

BIRRONG BULLETIN

The Newsletter of Birrong Girls High School

Cooper Road, Birrong 2143 Telephone: 9644 5057

Issue No. 4 June 2025

RELIEVING PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Dear Parents,

The term has flown, and we are now wrapping up Term 2 and preparing for all the tasks, activities, teaching and learning programs for Term 3.

Semester One Reports

All students will have received their reports in time for parents to have read them before the Parent/ Teacher afternoon on Tuesday 1 July from 3pm -5pm. Parents are encouraged to carefully review their daughter's report as it is an important document capturing the progress of your child, reflecting their effort, attitude and overall commitment to their studies. Please focus on the teachers' comments and the application to learning table, rather than the marks or grades. Teacher comments and the application to learning table provide a good indication of the extent to which students are working to their potential and engaging in the learning experiences of the course. Teacher comments are particularly useful as they offer advice, strategies and guidance to help students. It is important too that parents take careful note of their daughter's attendance as every day of school missed interrupts her learning. Participation in extra-curricular activities such as debating and sporting teams as well as school clubs should be encouraged also. documented evidence demonstrates that those students who have excellent attendance records and participate in extra-curricular activities are highly engaged with their learning and achieve outstanding results. I remind all parents to make an appointment to see your daughter's teachers on the Parent/Teacher afternoon so that we can work together to support her learning.

We desperately need parents and carers to support the work schools are doing to establish routines, work ethic and overall learning. There are two main hinderances to student progress:

1. Student attendance

Students who are not at school every day lose valuable learning time that they cannot afford to lose. Every day you allow your child to miss, impacts on their overall outcomes, success and future income potential. None of our students can afford this. Please ensure that your child attends school every day.

2. Addiction to devices and social media

Students who cannot function unless they are in their room on a device and/or always on their phone are not healthy. The lack of sleep, inability to concentrate and overall aggressive and hostile behaviour is fuelled by this. The majority of young people are addicted to their devices and spend ridiculous amounts of time scrolling, engaging in dangerous and inappropriate conversations and being exposed to inappropriate content.

Parents and carers can support their child's success at school by enforcing more appropriate routines at home. Young people do not need access to their phones or devices 24 hours a day and all activity should be within view. How often does your child read daily? How often does your child practice and revise core skills? How often does your child exercise? If you set yourself the task of comparing how much time your child does a range of activities compared to the time they spend online, you would be shocked. Please remember that you can control all of this with adjustments to home routines.

Activities beyond the Classroom

 Congratulations to all the students who were selected to represent the school at the Zone Cross Country. The following students were selected to represent the School and Zone at the Regional Cross Country Carnival on 10 June. A special mention goes to Aurora Beaumont of Year 11 who was Age Champion at the Zone Carnival. The girls performed exceptionally well at the regional carnival, congratulations to you all.

Inside this issue:	Page/s
Relieving Principal's Report	1-3
Report from the Deputy Principals	4-5
Careers News	5-8
Student Wellbeing Report	8-10
Sydney South West Cross Country Carnival	10
Sydney Writers' Festival Excursion	10-11
Social Sciences Faculty Report	11-13
Birrong Crochet Club	14
International Students at BGHS	14-15
Next P&C Meeting	15
Southwest Link Update	15
Special Religious Education (SRE) at BGHS	16
School Calendar	17
UNSW Gateway Program	17
Transgrid 2026 Apprenticeship Program	18-19
RSPCA School Holiday Program	20
Welcome to your upgraded schools – BBHS and BGHS	21-24



Aurora Beaumont was selected to represent the Region at the CHS Cross Country Championships. This is an amazing achievement, and we wish her all the very best as she prepares for this major carnival.

Regional Cross Country Reps:

Year 12
Angelina Luu
Shadiah Hamdan
Carmen Yeung
Year 11
Aurora Beaumon

Aurora Beaumont (Age Champion Zone, CHS Representative)

Year 9 Hafsa Gala Year 7

Rayhana Abbass

2. We are so proud of the staff and students who engaged with the Ration Challenge from Monday 16 to Friday 20 June. Funds raised contribute to providing food rations, medical care, education and other essential services to support refugees and help other communities affected by conflict and disaster around the world. Thanks very much to Ms Mezzino for your organisation of this event for 2025. At the time of writing this report we were ranked 5th across all the schools involved in the challenge with \$10,186.63 raised. Thanks staff and students for giving back to the wider community with your efforts.



