



# BIRRONG BULLETIN

## The Newsletter of Birrong Girls High School

Cooper Road, Birrong 2143 Telephone: 9644 5057

Issue No. 8

December 2023

### RELIEVING PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Dear BGHS Community,

2023 has been another very rewarding year at Birrong Girls High School. The achievements and the spirit of the students combined with the dedication and commitment of the staff have certainly made this year highly successful.

This success is evident in the student's yearly reports which will be distributed to Years 7-10 students in Week 9 of this term. The reports show that the majority of our girls are committed to the first of the school values, personal excellence (*Ad astra*), and their own learning through their attendance, sound academic results and application to learning. I encourage all parents to read your daughter's report carefully, discuss the teacher's comments with your daughter and acknowledge and praise excellent achievement and offer encouragement for improvement.

We will meet our Year 7 students for 2024 at their **Orientation Day on Tuesday 28 November**. We have enrolled over 120 Year 7 girls already for 2024 as many families in the local community have heard about the high quality teaching and learning that happens at Birrong Girls and want their daughters to be a part of our success.

The Year 12 class of 2023 worked hard and deserve to do well. I look forward to receiving notification of their **HSC results on Thursday 14 December**. Many will achieve high Australian Tertiary Admission Ranks (ATAR) and pursue further study at university or TAFE, while others will enter the workforce. Regardless of their results and ATAR rankings, the values of personal excellence, respect, responsibility, cooperation, integrity, understanding, tolerance and inclusion integral to this school and public education, will serve them well. They leave this school well prepared for life-long learning with skills and knowledge to take their place as active and caring citizens in our society. They can be proud to have been students of Birrong Girls High School.

I look forward to seeing our parents at the Presentation Day on Wednesday 13 December at Bankstown Sports Club for a 12 o'clock start. This is where we recognise student achievements within the classroom, across the sporting domains and extra-curricular platforms.

### Congratulations to...

Ms Lisa Boyle who was recognised for her outstanding leadership across the school and her commitment to school improvement at the DoE Principals' Network Celebration event on 18 October. Catherine Le, our school Captain, was selected to MC the event.



Catherine Le and Ms Boyle

### School Build Update

On Friday 27 October we had the pleasure of Uncle Harry visiting Birrong Girls High to lead the smoking/cleansing ceremony on the new build site. It was a lovely occasion full of education, understanding and sharing of cultural knowledge and custom.



Smoking/cleansing ceremony

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On Wednesday 15 November we hosted The Hon. Prue Car, Deputy Premier of NSW, Minister for Education and Early Learning who came onsite for the official Sod Turn to recognise the major upgrades we have been waiting so long for. The new build includes a multipurpose hall, covered outdoor learning area, upgraded reception area and additional classrooms.



Ms Dabaja, The Hon. Prue Car and Catherine Le

By the end of Term 4 we will no longer have a school hall, it will be demolished to make way for a three storey building and a brand new hall. We will also have upgrades to our internal playground spaces to make them more accessible to all students. Keep updated on the changes to our school site via our social media platforms.

#### **Thanks very much to...**

- All the teachers and the administration staff who have worked so hard and selflessly throughout 2023 to make Birrong Girls such an exciting, interesting, dynamic and successful school. Their efforts are appreciated and celebrated by most of our girls in classrooms every day.
- The small and dedicated band of parents who contribute their time and energy to the school's P&C.
- To the Deputy Principals, Ms Andrews, Ms Blue and Ms Winchcombe, and all our Head Teachers for their hard work and incredible support throughout a very busy and demanding year.

#### **End of Year Invoices**

Families will be emailed an account of outstanding learning charges. These charges are linked to subject or elective course requirements which need to be paid in full. The statement also itemises the voluntary contributions which are 'voluntary'; however, these funds support the school to purchase paper to print work sheets, buy updated

textbooks, novels and other valuable learning support materials so it would be very supportive if these contributions can also be paid. If you have any concerns regarding the invoice please contact the school on 9644 5057 to discuss.

