

BIRRONG BULLETIN

The Newsletter of Birrong Girls High School Cooper Road, Birrong 2143 Telephone: 9644 5057

Issue No. 8

RELIEVING PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Dear BGHS Community,

2024 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 students' yearly reports which will be distributed to Years 7-10 students across Weeks 9 and 10 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.

The Year 12 class of 2024 worked hard and deserve to do well. I look forward to receiving notification of their HSC results on Wednesday 18 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 that are 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, Wednesday 11 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.

We met our Year 7 students for 2025 at their **Orientation Day on Tuesday 3 December.** We have enrolled over 135 Year 7 girls already for 2025 as many families in the local community and beyond 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.

Congratulations to:

Ms Deborah Lai who was recognised for her outstanding leadership with the Year 12 Senior Learning Centre and her commitment to student improvement and success at the DoE Principal's Network Celebration event on 24 October. Raneem Al Khaled, one of our school Captains, was selected to MC the event.

December 2024



Raneem, Ms Lai and Ms Dabaja at the awards event

School Build Update

We are very excited as the new school building project is taking shape. We are able to see the new building and the hall as the scaffolding has been removed. Some of our Year 10-12 students have been involved in workshops and have been very fortunate to take a walk around the construction site to see the progress. At this point, we should be moving into the new building and have access to the hall mid Term 1 2025.

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The three-storey building with the office administration staff, floor of classrooms and the top floor is the VA centre.



The hall is also looking wonderful and feeling so big.





There will be works occurring on Cooper Road to move the student crossing to the far side of the roundabout. This will mean road closures will occur during school hours. The bus stop will also be moving to the front of the new school building and not on the opposite side of Cooper Road. Please see the information below for context:

Working hours

To minimise disruption to the community, these works are taking place between 9 am and 2:30 pm Monday to Friday and 8 am to 1 pm on Saturdays. Some preparatory and clean up works may occur outside these hours. Unless otherwise notified, no work will take place on Sundays or public holidays.

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Congratulations to:

Gabriella Wright, ranking second in the Met South and Met South West Public Speaking Competition on 12 November. You were wonderful and we are so proud of you.



To the 13 finalists in the Canterbury-Bankstown Youth Awards held on 6 November. It was wonderful to see Birrong Girls dominate the stage. Once again, we are proud of you all and thank the teachers for supporting your applications.



Finalists with BGHS staff at the Canterbury-Bankstown Youth Awards

Sentral Parent Portal

Please access the Sentral Parent Portal feature to keep updated with school communication. The portal will inform parents and carers about events, excursions and any changes that need to be communicated. Please access the Parent Portal using your family code or access keys. If you need an update for your access, please contact Reception on 9644 5057 for support. You can also access student reports and attendance data via the Sentral Parent Portal.



Thanks very much to:

- All the teachers, SLSOs and the administration staff who have worked so hard and selflessly throughout 2024 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, Ms Boyle and Ms Winchcombe, and all our Head Teachers for their hard work and incredible support throughout a very busy and demanding year.

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 Wednesday 18 December 2024.

Years 7 to 12 all return in 2025 on Thursday 6 February.

Best wishes.

Renee George Relieving Principal

REPORT FROM THE DEPUTY PRINCIPALS

As the school year for 2024 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 11 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 7B-Sheza Khan, Ngoc Phan, Anh Vi Tran, Lien Tran.

Year 8 students participated in the VALID online Science testing during Week 3 and have finalised their elective subjects for 2025.

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 2025.

Years 9-12 have completed RIOT (Resilience in Our Teens program). This is a series of lessons is about learning skills to help us self-manage feelings of stress and anxiousness. It is about increasing our coping strategies so that we can keep perspective, manage the regular stress of life and school enough to do well, keep going, and become more resilient.

We know that anxiety in young people is growing across the world and that a lot of it is learned behaviour that can be unlearned! The RIOT Program has been developed by a registered psychologist and all our teachers have received training in RIOT, as it is our main wellbeing focus for 2025.



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 some students completed one week of work experience following their week of leadership activities.

Year 11 participated in the compulsory Life Ready program on Thursday 5th and Friday 6th December. 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 Tuesday 10 December – to explore how to support students 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 21 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 Wednesday 18 December. We look forward to seeing and hearing from the girls on 18 December for our HSC Celebration Morning Tea from 9:30am – 10:30am!