3. This year the Prefects organised the Push Up Challenge again as it was such a hit in 2024. The preparation for the Push Up Challenge for the school community has a slight twist. Students donated funds towards seeing how many exercise reps the teachers had to perform. The Prefects' aim was to raise \$400 to get our amazing teachers to do 40 reps of push ups, sit ups, burpees and lunges. There was more than \$400 dollars raised so the teachers had to complete more than 40 reps of all the activities. Ten staff members signed on to be a part of the action. In total, the Prefects (and the teachers) raised \$622 to support mental health services for young people. We are so proud of the generosity of the girls and the dedication of the teachers – Go Birrong!





Congratulations to Kayla Tang who was selected as the 2024–2025 Zonta award recipient. She was required to give a speech at the award evening run by SW Zonta. Her speech was amazing and it was a true reflection of the dedication she applies to her work and leadership at Birrong Girls.

Building Upgrade

This time last year I shared the images below to identify the size (at that point in the time) of our school hall at the start of its construction phase. The images show only one of the three slabs that were going to make up the footprint for the hall construction.



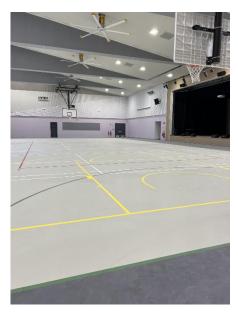
One section of the multipurpose hall



The length of the multipurpose hall

I can now share images of the completed multipurpose hall. It is a very large space and the girls are enjoying using it for their PE/Sport lessons. We held the Year 10 half yearly examinations in the hall a few weeks ago and there was so much room. We are preparing to host other school events in there as the year rolls out.

We are working on hosting an opening for our new building in Term 3. More information to come.



The length of the hall



The hall stage

Special Guests

Birrong Girls High School was selected by the Department of Education to host a team of 30 University Professionals and Educators from Indonesia. The purpose of the visit was to see explicit teaching in action. The team visited classrooms to watch the effective teaching and learning that is taking place at our school.

We were given a lovely gift from the touring group (image below) and emails from various people including Murat Dizdar the Secretary of the NSW Department of Education. I was so proud and honoured to share 'what works best' at Birrong Girls High School on behalf of the Department of Education.



Explanation of the gift:

In Indonesian Wayang puppetry, particularly Wayang Kulit (shadow puppetry), the figure of Semar is widely regarded as the embodiment of wisdom. Semar, a clown servant in the Javanese court, is a god and the elder brother of Batara Guru (Shiva). He is often depicted as a wise and humorous figure, known for his practical wisdom and ability to offer guidance.

Happy Holidays

It has been a long term and we are all fatigued by the year's events so far. I thank my incredible staff for their ongoing dedication to our community and wish them a restful break with their families. I wish all our students and their families a wonderful holiday break also. Stay safe and we will see you in Term 3.

I invite you to contact the school to make an appointment with me (Tel: 9644 5057) if you have any issues that you wish to discuss about your daughter's education.

Warmest regards,

Renee George Relieving Principal

REPORT FROM THE DEPUTY PRINCIPALS



Student engagement and connectedness to school are closely linked to the range of activities and experiences students can and do access as well as the students' feeling of

success within the classroom and the school environment.

It has been a very busy term with representation at the Zone Cross Country carnival and the increase in the number of excursions which all add to the rich learning expereiences avaliable for students. Half yearly reports have been issued at Year Meetings to students in preparation for the Parent/Teacher afternoon. The Parent/Teacher afternoon is on Tuesday 1 July from 3:00pm – 5:00pm. We look forward to seeing you there as you take the opportunity to discuss your daughter's progress with her teachers.