#### **Happy Holidays!**

On behalf of the school, I would like to wish you all a happy, healthy, safe and relaxing holiday and a happy new year. The last day of the school year for students is Friday 15 December 2023.

Best wishes.

Renee George  
**Relieving Principal**

#### **REPORT FROM THE DEPUTY PRINCIPALS**

As the school year for 2023 draws to a close, it is a great time to reflect on personal and whole school community achievements especially this year with the many challenges we have all faced.

First and foremost is our school commitment to the delivery of Quality Teaching. Birrong Girls High School teachers take enormous pride in the quality of the teaching which occurs in each classroom. Our ongoing dedication towards the Quality Teaching Framework supported by the partnership with the University of Newcastle continues to consolidate the effectiveness of lesson delivery, assessment of student understanding and assists teachers to improve the value of teacher feedback to students and parents/carers. We have continued to strengthen student writing through the use of ALARM and the use of HSC High Leverage Strategies supported by teacher professional learning.

We hope our parent and carer community will join with us for our School Presentation Day being held at Bankstown Sports Club on Wednesday 13 December. This will be a time to acknowledge and celebrate the great achievements of so many of our students.

Year 7 students had an exciting and fun-filled day when they visited Luna Park this term, which was the icing on the cake following their engagement in the STEAM (Science, Technology and Visual Arts) Project which centred around forces and a rollercoaster design. We congratulate the students who won the rollercoaster challenge from 7G – Ehsan Hamed, Lily Tran and Rahila Mousawi.

Year 8 students participated in the VALID online Science testing during Week 3 and have finalised their elective subjects for 2024.

Years 7, 8 and 9 have completed NSW Department of Education Check-In assessments in literacy and numeracy as part of the school's monitoring of students'

core skills and knowledge. This data will be used to inform teaching and learning programs in 2024.

Year 10 students have completed their yearly examinations but remain hard at work as they complete 'All My Own Work', a mandatory NESA requirement for all students entering Year 11. Year 10 students concluded the year with leadership training to be able to sign up and participate as a Year 11 mentor in the Peer Support Training program. During Week 8 all students completed one week of work experience following their week of leadership activities.

Year 11 participated in the compulsory Life Ready program on Friday 17 November. The day provided students with a greater understanding of the consequences, both positive and negative, of personal choices in various life situations. The students experienced presentations by young adults whose lives have been affected by risk taking behaviours and poor life choices. Students have officially begun their HSC courses across all subjects. Parents were invited to a workshop 'Welcome to the HSC: Parent Edition' on Thursday 30 November – to explore how to support student undertaking the HSC. Thanks to parents who engaged with this important session.

Year 12 have officially signed out of school and attended their formal on 16 November. The night was a wonderful celebration, the end of this chapter of their lives. We wish them all the very best with their future endeavours. The HSC results and ATAR notifications will be released on Thursday 14 December. We look forward to seeing and hearing from the girls on the 14 December for our HSC Celebration Morning Tea from 9:30am – 10:30am!

The last day of the year for all students is Friday 15 December. All students are expected to be at school on time every day in full school uniform up until that day.

A reminder about the correct school shoe required by the Birrong Girls Uniform policy. It must be hard, leather school shoe with a solid heel. Runners / joggers or soft leather type shoes are not acceptable. Please note the poster included in this bulletin.

We wish those who are celebrating a Merry Christmas and we wish all our families a safe and happy holiday break.

## Approved Footwear for Birrong Girls High School





### Birrong Girls High School AusRelief Fundraiser

Congratulations to our Birrong Girls High School community, for their efforts this term in raising funds for the AusRelief – Gaza Crisis Appeal. This important initiative is providing medical supplies, medical treatment and food aid to those in need. The team raised over **\$5000** for the cause – an incredible achievement!

Our Year 10 student organisers were completely blown away by the response of our school community, both staff and students. Everyone was so generous. Year 10 students, supported by staff and some other inspiring students baked, served, supervised the lines, donated and purchased treats.