The last day of the year for all students is Wednesday 18 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 a hard, leather school shoe with a solid heel. Runners / joggers or soft leather type shoes are not acceptable. Please note the images included in this bulletin below.

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

Ms Andrews, Ms Blue, and Ms Winchcombe (Rel.) **Deputy Principals**



STUDENT WELLBEING REPORT

ATTENDANCE MATTERS every school day counts.

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 24 November. Congratulations to Anh Skylar Le and Ruby Phan of Year 7; Thi Kim Linh Duong, Tapasbi Pun and Kayla Watson of Year 8; Charlotte Phan and Sunny Than of Year 9; Marien Fajardo, Motahara Noori and Amanda Ung of Year 10; Carmen Yeung of Year 11; Julie Ngo and Cindy Trieu of Year 12.

Student of the Month Awards



Congratulations to Harshetha Nidarshan of Year 11 who has been awarded the Student of the Month award for September 2024. She has demonstrated initiative, persistence and responsibility for the school community. She

has a mature and diligent approach to her studies and has a positive attitude toward all aspects of school life. She displays strong citizenship and is an excellent role model to her peers.

Harshetha has carried out exceptional school service through her active involvement and dedication in various programs and teams. She has been an active and dedicated SRC member and a committed and hardworking member of the Social Justice Team. She has been a supportive and caring Peer Reading Tutor to Year 7 students, assisting with their literacy development. Harshetha assisted in and volunteered for various fundraising events and participated in the assembling of the Zonta birthing kits. She participated in the 2024 Youth Leadership Conference where the focus was improving student Harshetha Outside of school, wellbeing. participates in activities to support her wellbeing such as playing basketball or going on walks with friends.

One of her future goals is to attend university at UNSW to complete a degree in cyber security and to pursue a career as a cyber security analyst. She is also interested in politics and would like to travel around the world learning about the politics, culture and traditions of various countries.



Congratulations to Raneem Al Khaled of Year 11 who has been awarded the Student of the Month award for October 2024. She has demonstrated leadership, initiative and dedication to the school community. She has a mature

and diligent approach to her studies and has a positive attitude toward all aspects of school life. She displays strong citizenship, motivation and is an outstanding role model to her peers.

Raneem 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 Representative Council, the Social Justice and Environmental Teams over the past three years. Her support of peers has been highlighted through her caring and supportive role as a Peer Support Leader to Year 7 students. Raneem has volunteered and assisted in various fundraising events and has participated in the assembling of the Zonta birthing kits. She has represented the school at various youth leadership conferences, such as the Model Global Parliament 2024. Her strong leadership and commitment have been acknowledged through her selection as School Captain.

Out of school, Raneem embraces projects, such as performing for the local Arabic Language School and supporting the Islamic Women's Welfare Association, that focus on the betterment of others by volunteering and assisting in community fundraising events that provide humanitarian aid for victims of conflict.

Her future goal is to attend university to attain a degree in the field of health science, specialising in medical radiation technology, to pursue a career as a sonographer, who carries out diagnostic investigations using an ultrasound machine. Raneem aspires to carry out volunteer work overseas for a not-for-profit organisation and hopes to travel around the world in the future.



Congratulations to Alexis Acheampong of Year 11 who has been awarded the Student of the Month award for November 2024. She has demonstrated citizenship, leadership and commitment to the school community. She

has a positive attitude to all aspects of her schooling, and she consistently demonstrates diligence, respect of others and a mature approach to her learning.

Alexis is a dedicated student demonstrating strong leadership at the whole school level. She was a

committed and active SRC member involved in various fundraising projects and school events for many years and she has recently been voted as a School Captain. Alexis has been a supportive and enthusiastic Peer Support Leader supporting the transition of Year 7 students. She has also been a positive member of the Social Justice Team and was recognised for her strong citizenship as the recipient of the 2023-2024 ZONTA Citizenship Award.

Outside of school, Alexis is an enthusiastic Sunday School teacher at her local church where she teaches Scripture to children and she supports and assists in the preparation of special religious community events. To increase her fitness, she played netball for the Newington Phoenix Team and she took swimming lessons on Fridays for several years.

