



BIRRONG BULLETIN

The Newsletter of Birrong Girls High School

Cooper Road, Birrong 2143 Telephone: 9644 5057

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PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Dear BGHS Community,



Congratulations to all members of the Class of 2022 who have completed their exams. We welcome the Class of 2023 to the final leg of their secondary school

journey – one year to go and the clock is ticking! Now, more than ever, every day counts.

Happy World Teachers' Day to all our dedicated teaching staff. You are much valued by anyone who understands the significance of your role and impact on society. You are both heroes and legends. You deserve more than thanks every day.

Attendance

We cannot stress to our parent community, how vital it is that students attend school every day, UNLESS their illness is contagious. Learning from home was a means to an end when our conditions could not support ordinary routines. However, the most effective learning is face to face on school grounds. Every student should be attending school for over 90 percent of the time. Please make sure that there are strict routines at home that promote organisation and punctuality. Students should be in full school uniform every day and it should be clean and presentable. Every day matters. Every day is an investment in short and long term learning and results. We have received alarmingly high numbers of notifications of extended overseas travel and I urge our families to consider the detrimental impact on further absences for students. COVID dealt a heavy blow to many young people and their learning. We need to make sure your students are at school every day from now on.

Student safety and online behaviour

Parents and guardians need to be aware that there are an increasing number of sites online that expose students to inappropriate content and behaviour from members of the public. It is extremely dangerous. No matter what protective measures you have in place, unfortunately, young people find ways around them. In addition to vigilant supervision and limiting access to devices and time on devices at home, we advise ongoing conversations about cybersafe behaviour. Wherever possible young people should not be in

public online spaces and most importantly, in public groups or accounts where they can have access and be accessed by anyone. The numbers of young people, and in particular, girls, who are the victims of assault and other crimes is increasing because of their reckless behaviour online. Currently, students have been accessing portals such as 'House Party' and OME.TV (formerly known as Omegle). Both these sites expose young people to inappropriate images, content and dialogue, often with people they do not know and people who are disguising their identities.

A reminder about the mobile phone and device policies at Birrong Girls High School

At BGHS, mobile phones are banned from being used. If a student brings a phone to and from school, it must be secured in a specific space within their bag and switched off during the student's time onsite, for the duration of the entire day. Should these guidelines be breached, the student will have their phone confiscated and face potential suspension. All other devices are banned unless a student has special provisions to use the device to facilitate learning- specified due to a medical need and supported by documentation. As a result of a serious breach in safety and security processes at our school by senior students, the former policy allowing students in Year 11 and 12 to bring their devices to school is no longer permitted.

Safe and respectful conduct on the school premises

As we approach the warmer months, we remind students that stink bombs, water bombs and all other banned objects are not permitted on the school premises. The possession or use of any object that disrupts learning or jeopardises the safety of staff and students will result in serious consequences.

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Term 4 Learning

The learning scheduled across all stages this term 4 is exciting. Teachers have planned incredible lessons to teach skills and content stipulated in the curriculum and we are so fortunate that despite the many challenges faced by schools to find appropriate staff, we have been blessed with fantastic teachers and have a breadth of curriculum choices on offer. There are also some exciting field trips that have been designed and organised by faculties across the school, including a day trip to Canberra, an overnight visit to Canberra, Luna Park and Centrepont Tower. Each one of these trips is connected in special ways to learning being conducted in the school and allows students to apply their skills and knowledge in real life contexts. We are also excited about our up and coming production of *Peter and Wendy*. So much effort has gone into the performances, props and costumes. These experiences are all enriching and just a few examples of the learning possibilities that open doors and develop new insights and talents in our students.

There is still much work to be done until the last days of school this year. We remind all our students and their families that academic progress comes from adhering to work and study routines every day of the week. Practice and revision should also be part of these daily routines. Reading every night is important. Revising basic number facts is vital. This is in addition to gratitude journalling which we highly recommend as an investment in improving student wellbeing. All our students have access to a range of additional online tutorial resources including ATOMI, Edrolo and Mathletics. We encourage students to use the resources made available to them.

Warmest regards,

Zena Dabaja
Principal

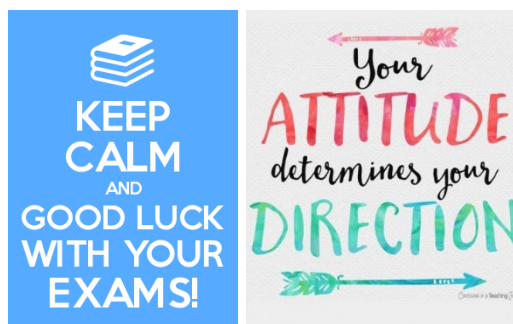
REPORT FROM THE DEPUTY PRINCIPALS

Welcome back to Term 4, a time to work hard towards future goals.