Special congratulations must go to the following students who coordinated the event:

- Aaya Abedine
- Zainab Al Awady
- Rafika Amouri
- Ayah Asswad
- Farah Al-Qaddoumi
- Sophia Darwiche
- Jada Dib
- Saffiya Elmoubayed
- Alicia Mansour

Service learning is such an important part of our broader curriculum. This is a reminder to all of us that although no one can do everything, everyone can do something. Congratulations to our compassionate community.

Ms Andrews, Ms Blue and Ms Winchcombe

### WELFARE MATTERS



Congratulations to all our students who have maintained very good attendance of over 95% over

the year. We especially congratulate students who have achieved 100% attendance as at 21 November. Congratulations to Summaya Ali Zada, Ella Chehade, Teresa Le, Kasaya Naikarua, Kayla Watson and Gabriella Wright of Year 7; Charlotte Phan and Monica Tran of Year 8; Sophia Chau, Precious Sukpen and Jessica Tran of Year 9; Bonnie Han of Year 10 and Karthika Athawan, Catherine Le, Julie Ngo and Cindy Trieu of Year 11.

### Student of the Month Awards



Congratulations to Catherine Le of Year 11 who has been awarded the Student of the Month Award for September 2023. She has demonstrated leadership, initiative and responsibility to the school community. She displays strong citizenship and is an outstanding role model to her

peers.

Catherine has carried out exceptional school service through her active involvement and dedication in various programs and teams. She has been an active and dedicated member of the School Environmental and Social Justice Teams and a supportive and caring Peer Reading Tutor supporting the literacy development of Year 7 students. Catherine has demonstrated exceptional commitment and leadership which have been acknowledged and celebrated through her election as the School Captain for 2023 and 2024.

Catherine participated in the UTS@Uni Program where she experienced a week in the media and film faculty. During that time she created a micro-short film "Me to You", that explored the experiences of the child of immigrant parents, which was acknowledged and won the Excellency Award.

Her future goal is to attend university to attain a degree in Communications, specialising in media arts and production. Catherine aspires to pursue a career in the field of film making. She would like to make films that showcase her identity as an Australian Vietnamese living in Western Sydney and represent her cultural community in mainstream media.



Congratulations to Paris Gao of Year 11 who has been awarded the Student of the Month Award for October 2023. She has demonstrated citizenship, leadership and commitment to the school community and she consistently demonstrates diligence, respect of others and a mature approach to her learning.

Paris is a strong leader at the whole school level which was acknowledged by receiving the Australian Defence Force 2022 Leadership and Teamwork Award. She has demonstrated outstanding leadership and commitment to the school community and has been voted as the

School Vice-Captain in Wellbeing. She has been a committed and active SRC member involved in fundraising and events. Paris has been a supportive and enthusiastic Peer Support Leader and Peer Reading Tutor supporting the transition and literacy development of Year 7 students. She has also positively participated in the Fast Forward UWS Program.

Paris enjoys working part-time and gaining valuable skills and experiences through her work and she now appreciates the value of work and financial independence. In her leisure time she enjoys spending time swimming, ice skating and walking along the beach.

Her future goals are to attend university to attain a degree in the medical field. She aspires to pursue a career as an anaesthetist working in hospitals to support the work of surgical teams. Paris hopes to travel overseas in the future to appreciate the beauty of other places and to experience various cultures and people.



Congratulations to Zanjabella Zoud of Year 11 who has been awarded the Student of the Month Award for November 2023. She has demonstrated citizenship, perseverance and diligence in her learning and a positive attitude to all aspects

of her schooling.

Zanjabella has shown commitment to the school community through her involvement in various programs and teams over the years. She has been an active member of the Social Justice Team and the school Debating Team. Zanjabella shows leadership and cooperation in her role as the Vice-Captain for School Service for 2023 to 2024 and has participated in various causes such as the Birthing Kit Assembling and various fundraising events, such as the Ration Challenge.