The school participated in a wonderful social justice initiative again this year - The Refugee Ration Challenge, for Refugee Week 16-20 June. Our superstar teachers. Ms Mezzino Ms Subramaniam, led 17 student participants in the challenge to eat from a Syrian refugee ration pack for the week. The box contains just a small amount of rice, flour, lentils, chickpeas, beans, fish and oil. It was quite a shock for us to see how little food is provided to refugees and reminds us of how fortunate we are to be living in a land of plenty. The money we raised will provide food, medicine and education for refugees and will also go a long way to support other communities around the world threatened by conflict and disaster. Our small part in this global challenge showed what a big heart our Birrong community has. We thank our school community for supporting those undertaking the challenge and donating to this worthy cause. At the time of printing, the Birrong Girls High School team was in the top five of all schools in Australia, having raised over \$10,000! Congratulations to Ms Mezzino who is also the third highest fundraiser in the country!



The school is also supporting teachers to participate in the Push Up Challenge, with students donating to increase the number of reps required of their teachers. This fundraiser raised \$622 towards mental health and suicide awareness.

Thank you to our active teacher champions and to everyone who supported the cause!

Reports have been distributed to Year 12. Reports acknowledge what students have achieved and include advice from teachers about what students can do to continue to improve in each of their courses. Students should take note of the advice and build it into their study routine. Year 12 students selected a mentor with the support of their Year Adviser, Ms Rothwell, during Term 4 2024. Students are taking advantage of the opportunity to meet with their mentors to talk about their progress and the way they are feeling about their study. Good preparation is important but, so too, is good health. As parents/carers, you play a vital role in your child's success. Ask about their progress. Ask how they are feeling. Ask if there is anything you can do to help. Encourage them to go for a walk. Even if they walk with their earphones in listening to study notes, at least they are getting some fresh air and exercise. Encourage them to sleep. Provide healthy meals. Sometimes it's enough for you to just be there for them. We look forward to seeing you at the Parent/Teacher afternoon on Tuesday 1 July from 3:00pm - 5:00pm. Congratulations to Year 12 Ration Challengers Ayah, Zaina, Sedra and Kadija who raised \$1351.

Year 11 students are now more than halfway through their Preliminary courses. During this time, teachers have been marking assessment (formative and summative) tasks and returning them to the students along with structured feedback that acknowledges achievement and provides advice to students about how they can realise their potential in each course. Please read your child's report and book in appointments with her teachers at parent/teacher afternoon to discuss her progress. Congratulations to Year 11 Ration Challengers Siba, Judy and Marwa who raised \$325. Congratulations to Parasto, a recipient of an ASDI Refugee Week Award.

Year 10 students will be working with Ms Shinas in preparation for the selection of their 2026-2027 HSC courses. There will be numerous supporting activities to ensure the most appropriate course of study for each student is achieved, including a Selection Market. Senior Course Subject Information Sessions, Parent/ Student/Teacher interviews, all supported by the Year 10 Careers lessons. Year 10 students have completed their half-yearly exams and sat for their first attempt at Minimum Standard testing in Reading, Writing and Numeracy this term. This is a requirement for the award of the Higher School Certificate by the time students finish Year 12. Continued assessments will take place over the course of the year for students who have not yet met the required standard. Sireen made it to the state final of the Plain Speaking English Competition. We wish her well in the State Final early in Term 3. Congratulations to Year 10 Ration Challengers Manha, Misk and Fatina who raised \$60. Congratulations to Adila, recipient of an ADSI Refugee Week Award.

Year 9 topped the donations for the Ration Challenge. Congratulations to Gabriella and Ella, who raised \$1934 between the two of them! Congratulations to Summaya, recipient of an ADSI Refugee Week Award.

Year 8 has been completing their Project 21 – building 21st century skills as they explore "How can we make our community more sustainable?". This project is about students thinking critically and creatively, working collaboratively (together) and learning to communicate effectively. The project has been facilitated across TAS, Science, Mathematics and Visual Arts classes. Students are presenting their projects and models this week and then there will be a final in the hall next term with the best projects from each class! Congratulations to Year 8 Ration Challenger Maymouna, who was the highest individual student fundraiser, raising \$1603. What a fantastic effort!