The annual 'Tell Them From Me – Partners in Learning Parent Survey' was available for all parents and carers from 11-15 October 2022. Many thanks to the 115 parents and community members who took the time to respond to the survey. The information provided by you helps us to understand more about your child's experience at school and confirms our school's areas of strength as well as areas for us to focus on in the future.

We wish all the 2022 Year 12 students the very best as they continue to complete their HSC examinations. These examinations bring to a close their secondary schooling and prepare them for continued success in their future endeavours. Good luck for your HSC examinations starting with English on Wednesday 12 October and concluding on Friday 4 November. So many of the girls have received early entry to university – congratulations, girls!

Year 12 should review the Year 12 Welfare Google classroom for updates regarding the Formal and sign out processes.



Our Year 11 students completed their Preliminary Yearly Examinations at the end of last term and they have already begun their preparation for the HSC in 2023. Students have received their reports and should spend some time reflecting on their performance. They are encouraged to seek assistance from their teachers to identify how they could achieve improvement as they embark on their Year 12 course of study. The Year 12 Handbook (assessment outline and HSC processes) has been distributed and students are encouraged to plan their term carefully, taking note of when assessment tasks are due and ensuring that they are well organised to complete all required work. Students who have not yet met the Minimum Standard for achieving the HSC will be sitting for their online tests in reading, writing and numeracy in Week 5.

Students are reminded to adhere to school procedures for assessment tasks and examinations which are explained in the

Handbook. Nightly study habits and a clear focus on completing work to develop deep understanding are essential in achieving the best possible future outcomes. It is also important that students achieve a balance between family, study and extracurricular activities. Students should get the right amount of sleep and rest, as this often impacts on the effectiveness of study routines. If students are experiencing difficulty in maintaining a balance, or need assistance with setting goals, we encourage them to be proactive and seek help from Ms Wright, Ms Shinas, Ms Salvagio, Ms Tselepi or Ms George.

Throughout Term 4 Year 10 students are expected to continue working diligently, making sure they complete all class and assessment tasks to a high standard to ensure they achieve all course outcomes. Students should also be preparing for their Year 10 final exams which will be held during Week 4. In Week 5, students who have not yet met the Minimum Standard for achieving the HSC will be sitting for their online tests in reading, writing and numeracy. All Year 10 students have now chosen their preliminary subjects for Year 11 2023. Students were required to reflect on their selections and consider if their choices were best suited to their capabilities and future career aspirations. It is important that students listen to the ongoing advice from staff and continue to make effective decisions allowing them to achieve to the best of their ability. For some students, the prospect of gaining a traineeship or apprenticeship (working and undergoing training whilst being paid) may be a more appealing and appropriate pathway. Parents of Year 10 students considering an alternate pathway are encouraged to make an appointment to discuss the best options and opportunities for success beyond Year 10 with Ms Shinas, the school's Transition / Careers Adviser.

Year 9 students are encouraged to continue to engage with their learning for the remainder of the school year in preparation for Year 10 in 2023. Students received their NAPLAN results in Term 3. These results allow parents to reflect on some areas of their daughter's progress in literacy and numeracy and allow teachers to plan to further develop literacy and numeracy skills through targeted teaching practices.

Year 8 students are also encouraged to ensure they complete all the required tasks and prepare for their yearly examinations. It is important for all students to attend school every day as we progress through Term 4. All Year 8 students have selected their Year 9 elective subjects for 2023. These electives will continue to be studied in Year 10 2024.

Year 7 students also received their NAPLAN results in Term 3. To improve, it is vital that parents provide an environment that encourages regular reading which will assist students to improve their

comprehension as well as vocabulary. Preparation for yearly examinations is also important for all the girls to prioritise.



Parents are reminded that the Homework Centre is available for students to complete work and seek

assistance when they experience difficulty. It operates on-line on Mondays via Google Classroom and Zoom (from 3.45 - 6.30pm), and operates from the school's library on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays (from 2.50 - 4.45pm) and is supervised by qualified teachers from the school. This term will be a busy time studying for and completing assessment tasks, and preparing for yearly examinations. Now is the time to work especially hard to ensure that reports reflect students' efforts and capabilities.

Every day your daughter should be spending a minimum of 2 hours on her homework, assignments and revision as well as extra time for study and reading. To help students, parents should discuss their work and outwardly show interest in their learning. This could involve regularly asking them about their learning and helping them to establish a study plan to achieve their goals. Successful students always identify family support as a key element to achieving their success and acknowledge the support accordingly.

Please regularly check the school's communication channels such as the website, Facebook, Instagram and SkoolBag App for school updates.

