

Blacktown Mail

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



Message from the Principal - Mr David Calleja



I would like to welcome everyone back after a well-deserved break. Since my start in 2020, the school has progressed in leaps and bounds. Our whole school vision to improve facilities, improve academic outcomes and maximise student results continues to move forward. Over the last two years, I have collaborated with staff, students and parents to improve the long-term physical and educational aspects of our school, with a firm belief that a quality learning environment is the linchpin facilitating improvements the students are seeing across our school. I have begun to focus on a faculty-by-faculty basis with investment in our sporting facilities including a new volleyball court and the upgrade of our junior basketball and indoor soccer courts. We have also upgraded our cricket pitch and cricket nets. With the construction of a COLA in our main quad, we will look at utilising this new undercover space for the future. As we have been improving our sporting facilities, work has been taking place in the background on our technological facilities including our computers, Wi-Fi, hardware, and software programs. This month our school will have a total re-vamp of its IT cabling and wiring. This will boost the speed and availability of Wi-Fi across the school. The school has

also invested heavily in laptops for each faculty and this will continue into 2024 and 2025. By investing in computers, the school eases the burden on families having to mandatorily purchase a device for their children. As a public school, our focus is on equity and accessibility for all. New computers at our expense ensures that everyone has access to technology and no-one is disadvantaged. In line with improvements to technology, our library is in the planning stages for a total refurbishment to make it a hub for learning and enquiry. We are hoping this new space will be operational from the start of Term 3 and will complement our new senior study centre. Our next focus area will be in the CAPA and TAS faculties, bringing our hands-on faculties a well-deserved infusion of funds to improve their facilities.

As the year progresses, our staff are continuously undertaking professional learning across all aspects of education. There are areas which are mandatory for all teaching and executive staff across all schools in NSW. This includes child wellbeing, cyber-security, Aboriginal cultural education and anaphylaxis training to name a few. Staff are also undergoing in-house training in classroom management and restorative practices, student wellbeing and curriculum development. Through Professional Learning our staff become skilled in the delivery of their subject areas, the management of their classes and ultimately contribute towards the ongoing educational development of your child. The school invests heavily in professional learning which contributes towards an ongoing quality learning environment.

Connecting with parents and actively engaging them in their son's education, development, wellbeing, health and safety continues to be a priority. We have recently been checking student files and it has become very clear that several students with allergies and who are susceptible to an anaphylactic reaction have not updated their Medical Summaries. Others have not updated Asthma and medical Action Plans, phone and home details. It is imperative that when your details

COMING EVENTS

TERM 2

Zone Athletics - 7th June

Zone Athletics - 8th June

8, 9 & 10 Parent Teacher Evening - 15th June

TERM DATES FOR 2023

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

change, the school is informed immediately. This also applies to court proceedings and documents associated with child access etc. All students who require an EpiPen are always to have these at school in the case of an anaphylactic emergency. I will remind parents that they have a legal obligation to provide the school with an EpiPen if their child requires one. As a legal requirement, the school is legally obliged to report any parent who refuses or fails to supply such a device when requested. If you have inadvertently overlooked supplying an EpiPen, please do so as soon as possible by contacting the front office staff. Please support us in supporting you and your child.

Finally, I would like to thank all the students, staff and parents for your support during the implementation of Yondr in our school. The creation of a phone free space in classrooms and the playground has had immediate positive impact on student behaviour, classroom engagement and social interactions in the playground and I am looking forward to seeing how this impacts student wellbeing and academic improvement in the long term.

Deputy Principal message:

Mrs Trish Matthews



I would like to welcome our new families whose boys enrolled during Term 2. From my conversations with them they have settled in well and are making new friends.

Most of you would have heard of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and your sons may have had conversations with you about it. Whilst it is a vast unknown resource that may have many

benefits for society (just as the inception of the internet did), it certainly does have implications and challenges for all students, whether they are at school or university.

The 3 main current concerns are: Firstly **Plagiarism** – this is taking intellectual property that is not your own and claiming it as your own. Secondly **Ethics** – because AI tools take content from a wide variety of sources the final product is a mixture of many other people's work, and these people are not credited with it (like intellectual theft). Thirdly **Bias and Misinformation** – AI can only learn from its sources so if the original material is incorrect or biased (let's face it, we don't believe everything written on the internet) it may convey untruths written as truths.

You may be interested in finding out more about Artificial Intelligence. The link below has been written for Parents and Caregivers.

Guide to ChatGPT for Parents and Caregivers



What is ChatGPT?

ChatGPT is a computer program that uses artificial intelligence (AI) to generate text. Launched by research company OpenAI, it gathers large amounts of data from the internet to create responses on demand. ChatGPT is unique because its answers are in conversational format, similar to how people write and speak. It can write essays and computer code, solve math problems, and much more.

How do you use ChatGPT?

To use ChatGPT, you first create a free account [on the OpenAI website](#). Then you simply type questions or commands in the text box. Your requests can be as basic or elaborate as you can imagine. For example, you could ask it to write a story in the voice of your favorite movie character. Or ask it to give you a recipe based on the food you have at home. The tool allows you to continue to refine the answer by adding more instructions. ChatGPT saves a record of your conversations that you can view or continue at a later time.

Where does ChatGPT get its information?

To craft its responses, ChatGPT copies and remixes information from other places on the internet. It doesn't tell you its sources or who created the original information. As of this article's publication date, it uses internet data created up to 2021 only. The tool is still being developed, so it can make mistakes, spread misinformation, and give inaccurate answers.

Why are schools banning ChatGPT?

Many school districts [are blocking ChatGPT](#) on campus networks and school-issued devices. The concern is that students could use it to do their schoolwork for them, from writing papers to solving equations. They could also be turning in work with inaccurate information. Educators are worried the program could affect students' learning if they rely on it. Check with your children's school to see if and how they allow students to use ChatGPT.

Should children use ChatGPT?

OpenAI's [Terms of Use](#) state that users must be 18 or older. However, it doesn't ask users to verify their age when creating an account. Younger kids could easily access ChatGPT and come across content that's not age-appropriate. In addition, ChatGPT collects personal information and user data. This info is used to improve the system and can be shared with third parties for things like advertising. Under the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA), collecting personal information from children under the age of 13 is illegal without parental consent.

If kids are interested in using ChatGPT, the best option is to use it alongside an adult. Kids could use ChatGPT with a parent or caregiver to get ideas about things they're inter-

ested in, like writing code or music. Families can explore the tool together and try prompts that are fun, inspiring, or helpful. Ask it to write a play with parts for everyone, or put together a poem in Yoda's style to read out loud.

How can I talk to my child about ChatGPT?

If your children use or want to use ChatGPT, consider talking about these topics:

- ◆ Explain the importance of checking the credibility of a source before trusting the information, and point out that ChatGPT does not give sources for its information.
- ◆ Help them understand that plagiarism is when you take someone else's work or ideas and present them as your own. Using ChatGPT to do your schoolwork could be considered plagiarism or cheating.
- ◆ Talk about how you might use ChatGPT as a family to be creative or get inspired. Have it create a list of outdoor activities for kids, or ask it to suggest a craft project to try.



We are excited to announce our school will be transitioning to an upgraded School Bytes finance system on 9 May 2023!

In preparation for the transition to a simplified finance system for both you and the school, we will be required to implement a short payment lockout period where we will not be able to receive any payments.