Out of school, Zanjabella successfully applied to be one of 12 NSW members of the Advocate for Children and Young People (ACYP) Youth Advisory Council where she attends meetings regularly throughout the year to discuss a range of relevant youth topics, as well as monitoring and evaluating youth-related policies and legislation which affect young people.

Her future goals are to attend university to study veterinary medicine to pursue a career as a Vet to care for animals. Another aspiration of Zanjabella's is to study literature and pursue a career as an international journalist specialising in humanitarian issues. She hopes to be able to advocate for a better future by publishing her own compositions.

## The Year 4/5 Enrichment Day

The Year 4/5 Enrichment Day was held at Birrong Girls High School on 16 November where students from Bankstown North Public, Berala Public, Birrong Public, Lidcombe Public, Regents Park Public and Yagoona Public schools participated in various classes. The day gave the Year 4 and 5 girls an opportunity to experience a day in high school and to meet students from other primary schools.



## End of the year message

The school's Welfare Team members greatly appreciate the ongoing support and care our students receive from their dedicated families and from the various external support and wellbeing services that assist and guide our students through their educational journey. We thank the parents and guardians of our school community for their ongoing commitment and efforts in encouraging our students to work hard to reach their full potential and experience success in both their academic and personal lives.

We wish all our students and their families a happy and restful school vacation and look forward to a very successful 2024.

Ms Salvagio  
**Head Teacher Female Students**

### **BIRRONG GIRLS ATTEND THE NSW PARLIAMENT YOUTH SUMMIT**



On 19 October 8 SRC students joined over 100 students from 16 schools across NSW to discuss ways to combat prejudice and foster an inclusive, cohesive country at the Together for Humanity (TFH) NSW Youth Summit, held at the Parliament of NSW and St Stephen's Uniting Church.

Schools involved represented a cross section of NSW's Independent, Catholic and Government sectors with Catholic, Islamic, Jewish and other faiths represented.

Each school was given an opportunity to voice their ideas around the summit's theme 'Diversity and Connection', making presentations on real-world issues experienced and suggesting solutions to inspire unity.

The Birrong Girls team consisting of; Shrouq Abu-Aguleh, Alexis Acheampong, Bassma Alameddine, Sarah Ali, Saira Ali Zada, Souraya Kamaleddine, Precious Sukpen and Gabriella Wright, wanted to address the issue of providing services for migrant women affected by domestic violence. Their presentation focused on the idea of taking advantage of existing school relationships through the development of more community hubs in schools to create safe spaces where victims could gain access to information, support and services.

Dr Phil Lambert, CEO of Together for Humanity (TFH), commended our presenters for a "professionally executed and well-researched presentation on an emotive topic." Special mention must also be given to Precious Sukpen who had the daunting task of sharing the broader group's ideas to our NSW members of Parliament.

Throughout the day, students engaged in open communication with peers and formed meaningful connections across diverse cultures, faiths and backgrounds. There were opportunities for collaboration, where students workshopped proposals on how to make Australia a country free from prejudice, which were presented to politicians and community leaders. They also heard from keynote speakers including journalist Amelia Moseley (ABC's Behind the News and BTN High) and young Gomeroi student Noah Smith the 2023 Northern Beaches Young Citizen of the Year, the Youth Speak Out Against Racism (SOAR), Premier of the Y NSW Youth Parliament and a member of the Federal First Nations Youth Advisory Group. TFH is an inclusive educational organisation focused on fostering intercultural understanding within school communities and helping students to navigate differences by seeing past stereotypes.

"By empowering young people and giving them the tools to challenge prejudice, we can help them to shape a more tolerant society," said Together For Humanity Dean and Founder Rabbi Zalman Kastel AM. "The Youth Summit offers a chance for their views to be heard and for them to listen."

