

# Blacktown Mail

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



## Message from the Principal - Mr David Calleja



In recent weeks, the media have focussed a lot of attention on the growing debate for the establishment of co-educational schools and the amalgamation of single sex schools. This debate has resulted in the amalgamation of some private and state schools near the city and on the Eastern Suburbs of Sydney. The decision to amalgamate state schools and offer parents more choice is reflective of population pressures, demography, competition with private and catholic schools and a limited number of government schools to send children. Decisions to amalgamate schools at this point in time do not affect our school or our neighbours Blacktown Girls High School. The debate going on across the Eastern Suburbs and inner city through the media has made me look closely at our unique school and our role as a boy's high school in Western Sydney.

When I started at BBHS as principal, it was refreshing to see how the students and parents religiously viewed education as a gateway towards a successful career and an avenue towards an apprenticeship, university, or other ter-

tiary institutions such as TAFE. Teachers at BBHS were and still are keen and open to applying the latest educational practices and methodologies to ensure our students are engaged in their learning. Our boys are being challenged academically and are thriving as a result. We are a school focussed on improving educational outcomes for all students in mainstream, selective and inclusive education settings. We do this by improving our facilities, utilising the latest technology and ensuring that our staff have available to them, the latest professional learning and resources. This is not by accident but by design. Our school plan clearly articulates where we want our students to be, the areas we intend to focus upon and the budget we have allocated to make this happen. Our plan is to be the best school academically in Blacktown. We have achieved this and continue to maintain this. What many people don't know is that BBHS is also one of the best performing schools of all the partially selective schools in NSW. Our shift has been gradual but seismic. Our model for education is working and ensuring our boys either enter university, attain an apprenticeship, or successfully find employment once they leave school. This is the heart behind Boys Education; preparation for life outside of school and home.

A significant component of a quality learning environment is the visual and aesthetic nature of the learning area itself. Our Boys need to like where they go to school. A sizeable proportion of our savings have been allocated towards improving the aesthetics around the school. Over the past 24 months we

have; painted the school to give it a fresh look, we have opened up the corridor in A block to ensure the clear passage of students from one end of the block to the other, we have installed a new Covered Outdoor learning Area (COLA) to utilize outdoor space during extremes in weather and to protect our students from the sun in Summer. Our Library has become a modern learning hub where students want to go to participate in activities, research and read books. It is decked out with new furniture, a modern open layout with audio-visual and computer technology. As an 'old-school teacher' I clearly understand that the nature of the learning environment is a critical component in the learning equation. Without doubt, the school needed a significant facelift and we have facilitated that over the past two years. Our next venture is to refurbish the ablution block in January 2024. Gardens are being replanted and seating areas around the school improved to make our students comfortable. We

### Last Day Term 4, 2023

Friday 15th December

### First Day Back Term 1 2024

Thursday 1st February  
Year 7, 11 and 12

Friday 2nd February  
Year 8, 9 and 10

have built two new outdoor classrooms/ learning areas and improved our outdoor sporting facilities. We have upgraded our computer laboratories and brought our computer hardware, software and wi-fi system up to speed with the rest of the state. This is essential as we want our boys to have the latest information available at their fingertips. Information readily available in a clean, visually pleasant learning environment.

Boys Education does not just focus on the visual component but also the tactile, kinesthetic and physical components of learning and this is why we have applied significant funding towards sporting facilities and equipment and are now in the process of reviewing all our practical classrooms in TAS, CAPA, (Art and Music) Science and PDHPE. Boys by nature are physical, they want to feel, touch and experiment and as such we have begun to look at activities and strategies which tweak their curiosity and engage their interest in learning. We have therefore allocated funding towards equipment which facilitates such a need. We are focussed on a broad education and ensure we provide activities which support and incorporate the fine arts such as painting, pottery and playing musical instruments to woodwork, metalwork, electronics, science experiments to hand and ball games. Such activities exercise the mind but also exercise hand/foot/eye coordination and fine motor skills. This variety contributes significantly towards educational growth, engagement and attainment by stimulating nerve endings and pathways and tweaking the desire to enquire and to learn. Studies show that children who actively participate in physical activities tend to outperform those students who are sedentary or who are reluctant to physically exert themselves. By differentiating physical learning, boys exercise and activate their fine motor skills as well as their other senses, which in turn promote learning and engagement.

Boys by their nature, find it difficult to stay still or sedentary in one spot for long periods of time. Consequently our timetable and sporting programs ensure that students are able to release their physical energy through the day. Play is also an important component of a learning environment. At BBHS we ensure that recess and lunch periods are thirty minutes in length so that students can exert themselves between learning periods. The basketball courts and bottom ovals are highly active during such periods as the boys play ball games, run and release their energy. This all contributes towards part of their life balance and is important to their learning. It is by design not accident that The boys are exposed to a commercial kitchen and tool rooms which reflect industrial workplaces. There is access to 3D Printers, Laser cutters, kitchen facilities, laboratories and workspaces which enable our students to physically

learn besides sitting at a desk and learning theory. Practical knowledge, together with physical exertion, which most will use when they are employed, forms an important component of our teaching program. Our boys are active participants in their learning journey.

At the beginning of the year, the school carefully plots the year ahead with our faculties trying to cover as much experiential learning as is physically possible. All faculties carefully plan and run meaningful and relevant excursions, field trips and workshops, ensuring syllabus requirements are met, as well as highlighting career opportunities available within various faculty domains. Over the past three years we have developed a strong career orientated program where boys from Years 9 onwards have the opportunity to undertake TAFE courses across multiple career pathways. These range from, IT to retail and trades such as carpentry, plumbing and bricklaying. Students are also encouraged to look towards university pathways with the school aligned with all universities in particular Western Sydney University, 'Academy U Program' and Macquarie university, 'leaders and Achievers'. Work Experience programs begin from Year 10 onwards and are carefully tailored and managed by our highly professional careers advisers. Our programs are linked to real jobs for students from industry. As a school, it is imperative that we cater to all our students. Realistically, not every student will go or wants to go to university. Some students want to complete apprenticeships and undertake a trade. Others are keen to work in a variety of different careers requiring a variety of different skills. Our role as a school is to attempt to deliver an educational program which suits the needs of the majority of our students. I believe we do that well at Blacktown Boys. We assist boys who want to go to university as well as those boys who want to become tradesmen within traditional and newly evolving industry. Annually we conduct a survey of our previous Year 12 students to see where they have moved on to. Over 95% of our leavers are in tertiary education or employed. The remaining 5% are taking a break from education or are travelling. As a Boys School in Western Sydney, my belief is that we are on the right path for the majority of our students and are meeting their educational needs at a very successful rate.