What this means for you

- No payments can be made online from 9am, Tuesday 2nd May 2023.
- Last day to make cash, cheque or EFTPOS payments will be close of business on Tuesday 2nd May 2023.
- We will advise you when payments can resume closer to the above date
- Any existing payment links that have been sent to you pre-

viously in emails can still

be used after the transition and will automatically redirect to the new system

- After the transition, a School Bytes portal will be available for you to register and begin using (Link: <https://portal.schoolbytes.education>)

- All previous payments made will be migrated to the new School Bytes finance system and portal

What is the School Bytes portal

The School Bytes portal provides flexibility for you to conveniently:

- Make school payments online (including paying for multiple siblings at once)
- Use a family credit to pay for an activity or school contributions
- Download a receipt for payments made
- View all historical payments in one place
- Complete and submit digital permission notes
- View the status of all permission notes
- Request a refund if required

This can be done where you want at any time: day or night.

Through the portal, you will easily be able to download a receipt once a payment has been made and have access to view all historical payments when needed. Online payments are processed in real-time and can be viewed by school staff immediately.

While our preference is for payments to be made via the portal, we will still accept payment via cash, cheque, money order and EFTPOS.

Head Teacher, English

Ms Erin Wagner



Welcome back to Term 2!

In English this term, students will be studying:

Year 7 – Journey Boat: Picture book and narrative study

Year 8 – Novel Study

Year 9 – Science Fiction

Year 10 – Close Study of Shakespeare/Drama

Year 11 Advanced – Narratives that Shape our World

Year 11 Standard – Contemporary Possibilities

Year 11 Studies – Playing the Game: English and Sport

Year 12 Advanced – The Craft of Writing and Critical Study of Literature

Year 12 Standard – The Craft of Writing and Language, Identity and Culture

Year 12 Studies – Digital Worlds

Year 12 Extension – Reimagined Worlds

Year 12 Advanced English visited the Seymour Centre last term for a HSC Symposium Performance for Module A, Textual Conversations. Students were able to see scenes from Shakespeare's *The Tempest* performed live, with commentary from the performers and a lecturer who helped guide students through the way language is used in the play and how it is appropriated in Atwood's *Hag-Seed*.

In Week 5, students in Year 10 studying *Macbeth* will be given the opportunity to see a performance of *Macbeth: The Rehearsal* by Bell Shakespeare with some students from Blacktown Girls. We're looking forward to seeing the performers go through the dramatic language of the play and how this helps create meaning for the audience.

As Year 10 begin to consider their senior studies, we look forward to communicating with you and your sons about options for English in the senior years and the academic demands of each of the available courses. Being in the most appropriate course is essential for your son's wellbeing and academic achievement, and the English faculty will work with you to guide students into the best course for them. I look forward to supporting you and your sons as they prepare for their senior years.

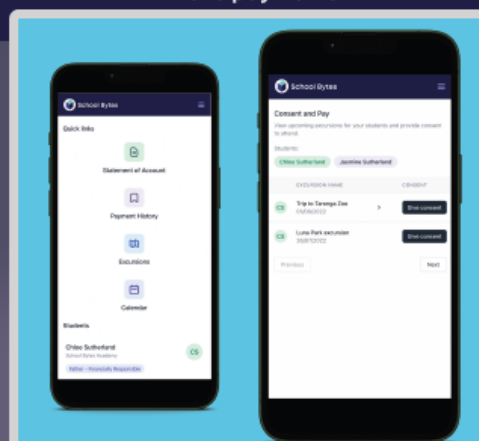
Year 7 and 9 students are continuing with their literacy studies this term with a focus on different parts of speech: nouns, verbs, adjectives and adverbs. These whole school literacy periods (WSL on students' timetables) will focus on ensuring students have a strong understanding of these important components of a sentence to craft accurate and meaningful sentences that help precisely convey their intended meaning. We encourage all Year 7 and 9 students to have a book that is dedicated to their literacy lessons.

Ms Johnson and Mr Masera have led the Year 11 and 12 debating team through their first two rounds. In the first round, the students came away with a win against The Ponds HS, but unfortunately lost to Cheltenham Girls in round two. Ms Sharma is busy getting the Year 9 and 10 team ready for their first rounds of debates, and Ms Semerci has been lucky enough to have so much interest from Year 7 and 8 that she'll be leading two teams through the first rounds beginning soon. Good luck to all our debating teams this year and thank you to the staff for their support!



AVAILABLE NOW!

We are excited to announce our school will be transitioning to a more flexible and simplified way parent/carers can make payments



The Parent Portal

- Easily make a payment online
- Download your receipt
- Sign and return permission notes digitally
- Use any credits on your account to make payment
- View your complete payment history



AVAILABLE DURING
TERM 2

Register for the Parent Portal via the QR Code or visit
<https://portal.schoolbytes.education>



Head Teacher, Mathematics

Ms Xiao Chirgwin



At the end of Term 1, we sadly farewelled Ms Garg. Ms Garg has obtained a permanent position at another school. We wish her all the best with a new chapter in her career. This term, we warmly welcome Ms Autar who is an experienced Mathematics teacher to join our faculty. Ms Autar is looking forward to teaching the students at our school.



From Ms Autar:

I am Ms Autar, a Mathematics teacher. I have a passion for education and teaching. I am excited to be a part of Blacktown Boys High School. Mathematics is fun and opens up opportunities for various fields. I like travelling, experimenting and exploring different

settings, skills and ideas. These allows me to continue contributing to public education and make a difference.

Journey to HSC

Year 12 students are now more than half way through their HSC courses. We are very proud of our students for their dedication and perseverance through this journey. There will be more assessment tasks coming up this term for our students. We would like to remind our parents and students that it is crucial for students to bring all of their learning equipment to class, and these includes a NESA approved scientific calculator. We recommend the CASIO FX82AU PLUS II or CASIO FX100AU.

Tips for Examination Preparation

Begin early

- ◆ Pay attention in class, learn day-by-day
- ◆ Complete all assigned homework
- ◆ Check assessment notification and know the topics that are involved
- ◆ Create summary notes for each topic

Simulate test conditions

- ◆ Know your own learning style and how you study
- ◆ Practise questions under test conditions with allocated time

- ◆ Create a distraction free study environment

Consistent practice

- ◆ Practice solving different questions every night
- ◆ The more you practise answering different questions, the better you will be at them
- ◆ Learn from your mistakes
- ◆ Past HSC papers are strongly recommended to all Year 11 and 12 students for familiarity of the layout and the style of questions

Work with your teacher and other students

- ◆ Ask for teacher's help when you are unsure of any concepts
- ◆ Helping other students often consolidates your own understanding

Positive mindset

- ◆ Aim for your personal best
- ◆ Aim for improvement

Rest and exercise

- ◆ Aim to sleep well every night
- ◆ Regular exercise to recharge your physical and mental health

Assessment Schedule for Term 2

Year 7	Week 6
Year 8	Week 6
Year 9	Week 3
Year 10	Week 2
Year 11 Standard	Week 7
Year 11 Advanced	Week 7
Year 11 Extension 1	Week 8
Year 12 Standard 1	Week 6
Year 12 Standard 2	Week 6
Year 12 Advanced	Week 6
Year 12 Extension 1	Week 5
Year 12 Extension 2	Week 7

Year 10 Foundation Test

This term, our Year 10 students will also be considering what Year 11 courses they will be pursuing in the following year. They should choose their courses for Mathematics wisely, basing their decisions on their skills sets and balancing different subjects. The details for the different courses are in the subject selection handbook. There will be a Foundation Test in Week 6 for the 5.3 and 5.2 pathway classes to check whether students have the required algebra skills for the Mathematics Advanced course. Students should speak to their class teachers to seek guidance on the most suitable course.

Maths Peer Tutoring

Maths Peer Tutoring program has started back up this term. Students from all year groups are welcomed to attend. Our eager senior Mathematics Student Leaders are ready to help with homework, revision for assessment tasks or extra studies. Please encourage your son to attend on Tuesday and Thursday, recess and lunch time in Room 26.