Schools involved represent NSW's Independent, Catholic and Government sectors, with Catholic, Islamic, Jewish and other faiths represented. Government schools that attended were The Forest High School, Birrong Girls High School, Inner Sydney High School, Pendle Hill High School, Broken Hill High School, Willyama High School (Broken Hill), Asquith Girls High School, St George Girls High School and Barrenjoey High School.



Politicians and community leaders who attended included:

- The Hon. Chris Minns MP, Premier, Member of the Legislative Assembly, Member for Kogarah.
- The Hon Jihad Dib MP, Member of the Legislative Assembly, Member for Bankstown, Minister for Customer Service & Digital Government, Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Youth Justice.
- The Hon Natalie Ward MLC, Deputy Leader of the Liberal Party, Member of the Legislative



Council, Shadow Minister for Transport and Roads, Shadow Minister for Infrastructure and Shadow Minister for the Illawarra and South Coast.

- Mr Greg Warren MBA MAICD MP, Member of the Legislative Assembly, Member for Campbelltown, Parliamentary Secretary to the Deputy Premier, Parliamentary Secretary for Education and Early Learning and Parliamentary Secretary for Western Sydney.

- Ms Julia Finn BA MEnvStud, MSocSc(IntlDev) MP, Member of the Legislative Assembly, Member for Granville, Parliamentary Secretary to the Premier, Parliamentary Secretary for the Arts.

- Ms Cate Faehrmann MLC, Member of the Legislative Council, Member of The Greens.

- Larissa Minniecon, Co-founder of We Are the Mainstream.

- Dr Lisa Sarzin, Partnerships Consultant Tranby National Indigenous Adult Education and Training Centre.

- Catherine Towiro, Interfaith Encounters Program Coordinator Catholic Mission.

- Ed St John, CEO Courage to Care.

- Nyadol Nyuon OAM, Multicultural Framework Review Committee panel member, lawyer and human rights activist.

- Alan Tongue, Community Innovation Programs Manager at the NRL, ABC Sports Commentator and ACT Nominee for Australian of the Year.

- Peter Kensey, Director, Social Cohesion and Languages, Teaching and Learning, Australian Government Department of Education.

- Marie Mercardo, Child Safe Coordinator, Office of the Children's Guardian.

All listened intently to the students' ideas and offered valuable feedback. It was a wonderful opportunity for our students to engage with politicians and to see the impact their voices can have.

Ms Mezzino

**SRC Coordinator**

## BIRRONG GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL CALENDAR

### December 2023

Wednesday, 13<sup>th</sup>

- Presentation Day at Bankstown Sports Club Grand Ballroom, 12pm

Friday, 15<sup>th</sup>

- End of Term 4 for students

Monday, 18<sup>th</sup>

- School Development Day – staff only

Tuesday, 19<sup>th</sup>

- School Development Day – staff only

**Very best wishes for the festive season to all.  
Enjoy the holiday break!**



### January 2024

Tuesday, 30<sup>th</sup>

- School Development Day - staff only

Wednesday, 31<sup>st</sup>

- School Development Day - staff only

### February 2024

Thursday, 1<sup>st</sup>

- Years 7, 11 & 12 return

Friday, 2<sup>nd</sup>

- All other year groups return

Monday, 26<sup>th</sup>

- Welcome BBQ – Year 7 and new students, 4:30pm

Wednesday, 28<sup>th</sup>

- P&C meeting, onsite, 5pm

## SCHOOL OPAL CARDS FOR 2024 TRAVEL

All students must keep their School Opal cards for travel in 2024. These cards will be automatically deactivated for school holidays and then reactivated for school travel in Term 1.

If the student already has a School Opal card and is changing schools or home address, you will need to update their School Opal card for the new school year at: **[transportsw.info](https://transportsw.info)**



The Amy Gillett Foundation is Australia's leading cycling safety organisation. We're dedicated to making bike riding safe for everyone in the community, and making it easier for people to choose to ride a bike.