Ad Astra! Aim for your very best this term!

Ms George, Ms Andrews, Ms Cross and Ms Blue
Deputy Principals



**BIRRONG GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL
PARENTS & CITIZENS ASSOCIATION**

**Parents are invited to attend the
P & C MEETING
onsite and online
on Wednesday 9 November 2022
at 4:30pm**

**Please register your attendance by phoning
the school office**

WELFARE MATTERS



Congratulations to all our students who have maintained very good attendance of over 95% in Term 3. These students will receive a Recognition Award at their Year assembly in Weeks 2 or 3. Students are encouraged to be at school every day unless they are sick. Every student can improve their attendance percentage by coming to school every day. Attending school every day is key to maintaining good levels of learning and therefore achieving success.

Student of the Month Award



Congratulations to Viola Nguyen of Year 10 who has been awarded the Student of the Month Award for September 2022. She has demonstrated dedication to her learning and citizenship to the school community. She has a mature and positive attitude toward all aspects of her schooling and is an excellent role model for her peers. Viola has carried out valuable school service through her commitment and active involvement in school programs and events. She has demonstrated responsibility, enthusiasm, and commitment as a member of the Student Representative Council. She has been supportive of fundraising and awareness raising activities. Viola has represented the school as a dedicated participant of the Fast Forward Program and she has successfully competed in the Bebras Australia Computational Thinking Challenge over the past two years. She has recently joined the school's ukulele group to expand her skills in music.

Viola takes opportunities to participate in various activities out of school including attending weekly dance classes at the IMI Dance Studio and swimming. She also enjoys dog sitting for friends and family on the weekends. Up until earlier this year Viola was a member of the Bonnyrigg Temple Scouts group where she was involved in assisting with community fundraisers and events.

Her future goal is to attend university at UNSW to study Biochemical Engineering which combines science and medicine which she is passionate about. She hopes to pursue a career in the medical field. Viola aspires to make a positive contribution to society that will benefit the wellbeing of others. She would also like to do volunteer work overseas in schools of developing countries in struggling communities such as Vietnam, Cambodia and Kenya.

School Vaccination Program

In Week 6B on Friday 18 November the Area Health nurses will be completing the vaccination

program for Year 7 students. This will be Dose 2 of HPV and a single dose of Boostrix (Diphtheria, Tetanus and Pertussis) for those who selected these vaccines earlier in the year. If students missed a vaccine earlier in the year the nurses will catch them up at this visit.

Mrs Salvagio

Head Teacher Female Students

CAREERS NEWS

Year 12

Congratulations to the 16 students who successfully completed the U@Uni Academy program through UTS. These students have spent the past 2 years participating in this program including workshops, on campus events, webinars and online learning activities. Birrong Girls is very proud of them for their commitment and dedication to this program that supports them to secure a spot at UTS after their HSC.



We wish all Year 12 students the best of luck for their HSC exams. Please remember that the Careers office is always open for students and parents/carers to speak to a Careers Adviser whenever the need arises.

Year 11

Year 11 have started participating in their Careers session as a part of the 'Are You HSC Ready?' program. During this session students will start to learn the basics about post-school pathways, university, different schemes they may be eligible to apply for and will gain valuable information and access to careers resources. The Careers Advisers will be supporting students every step of the way over the course of the next year to enable students to make informed career decisions about post-school career pathways.

Year 10

Work Experience forms are now overdue and need to be returned to the Careers office ASAP. Work Experience is a compulsory program that will see all Year 10 students going out to experience a workplace and specific career in Week 8. If any students or parents/carers have any issues securing a workplace or have questions, please speak to a Careers Adviser. This fantastic program will be a great opportunity for our students to gain

an understanding of the world of work, learn new skills and test out a potential future career.

Ms Wailes/Ms Shinas
Careers Advisers

LIBRARY NEWS

Premier's Reading Challenge (PRC)

Later this term the 2022 Premier's Reading Challenge Certifications will arrive. We look forward to congratulating the 60 students who completed the challenge. In the meantime, some certificates from previous years are still being presented and distributed.



Marya Fayad receives her PRC certificate

Wrap With Love

On Friday 7 October the Wrap With Love organisation were pleased to accept the donation of 10 wraps from Birrong Girls. They are being distributed to refugees from Syria and The Ukraine and needy people in the Solomon Islands. Knitting and crocheting is ongoing in the library at lunchtime each Thursday.



Halloween in the Library



Mr Davidson
Teacher Librarian

Ancient China in the Library

Mr Davidson gave Ms Haken's 7S class a practical demonstration of Chinese brush painting.



He also told an ancient Asian story about water carriers using Kamishibai.