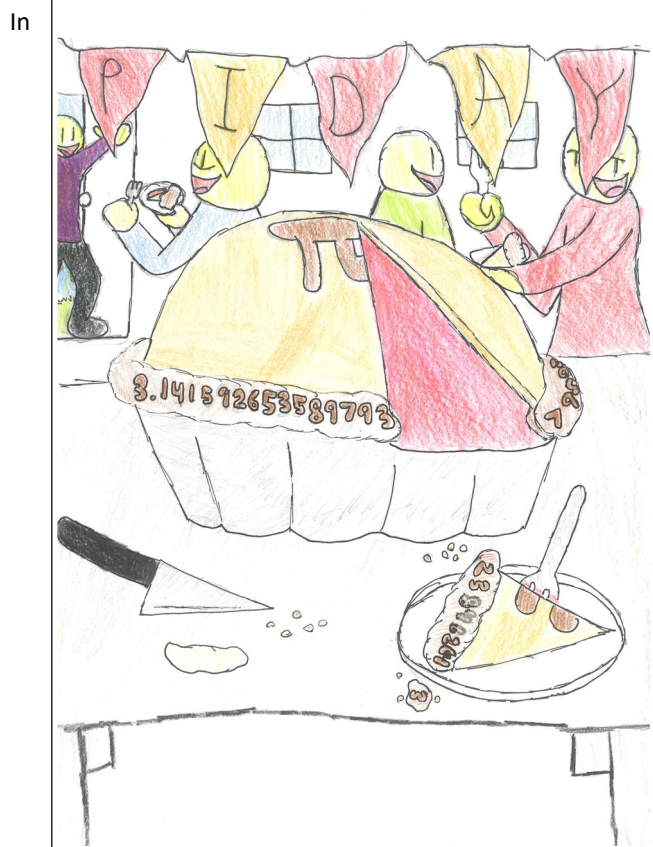
Pi Day

Pi Day (π Day) was commemorated at Blacktown Boys' High School on the 14 March 2023. Did you know?

Pi Day is an annual celebration of the mathematical constant π pi.

Pi Day is observed on March 14 (the 3rd month) which coincides with the first three figures of pi.

The birthday of the famous scientist, Albert Einstein, was March 14, 1879 which also falls on Pi Day.



the week leading up to the 14 March 2023, students from the Year 7 and 8 Mathematics cohorts participated in a Pi Day poster competition. Students were given some time in class to commence with the preparation of their posters and they completed the rest of their poster compilations at home. Many posters were selected by the Mathematics Staff, and these were displayed in the Namatjira block on Pi Day. The "Top 3" winning posters in this year's Pi Day poster competition were from:

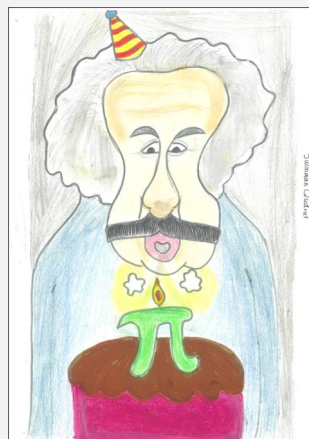
Joshua Adobe (Year 7MATP)

Sulaiman Qudrat (Year 7MATP)

Yashvasan Kusumba (Year 8MATH)

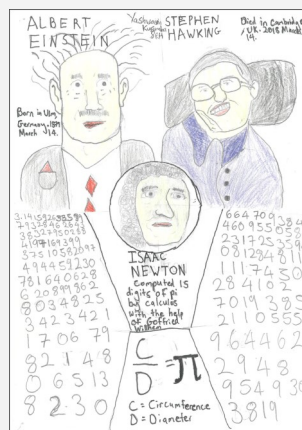
Congratulations to these students were awarded certificates for their fantastic efforts. Pictures of the three posters are shown below.

On Pi Day, some of the Year 7 and 8 took part in making the best possible "Pi" at the quad in Namitjara block. Pictures of the "Pi" that they made are shown below. The second group of students were able to arrange themselves and get their photo taken about one to two minutes before it started raining!



Students from each of the Year 7 and Year 8 classes also had fun learning and then reciting the digits of "Pi" to their respective teachers and peers on Pi Day. The winner in this category is Xian Li from Year 8 who was able to recite 30 digits! Xian was also awarded a certificate for his remarkable effort. Congratulations!

Pi Day 2023 was an exciting and "pi-filled" day! I wish to express a thank you to all the mathematics teachers who seamlessly coordinated the various activities with their respective classes and the students from Years 7 and 8 for their enthusiastic participation in the various activities.



Mr Govender



Head Teacher, Administration

Mrs Natalie Simon



Term 2 is always a busy term for assessments and reports so it is vital that all students attend everyday so that they can engage in lessons. The Department of Education's Policy on Attendance states there are four main reasons for not attending school. They are:

- being sick
- having an unavoidable medical ap-

pointment

- being required to attend a recognised religious event
- exceptional family circumstances

This term we are recognising and rewarding those students who attend school on time everyday by having a Canteen Voucher draw every week. In order to be eligible, students need to have 100% attendance throughout the week and every Tuesday at assembly two students will win a \$10 Canteen Voucher just for doing the right thing!

Going into winter, parents and carers are reminded that students need to have the correct uniform which means long grey pants as well as the Blacktown Boys HS jumper or jacket. Students should not be wearing hoodies to school as they will be asked to remove them. If students are out of uniform, they need to see the HT Administration for a pass BEFORE roll call.

The Year 7, 11 and 12 Parent Teacher Night was held Wednesday 10th May 2023, and it was great to see so many parents engaging with teachers to discuss students progress in their learning. Parent Teacher Night for Years 8, 9, and 10 is due to be held later in the term on Thursday 15th June 2023. More information regarding this will be communicated in due time.

I hope everyone has an amazing term!

Attention on Attendance!

Has your son been absent from school?
Have you provided an explanation to us?
If not please explain your son's attendance by:

- Texting back to the absence message you received
- Using the Sentral Parent Portal
- Sending in a note with your son to the front office
- Providing medical documentation for absences of more than 3 days

Remember that you need to explain your child's absence within 7 days otherwise his attendance will be marked as "unjustified"

Head Teacher, Creative and Performing Arts

Mrs Kate Burne



ART HAS NO AGE LIMITS! Ms Zaw, Mr Conley and 51 students from Year 12- Year 8 visited ART EXPRESS at the AGNSW to affirm standards for the HSC. Work quality was amazing and the exhibition revealed how exciting artmaking can be across a number of expressive forms. The exhibition showcased the top performing

students work and showed the diversity of thinking, culture and application that a young person may put forward as their perspective.

A second excursion to the Gallery with Ms Hunter and Msr Pace is planned with an additional 51 students.

CRONULLA- SURF, SUN, SAFETY AWARENESS excursion with CAPA & LOTE was held on the 6th March. As always, this excursion is popular and sells out fast. Our DP Mr Murie attended with Ms Hunter, Ms Zaw, Mr Conley and Mr Pace. Students received awards for preliminary excursion work, photography and beach construction. Collaboration and cooperation was also noted and the students were complimented on their behaviour while at the site at Cronulla. Of course, our staff were proud and impressed by the students on the day.

Aarush Gavva of Yr 8 won the photography prize.