Year 7 are looking forward to their Reptile Incursion on Wednesday 2 July. This is a great incursion where the students get to interact with reptiles from snakes of all sizes to lizards and more. Congratulations to Year 7 Ration Challengers Zahera, Maryam and Mariam who raised \$60.

A reminder to all students to collect class merits and trade them in with their allocated Deputy Principal for large achievement awards, medallions and school pins. We have a parent assembly planned for Wednesday 2 July. We welcome parents and carers of all our award recipients to share the celebration of student achievement followed by a morning tea. This will be our first event in our new hall!

Have a safe and happy holiday.

Ms Andrews, Ms Boyle and Ms Winchcombe **Deputy Principal & Rel. Deputy Principals**



CAREERS NEWS

It's been a busy start to the term, and I've had the pleasure of seeing many students engaging in the Year 12 UAC workshops held in the library on Tuesday afternoons.

Year 12 are now in the process of applying to universities through UAC. Many families would like to know how they can support their young person's application process. Please see links, below, which will assist parents and caregivers.

Links to support the parents and caregivers' understanding of the UAC application process: https://youtu.be/LZzUEGpCJAE?si=xGEEYR83fs MrYvEp

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c6f-0VV9gJM https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yklVPFOE3q8 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1eHhnOrYyko https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Eu8f7Wa1KCk https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uhG59KecJmk https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r4usEFQmzrc https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=24mCggzmw5 w

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pxqcu8mmhuc

Year 12 students also have these videos on their Google Classroom Careers page, and you can sit with them to go through the application journey together.

There will be a parent information session coming soon, so look out for the invitation. It would be great to see you all and answer any questions you may have face to face.

Educational Access Scheme

Each year, the UAC team encourages the use of EAS for students who have experienced significant challenges in Year 11 and/or Year 12, which have affected their studies and grades.

University admissions equity schemes are a vital part of ensuring fair access to higher education and are designed to remove barriers that prevent capable students from reaching their full potential.

UAC helps facilitate EAS applications for 21 participating institutions.

Schools Recommendation Scheme (SRS)

The SRS application is simple, with just a click of a button, SRS is the easiest and simplest early offer application a student can complete.

Although not all universities or courses are available for early offers, we would recommend all Year 12 students submit an SRS application to widen their opportunities without all the additional fuss of personal statements or extracurricular activities. It just takes a few seconds.

Kev Dates

5 Sept 2025 11.59pm

SRS applications close

30 Sept 2025 11.59pm

Early bird applications close

17 Oct 2025 11.59pm

SRS ratings deadline

06 Nov 2025 11.59pm

Deadline to change preferences for SRS offers

13 Nov 2025 7.30am

First SRS offers released

18 Dec 2025 9am

ATARs released

18 Dec 2025 11.59pm

Deadline to change preferences for December

Round 2 offers

23 Dec 2025 7.30am

December Round 2 offers released

UNSW Program Year 11 and 12

Year 11 Workshop

Year 11 Students Gear Up for the Future at UNSW Gateway 'Strengths for Success' Workshop

This week, Year 11 students participated in the UNSW Gateway Strengths for Success workshop. Students explored their strengths and tools for success through thoughtprovoking conversations and UNSW reflective activities. Guided by UNSW Gateway ambassadors, students discussed their "backpack success"—the of tools

strategies that will equip them to navigate future challenges and opportunities.

The workshop also introduced students to the UNSW Year 11 Gateway Program. Through registering for the UNSW Gateway online program, Birrong Girls High School students can access free HSC support, tutoring, and instant access to the HSC4ME app - featuring practice exams, study notes, videos, and more, all developed by senior teachers and HSC markers. To learn more, visit: Gateway website.

Year 12 Workshop

Chatter DOES Matter – UNSW Gateway Workshop Inspires Year 12 Futures

This week, Year 12 students participated in the UNSW Gateway *Chatter That Matters* workshop. Students explored their values, strengths and post-school aspirations through thought-provoking conversations and reflective activities. Guided by UNSW Gateway ambassadors, students tackled big questions like "Would you rather be liked or respected?"—a great starting point for further conversations at home.