The wellbeing of our students lies at the core of our curriculum and as a school, we have invested a lot of time looking at the wellbeing curriculum for our students. A strong syllabus forms the foundation behind student wellbeing at Blacktown Boys High School. We have reconfigured our transition program ensuring an easy transition for the boys from Primary School into Year 7. We have revised our Peer Support program for Year 7, assisting our newest students to make friends, know their teachers and learn how to

thrive in high school. We now recognise Year 10 as senior students, changing their uniform and applying programs to assist in their transition into Year 11 and 12. Our commitment towards the success of our students is exemplified through our Year 11 subject selection interviews where parents are invited to attend with their child and choose their subjects aligned to their respective ability and their future career choices. Our Boys are nurtured and then initiated into Year 11 midway through Term 1. From Year 7 to 12 our unique wellbeing program explores real life scenarios which are age appropriate and reflective of the times and what students may encounter in the real world when they leave school. Students are taught skills on how to be streetwise, conscious of what they put into their bodies, travelling safely and being responsible citizens. Through our Physical Education Program, they are guided through the various health domains of spirituality, physicality, social, emotional and cultural diversity. Our students also are made aware of bullying and resilience through an anti-bullying program and are all taught how to be resilient. Such skills are magnified during our Men's Health Day which we run annually. Experiential learning helps our boys engage, think deeply and develop personal capabilities in their individual journey towards adulthood. Knowledge is important, but so too is acceptance and acknowledgement and this is why we have ensured that our boys transition successfully into Blacktown Boys and from Junior to Senior school seamlessly and confidently. Small rights of passage from "meet the teacher afternoon" to initiation and acknowledgement that our boys are seniors are significant stepping stones which contribute towards success, confidence and direction into their futures.

Our goal is to develop in our boys; self-discipline, compassion, resilience and a drive towards success. We want our boys to lead by example, taking responsibility for all their actions and clearly understanding the implications of the choices and decisions they make. A 'boys only environment' enables for the development of strong and lasting friendships, an environment of camaraderie and strong professional relationships with teachers and peers. We strive for our students to be surrounded by positive male and female role models where we nourish an understanding for the need to be prepared to engage with the broader community and be able to cope with the multitude of challenges that lay ahead. To meet such specific needs in the classroom, our teaching and learning strategies align with the Australian professional Standards for Teachers. Our expectations of our staff are that all teachers:

- Know their content and how to teach it
- Plan for and implement effective teaching and learning
- Create and maintain supportive and safe learning environments

Resultantly, our classrooms are vibrant ones, sometimes loud and noisy, but they have a busy, engaged and happy noise within them. Our school is filled with energy, of risk taking, curiosity and enquiry. Our teachers structure their lessons to address the unique learning needs and idiosyncrasies of boys. Our experience in classroom presentation and delivery is nurtured from Year 7 through to Year 12. Our teachers know the boys, they signpost and guide them along their academic journey ensuring that they meet desired and expected academic and social outcomes and expectations. It is deliberate that our boys are encouraged to succeed, regardless the endeavour. Resultantly, boys at BBHS thrive, as they are not distracted by the social pressures of a co-educational environment, they explore their own definitions of self, exploring who they are and who they want to become. As our boys transition into the senior years of their education, they are encouraged to step out of their comfort zones to explore their potential and become responsible and active members of the community.

At Blacktown Boys, boys education is a focus which we take seriously and which we feel we are very successful at. As a school we are continuously improving our facilities, systems, and programs to ensure that the best education is available to each and every student.

- Know students and how they learn

## Deputy Principal Mrs Trish Matthews



In our final Newsletter for 2023, I would like to take the opportunity to wish Year 12 all the best for their futures. 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 to 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. This is not the case 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. Our Year 6 Advisor Mr Masera is currently planning the Year 7 camp and preparing for Year 6 students transitioning to Year 7 in 2024. We also look forward to welcoming students who have applied for our Everest Program in 2024 and hope to meet all students on Orientation Day on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> November. An outstanding group of Year 9 students are soon to be trained as Peer Support leaders to support the transition of Year 7 2024 into our community.

For Year 11, their Preliminary exams signalled the end of year 11 with the rigours of the HSC course having started 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 staff who 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.

When they receive their Preliminary (Year 11) reports they will be able to make considered choices, in consultation with their teachers, the careers advisor and their parents about whether they present more than the minimum of 10 units for the HSC. Only presenting 10 units is not the best choice for all students who need to consider career options and having a fallback subject in case they do not achieve what they expected in a particular subject. In 2023 Year 11 will receive their reports in a hard copy as well as having access to a soft copy in the Parent Portal, as part of our trial to make soft copy reports the main form of delivery of reports in 2024 for all students.

It may come as a shock to Current year 10 students that

their 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 where they will all be completing the mandatory requirement of "All My Own Work" prior to commencing their Preliminary year, and joining the world of NESA, which 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. They 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, families and friends. In addition, Year 10 have Careers timetabled as a subject. 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, 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 masque 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.

We regularly confer with teachers about the impact of our Yondr Free Phone and Device policy. They unanimously agree that learning time in class has increased as a result of the introduction of the pouches. We ask for continued parent/carer support in checking that students have pouches that have not been damaged and are not bringing two phones for school – one for the pouch and one for their bag! The policy includes smart watches which are classified as a device, and airpods that are connected to blue tooth on their phones. We knew and expected that a minority of students, would try to be inventive in ways to avoid complying with our policy, but these students have been given time to adjust to the new rules which have been in place since the start of term 2, and have also been offered counsellor support. Please support us in developing students who can focus on

the task at hand and communicate effectively when they need to, rather than being a slave to every vibration of their phone.

Visitors to our school over last term would be forgiven for thinking that they are entering a building site! Major works have taken place in the carpark and the main quad area and two extra classrooms have been added for our ever growing school. The result has been a seamless entry and exit to the the car park and a magnificent covered outside area to add shade for summer and cover from rain, enhancing the environment for our boys.

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.



## Head Teacher, English

### Ms Erin Wagner



Welcome back to the final term of the year!

This term we welcome Ms Christianie Bagatua who is teaching English and library lessons this term. We are very glad to have you as part of our BBHS community!

Congratulations to the class of 2023 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, students must return copies of any texts studied, including Nineteen Eighty-Four, The Tempest and Hag-Seed for Advanced students, and Feed for Standard students. We wish them all the best in their future!

A reminder to all other students to also ensure that you have returned any novels loaned to you through the English faculty. If you have completed a novel study this year (or even in previous years), please ensure the texts are returned to your teacher and that you sign to acknowledge this. A failure to return novels may result in fees to replace the texts for future years so please ensure you return these promptly at the conclusion of your novel study.

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:

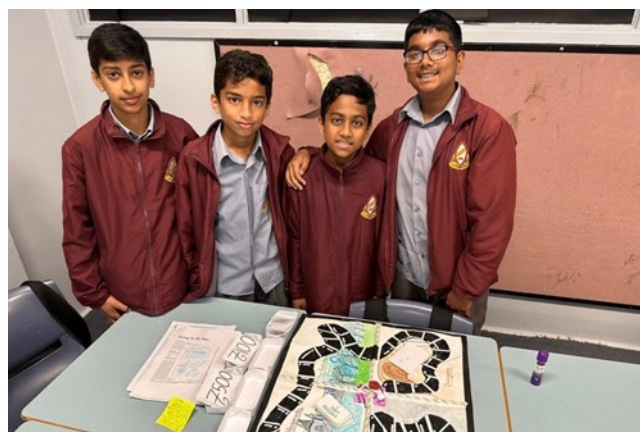
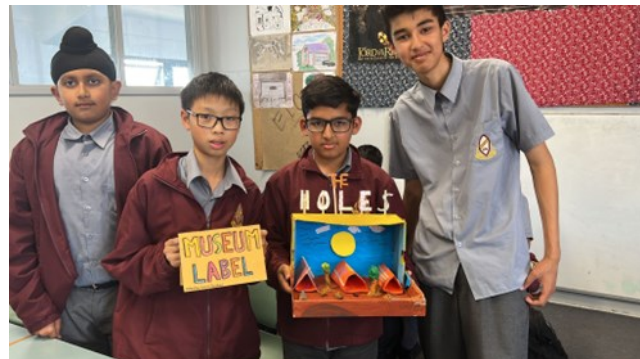
Year 12 Studies – Common Module: Texts and Human Experience (Billy Elliot, Daldry)

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

Year 12 Advanced – Common Module: Texts and Human Experience (Nineteen Eighty-Four, Orwell)

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.