Darsh Maharaja and Beach Construction

Paulose Mangalathu Eldo, Parin Gadhesaria, Rudranil Ghosal, and Aayan Zeeshan, took out the tech app prize with their hydraulic sculpture lift

Exemplary sketches : Billy Liang, Daud Malik, Saharsh Moniseti, Chithru Gunawardane, Gerard Lazo,

Cooperation and collaboration : Dev Patel, Arhaan Shaikh, Noel Xavier, Kris Parekh

EXEMPLARY WORK TERM 1

Student's participation and application have been noted through the development of their thought process, observation, skill and conceptual development in their Term 1 art diary work. This is a rich site to view student development.

'THE WORLD OF ME ' - Stage 5

Hasnain Ali

Nashwan Uddin

Mahmood Hassan

Salman Uppal

YEAR 12 VISUAL ARTS & MUSIC

This is the big run to the finish line in Term 3 for our students. We cannot impress enough that practical subjects demand time for development and the reward will be forthcoming. A HSC ATAR is about student performance over a number of subjects and it is in the student's interest to do as well as they can in all of their courses. Students should be planning and making note where assessment falls in all of their subjects and delivering as required. All things happen when you manage well.

Thanks to Mr Conley who has completed the construction of all frames as requested by his students in Visual Arts. Thanks to Ms Simon for projecting and moving our music students into their practical preparation. The new piano in Music has supported an interest in keyboard and classical revival. The soundproofed prac room is well resourced and caters for guitar, drum, keyboard and vocal ensembles.

UKELELE

Wow! Here we go with a new class set of ukelele. I had the privilege of visiting two Music classes that have been learning how to master the four string instruments. Ms Simon has an interesting approach and most students were able to read and play simply by the end of the lesson. I look forward to revisiting when the groups have mastered the collaborative sound. Ms Zaw, Mr Conley and Mr Vaoga will be working with their classes too with this fascinating instrument. By the way they are purple, blue and yellow in colour providing a sea of hues and sound.

GITARS

Wow! A new class set has been purchased providing two studio's now fully equipped for acoustic work. I was able to visit Mr Conley's classroom to view 8H in full work mode. The focus and interest was evident. Music is a language similar to mathematics, languages, and computing. You need to be able to recognise and read the symbols and patterns to be able to apply them. Perseverance and focus are required.

MR PACE AND ITALIAN LANGUAGE 2023.

Italian is a language that immerses students in culture, sounds, communication and collaboration. We have found it possible to overlay a number of excursions with Visual Arts to expand student perceptions of alfresco culture. Yr 8 students have enjoyed the Cronulla Alfresco / Sun-surf awareness excursion and will attend the Art Gallery NSW to view Art Express and the Classical / traditional paintings of a largely influential Baroque and Rococo era.

Students need to be clear: the more you practice both written and spoken coursework, the better you become.

Projects of cooperation and teamwork along with individual exercises are promoted in this course. It is multi-faceted and instills personal challenge, discipline and application. Students are enjoying it and we are keen to further the ways in which we as a faculty can host learning that benefits all of our course content.

YEAR 7 OCEANS 2148 COURSE

Please note we have moved the Cronulla excursion to year 8, and attached it to the Alfresco program as a follow on from the Oceans 2148 program studied in year 7.

WHY? : In order to field this excursion students must have attended an approved water challenge experience to determine their swimming level and approval to swim on our excursion. This water challenge assessment occurs at 'LETS SWIM' for Year 7' in Term 4.

Students may still attend Cronulla excursion in 2024 but cannot swim unless they have completed the above mentioned challenge.

DIARY WORK

Exciting, organised, creative, sequenced, progressive, fun and engaging. In other words our students in year 7 are doing well with this program.

An interim report will express the progress of each student.

SUBJECT SELECTION 2024

Students are already enquiring about our courses in Visual Arts, Visual Design, Music and Languages. This is positive and provides an individual explanation and opening up of the differences and the requirements. We welcome your questions.

Café d' Art 2023 is in August and showcases student art-making and musical performance and cultural inclusions from LOTE. It is an exhibition in the school hall, and includes performance and a trial run for the HSC musicians. Juniors are also included in these performance.

At this stage parents will be invited to an evening performance – watch this space and note on your calendars next addition of the school newsletter.

We have commenced the planning now! It takes time and develops over time.

It is apposite and affirming event.



Artwork by Adrian Yr 12-Graphics by Parin Yr 8

NSW Youth Parliament Program

Max Pondal had participated in the NSW Youth Parliament program in 2022 and was one of 60 representatives from across the state to represent young people from all areas across New South Wales. He served as the Youth MP for Blacktown, and cooperated with people who were engaged in representing the voice of young people in NSW.

He had also been selected to represent NSW for the National Schools Constitutional Convention held in Canberra in 21-23 March 2023, after winning a state competition in NSW Parliament – one of 30 across the state to be selected.

Max has also been actively involved in various school extra-curricular programs, such as the Model United Nations, Maths Peer Tutoring, Chess Club, Debating, and has served as the Junior Sports Captain and Student of the Term. He encourages all students to achieve and pursue in leadership opportunities.



Maximus Pondal in Canberra representing NSW in the 23rd National Constitutional Convention (23 March 2023)



Head Teacher, HSIE

Mrs Gina Jackson



HSIE MATTERS

I would like to start by congratulating our HSIE students for quickly taking up the opportunities offered to them to participate in competitions, excursions, and incursions. A big thank you also goes to parents and caregivers who have promptly provided consent and payment. Without this uptake, many enriching extracurricular opportunities

such as the ones below would not be possible. So, again a big thank you.

Competitions

Australian Geography Competition

Fifty-five students from Years 7 – 10 registered and participated in the Australian Geography Competition on 17 May. For the second time, the competition was online, and participating students were mostly positive about their performance, reporting that the questions were based on general knowledge and problem-solving. The HSIE staff looks forward to receiving individual performance feedback and results.

A special thanks to Ms Narayan the coordinator and Ms Limbu for her assistance in administering the competition.

Year 11 Mock Trial



A big thank you to the Year 12 coaches who helped get our new Year 11 Mock Trial team ready for the first round of the competition. Since then, students have gained confidence and an understanding of the rules of court procedure, in particular in calling witnesses, presenting legal arguments, and raising objections. Students have spent 3 weeks in preparation for their next round which is scheduled to take place on Friday 19th May.

Excursions

Year 10 Geography Excursion

Year 10 Geography students had the opportunity to attend the Bonnie Vale Wetlands excursion as part of their geographical investigative study last term. Ranger Jamie reinforced content studied in class about the *rich natural diversity of wildlife of the wetlands*. He explained the reasons wetlands are a critical part of our natural environment and discussed the threats to wetland ecosystems globally. Students actively engaged in a range of hands-on fieldwork using geographical tools including quadrats, maps, graphs, statistics, images, anemometers, and temperature gauges to assess the health of the wetlands and later in the day developed sustainable strategies to minimise environmental impacts.



Incursions

History Medieval Day

We were so pleased to see the return of the Medieval Show to Blacktown Boys' High in Week 8, Term 1. The presenter enthralled his audience with gruesome stories about crime and punishment, tales of the code of chivalry, weapons, and fighting techniques during the Middle Ages. Year 8 students were particularly excited to have an opportunity to dress in chain mail, to touch, and feel the weapons, up close, creating an intensely vivid, and tactile link with the past.

Overall, both students and supervising staff had a great morning.



The Year 7 Tut History Day Incursion

We are pleased to see over 90 Year 7 students take up the opportunity to attend 'The Tut Roadshow' incursion on Monday 22 May. This presentation of not only ancient Egyptology but the ancient world carries the student on a journey of discovery learning, interactive, multimedia, and hands-on learning experience focused on developing a knowledge-based understanding and positive appreciation of archaeology and its relevance for today.