**We're reaching out to Birrong Girls High School because in the past 40 years, the percentage of children who walk or ride to school has dropped from 75% to 25%. And we know that one of the top reasons why parents hold their kids back from riding to school is because of safety concerns.**

We want to help turn this trend around by **making it safe for kids and families around Australia to ride their bike** for all sorts of trips.

The Amy Gillett Foundation was recently successful in securing \$6 million from the Australian Government to roll out our [Safe Roads for Safe Cycling program](#). As part

of this program, we're undertaking a range of projects designed to make our streets safe for people in the community who want to ride a bike, especially our most vulnerable road users like children.

One part of this program is BikeSpot 2023 – an interactive map which allows anyone to mark where they feel safe or unsafe while riding their bike. You can view the map and make your mark at: [bikespot.org](https://bikespot.org)

As the largest ever crowdsourcing bike safety project in Australia, BikeSpot is an incredibly exciting project which gives you the power to have input into cycling safety upgrades in your neighbourhood.

**We've already had 20,000 contributions to the map since it launched last month, and we would love to see Birrong Girls High School get involved.**



# Birrong Girls High School Timetable



Effective 10 October 2016. Revised August 2023

## Morning services

### 908 From Guildford

Guildford Station Railway St	07:22
Guildford Excelsior St at Rawson Rd	07:27
South Granville Mona St after Clyde St	07:35
Auburn Station South Pde, Stand A	07:50
Berala Park Rd at Clarke St	07:59
Regents Park Station Amy St (opp)	08:11
Regents Park Karringul School Auburn Rd	08:12
Birrong Girls High School Cooper Rd (opp)	08:13

### 909 From Bankstown

Bankstown Station Stand D	07:57
Bankstown Central The Mall (opp)	08:00
Birrong Boys High School Cooper Rd	08:06
Birrong Girls High School Cooper Rd	08:08

### S401 From Bass Hill

Bass Hill Walshaw Park, Buist St (opp)	07:46
Birrong Boys High School Cooper Rd	07:56
Birrong Girls High School Cooper Rd	07:58

Morning bus route map - see next page

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The bus services contained in this timetable are run by Transit Systems.

For the most up-to-date times and travel options, use the Trip Planner or Departures at [transportnsw.info](http://transportnsw.info). There may be more travel options available than those shown in this timetable.

Times are shown in 24-hour time (e.g. 5am = 05:00, 5pm = 17:00).

Information contained in this timetable is subject to change without notice. It does not include times for minor stops, short term changes, real-time information or any disruption alerts.