Her future goals are to attend university to attain a degree in the field of law. She aspires to pursue a career in family law to make a positive impact on people's lives and to particularly assist women facing adversities such as domestic violence and homelessness. Alexis hopes to travel and explore various countries in the future with family members.

The Year 4/5 Enrichment Day

The Year 4/5 Enrichment Day was held at Birrong Girls on 21 November, where students from Bankstown North Public, Berala Public, Birrong Public, Blaxcell Street Public, Chester Hill 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.





Year 4 and 5 students were asked to draw using the "right side of their brains" and were given the task of drawing the famous artist Frida Kahlo upside down! They were instructed to draw upside down while parts of the drawing was covered. They all did an amazing job at being creative and recognising visual qualities without knowing what the drawing would look like in the end.





Students participated in an archaeological dig activity and problem solving to reconstruct found relics.





Students enjoyed the baking of biscuits in our industrial kitchen and enjoyed eating them at lunch time.



Students worked well together on various geographical tasks.



End of the year message

The school's Student Wellbeing Team members are grateful for 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 strive so as to achieve their full potential and experience success in both their academic and personal lives.

We wish all our students and their families a happy, safe and restful school vacation and we look forward to a wonderful 2025.

Ms Salvagio Head Teacher Female Students

BIRRONG GIRLS GET BEHIND WOMEN AFFECTED BY DOMESTIC VIOLENCE



Girls The Birrong community has been busy crocheting for a wonderful cause. Over past couple the of months, students, staff and familv members have crocheted an assortment of orange flower pins, at home and

in the library (Wednesday and Thursday lunch time), for *16 Days of Activism Against Domestic Violence*, 25 November through to 6 December.

Around 700 flowers have been made so far and the school community has got onboard early, purchasing and already wearing their flowers around the school. By wearing the flower, participants are giving a voice to the sadly disproportionate numbers of women affected by domestic violence in our community. 1 in 4 women have experienced domestic violence from an intimate partner. It is in the raising of funds and awareness that we hope to bring about a positive change for victims in our wider community.

So far, over \$500 has been raised. Amazing!. All funds raised will be given to Zonta Australia who support programs to empower women around the world. Birrong has had a close relationship with Zonta for many years through our Birthing Kit fundraising and packing commitment. The school community's enthusiasm for these causes is something we admire in our Birrong Girls.

An assortment of flowers can still be purchased from the **deputies' (finance) office**. Flowers sell for \$1 each.

If you or anyone you know are experiencing domestic violence call 1800 RESPECT (1800 737 732) or visit <u>http://www.facs.nsw.gov.au/domestic-violence/helpline</u>





IMPORTANT TRANSPORT UPDATE



Upgrade of the Sydenham to Bankstown line Southwest Link train replacement bus services

T6 Line back to normal operations:

Trains have resumed normal operations on the T6 Line between Lidcombe and Bankstown. And the buses that were replacing the trains have now stopped.

Students can catch T6 trains across the day, to the normal timetable.

We don't expect any further impacts to this line ahead of the end of the school year.

2025 return to school:

Southwest Link buses will be in place between Sydenham and Bankstown across 2025, so students returning to school in the new year are reminded to plan ahead and allow extra travel time to get to and from school.

For new students, or those using Southwest Link services for the first time, a digital eBook has been prepared for students and parents which features information about Southwest Link, including travel advice, and frequently asked questions.

The eBook is available at: transportnsw.info/southwest-link

SCHOOL OPAL CARDS FOR 2025 TRAVEL

Dear Parents/Guardians,

All students must keep their School Opal cards for travel in 2025. 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: **transportnsw.info**

BIRRONG GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL CALENDAR

December 2024 Wednesday, 11 th	 Presentation Day at Bankstown Sports Club Grand Ballroom, 12pm 			
Wednesday, 18 th	 HSC Results released End of Term 4 for students 			
Thursday, 19 th	 School Development Day – staff only 			
Friday, 20 th	 School Development Day – staff only 			
Very best wishes for the festive season. Enjoy the holiday break!				
<u>January 2025</u> Friday, 31 st	 School Development Day - staff only 			
February 2025 Monday, 3 rd	 School Development Day - staff only 			
Tuesday, 4 th	 School Development Day - staff only 			
Wednesday, 5 th	 School Development Day - staff only 			
Thursday, 6 th	All students return to school			

Birrong Girls High School and Birrong Boys High School Works notification | 15 November 2024

As part of the NSW Government's plan to rebuild essential services, a project is underway to upgrade Birrong Boys High School and Birrong Girls High School to provide upgraded facilities to support the learning needs of the local community.