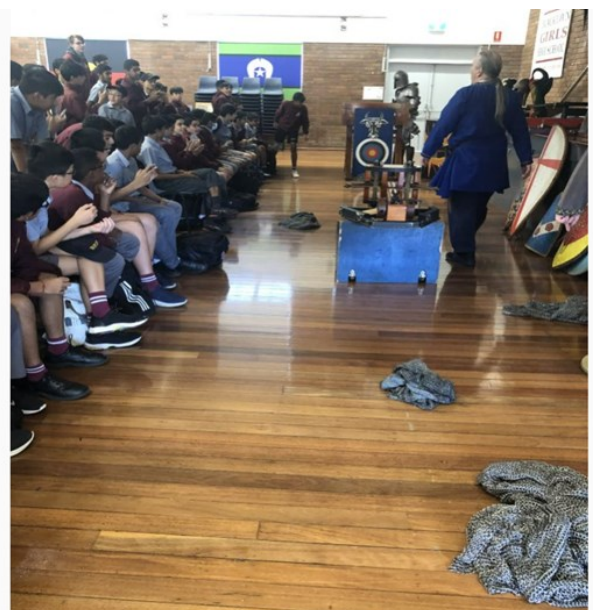
Students participate in a range of activities including The Amazing Tut Roadshow Multimedia Museum, the Table of Writing, Ancient Seals, Maths in the Ancient Egyptian World, Archaeology, and Tutankhamun's Tomb Paintings.

The *Tell Them From Me* student feedback survey

I am delighted that this term, our school, like many other public schools in the state, will participate in a Department of Education initiative: the *Tell Them From Me* student feedback survey. The survey aims to help improve student learning outcomes and measures factors that are known to affect academic achievement and other student outcomes. The focus of the NSW-wide survey is on student wellbeing, engagement, and effective teaching practices.

The survey is a great opportunity for our students to provide us with valuable and quick feedback on what they think about school life, how engaged they are with school and the different ways that teachers interact with them. Schools in Australia and around the world have used the *Tell Them From Me* survey to help improve how they do things at school.

I want to assure you that the survey is confidential. The survey is conducted online and will typically take less than



Acting Head Teacher, Science

Ms Pembe Hussein



Hello Students and Parents,
Welcome back to an exciting Term 2, where students will continue to explore their passion and interests in the various branches of Science.

This term we will again open the Crystal Growing Competition to Year 7 and 8. Students are required to sign up through Ms Wu and notes have been emailed to parents. Please pay the \$10 entry fee at the Front Office or online. We look forward to seeing your fantastic results once again.

Ms Tang will be hosting the Big Science Competition this term. The Big Science Competition is held through the Australian Science Innovations. This external competition is completed online and provides students the opportunity to test their knowledge and practise with challenging questions.

As it is mid-year, Junior Science assessments this term will be Half-Yearly Examinations held during the respective grades Assessment Week. 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 as a recognition of their fantastic progress throughout the year.

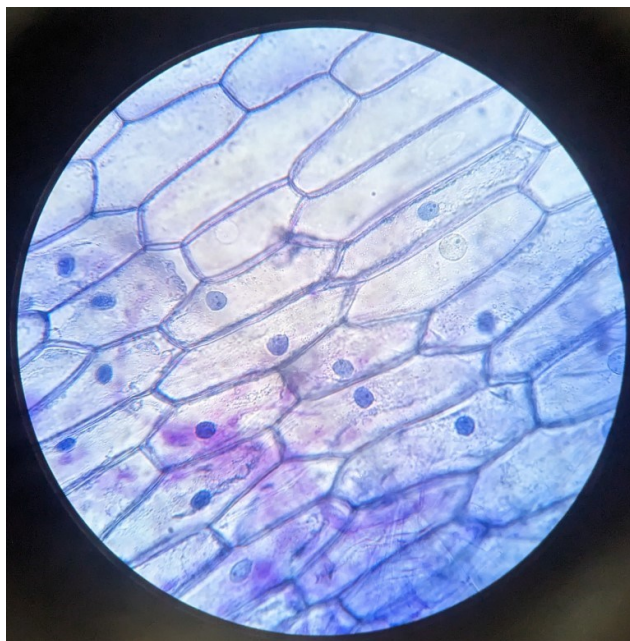
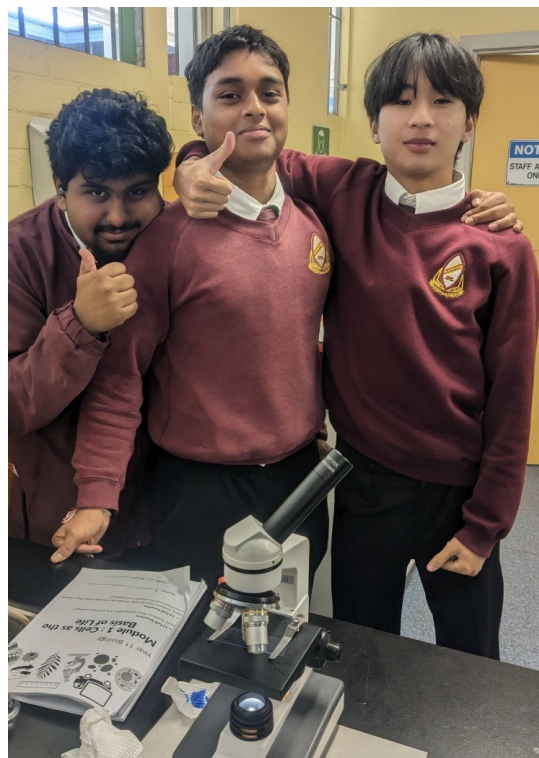
Year 12 are now a little over half way through their HSC courses, having completed 2 assessment tasks and 2 modules for each of the courses- Physics, Chemistry and Biology. It is a pleasure to see students reflecting on their learning and actively seeking feedback from teachers to continue developing their understanding and application of scientific concepts and practical skill

Supporting Year 11 and Year 12 Science students in their studies, the Science Faculty has implemented Edrolo - an online learning platform to assist students in consolidating their understanding. Students are encouraged to routinely review their understanding through the revision of the content and through the completion of the quizzes.

Year 10 students are encouraged to discuss Stage 6 Science

courses with their Science teachers, before or after class, as well as at the upcoming Subject Selection Evening.

Science students are reminded of the Health and Safety requirements of completing practical first hand investigations safely. Students are to ensure they are following the teachers instructions at all times and to ensure they are wearing the appropriate footwear, at all times.



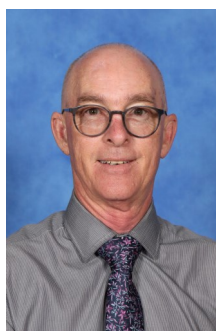
Head Teacher, Teaching & Learning Mr David Martin



As we approach the midpoint of the year, there are several key events for all parents/carers and students to be mindful of. Minimum Standards testing has taken place for Year 10 students, with catch-ups provided for Years 11 and 12 for students who needed to sit the tests. These tests are a requirement for all students in NSW, where they must demonstrate a minimum level of proficiency in reading, writing and numeracy prior to receiving their HSC. Information about these tests can be found on the NESA website, and further catch-up sessions will run in term 2 for students needing to complete these tests.

Students in Year 8 and 10 will also be completing their Subject Selection for Stage 5 and Stage 6, respectively, and will be provided additional information about it. Parents and carers are encouraged to discuss elective choices with their children, and should remember that students will perform better in subjects they enjoy and are good at. I emphasise that these should guide all decisions made regarding subjects chosen for Stages 5 and 6. More information about Subject Selection will be provided separately at a later date. Finally, a reminder that the EAL/D survey is currently being completed, and at the beginning of Term 3 the NCCD will take place. These two surveys do not affect students, but are a requirement of all schools to provide data about the types of learners they have, as well as the potential needs of all students and how they are supported. If you have any questions regarding either of these surveys, please contact the school.