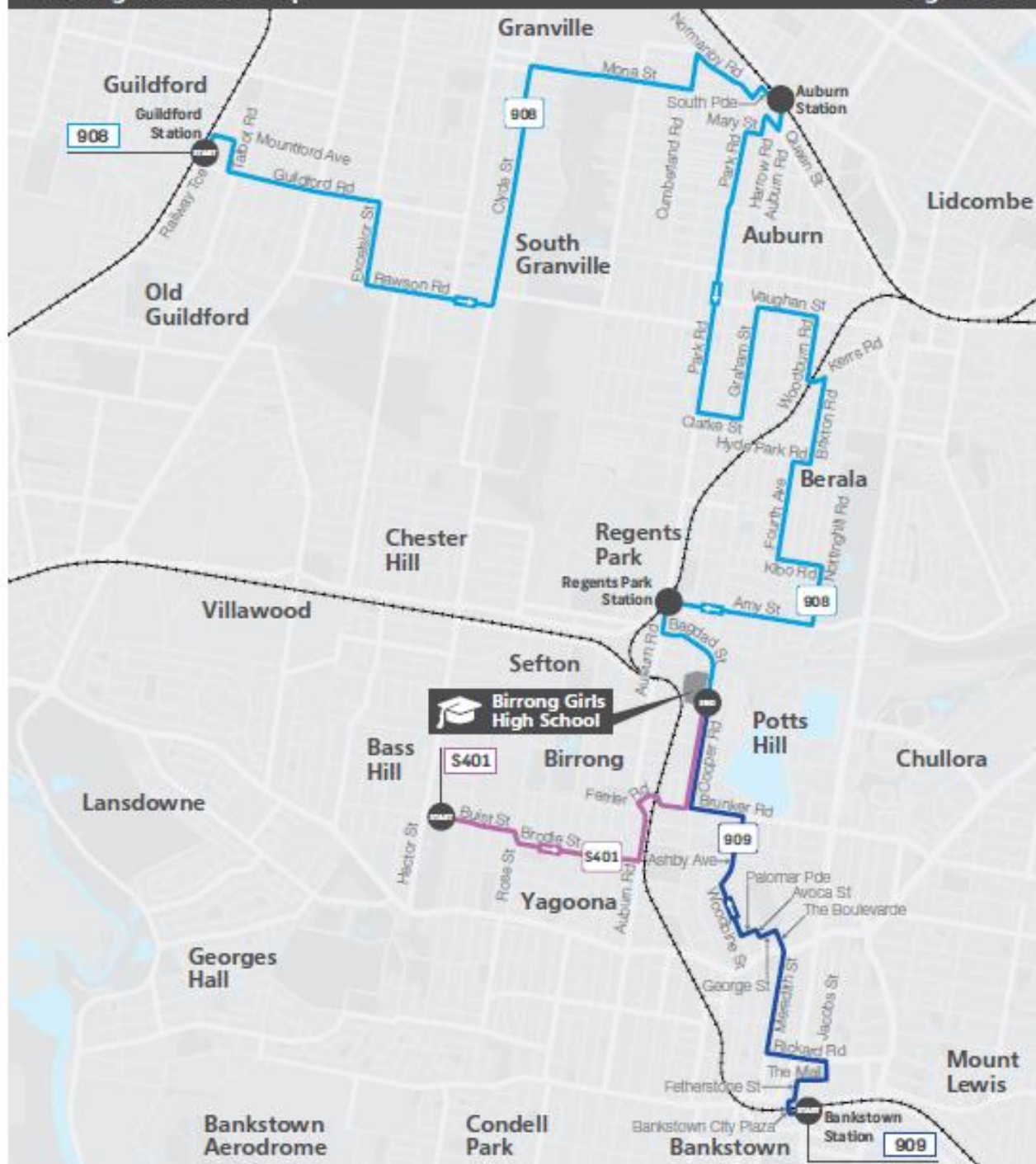
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Effective 10 October 2016. Revised August 2023

## Morning bus route map

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## Afternoon services

908 To Guildford		S406 To Bass Hill	
Birrong Girls High School Cooper Rd (opp)	14:55	Birrong Girls High School Cooper Rd (opp)	14:57
Birrong Boys High School Cooper Rd	15:00	Birrong Boys High School Cooper Rd	15:00
Regents Park Station Amy St	15:04	Bass Hill Walshaw Park, Buist St	15:12
Auburn Station South Pde, Stand B	15:25		
South Granville Mona St before Clyde St	15:34	S500 To North Bankstown	
Guildford Rawson Rd opp Excelsior St	15:43	Birrong Girls High School Cooper Rd (opp)	14:55
Guildford Station Railway St	15:50	Birrong Boys High School Cooper Rd (opp)	15:00
		Yagoona Ashby Ave before McMillan St	15:04
		North Bankstown The Boulevard at Hume Hwy	15:10