Public domain upgrade works

As notified in the Traffic Management Consultation notice dated 10 November 2023, public domain works were proposed as part of the upgrade to the schools to improve pedestrian safety traffic calming, vehicle queuing management and access to public transport. Canterbury Bankstown Council has now approved the public domain upgrade works and these works will take place from Monday 18 November to Friday 20 December 2024 at Birrong Boys High School and from Saturday 23 November to Friday 20 December 2024 at Birrong Girls High School.

The works will require road and pedestrian management for the duration of the works and will include lane closures and temporary walkways as required. Traffic control personnel will be in place to ensure the safety of the community and signage will be used to direct pedestrians and provide warning where works are being completed.

On Cooper Road outside Birrong Girls High School the works will include:

- installing a raised pedestrian crossing
- removing the existing kerb ramps to the roundabout
- installing concrete islands.
- realigning edge line marking
- relocating of a bus stop.
- amending street signs
- removal of existing driveway
- installing pedestrian fencing.

On Rodd Street outside Birrong Boys High School:

- new flexible traffic separator and posts
- street planting and landscaping
- new street signs
- installing vehicle bollards and street signs along the footpath at the school entry.

On Cooper Road outside Birrong Boys High School:

new street signs

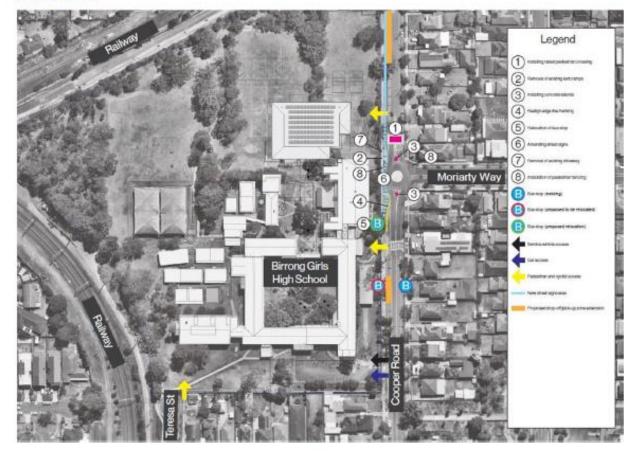




Working hours

To minimise disruption to the community, these works are taking place between 9 am and 2:30 pm Monday to Friday and 8 am to 1 pm on Saturdays. Some preparatory and clean up works may occur outside these hours. Unless otherwise notified, no work will take place on Sundays or public holidays.

Map of works





NSW Department of Education



We apologise for any inconvenience these works may cause and thank you for your patience whilst we deliver this important upgrade to Birrong Boys and Girls High schools.

More information

Further details of this work can be seen in the <u>Traffic Management Consultation</u> document shared in November 2023 on our website (library tab): edu.nsw.link/Birrong-Boys-Girls-HS

You can find more information about the project at <u>edu.nsw.link/Birrong-Boys-Girls-HS</u> or by scanning the QR code.

If you have any questions about this project, you can contact School Infrastructure during business hours on the contact details below.

للحصول على خدمة الترجمة الخطية والشفهية، يمكن الاتصال على الرقم **131 450 ثم** طلب الاتصال يدائرة التربية والتعليم - هيئة البنى التحتية للمدارس في نيو ساوث ويلز على الرقم **130 482 1300.**



For a Translation and Interpreting Service call 131 450 and ask them to call the Department of Education-School Infrastructure NSW on 1300 482 615.



NSW Department of Education

Birrong Girls High School and Birrong Boys High School

Project update | November 2024

Artist impression of Birrong Girls High School upgrade



Investing in our schools

As part of the NSW Government's plan to rebuild public education, the 2024-25 Budget is delivering record education funding, including \$3.6 billion for new and upgraded schools in Western Sydney. This targeted investment will ensure growing communities get access to a world class public education.