Career Adviser, Mr Trevor Hodges



Year 12 students have been actively involved in extra curricula seminars with 'future students' representatives' from multiple universities. University of Sydney, New South Wales, Macquarie, Western Sydney and UTS to name a few.

Students gain firsthand knowledge of University and Pathways into courses that serve their career aspirations. Presenters are 2nd to 3rd year students at university who share their stories of progression from acing the HSC through to applying through UAC as well as university early entry schemes. Course structures and combinations available to complete Degrees were discussed and explained in-depth. These incursions are an important part of all year 12 students' education as they assist students on their pathway from school to work and further study.





On Friday 23rd June 2023, Year 12 senior students from Blacktown Boys' High will be attending the Careers Expo at Sydney Showground, Sydney Olympic Park. The focal point of this excursion is to allow students to access information on tertiary institutions, business, employment and training services, including apprenticeships. In addition to the 140 providers, students have the opportunity to attend professional seminars on a variety of topics, in 4 separate seminar rooms, such as, extension Mathematics and English, History, Sciences, Economics, studying tips and tricks. Feedback from students from previous visits has been very positive. The cost to students is \$20, which includes a 3-day pass to the event and a seat belted bus to and from school to the venue. Places are limited, so you need to book early, hand in the completed note and payment to the front office. Parents of all grades have the opportunity to attend the Careers Expo in person over the weekend, 24th and 25th of June.

YES Tafe programs

Blacktown Boys' students have been actively involved in 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. Nursing at TAFE Wetherill Park attracted 24 students from Blacktown Boys'. Plumbing was very popular with our students as 8 boys enrolled and attended the course at TAFE Blacktown. Other courses included Landscaping, Bricklaying, Paint & Panel, Mechanics, Animal Studies.

UNSW Engineering & Sydney University Work Experience. 2 students applied to complete a week of Usman Hussein, Pratham Ghimire

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>.

Head Teacher, Inclusive Education

Ms Sevenoaks



We have been running a lot of exciting programs within the support unit in term 2. Our students have so far participated in one community access excursion. This term they will be visiting Parramatta and Penrith to practise their social, numeracy and travel training skills.

We recently participated in a NSW

School Sport Boccia Competition, which involved competing against other schools from Western Sydney. This was a fun day for our students and they're looking forward to participating in more sporting competitions this year. We also have an upcoming excursion to the Museum of Contemporary Art, where students will be taking part in a hands-on art program.

We have continued our weekly farm visits and fortnightly cooking classes in the school kitchen. Students are also enjoying their weekly visits from our therapy dog. We have a new dog this term, his name is Finnick and his handler is Monique. This is always a great way to end the week. Our senior students have been taking part in weekly careers workshops, which helps to build their work ready skills. In week 8 this term, we will be running our parent teacher evening for the support unit students. This is an opportunity to meet your student's teachers and to develop connections with other parents. More information regarding this will be communicated to parents soon. Lastly, we'd like to welcome Ms McKenzie to the support unit. She has been teaching Pemulwuy 1 and she will be with us for the whole term.



Head Teacher PDHPE

Ms Tahnee Lovering



We have hit the ground running in PDHPE this term with students working hard to maintain class routines for theory and practical lessons and coming prepared from week 1 and hopefully onwards. We have been luckier less rain and warmer weather compared to this time last year and this is allowing us to maximise our physical activity lessons for PDHPE. Please ensure you are keeping up

to date with your assessment schedule seeking teacher feedback on drafts early and catching up on any missed work due to absences.

Term 4 topics and assessment tasks

The recent Government announcements on updated curriculum reform rollouts for PDHPE were as follows

- Stage 6 Health and Movement Science syllabus will be released 2023 – and implementation has been pushed back for year 11 to 2025; HSC examination 2026
- Consultation on K-6 and 7-10 PDHPE syllabus will also be occurring during 2023

Year/ Course	Unit name	Assessment task	Due
7 PDHPE	Prac - FMS & Composition Theory - Relationships	Relationships	5
8 PDHPE	Prac - Fitness Games Theory - Safe Behaviours	Nil	N/A
9PDHPE	Prac - Net/Court Theory - This is Me	This Is Me	9
9/10PASS	Coaching	Coaching	8
10PDHPE	Prac - Invasion Games Theory - Movement Analysis	Movement Analysis	8
11PDHPE	Body In Motion	Body In Motion	10
11SLR	Sports Coaching and Training	Sports Coaching and Training	5
12PDHPE	Factors Affecting Performance	Factors Affecting Performance	9
12SLR	Games and Sports Applications 2	Games and Sports Applications 2	8

With upcoming subject selections this term, it is important that students and parents have discussions about subject strengths,

interests and options. For more information about subject options in PDHPE please have a look with your son at the following BBHS subject information websites.



Wonder Recycling Rewards

Wonder recycling is a recycle program where bread bags are collected and recycled at BBHS. Your recycling efforts will earn BBHS rewards points to redeem new sporting equipment for our school.

COLLECTION BOXES ARE AT THE FRONT OFFICE AND IN LIBRARY.

What is a bread bag for recycling purposes?

The rule of thumb is that if it has contained bread of some sort and is a soft plastic, then it's a bread bag. If it hasn't contained bread, then it's not a bread bag.

How clean do the bags have to be?



Bread bags should be free from crumbs to ensure no contamination during the recycling process but they do not need to be washed.

Sport Coordinator Mr Daniel Fabricato

Blacktown Zone Cross Country



On Friday 5th May students made their way to Wyndham College for the Blacktown Zone Cross Country Carnival. Our boys performances and behaviour was outstanding with 9 students qualifying for the Sydney West Cross Country Carnival held at Sydney International Equestrian Centre on Wednesday 14th June. We wish the boys the best of luck.



Athletics Carnival

On Thursday 11th May students travelled to Charlie Bali Reserve, Doonside for our annual school Athletics Carnival. With the weather turning it on for the big occasion with clear skies and a warmer than average temperature, we saw our students participating in a variety of track and field events. I would like to congratulate everyone on their performances and the best of luck at the upcoming Blacktown Zone Athletics Carnival held at the same venue on the 7th and 8th of June.



Year 7 2023

Ms Michelle Winata



Congratulations on finishing Term 1 of High School. I would like to thank all our Year 7 families for their support in helping their son transition into Year 7. Year 7 should look back fondly on the positive experiences they've had so far - Swimming Carnival, Peer Support, Cross Country and of course NAPLAN! Students have been sharing their creative and sporting talents and learning new skills along the way. As they continue to transition into the high school environment, many are also stepping up in new roles of responsibilities, such as contributing to the School Representative Council (SRC) and taking on extra-curricular activities like the Rubik's Cubing Club, Art club, Sports teams and debating. We look forward to how much further they continue to thrive and grow throughout the year! We also finished Term 1 with a fun and exciting Year 7 Peer Support Camp and progress reports. By Term 2, students should have established a regular routine in terms of having a sleep schedule, packing their bags and traveling to and from school. They should have become familiar with the layout of the school, their classes, school policies and expectations.



I encourage all the Year 7s to listen out for the announcements regarding school clubs, sporting try-outs, excursions and other extracurricular events and to get themselves actively involved in BBHS's community. Here are some reminders for Year 7s: School Diaries Thank you to all the students who have been diligently bringing their diaries to school. Having a diary provides students with an opportunity to take ownership of their learning and also gives them skills in organization. I encourage all students to use a school diary to keep track of their learning, or to consider a tangible way to monitor their homework, key events and assessments. We have a limited number of Blacktown Boys High School diaries/planners for 2023 available at the front office.