Last term, Year 7 students worked on their 'Maker Model' group projects to demonstrate their understanding of the novels they studied, creating board games, dioramas, videos, drama performances, podcasts and debates. All students should be very impressed with their efforts; the final products reflected all the hard work students put into their projects.



**Photos:** Students in 7A with their 'Holes' project, students in 7H with their 'Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone' project and students in 7M with their 'My Girragundji' project.

To conclude the year, students in English will be studying the following and we look forward to their continued efforts to end the year.

Year 7 – Fractured Fairy tales (including film study)

Year 8 – Consumer Culture

Year 9 – Eastern Perspectives (including film study)

Year 10 – Active Citizens

## Debating News

Congratulations to our Year 9 team who made it to the quarter finals after winning all but one debate. They defeated St George Girls High School in the quarter finals and are moving on to compete against Bellingen High School. Well done and good luck boys!



Well done to our Year 7 and 8 teams who only conceded one debate each in their round. Unfortunately they were not successful in moving onto the knockout stage, but we look forward to seeing them refine their skills even further in next year's competition.

Congratulations to all debaters for their achievements this year, and thank you to Ms Semerci, Ms Sharma, Mr Masera and Ms Johnson for their work leading our debating teams this year. Listen out for announcements early next year regarding 2024 debating.

## 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 2023 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 7 and 8 in Week 4.

### Australian Mathematics Competition

This year, we had 138 students entering the Australian Mathematics Competition. We had 21 Distinctions and 74 Credits. Please see below for a list of students who have obtained the Best in School Award and the Distinctions Awards

#### Best in School Award

Yoghan Saravanakumar Gomathy (Year 8)

#### Distinction Award

Levyann Alakesan (Year 7)

Anish Reddy Loka (Year 7)

Shubh Sheth (Year 7)

Manarth Patel (Year 7)

Hassan Khurram (Year 7)

Dev Damani (Year 7)

Aarav Kohli (Year 7)

Sachiv Shivraj Senthil (Year 7)

Harkeerat Singh (Year 7)

Joshua Yu (Year 7)

Luan Mateo Ong (Year 8)

Mahir Patel (Year 8)

Parin Gadhesaria (Year 8)

Vikramjit Walia (Year 8)

Yoghan Saravanakumar Gomathy (Year 8)

Daksh Kalyani (Year 9)

Jonathan Nishchal (Year 9)

Ridaan Patel (Year 9)

Maahit Patel (Year 9)

Nashwin Uddin (Year 10)

Yaduraj Tripathi (Year 10)

We would like to congratulate all the participating students for their fantastic effort and outstanding results. Thank you to Mr Kumar for organising this competition.

### APSMO Mathematics Olympiad Competition

All four sessions for this year's APSMO have 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 Jerome Michael Tomson. First place in 8MATH goes to Yohan Saravanakumar Gomathy.

Congratulations to all of our students for their fantastic effort in the 2023 APSMO.

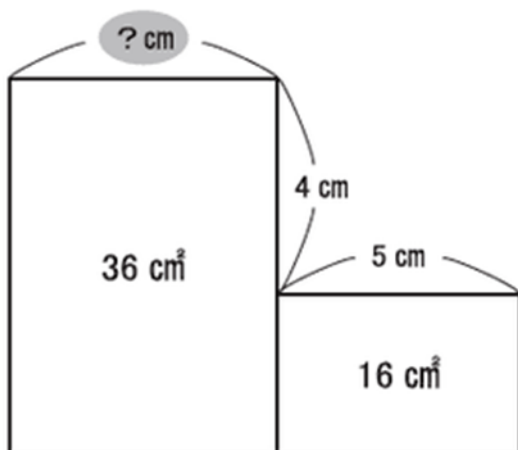
### Preparation for 2024

Thinking and planning for 2024, 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.

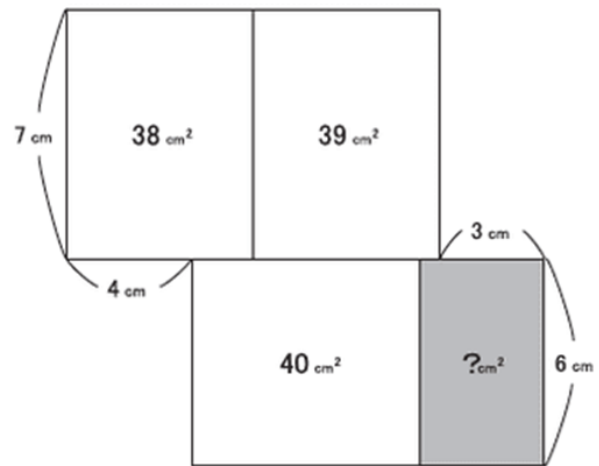
### Wrapping up 2023

As we approach the end of 2023, it is always good to wrap the year up with some mathematics. Please try the following area puzzles.

Level 1



Level 2



## Head Teacher, Administration

### Mrs Natalie Simon



Term 4 is always a busy term with students completing assessments and reports being written by teachers. It is a timely reminder that student's attendance is important and has a directly link to them completing assessments to a high quality. Parents need to ensure that any absences are explained within 7 calendar days. Parents may wish to take students out of school early before the December holidays- any absence

over 5 days requires an Exemption from Attendance application made to the school, where the Principal has discretion to approve or decline the leave. If students are not returning day 1 next year, you also need to apply for leave. Please contact the school if you have any questions.

Parents please note, School Photographs are booked in for the 19th February 2024 with a follow up date on 11th March 2024. All students are required to have school photos for the ID cards which are being issued to all students next year. These will serve as library cards and will be needed to sign in and out of the front office for lateness or early leavers.

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

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

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

NSW Department of Education

## Why attendance matters

When your child misses school they miss important opportunities to...



Learn



Build friendships



Develop life skills

education.nsw.gov.au



## Days missed = years lost

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

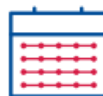
When your child misses just...

they miss weeks per year

and years over their school life

**1** day per fortnight  
M T W T F  
M T W T F

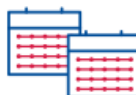
= **4** weeks



= Over **1** year missed

**1** day per week  
M T W T F  
M T W T F

= **8** weeks



= Over **2.5** years missed

education.nsw.gov.au

## Head Teacher, HSIE

### Mrs Gina Jackson



We bid farewell to some valued members of our staff who have decided to pursue new opportunities. We wish them success and happiness in their new schools. We are immensely grateful for Ms. Narayan's, Ms. Nguyen's, and Ms. Fensom's contributions to Blacktown Boys and in particular to the HSIE Faculty, and wish them the very best in their future endeavors

Despite these changes, I'd like to assure you that we are working hard to minimize the impact on our students.