The workshop also introduced students to the UNSW Year 12 Gateway Program and Gateway Admission Pathway. Through registering for the UNSW Gateway online program, Birrong Girls High

School students can access free HSC support, tutoring, and instant access to the HSC4ME app - featuring practice exams, study notes, videos, and more, all developed by senior teachers and HSC markers. As a UNSW Gateway partner school, Birrong Girls High School students are eligible to apply for early admission through the Gateway Admission Pathway, with reduced ATAR requirements and tailored application timelines. Applications are now open! To learn more, visit: UNSW Gateway | Early Admission Pathway | UNSW Sydney

We were thrilled to have Karen Yuen, a former student, visit the school. Karen graduated from Birrong Girls High School in 2002 and currently works within the UNSW Student Equity team.

What's Next?

Students who could not attend the workshops can still register for the Gateway Program via the Gateway website.

Once students have registered, they can log-in to the **OpenLearning website** where they:

- Will have full access to all our free online resources
- Can register for on-campus days

Important Upcoming Dates Year 11 Gateway Program

• On-campus Days: School holidays, 10 July 2025

Year 12 Gateway Program

Learn about the Year 12 Gateway Program and how it will work for you.

On-campus Days: School holidays,
 9 – 10 July 2025

More information about The Gateway Program is available on page 17 of this Bulletin.



Karen Yuen, Birrong Girls Alumni 2002



UNSW Ambassadors 2025



Year 12 2025



The University of Sydney has over \$135 million in scholarships available each year. To make things a little

easier, students can now apply through <u>one single</u> <u>application form</u> for most of our scholarships for domestic commencing undergraduate students. The single application form will open on 1 July and close 30 September.

All the registration links are on the Year 12 Google Classroom.



UTS: U@Uni School Holiday Program for registered U@Uni students only. Congratulations to the confirmed Year 11 U@Uni applicants. These students are the 2025-2026 UTS U @Uni candidates. The students have met all required eligibility criteria and have successfully completed their registrations.

Aala Al Kahil
Bassma Alameddine
Celestia Elali
Hajah Saccoh
Jamie Nguyen
Jessica Lien
Layla Hafda
Marwah Shaik
Motahara Noori
Parasto Hussaini
Rahil Sadat
Rayan Noureddine
Roza Syan
Salsabella Zoud

Winter School 7–11 July 2025 | UTS City Campus

Winter School is a 1-week, hands-on experience to help students get a taste of the different faculties at UTS. Held in the first week of the July school holidays, students travel independently to the UTS campus each day.

During Winter School students will be allocated a faculty area and complete discipline-based projects with support from UTS academics, staff and mentors. Students will also be provided with information about university courses, possible career paths and additional support (academic and financial) available once they arrive at UTS.

Winter School exhibition – 11 July On the final day of Winter School, parents, teachers and school executive teams are invited to attend the U@Uni Academy Winter School exhibition. The event is designed to close out the week of learning and provides students with an opportunity to showcase the projects they've worked on in their faculty areas. The event will be hosted on-campus and attended by stakeholders from across the university.

Registrations for Year 12 July Experience Day

As you know, the second Experience UTS Day will be held on the July school holidays and is an opportunity for UTS to showcase our practice-based learning ethos and support students with their course preference decision-making.

Key event details:

Date: Thursday 17 July 2025

Arrive: 8:30am Finish: 2:45pm

Where: UTS Tower Building 1, Level 4

Please also note that all students **must attend the compulsory U@Uni Academy session.** If they cannot attend for any reason, they must contact the U@Uni Academy team and will be completing a make-up task.



Western Sydney Open Day Come and experience uni life firsthand at Open Day on Sunday 6 July.

Discover their courses, explore their vibrant campus, enjoy live entertainment and free food, and connect one-on-one with students and staff.

Register your spot: All the registration links are on the Year 12 Google Classroom.

Ms Shinas
Careers Adviser

Western Sydney University (WSU)

Year 10 Fast Forward

YEAR 10 UNIVERSITY DAY
DESTINATIONS UNK INTED
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On Wednesday 4 June the Year 10 Fast Forward team was invited to Western Sydney University's Campbeltown campus.