Year 7 Cohort Google Classroom:

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

Progress Reports:

Students received their progress reports at the end of Term

1. The progress reports outline how the student is transitioning in each subject. Students will receive formal school reports at the end of Term 2.

Student ID card:

Students will be receiving their School ID card and they are expected to bring their card to school daily. An ID card is also a good opportunity to discuss with students the responsibilities of ensuring that they are accountable for their personal belongings. Students who lose their ID will need to pay for a new one.

Half-Yearly Assessments:

Week 6 of Term 2 will be the assessment period for Year 7s. Students will be receiving timetables showing when their exams will be on during this period.



Year 8 Adviser 2023, Ms Chloe Alfonso



This term we continue striving for growth academically, and in becoming more resilient and responsible students. With the introduction of Yondr, an influx of Year 8 students are trying their hand at sports on the field and new activities in our school library. I spoke with Shreeshail from 8N and he expressed his reignited joy with soccer now during recess and lunch since Yondr has been

implemented. I hope to hear more positive feedback as the year progresses.

We're also preparing for our Parent and Teacher evening on **Thursday, June 15 from 3:30pm-6:30pm**. This evening will be a valuable opportunity for Year 8 students, their parents and their teachers to discuss their progress of the year so far. Bookings open from **Tuesday, June 13** via the Parent Portal. We look forward to seeing you then.

Some Year 8 students have participated well in our Rock and Water Program, a pathway to self-awareness, and increased self-confidence and social functioning. Through some martial arts-inspired activities and meaningful discussion with Mr Knight and I, students learn how to channel their Rock (confidence and strength) and Water (self-control and calmness) when facing conflicts. We look forward to introducing more Year 8 students to the program as the year goes on.



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

Year 9 Adviser 2023, Ms Cindy Tang



To our students, parents & guardians,
Welcome to Term 2!

Term 1 was a busy term for Year 9s who have finished their final NAPLAN exams and have settled into their new classes and electives. I am proud to see many of our students show interests in extra-curricular activities and have started

engaging in conversations about their journey beyond high school. We have had students signed up for Duke of Edinburgh and Barista training, as well as attended transition courses such as the White Card course. We also had applications for the Career and Skills Development Scholarship, as well as WSU's Academy U Scholarship.

Congratulations to the following year 9s for receiving awards in Term 1:

- ◆ Student of the Term: Dhyan
- ◆ Silver Award: Akshay
- ◆ Bronze Award: Khenav, Taran, Baves, Shewarn, Jasjeet & Param

I would also like to acknowledge the Year 9 students who are running the BBHS Soccer competition which has been occurring smoothly during lunch and recess in Term 2. These students have organised the team sign ups, rules, conducted meetings and are also setting up and referring each game. It is fantastic to see Year 9s contributing to BBHS's learning community beyond the classroom by organising and I hope to see more of this from our students in the future. Well done to Dhyan, Zarif, Darryl, Arham & Adish for a fantastic example of student leadership and student voice in High School.

Here are some announcements and reminders for Term 2:

Year 9 Assessment Week

Year 9 Assessment week will be in week 5 (week starting from 22/05/23). Whilst students may still have assessment tasks outside of this period, a majority of assessments will be completed during this week. As this period can be stressful, a reminder to all year 9s to ensure that they are managing their time and also focusing on their sleep and health during this period.

Assessment Booklets

Year 9s have received their assessment booklets in Term 1. A reminder for Year 9s to regularly refer back to the Assessment Booklets and their assessment notifications to prepare themselves for due dates.

Parent-teacher interviews & Semester 1 Report

The parent-teacher interviews for year 9s will be on 15/06/2023. Booking will be available on the Parent Portal from early June, and parents are encouraged to check that they can access the Parent Portal prior to this date. Students will also be receiving their Semester 1 Academic reports at the end of this term.

Camp

Camp will be held in Term 4 from 15/11/23 - 17/11/23. More information will be available with permission notes which will be out this term.

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 9s have sport Period 5 and Period 6 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.

Attendance (start of school and to each period)

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 class room when the 5 minute warning bell rings to signify the end of recess and lunch.

Learn to Live Program for Term 2:

The Learn to Live outline for Year 9s this term consists of:

- ◆ Emotional Intelligence: managing and responding to stress
- ◆ Cyberbullying
- ◆ Understanding consequences: Risk-taking behaviours
- ◆ Evaluating and reviewing Goals
- ◆ Building respectful relationships

Extra-curricular activities & Competitions

Students are reminded to listen out to the announcements for these activities during homeroom, and make sure they

take note of deadlines for sign on dates. In term 1 we had announcements for sign up for academic competitions such as the Australian Maths Competition, Big Science Competition, History competition and the Geography competition.

Google Classroom for year 9

All year 9 students should be on the Year 9 Google Classroom. This is the same google classroom as year 9 and will be used as a platform for communication between myself and the cohort.

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 myself via the school phone.

Some tips for parents/guardians in developing Student Voice at home!

(The following has been taken from the NSW Department of Education's website)

What is student voice?

Student voice is defined as students actively participating in decision-making on things which shape their educational experiences. It is an approach to education that values the perspectives, experiences and aspirations of students across three settings; the classroom, the school and in the wider community.

How are student voice and wellbeing connected?

When children and young people participate in meaningful decision-making at school, they:

- ◆ experience higher levels of wellbeing and empowerment
- ◆ feel a deeper connection to their learning and school community
- ◆ develop a range of skills and capabilities to feel connected and successful at school and in life.

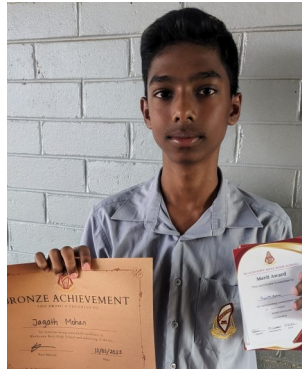
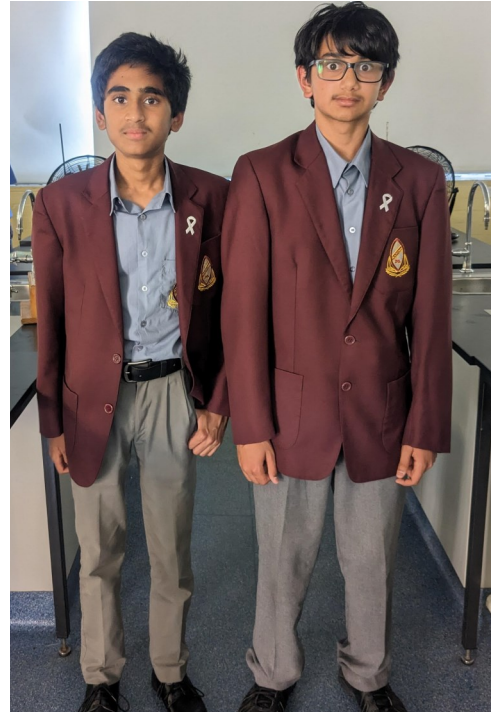
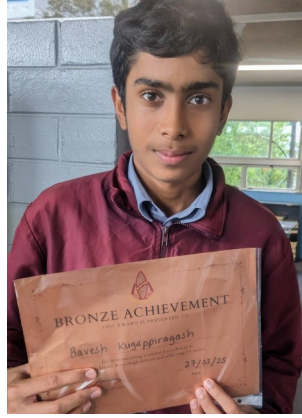
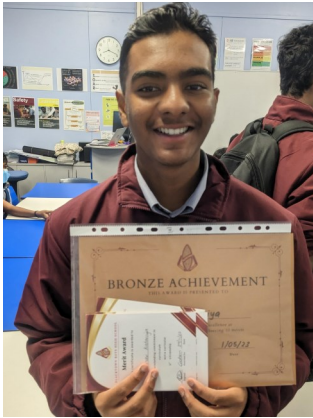
How can student voice be encouraged at home?