This semester our students had the opportunity to broaden their horizons through three exciting excursions:

#### Year 8 Geography

Year 8 Geography delved into the fascinating topic of 'Water in the World' and sustainability. They visited The Rocks, where they learned about the importance of water to Australia's early settlement, then the importance of water conservation, and engaged in interactive activities related to this topic.



#### Year 10 Commerce

30 of our Commerce students had an educational day trip to Sydney Parliament House and the Justice Museum. This excursion provided students with valuable insights into the workings of government and the justice system. They caught the train and explored these significant institutions, deepening their understanding of Commerce, and Civics, and Citizenship.





### Year 9 Geography

Year 9 HSIE students participated in fieldwork at Bola Creek, learning about how Rainforest Biomes are used for food security in 2023. Students participated in a bushwalk and dip net fishing to understand the health of Bola Creek. Students also participated in an ecology study, searching for insects in different locations to understand the impact of bushfires on biodiversity.



### Year 12 HSC

We are incredibly proud of our Year 12 students who have now completed their Higher School Certificate (HSC) and are eagerly awaiting their results. This is a significant milestone, and again congratulate each of them for their hard work and dedication.

In closing, we appreciate your continued support as we strive to provide an enriching learning environment for our students. Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions or concerns.



## Acting Head Teacher, Science

### Ms Cindy Tang



Welcome to Term 4!

The Science Faculty would like to start by welcoming our new Science Teacher Kakoli Roy to the Blacktown Boys High School. Here are some words from Mrs Roy.

Term 3 was a busy and practical-filled term for Science and it was fantastic to see how our student's creativity and problem-solving skills

shine during Science week. The Science teachers hosted a range of activities based on this year's theme "Innovation: Powering Future Industries". We would also like to acknowledge our amazing student helpers this year, who organised and ran activities for Science Week. Thank you to Yash K and Taran for organising the Kahoot, Aravith for organising the posters and to Vikas and Shewarn who ran a session on the Science behind Yondr pouches. It was fantastic to see students participating from all year groups during recess and lunch and congratulations to the winners of those events!

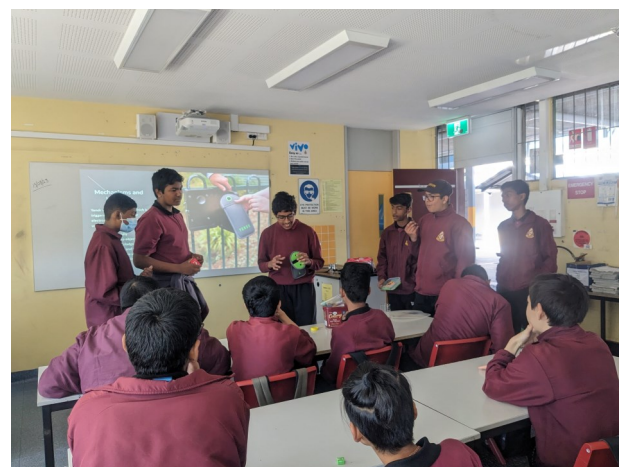
Year 12 Biology students also attended the UNSW Museum of Disease excursion where they were able to explore and learn about infectious and non-infectious diseases. The students compared tissue samples from healthy individuals to those living with a disease, and also looked at the causes of diseases.

Blacktown Boys High School also partnered up with the University of Sydney to run the Amgen Biotech Experience with Year 12 students. Students explored the concept of recombinant DNA in bacteria through first-hand investigations and were able to use equipment such as micropipettes and gel electrophoresis. We would also like to thank Eugenia from the University of Sydney who visited our school and helped oversee the program and provided first-hand insights to our students on what working in a laboratory at university looks like.

We also farewelled the Year 12s this term as they prepare to take the HSC exam. Our Year 12 Biology, Chemistry and Physics students worked extremely well throughout these year, continued to seek feedback on their learning and submitted fantastic assessments which showcased their thorough understanding of the subject. We wish all our Year 12 students the best in their HSC exam and in their future endeavours.

In term 4, year 8 students would be sitting the NSW online Science examination, VALID. VALID is an online end-of-stage

assessment for Stage 4 Science and consists of interactive videos, audio, animations, graphics, text and a variety of



questions. Year 8 students would have taken information letters home in term 3 regarding this, and students are reminded to bring headphones or earphones on the day of the exam. VALID results will be available to parents early next year.

As Year 10s are nearing the end of Stage 5, we would also like to remind prospective Stage 6 Science students to review the key concepts covered in Stage 5 Science. The Science Faculty will also be facilitating Stage 6 transition lessons where students will be reviewing the main concepts needed from stage 5.

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

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

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

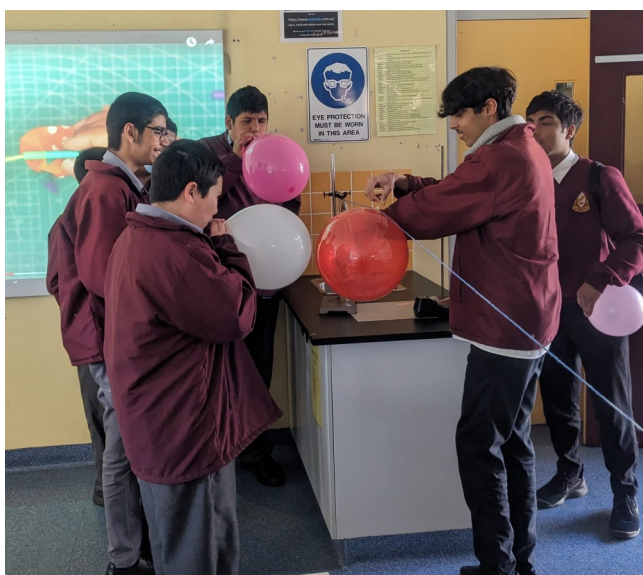
Here are some suggestions for Science related Youtube channels that students can explore at home:

- Questacon
- Veritasium
- Kurzgesagt
- AsapSCIENCE

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 ensure that they are continuously preparing for the task by writing weekly summary notes of the content covered in class.

Here is an overview of the topics covered this term.

Year	Topic	Assessment Task
7	Earth, Space and Water	Yearly Examination
8	Our Amazing Planet	Yearly Examination
9	Making Life Better	Yearly Examination
10	Extreme Earth	Yearly Examination
12 (2024)	Biology - Module 5 Chemistry - Module 5 + 8 Physics - Module 5	Various - refer to the Year 12 Assessment Booklet



## Head Teacher, CAPA

### Ms Kate Burne



**BOTANICAL GARDENS – GEO-CACHING DAY FOR EVEREST CLASS-8N**

Welcome back to school and so many opportunities to demonstrate your skills on what you can do, and also like to do. One such of these has been the EVEREST class 8N Geo-caching day at the Botanical Gardens, with our faculty. The students

planned, organised, participated and engaged in a curious form of learning. (Please catch up with the article also on the school Facebook page on this topic). There was 100% attendance on the day, and Ms Hunter and Mr Pace who accompanied the students said they covered all up a number of kilometres, as they wove backward and forward throughout the gardens. This class now has to complete a small, clearly outlined project for CAPA and LOTE where the emphasis is on quality and not necessarily quantity. SMART solutions to this project are welcomed. These are due week 3.