Ms Haken
History Teacher

BIRRONG GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL CALENDAR

November:

Friday, 4 th	▪ Last day HSC exams
Wednesday, 9 th	▪ P&C meeting, onsite and online, 4:30pm
Friday, 11 th	▪ Remembrance Day
Wednesday, 16 th	▪ Year 12 sign out, 8:30am – 10:30am
Thursday, 17 th	▪ Year 12 Formal
Friday, 18 th	▪ Visit 3 Year 7 Dose 2: HPV vaccine and booster dose of dTpa (Diphtheria, Tetanus and Pertussis-Boostrix)
Monday, 21 st to Friday, 25 th	▪ Year 10 Leadership Week
<u>November/December:</u> Monday, 28 th November to Friday, 2 nd December	▪ Year 10 Work Experience
Tuesday, 29 th November	▪ Orientation Day for Year 7, 2023 9:15am – 12:30pm



CONFIDENCE CLINIC FOR TEENS

Are you a PARENT...?

Does your child lack self-confidence or is shy and timid?

Emile the founder of Little Boomers Basketball and university graduate, will be holding a specialised confidence clinic exclusively for teens ages 13-17.

What will the 6-hour workshop cover for your teen?

- ✓ How to improve self-confidence
- ✓ How to coach and teach children
- ✓ Successful habits teens must adopt in 2022
- ✓ Developing a strong tone of voice
- ✓ Body language and communication
- ✓ Developing life skills to use after high school
- ✓ Preparing for the workforce in 2022
- ✓ Mixed sessions boys and girls focusing on skill development

When is it? December 4th, 2022

Where will it take place?

At the Morris Iemma Indoor Sports Centre, Riverwood.

ⓘ We are only offering 30 spots for this once-in-a-lifetime event.

Use this link to book - <https://bit.ly/3sHn36H>

☎ Call us on 0422 320 492 for any questions.

School Travel

Term 4 2022

2023 school travel applications are now open

Applications for student travel in 2023 open from **Monday 10 October 2022**.

Students who need a School Opal card or travel pass for 2023 can [apply](#) now. A new application will need to be submitted if they are applying for the first time, or if they are requesting an additional travel entitlement as a result of a new shared parental responsibility situation (e.g. joint custody).

Students who change address, school, campus location, have repeated a year or received an expiry notification from Transport for NSW for their school travel entitlement should [renew or update](#) their details before **the end of term 4**. This will ensure that schools can endorse applications, and entitlements remain valid for the start of the 2023 school year. School Opal card holders will have the changes applied to their existing card.

If a student's distance eligibility has changed based on their grade (i.e. grade two to grade three), the system will automatically update their entitlement if they meet the new criteria. If they do not meet the new [eligibility criteria](#), we will send an expiry notification via email.

Students who have an entitlement approved under a medical condition that is due to expire will receive a notification advising them to re-apply.

[Term Bus Pass](#) holders will receive a notification to re-apply.

Students in the Opal network applying for an Opal card (including a Term Bus Pass) for the first time will receive their Student Opal card at their nominated postal address. Cards will be mailed out from January 2023.

Students living in rural and regional (R&R) areas should receive their travel pass at the start of the new school year from their nominated transport operator. It may come via the school or be sent directly to them at home. **Note:** some R&R operators do not issue travel passes. Students/parents should confirm with their nominated operator if they do not receive a pass.

Travel from Term 1 2023

We ask that parents plan ahead and make sure their child knows which service/s to use and has a valid ticket to travel; either a School Opal card or Child/Youth Opal card (within Greater Sydney) or a School Travel Pass (outside Greater Sydney), from the start of the school year.

Applications for 2023 School Student Transport Scheme (SSTS) travel open at the start of Term 4 2022, so parents/students can [apply](#) or [update](#) details early and be ready for the start of the new school year.

Most students using the Opal network will not need a new Opal card and can continue travelling on their existing card each year.

The start of the year is a busy period for local transport operators, and students travelling without a valid ticket make service planning and operations difficult.

We recognise that for some families last minute changes to school enrolments mean they may not have a School Opal card or Travel Pass for the start of term. In the Opal network, we strongly encourage these families to have their children travel with a Child/Youth Opal card until they receive their valid School Opal card. If outside Greater Sydney, parents should contact their [local bus operator](#) to discuss their travel needs.

Bus operators are flexible and understanding, particularly at the start of the school year, and will ensure students can travel safely to and from school. But to best support our operators we encourage all students to have a valid ticket, as early as possible, from the start of the school year.

Students using School Opal cards are also reminded that they must tap on and tap off in line with the [Student code of conduct](#) and [Opal terms of use](#).



Further information can be found at transportnsw.info/travel-info/using-public-transport/school-travel

Enquiries can be submitted at transportnsw.info/contact-us/feedback/passes-concessions-feedback