As a parent, you want your child to love learning. You want them to feel confident in expressing their voice, having influence and making authentic choices at school. There are many ways you can support this at home and further develop the skills they are learning at school.

Top tips for supporting student voice at home

- ◆ Create opportunities within the home for your children to lead activities and make meaningful choices, for example, organising meals or a family outing.
- ◆ Support your children in identifying and celebrating their personal strengths and those of others.
- ◆ Support your children in making learning goals and sharing them with their teachers. This will empower them to shape their learning environment to reflect their unique needs.

- ◆ Encourage them to be a leader in their classroom, school and communities. These do not have to be traditional leadership positions, such as school captains. Students can become peer-support leaders, playground monitors, joining clubs and committees or become student mentors and volunteers.
- ◆ Create opportunities for collaboration in the home, for example, cooking or building something together.



Year 10 Adviser 2023, Ms Victoria Zaw

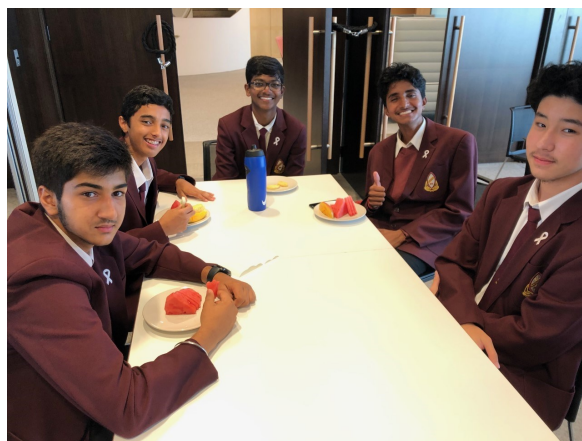


Welcome back to Term 2, 2023. Year 10 have several important dates coming up this term. A reminder that students can seek advice about extra-curricular activities, subject selection choices, TAFE career programs for high school students and post-school opportunities from Year Adviser – Miss Zaw, Careers Advisor – Mr Hodges, Transitions Adviser – Ms. Marsh.

Last term, 30 students participated in a three-day Digital Careers Expo Program. Students were mentored over the three days via zoom and onsite at Barangaroo offices including EY, Accenture, and PwC. Students learned about AI technologies, potential careers in digital consulting firms, design thinking, Virtual Realities, the Meta and many more.

TERM 2 IMPORTANT DATES

- **Minimum Standards Testing – April 27 to May 2** (Week 1 Thursday, Friday and Week 2 Monday and Tuesday)
 - **Anzac Day Assembly – May 2** (Tuesday week 2)
 - **Athletics Carnival – May 11** (Thursday Week 3) at Charlie Bali Reserve so go straight to the location on Thursday.
 - **Year 10 Assessment Week – May 8 to 12** (Week 3 Monday to Friday)
 - **Parent Information Night – May 16** (Week 4 Tuesday) Information on HSC and ATAR
 - **Interview 2 Impress Excursion – May 24** (Week 5 Wednesday) 20 students TBA via Google Classroom. Permission notes pending.
 - **Parent Teacher Evening – June 15** (Week 8 Thursday) Times will fill up quickly so make sure that you get a booking ASAP when bookings are open.
 - **Subject Selection Evening – June 20** (Week 9 Tuesday)
 - **Year 10 Vaccinations –** Information emailed to parents. Forms completed online. If a hard copy is needed, please see Miss Zaw. Forms must be completed this term. Date of vaccinations is early Term 3.
- Academy U Date TBC** - 10 students selected. Permission notes and information pending.



Year 11 Adviser 2023, Ms Villanueva



Welcome back to a very busy Term 2! So far this term, Yr11 have returned with a better understanding of the demands of senior subjects and are looking more prepared to tackle another term full of assessment tasks, as well as take on any opportunities that are coming their way. I look forward to seeing them succeed in their subjects and develop in their skills through extracurricular activities.

Half-Yearly Reports & Parent/Teacher Night

Year 11 have received their Half-Yearly report early this term to help students and their parents review their progress so far. The report provides a lot of great information that has been carefully written by class teachers to show the areas in which a student had done well and also provide some suggestions on areas of improvement. It is recommended that reports are used as a tool for students to reflect on their current achievements, and to create or adapt their goals for the future.

During this term, parents also had the opportunity to speak to class teachers in regards to their sons progress. It was great to see so many parents present on the night as well as many of the Yr11 boys, to hear the comments and advice classroom teachers had to offer them. Yr11 are encouraged to continue the conversation with their classroom teachers and seek feedback regularly so that they can make improvements in their studies.

Extracurricular Activities

Despite the bigger workload that Yr11 has gained in the transition between junior school and senior school, Yr11 have consistently shown a commitment to participating in extracurricular activities. Some of the competitions the boys have joined include debating tournaments, Mock trial, sport teams, chess tournaments, the titration competition, and many more. Other students have also opted in to participate in a program called 'Study without Stress', to assist with the management of stress and workload as a senior student. We hope to see Yr11 continue to participate in a range of activities to develop their student resumes which will assist in their applications for early entry into university.

Attendance and Assessment Tasks

As a senior student, coming to school every day to learn is very important. Being absent for one or more days can be very concerning especially when the work missed in that time is not understood or completed. It is advised that students who are going to miss or have missed days of school to submit a written letter from home or a doctor's certificate to explain absences.

Year 12 Adviser 2022, Ms Jessie O'Brien



Welcome back to Term 2 for all students and their families. I hope you have had a restful break and are ready to continue the last hurdles of your high school career. Year 12 are now past the half way mark, meaning there are only a few internal assessments left before the HSC. It is important to remind students and their families of the importance of routine and consistency leading up to this stressful time.

Year 12 have been busy participating in a range of extra curricular activities including mentoring and supporting the Year 11 Mock Trial team, mentoring and working within the Haka Warriors Program, Opens soccer and basketball teams and their last cross-country event. It was also great to see Year 12 come out in force, dressing in their cultural attire to support Harmony Day! This term will also be Year 12's final athletics carnival, which I am sure will be great fun.

We are in the process of confirming formal details and students are required to pay a \$20 deposit as soon as possible to determine whether the event will run. The Year book committee is also working hard on collecting and preparing the year book, so if you see a camera make sure to smile!

Congratulations to Christian Bukasa for receiving the Term 1 student of the term 2023 award for his amazing efforts in representing the school and mentoring students in a range of boys opens teams over the last term.

A few quick reminders for this term:

1. **HSC timetables are out!** If you have any questions, please see me in the HSIE staffroom.
2. **Study Centre:** is an important resource that is only available to Year 12 students, it is expected you are using this space when you do not have class. Ensure you use this space with respect, use your time wisely!!
3. **HSC Mentors:** Ensure you have visited your mentor! They are eagerly awaiting your visit.
4. **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 Simon with a note to be eligible for a Uniform Pass.
5. **Absence and late arrival:** you must ensure you are arriving on time to get the most out of each class. If you are consistently late you are quickly losing valuable time and learning opportunities. If you are absent, you must provide a justification to the front office.
6. **Extracurricular activities:** get involved! Have fun and sign up for all the different activities on offer. They will be your last opportunities at school, make the most of it!

Please ensure you are regularly checking the google classroom for updates and important announcements. If you have any questions, make sure to visit me in the HSIE staffroom or room 9!