**VISUAL ARTS** with Mrs Burne, Mr Conley, Ms Hunter, Ms Zaw and Ms Miggins

The Year 8 ALFRESCO project has now been completed with excellent submissions created by Gurvansh Singh and Hriman Joshi in a regular format, and by Ronit Modi and Yash Mali in a digital form utilising BLENDER. The results within this course were excellent with all students exercising their resolve to improve their assessment outcomes.

Visual Arts is not mathematics or science but does capitalise on multi-modal approaches and reasoned thinking from both. The ability to be creative synthesises information and at times audiences may have to be introduced to the full scope of what it might contain. We have endeavoured to do



this in 2023 with Stop Gap Animation and Digital projects as well as applications across all expressive forms, with some being highlighted at Café d' Art in August. Students and staff enjoy their time in the art rooms, and many find it



a rewarding and relaxing place to be, both in class and at the break times. It also gives opportunity for those that have need to access additional media, materials and time to complete work.

In the recent Year 7 investigation and project, students were to focus on both art content and literacy, and the best results came from those that had the skills to create a formal, structured piece of writing that made a statement on the topic or question and supported this statement with information and ideas. The results in this task were broad and revealed both strength and areas for improvement. More will be focused on this area in the closing weeks of school.

**ITALIAN CLASSES** with Mr Pace

Novel approaches and strategies are underway with a tourism like emphasis being trialled in some of the classes where seating reflects more of a contemporary grouping of students. Projects, booklets, and immersion in culture and language have been foremost in the current programs. However, a more formal assessment will be made over the coming weeks to determine the level of performance of each student. Revision and preparation are the key words.

**MUSIC CLASSES** with Mrs Simon, Mr Conley and Ms Zaw

After the success of the Café d' Art platform in August it is now time to revise and prepare for the Yearly examinations. Students will sit a formal application of skills in both theory and practice. The HT CAPA has visited classes and noted the strength of many students in reading notation and then demonstrating an application on the Glockenspiel and Guitar. Our students find this interesting and challenging and many demonstrate good uptake and skills.

HSC VISUAL ARTS AND MUSIC with Mrs Burne, Mrs Simon and Mr Conley

Congratulations to all of our students who have successfully completed the practical components of the course prior to the HSC formal written examinations. A big thank-you also to the class teachers Mr Conley and Mrs Simon, and the practicum teacher Ms Solo, and to Mr Fabricato and Mr Vaoga who assisted and supported these students in their preparation. This was a very busy period, but results are

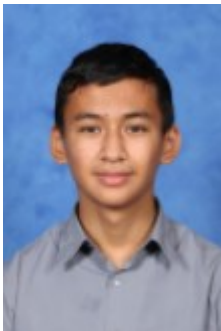


sown over time and students should be using time effectively over their two-year course to access the best results possible. The 2024 HSC cohort have already commenced this journey and are wished the very best on their Body of work development.



## More CAPA News

### Braydon Leslie



Braydon Leslie of Year 9 has been representing Blacktown Boys HS in the NSW Woodwind Ensemble which is a part of The Arts Unit. He has been playing clarinet throughout NSW, including in regional areas and The Opera House. This is what he had to say about being a part of this program: Being in the Arts Unit is fun, but you have to have time on your hands for it.



You also need to want something to do with music, or whatever you're in there for. That said, being a part of The Arts Unit is enjoyable. Every now and then, there is a performance, which is also fun. They are at places like the Opera House, or the Conservatorium of Music. Either way you look at it, if you like to play music, The Arts Unit is for you.

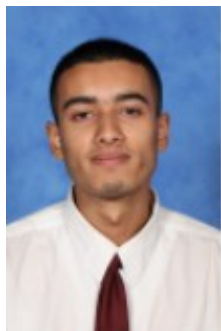
He has also just been accepted as a Principal Performer in Pulse Alive 2024 which means he is one of the lead clarinet players in the Show band ensemble. Pulse Alive will be held at Sydney Olympic Park on Thursday 14th March and Friday 15th March 2024. Tickets go on sale in February 2024.

Congratulations to Braydon!



## More CAPA News

### Himadri Chakroborty



In other news, Year 12 student Himadri Chakroborty, was nominated for his HSC performances for Encore. This is the showcase of the best performances of the 2023 HSC and is on at the Opera House on 4th March 2024. To be nominated out of all the music students in the entire state of NSW is an incredible achievement.



Congratulations to Himadri!

### EaL/D, Ms Vidhi Sharma



In Term 3, my primary focus was on helping the students in Stage 6 improve their written language skills. As Term 4 approaches, our main objective is to compare the language proficiency of our pupils to the EaL/D progression scales. This assists us as educators in giving the pupils attainable goals.

To ensure equity, our students are given scaffolding for most of the assessment tasks. Based on their reading, speaking, listening, and writing abilities, the students' English language competency will be evaluated this semester. To help map students' degree of need as Beginning, Emerging, Developing, or Consolidating, the reporting provides learning statement characteristics and phase summaries.

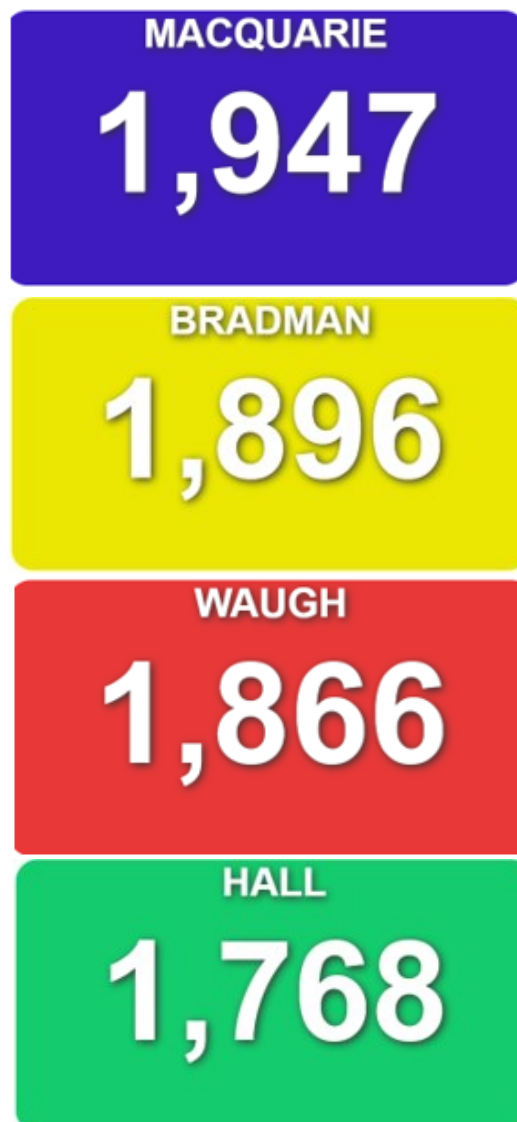
## Sport Coordinator

### Mr Stephen Wilson

The final term of sport is always one that the students at BBHS look forward to. Sports wise term 4 has a number of highlights, including the year 7 Swim Safe program in week 10 and both the Volleyball and Soccer Gala days in weeks 6 and 8 respectively, and the term is capped with the announcement of our champion house for the year. At the moment as we come into the home straight, we have Macquarie a length in front of Bradman and Waugh with Hall still rounding the bend.