Afternoon bus route map - see next page

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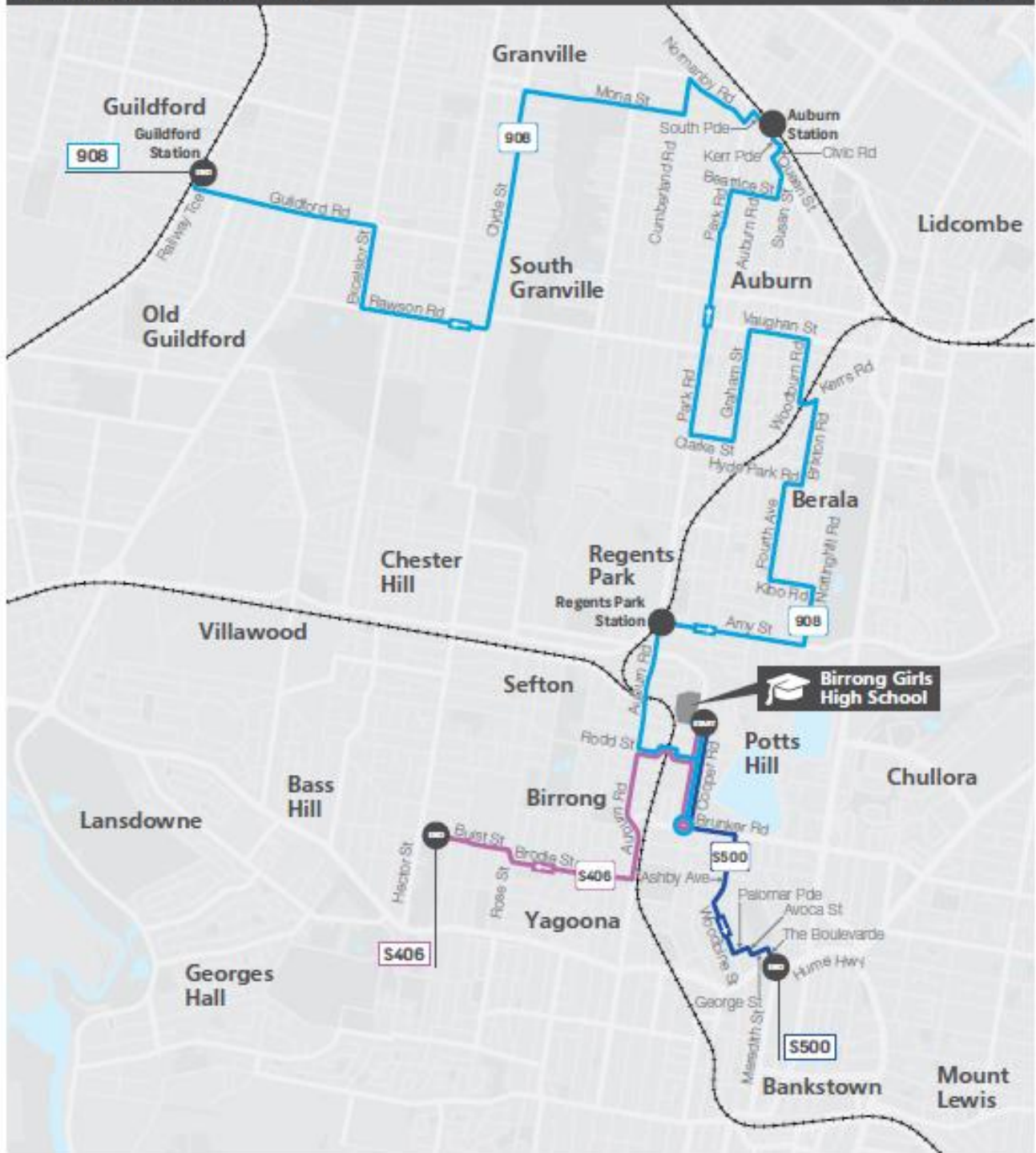
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Afternoon bus route map

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# Tap on and tap off every time

because it tells us how many people are using public transport. This allows us to better plan services for you.



It is a condition of the School Pass Terms and the Student Codes of Conduct when travelling that students in possession of the School Opal card must tap on and tap off every time when using public transport to travel to and from school. Per section 3.2 of the Opal Privacy Policy, Transport for NSW collects information from taps on and taps off to support coordination, planning and policy development for transport, transport services and transport infrastructure.



**Tap on and tap off your  
School Opal card every time**