The program aims to encourage us to consider higher education as a pathway, meeting face-to-face with students and

professors of different fields.

We were provided opportunities to step out of our comfort zone by collaborating with different Year 10 students from 11 different schools. The program planned was to encourage us with critical thinking with the intent of giving us the university experience. We received information from university students studying various industries who gave us personal advice on how to decide our future careers.

They informed us about the requirements needed to be eligible for university and the opportunities available to students. They outlined scholarships and early acceptance programs provided by WSU. We received detailed tours of the different courses provided such as HPE, biomedical science, nursing and law.

Overall, this exploration of university life provided us with a guide on how to navigate higher education and gave insight into our possible futures after school.

By: Ava Shaw, Year 10





STUDENT WELLBEING REPORT

Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability (NCCD)

Every year, all schools in Australia participate in the Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability (NCCD). The NCCD process requires schools to identify information already available in the school about supports provided to students with disability. These relate to legislative requirements under the Disability Discrimination Act 1992 and the Disability Standards for Education 2005, in line with the NCCD guidelines (2019).

Information provided about students to the Australian Government for the NCCD includes:

- year of schooling
- category of disability: physical, cognitive, sensory or social/emotional
- level of adjustment provided: support provided within quality differentiated teaching practice, supplementary, substantial or extensive. This information assists schools to:
- formally recognise the supports and adjustments provided to students with disability in schools
- consider how they can strengthen the support of students with disability in schools
- develop shared practices so that they can review their learning programs in order to improve educational outcomes for students with disability.

The NCCD provides state and federal governments with the information they need to plan more broadly for the support of students with disability.

The NCCD will have no direct impact on your child and your child will not be involved in any testing process. The school will provide data to the Australian Government in such a way that no individual student will be able to be identified - the privacy and confidentiality of all students is ensured. All information is protected by privacy laws that regulate the collection, storage and disclosure of personal information. To find out more about these matters, please refer to the Australian Government's Privacy Policv (https://www.education.gov.au/privacy-policy).

Further information about the NCCD can be found on the NCCD Portal https://www.nccd.edu.au



Maintaining attendance over 90% is extremely important for ongoing and consistent student learning and

achievement. Maintaining high levels of attendance is also very impressive when applying for work, whether it be in part-time work or full-time work post schooling.

All students should be at school every day unless they are sick or require medical attention. Every

student can improve their attendance percentage by coming to school every day from this point on. Look at this example to see how every student can make great improvement - if in Semester 1 you had 10 days absent, then you have an attendance rate at 89% attendance. If you have no more absences in Term 3 then your 10 days absent will put you at 93% attendance. If you have no more absences in Term 4 then your 10 days absent will put you at 95% attendance. Improve your attendance, start from today.

School Vaccinations

The school vaccinations for **Year 7** will take place in Term 3 on 18 August. Year 7 students are offered a single dose vaccine for diphtheriatetanus-pertussis (whooping cough) and a single dose vaccine for human papillomavirus (HPV). Parents can register their consent online from now.

Year 10 are provided a vaccine for the meningococcal disease which is a contagious disease caused by a bacterium called Neisseria meningitidis (also known as meningococcal bacteria). Meningococcal disease is a very serious infection which can develop quickly and can cause severe scarring, loss of limbs, brain damage and death. Anyone with a suspected meningococcal infection needs to see a doctor immediately. Meningococcal disease is a medical emergency. It can kill within hours, so early diagnosis and treatment is vital. Do not wait for the purple rash to appear as that is a late stage of the disease.

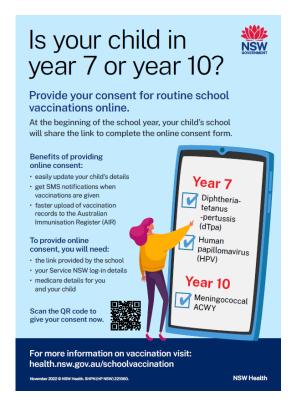
Vaccination is a safe and effective way to protect yourself from meningococcal disease. Year 10 students can receive this vaccine in Term 3 on 18 August if consent is given either online or with a paper consent form that can be collected from Ms Salvagio at the Learning Support Staffroom.