This year we were again able to complete all of our carnivals and representative sports, as well as get through our weekly Wednesday Sport. Term 4 has seen changes to year 9 and 10 Wednesday sport with students able to select from a range of sports, with Badminton and Table Tennis popular.

I would like to commend our students and staff 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.



## Head Teacher PDHPE

### Ms Tahnee Lovering



#### Term 4 topics and assessment tasks

Year/ Course	Unit Name	Assessment task	Due week
7 PDHPE	Prac- Greatest Hits  Theory- Active Lifestyles & Behaviours	Active Lifestyles and Behaviours	7
8 PDHPE	Prac- Strategy Games  Theory- Diversity	Diversity	6
9PDHPE	Prac- World Games  Theory- The World Around us	The World Around Us	5
9PAS	Technology participation and performance	Yearly exam	5
10PDHPE	Prac- Target Games  Theory- To infinity and Beyond	Nil	N/A
10PAS	Technology participation and performance	Yearly exam	4
11/12PDHPE	Health Priorities in Australia	Health Priorities in Australia	8
11/12SLR	First Aid and Sports Injuries	First Aid and Sports Injuries	7

#### LIFE READY YEAR 11/12

From Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December, 13<sup>th</sup> Wednesday, 14<sup>th</sup> December and Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December, students who are in Year 12 will be completing the *mandatory Department of Education and Communities 'Life Ready' course* at BBHS. The 13<sup>th</sup> December will require a whole day attendance instead of the usual early finish Wednesdays that seniors have.

*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
- Safe Travel

More information to come to parents/caregivers and students soon.



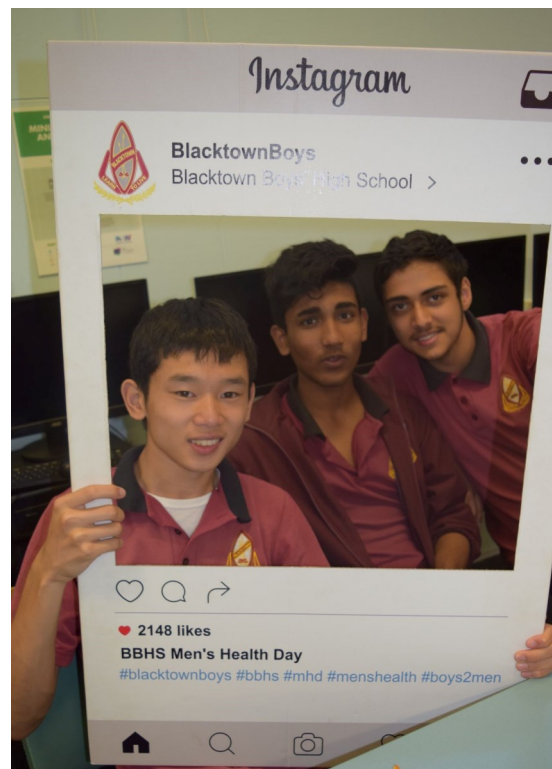
## **MEN'S HEALTH DAY**

Blacktown Boys' High School will be hosting its seventh annual Men's Health Day on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> 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 event will allow students to look after their mental and physical wellbeing, look out for their peers around them, resolve challenges together, and have fun.

Throughout the day, students and staff will be actively participating in 5 different sessions. Students have been provided with a list and description of activity options and have selected their preferred events.

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.



## 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 2024. Through the data provided by NAPLAN, Minimum Standards 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 work-

ing on ways to further develop student literacy and numeracy skills beyond their current capabilities, identifying that this is where we can make the biggest positive impact for their HSC and lives beyond school. Part of this process will also involve developing and updating student learning plans so that we can apply the most effective, evidence-based strategies to maximise their learning.

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, communication through an opportunity to take pride in their cultural identity. Although we came up short once again in the final competition, we were awarded with the 'Best Tongan Performance' overall. I am especially proud of all the students involved, as they took more ownership of the performance this year and put in a significant amount of time and effort to produce a wonderful performance. All students involved should be proud of themselves and their positive attitude and engagement with the program. An extra thank you to Ms Sharma, Mr Vaoga and Mr Knight who helped throughout the program and on the day of the Showcase.



## Transitional Adviser, Ms Aimee Marsh

As the Transitions adviser I have been working closely with educational institutions, local businesses, and community groups to provide a range of educational pathways and career opportunities designed to assist students achieve their future career goals.

Blacktown Boys' students have been actively involved in multiple TAFE NSW's Youth Engagement Strategies, namely the Start Your Future 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. While these courses are excellent industry experience for students, one of the main strengths of the program is that the courses are designed to be "taster" courses, allowing students to experience an industry of interest before committing to more lengthy qualification. This year we have had numerous students across year 9-11 attending courses such as Cyber Security, Aviation, Nursing, IT Networking, Bricklaying, Plumbing, Cooking and Interior Design.

This year we were lucky enough to partner with Academy of Interactive Technology who came to school to provide a free 2-hour workshop on IT, coding, and game design. Students learnt about current opportunities within the IT industry while having some fun learning the basics of online game design.

Students interested in pursuing a career in construction were given several opportunities to complete their white card course this year. This is a necessary qualification for any job that requires entry to a construction site. Aspiring Engineers, construction managers, carpenters and tradesman from Years 9-11 participated in the heavily subsidized course. This qualification drastically improves their future employment prospects.

PCYC are assisting and supporting students seek employment after school. This program includes 12 months of support after completing their HSC to help them achieve their goals. Funding is provided to students based on their career goals and personal situation, this funding can be used for additional training or to purchase required work equipment. One of the most valuable aspects of the program is the strong link between PCYC and local businesses with participating students already

been given job opportunities in hospitality, automotive mechanics, and IT.

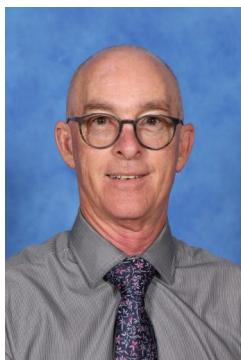
Recently, all of Year 11 were able to visit ACU university. Students participated in a 'Study Skills for the HSC' workshop, a tour of the campus and a 'Critical Thinking Skills' workshop. This was valuable advice for our Year 11s who have begun the HSC course this term. The University did a great job of providing students with a thorough explanation of their early entry program, pathways options and individualised course information. Students enjoyed seeing the facilities of the University and got to experience life as a university student.



Ernst & Young have come to BBHS twice this year. Lucky students from year 9 through to year 12 were able to participate in their "Job Readiness" workshop where they learnt valuable workforce ready skills. Interview techniques, resume writing, dressing for work, team building and networking skills.