Project overview

A project is underway to upgrade Birrong Girls High School and Birrong Boys High School. The project will deliver upgraded facilities to support the learning needs of the local community.

Progress summary

Since the last update in September 2024 construction works have continued at Birrong Girls High School including:

- installing pipes and cables to all levels of the new classroom building
- internal wall framing and sheeting
- internal structure and wall framing for the new hall
- installing pipes and cables in the new hall
- external cladding and brickwork for the new teaching building and new hall

At Birrong Boys High School, we have achieved the following:

- progressed with installing pipes and cables to all levels of the new classroom building
- internal wall framing and sheeting
- external cladding and brickwork for the new classroom building
- roof and cladding works started for the hall refurbishment
- started work to extend the existing hall's structure

Next steps

In the upcoming months we will be focused on works on the interior (for example, lighting, fixtures, furniture) for both schools and then progressing the landscaping works.





More information

You can find more information about the project at <u>edu.nsw.link/Birrong-Boys-Girls-HS</u> or by scanning the QR code.

If you have any questions about this project, you can contact School Infrastructure during business hours on the contact details below.

للحصول على خدمة الترجمة الخطية والشفهية، يمكن	
الاتصال على الرقم 131 450 ثم طلب الاتصال بدائرة	
التربية والتعليم - `هيئة البنى التحتية للمدارس في نيو	
ساوت ويلز على الرقم 130 482 1300.	



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For a Translation and Interpreting Service call 131 450 and ask them to call the Department of Education-School Infrastructure NSW on 1300 482 615.







Remember to stay alert, there are more buses around, so:



Be aware of your surroundings



Avoid distractions like mobile phones



Use designated crossings around bus stops



Look left and right, check twice before crossing



Do not run for the bus to avoid slipping



For more information, visit transportnsw.info/southwest-link

FREE BUS To beach

Planning a trip to the beach this summer? Take away the hassle with trains or parking and jump on one of our FREE buses to Cronulla beach!

Buses will run on:

- Tuesday 14 January 2025
 Thursday 16 January 2025
- Tuesday 21 January 2025
 Thursday 23 January 2025

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No need to register. Look for the Bus to Beach signs at the pick up points.

	9am	9.15em	9.30am
Route 1	Clapham Road, near the corner of Helen Street, Sefton	195 Waterloo Road, Greenacre (next to Dominos)	69 The Mall, Bankstown (Paul Keating Park side)
Route 2	Panania Railway Station, Panania (Weston Street side)	Revesby Railway Station, Revesby (Blamey Street side)	Padstow Railway Station, Padstow (Howard Road side)
Route 3	Belmore Youth Resource Centre, 3/38-40 Redman Parade, Belmore	Riverwood Community Centre, 151 Belmore Road North, Riverwood	
Route 4	Ashbury Senior Citizens' Centre, 66 Princess Street, Ashbury	Council customer car park, 17 Shakespeare Street, Campsie	

Buses depart Cronulla Beach at 3pm SHARP and return to the same pick up points.

The program operates on a first come, first served basis. All passengers must comply with the conditions and warnings.

To read conditions or for more information please visit **cb.city/BusToBeach**





BIRRONG GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL BELL TIMES

2025



	Monday		Tues/Wed/Thurs		Friday
Roll Call Assembly	8.30 - 9.00	Roll Call	8.30 - 8.44	Roll Call	8.30 - 8.44
1	9.10-10.10	1	8.46 - 9.46	1	8.46 - 9.46
Recess	10.10 - 10.30	2	9.48 - 10.48	2	9.48 -10.48
2	10.32 - 11.32	Recess	10.48 - 11.08	Recess	10.48–11.18
3	11.34-12.34	3	11.08 – 12.08	3 Wellbeing	11.18 - 12.18
Lunch	12.34-1.14	4	12.10 - 1.10	4	12.20 - 1.20
4	1.16-2.16	Lunch	1.10 - 1.50	Lunch	1.20 – 1.50
		5	1.50 - 2.50	5	1.50 - 2.50

NOTE: School finished at 2.16pm every Monday. The library is available for students to access if they need to wait at school for the bus or parent.