innovation and skill at this year's Café d' awards. Special mention to our Visual Arts and Visual Design award recipients and Music performers who displayed notable ability. Recordings and images of artworks from Café d' Art 2022 are made available on the school's Facebook page.

What's to come:

Several students have volunteered to participate in the Peer Support Training Day held in Term 4, Week 5. Students must hand in their permission notes to the front office or to Miss Winata. This is fantastic opportunity to demonstrate their leadership skills and mentor the incoming Year 7 2023 students.

In Year 10, 2023, students will officially be working towards receiving their Record of School Achievement. (ROSA) This is a comprehensive record of completed courses and awarded grade.

More information to come at the commencement of Year 10. Potential camps and excursions will be explored when appropriate.

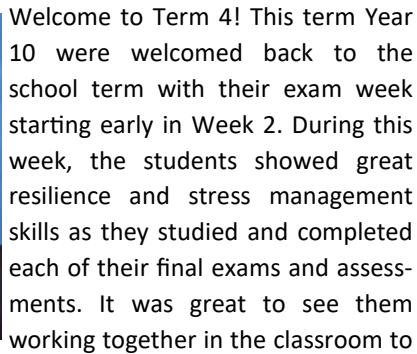


Uniform changes for Year 10 students 2023

Dear Parents,

Please note from 2023, Year 10 students will begin to transition to the Senior uniform with full senior uniform compulsory from January 2024 for all Year 10, 11 and 12 students.

Uniforms are available at
LOWES Blacktown store.



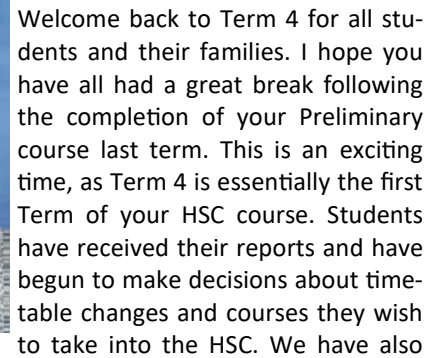
Learn to Live Presentations

Step Up

Work Experience

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Year 11 Adviser 2022, Ms Jessie O'Brien



On our first day back, we were lucky to hear from Mr Calleja, Ms Matthews and Mr Hodges about expectations and opportunities for our grade. We also discussed the importance of a dedicated study routine and good work life balance. During the meeting students received the Assessment booklets and a run through of NESA requirements for the HSC. The slides from this presentation are now available on the Year 12 Google Classroom. I believe this will be an excellent year for our students and look forward to seeing the evidence of their success.

A few quick reminders for this term:

Timetable changes: If you are wishing to change subjects, you must complete a subject change form from the Deputy's office, fill in all the required information and return it to the Deputy for review. You MUST remain in any subject you wish to change until you have received a new timetable. You are also expected to use the Study Centre when you have a study period.

Uniforms continue to look great, let's keep this up! Remember, if you are out of uniform you need to follow the right procedures and see Ms Sharma with a note to be eligible for a Uniform Pass.

Learn to Live

Student support:

We have a range of exciting activities happening this term including the Volleyball Competition, ABCN, Learn to Live and Macquarie Study sessions. Make sure to keep up to date by listening to daily announcements and checking google classroom regularly.

Lastly, our Teacher Student mentoring program will begin shortly. Thank you to Ms Winata for organising and for all the teachers who have been willing to support our students in this excellent program.

Ms O'Brien

Year 12 Adviser 2022, Mr Andy Franjic

It is always a time of mixed emotions for students, staff and parents alike but the journey at Blacktown Boys has come to and end for our 2022 cohort. Many of our students have made the most of their learning opportunities during their time at this school.

This has been reflected in many ways including the number of successful early entry applications which is one of the highest we have ever had.

Graduation Ceremony

I would like to thank all the people that were involved in making this a memorable occasion for our students. This included Mrs Fittler and Mrs Cambaz and all the student helpers for their efforts with catering for the amazing morning tea, Mrs Chirgwin – Head Teacher Maths for co-ordinating the program and Mr Cayas and Mr Conley from the CAPA Faculty for the musical items.

I would also like to thank the Year 12 cohort for the incredible gifts which consisted of a signed and framed Blacktown Boys shirt, some St George Dragons bags and a jumper.



HSC 2022

The students have now completed their HSC examinations which signifies their final assessable task as high school students. As I touched on in my address at the 'Graduation Ceremony', I am confident that each and every student leaves with the capability and potential of making a significant contribution in whatever pathway they choose to pursue in the future. I wish you all every success and happi-



ness in your lives beyond Blacktown Boys.

Year 12 Formal

The formal will take place at Le Montage on Friday, 18th November from 6pm-11pm. I look forward to enjoying a final celebration with the class of 2022.