## Career Adviser, Mr Trevor Hodges



Year 11 and 12 students have been involved in extra curricula seminars with Samarth Talali from the University of New South Wales. Students gain firsthand knowledge of Uni-

versity 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



supports identified high potential school students to develop their potential through enriched and extended learning opportunities both within and beyond the school curriculum. 10 'high potential' students in both Year 9 and 10 were selected and have begin their journey with the Academy U program



University of New South Wales Co-Op Scholarship rewards successful applicants financially with \$78,400 study assistance. Blacktown Boys' High students like Samarth Talali a rewarded every year with the honour a Co-Op Scholarship Blacktown Boys' High has become a partner school with Western Sydney University Academy U program. Academy U is an innovative academic enrichment and developmental program that focuses on delivering core experiences and content that inspires and

Year 9 students completed a 'Future Thinkers' incursion conference with ABCN. The company utilised for this event was CSR Marketing. Mentors from this company assisted in further developing students creative thinking through interactive brainstorming exercises. The outcome of this community input will impact on students' pathway and expand their knowledge with creativity in the 'world of work'. Blacktown Boys' is a fervent supporter of community delivered courses, and ABCN, as their skills 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. Year 10 students have the opportunity to attend 'Interview to Impress' with ABCN. Year 8 are involved with 'Full Steam Ahead'. Year 11 extend their pathway experience in a program called 'Aspirations'.





Congratulations to Usman Hussain who successfully applied to the university of New South Wales engineering department for 1 week of intense work experience. Usman's drive to learn and succeed in engineering was overwhelmingly received by the university, who awarded him with Dux of the class. It is encouraging to see students prove their worth at work experience, and we are expecting Usman to become a successful Co-Op student post year 12 HSC.



H.S.C. resources

<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>.

## Inclusive Education, Ms Lana Sevenoaks



Welcome to term 4. As we journey through the academic year, our focus within the Support Unit has been to enrich our students' experiences through a range of engaging activities and programs. Some recent adventures and wellbeing initiatives have been making a positive impact on our students.

We've continued our visits with Finnick the therapy dog, and he's been a great way to end each week. The presence of a therapy dog has created a calming atmosphere, fostering emotional support for our students. These visits will continue to be a regular part of our school calendar, as our students have greatly benefited from their time with Finnick.

Our recent excursions have taken students to a variety of engaging locations, allowing them to connect with new experiences and strengthen their social and functional living skills. So far this term we have visited a local restaurant and shopping centre, as part of our travel and communication skills training. We also have an upcoming community access excursion to a local park and some of our students will have the opportunity to watch this year's School Spectacular Performance.

At Blacktown Boys High School, we believe in the importance of physical health, teamwork, and the enjoyment of sports. In a few weeks our students will be participating in a Multi-Sport Day, which will be a great opportunity for our Inclusive Education students to compete against other local schools. We attended last year and it was a great day for all of the boys who participated.

We have also started transitions for our upcoming 2024 enrolments. This has involved visits to their new classes and meeting their future teachers and classmates. A separate orientation afternoon has also been organised for Tuesday 21st November. This will be an opportunity for new parents to familiarise themselves with the school and make connections with their sons' new teachers.

Our community access excursions, therapy dog visits and Multi-Sport Day, are just a few examples of how we prioritise the physical and emotional well-being of our students. As we move towards the end of the year, we look forward to preparing our students for future post-school success.

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

## Head Teacher TAS Mr Satendra Prasad



Term 4 2023 has commenced very smoothly with all our students very much engrossed in their learning and educational pathways. TAS faculty at Blacktown Boys High School can successfully boast in our ability to accommodate the learning needs and targets of all our students. This is done through new and appropriate facilities, dedicated staff, and students' determination to succeed.

I would like to thank our incredible team of staff for their continued hard work and dedication over the year, and during these four weeks with HSC exams. Their professionalism ensures that the

support for the Year 12s and other year groups who are understandably stressed at this particular time with examinations and final assessments are cared for.

TAS faculty will be introducing one new course for Year 9 and two new ones for Year 11 in 2024. This was well advertised in subject selection prospectus this year and I want to reassure students who have selected those courses that work is truly underway for the implementation. Year 12 2024 students undertaking Industrial Technology Multimedia and Timber courses are in the process of designing major project for their HSC. These students will require a lot of time and resources to make competitive projects and accompanying folios. I strongly urge them to do wide research and follow our sample guides to engage with the requirements and explore further for new trends in their chosen discipline. I encourage all students to seek teachers' assistance to clarify issues when they are posed with any dilemmas or challenges.

I would like to thank all students and parents who have paid the subject contributions. Hopefully you all can appreciate that consumables are necessary for all the practical courses such as TAS. We have been greatly affected by current inflation which has placed further constraints in our resourcing over the years. If you have not been able to pay the fees for some reason, please call the head teacher TAS to work out a support structure for families who have genuine need and make arrangement for payment options.

Well done to the Graduating Class of 2023. Now it is time for you to embark on a new adventure. I encourage you to make the most of this long summer holiday: do some travelling, enjoy some new hobbies, socialise with friends, enjoy some time to relax. Best wishes for the HSC.

### REMINDER!

As we are coming to the end of the school year please indicate if your son does **not** intend to return to Blacktown Boys High School in 2024. Student statement of account will be issued in the coming weeks.



## Year 7 2023

### Ms Michelle Winata



It's hard to believe that we've entered our final term of Year 7! As we wrap up an unforgettable year, we're thrilled to share with you some of the highlights, achievements, and what to look forward to in the upcoming weeks. "As one door closes, another door opens". Year 7, our first year of high school, is coming to an end.

What a year it has been! The boys have made new friends, invested in their learning and had so much fun along the way. Don't worry though, Year 8 is fast approaching! Ensure that you start to get ready for your new year by preparing yourself over the holidays. Do you have enough pens in your pencil case? Do you have books for every subject? Does your uniform still fit? Have you got yourself a new 2024 diary to stay organised? Don't fall behind, be ready from Day 1 and you will achieve! 2023 has been a great year and I am so fortunate to have met each of these young men! What will 2024 bring? See you back here on Friday the 2nd of February. Enjoy your holidays and stay safe!

#### Highlights:

The Year 7 Everest students were able to present their Transformational Projects to pitch their ideas to improve the Blacktown area to Bill Tsakalos who is the City Architect and Director for Transformations from Blacktown City Council. Selected students also enjoyed the end of their first wellbeing and literacy focused workshop to help them find their voice. They also were able to work on their social skills and their confidence to express their own ideas.

#### Important Reminders

**Reports:** Reports will be handed out to students later this term. Students and parents should read through reports together and take on the constructive advice given by their teachers to show improvement in 2024. Students should be setting new goals and working towards these goals to see personal growth and feel a sense of achievement.

**Uniforms:** As students prepare for Year 8, please ensure that they have the appropriate uniform sizes, this can be bought through Lowes at Blacktown Westpoint.

#### Thank You!

Parents, guardians, and students – your unwavering support, dedication, and hard work have made this year a success. A special mention to our parent volunteers who generously donated their time for various events and excursions. We're looking forward to another fantastic year ahead! Please keep an eye on the Year 7 Google Classroom and communication platforms for further updates on the dates and details of our upcoming events.



## Year 8 Adviser 2023, Ms Chloe Alfonso



With this term, we close the Year 8 and Stage 4 chapters of your study, and prepare for the new Stage 5 chapters that lay before us. These past seven terms have been a rich experience academically for our students. These skills are the foundation for a strong start into Year 9 education. Over the summer holidays, stu-

dents should establish a regular reading and homework routine, good sleep hygiene, and other healthy habits to prepare them for next year's challenges.

Our Year 8 students have also continued to grow their friendships throughout the year in class, on the playground and by participating in extracurricular activities. It is through these meaningful bonds that they've developed key elements of their identity. It is my hope, as their Year Advisor, that these relationships grow as they do so that they can find strength and support as the years progress.

I want to wish all of Year 8

HUGE congratulations on completing Stage 4, and wish them all the best in 2024.

**Congratulations to the following students for attaining excellence in curriculum, citizenship or extracurricular activities.**

### Bronze Achievement Awards:

Ibrahim Berjawi, Marley Chaudhary, Ritvik Cholia, Jithin Girish, Ayden Nightingale, Dhruv Panchal, Jacob Pauley, and Brandon Siofilisi.

All students are encouraged to strive for excellence in all areas of school, not just to receive merit cards, but to embody the values of confidence, diligence, compassion and school pride in all they do. I look forward to congratulating more students as the year progresses.

### **Some announcements and reminders for Term 4:**

#### Learn to Live Program for Term 4:

The Learn to Live outline for Year 8s this term consists of:

- My body and my brain
- White Ribbon Australia
- Goal Setting and Evaluation
- Resumé Writing
- Reflection of Stage 4

### MOTIV8 Day

Motiv8 Day is a series of motivational workshops and activities to support students as they transition into Stage 5

(Year 9 and 10). Students will be building skills such as

teamwork, self-motivation, leadership, public speaking, organisation and study skills. Motiv8 Day will run during regular school hours from 8:10am to 2:20pm, and the activity sessions will be run by the experienced staff of BBHS.

### Google Classroom for Year 8

All Year 8 students should be in the Year 8 Google Classroom. This platform is for communication between myself and the cohort. If your son is not currently enrolled in "Year 8 2023" on his Google Classroom home page, he should request a join code from Miss Alfonso as soon as possible, so as not to miss any



important announcements or notifications. This will be the same Google Classroom for Year 9 in 2024.

### **Term 4 - Cubing Club**

Congratulations to our Cubing Club members that participated in our "Personal Best Challenge" in Term 3. They were challenged to record their best average solve times throughout the term and measure their improvement progressively. Some students improved as fast as 20% beyond their initially recorded average. The achievements are as follows:

#### *Participation Award*

- Rithul Kumar
- Nikhil Kalaimalai Pradeep
- Shadin Islam (2x2 rubik's cube)

#### *Bronze Achievement (At least 10% improvement)*

- Darsh Patel - from 1:08.23 to 0:59.72
- Shadin Islam - from 0:22.48 to 0:19.65

#### *Silver Achievement (At least 15% improvement)*

- Aarav Kumar - from 0:20.37 to 0:17.28
- Yash Kusumba - from 0:38.36 to 0:32.87
- Neal Bhavsar - from 0:46.00 to 0:38.44

#### *Gold Achievement (At least 20% improvement)*

- Jason M Li - from 0:39.47 to 0:31.36
- Joshua Yu - from 0:57.51 to 0:45.69

- Ethan Lai Lee - from 0:58.09 to 0:43.33

We encourage all students that are interested in puzzles and challenges to join the Rubik's Cubing club every Monday and Wednesday during recess and lunch! They can work on improving their average times in preparation for the new competitions coming up this year.



## Year 9 and 10 Adviser 2023,

### Mr Daniel Fabricato

Welcome back to Term 4!

With a busy term ahead we see Year 10 finish their Stage 5 subjects with some completing their ROSA and heading into the workforce.

Some key events that have been run are:

- Year 9 and 10 Academy U was held in Week 3 AND Week 4. Academy U delivers unique experiences and learning opportunities to support high potential high school students to reach their unlimited potential. The Academy U program prepares students for a successful transition to university and exposes them to new study and career pathways that they may not have considered previously.
- Year 9 Peer Support Training 7<sup>th</sup> November. Students training for peer support 2024, developing their communication and active listening skills.
- Wishing Year 10 good luck on work experience in year 10

As we approach the end of the year, wishing everyone a safe and happy holidays and look forward to seeing you all back next year



## Year 11 Adviser 2023, Ms Villanueva



Welcome to what promises to be an extraordinary year - your final lap of high school and the commencement of the HSC year. It's a time of excitement, growth, and immense potential. Let's dive right into the noteworthy events that have marked the beginning of this crucial phase.

### The Debut of the Yr12 Jackets

We kicked off this term with a splash of style as Year 12 students donned their brand new Yr12 jackets. A special thank you to Ezekiel A., whose thoughtful design has made these jackets a symbol of unity and pride for our graduating class. Every time you wear them, remember, they represent not just a year but an entire journey.

### Navigating Assessments: Your Guide to the Assessment Booklet

In preparation for the assessments ahead, we gathered for a Year meeting. One of the main highlights was an in-depth review of the Assessment booklet. This booklet is your key companion throughout the year, outlining essential information regarding assessment tasks, due dates, and expectations.

### Forms: Illness, Misadventure, and Appeals

We want to ensure that you have every resource at your disposal to succeed. This year, we have new forms for illness, misadventure, and appeals. Here's a quick guide:

- Illness form - In case you're unable to attend an assessment due to illness, it's mandatory to submit a medical certificate along with this form.
- Misadventure Form - If you'll be absent from school due to a school-related activity (such as an excursion or sports event) on the day of an assessment task, please provide this form to your teacher.

These forms are available on the Yr12 2024 Google Classroom page for easy access.

### Fundraising for a Memorable Celebration: The Year 12 Formal

Year 12 has wasted no time in setting their sights on an unforgettable celebration. We've formed a dedicated fundraising team to work towards making the Year 12 Formal a spectacular event. While details are still being finetuned, the tentative plan is to host this event as a grand culmination after the HSC exams in November.

This year holds boundless potential and countless opportunities for growth and success for Year 12. As they embark on this journey, we hope they remember that the entire school community is here to support them.

To Year 12 Class of 2024, let's embrace every challenge, cherish every moment, and let's make this year truly extraordinary!

## Year 12 Adviser 2022, Ms Jessie O'Brien



Congratulations to our Graduating Class of 2023. As your learning experiences come to an end at Blacktown Boys' High School we reminisce on your past 6 years of schooling. It has been a crazy 6 years, with bushfires, floods and global pandemics, but you did it! We are all so proud of your accomplishments.

### Graduation Ceremony

Thank you to everyone who attended the Graduation ceremony and congratulations to our first in class and most improved students in each course. A special congratulations to Justice Pinono for being awarded the Long Tan Youth Leadership Award and AMPOL Best All Rounder Award and Maximus Pondal for being awarded the AMPOL Best All Rounder Award.

I would like to thank Year 12 for the wonderful signed football, cards and messages from the leaving cohort. I will cherish these memories!

### 2023 HSC

Students have now completed their examinations and we wish them the absolute best in their journeys after the HSC!