How to provide consent:

- To complete online consent for your child's school vaccinations, visit https://nswhealth.service-now.com/school
- Follow the steps to log in to your existing ServiceNSW account. This is the same account you may already use to renew your driver's licence. If you don't have a <u>ServiceNSW</u> account, refer to <u>ServiceNSW</u> to create one.
- Update or confirm your personal details in ServiceNSW as required.
- 4. Complete the School Vaccination Consent Form for your daughter(s). You will need to:
 - a) Enter your daughter's personal details
 - b) Provide the Medicare card details for you and your daughter

- c) Read the <u>linked Parent Information</u> Sheet and privacy statement
- d) Provide consent

If you are unable to give consent online or if you and your daughter do not have a Medicare card, consent can be provided by requesting a paper consent form from Ms Salvagio at the Learning Support Staffroom. The completed and signed consent form needs to be returned to Ms Salvagio.



Student of the Month Awards



Congratulations to Ranya Khan of Year 12 who has been awarded the Student of the Month Award for April 2025. She has demonstrated citizenship and commitment to both her academic studies and

the school community. She has a positive and mature attitude to all aspects of her schooling and is a role model of compassion and dedication.

Ranya has shown commitment to the school community through her involvement in various programs and teams. As a passionate member of the Social Justice Team, she has actively contributed to key initiatives including the Harmony Bazaar, jewellery workshop, bubble tea stall, toiletries drive, the Zonta birthing kits assembling, and the school bake sale. Her involvement extends to the Environmental Team, where she continues to promote sustainability and awareness among her peers. Ranya participated in Theatresports which provided opportunities to develop her

confidence, social skills and ability to think outside the box and creatively under pressure.

Her future goals are to attend university to study in the field of medicine with the long-term goal to specialise in mycology, the study of fungi and their use in medicine. Ranya aspires to pursue a career as a research scientist to conduct investigations. She has a love of learning about nature, and she also has a desire to learn more about Islam to strengthen her faith.



Congratulations to Elaha Nazari of Year 12 who has been awarded the Student of the Month Award for May 2025. She has demonstrated strong citizenship and commitment to the school community. Elaha is a conscientious and mature student who migrated to

Australia in 2022 and has demonstrated determination to improve her English skills and academic results.

Elaha has carried out valuable school service through her commitment and active involvement in various programs. She has dedicated her effort and time to the Zonta birthing kits assembly workshop which supports females in developing countries. Elaha is the successful recipient of the third prize for the Academic category in the Western Sydney Refugee Youth Awards. She has actively participated in the Multicultural Playwright Program where she participated in drama workshops and collaborated with students from other schools to script and develop a drama production which was performed and broadcasted to various audiences including other schools and families. Elaha is a successful recipient of the "Friends of Zainab Senior Secondary Scholarship" from the Public Education Foundation which recognises and capacity, supports determination her and resilience.

Out of school, Elaha is an active member of the Auburn Youth Centre and she participates in the STARTTS Youth program which aims to support young refugees. She participates in various activities offered by the program including camping, hiking, sports and creative arts workshops.

Elaha's future goal is to attend university to attain a degree in nursing and hopes that she will be able to give back to her community. She aims to travel widely to different parts of the world to learn about and experience different cultures.

Ms Salvagio **Head Teacher Female Students**

SYDNEY SOUTH WEST CROSS COUNTRY CARNIVAL

On Tuesday 10 June 2025, 5 students attended the Sydney South West Cross Country carnival at the Sydney International Equestrian Centre. They all competed with excellence and sportsmanship and represented Birrong Girls High School with pride!

Congratulations to Rayhanna Abbass of Year 7, Hafsa Gala of Year 9, Angelina Luu and Carmen Yeung of Year 12 on this wonderful achievement.

Also, an outstanding effort from Aurora Beaumont of Year 11, placing 3rd in her race! She will be going on to compete at the State championships. Congratulations and good luck Aurora!



Aurora, achieved 3rd Place in her race

Ms Hammad PDHPE Faculty

SYDNEY WRITERS' FESTIVAL EXCURSION

On Friday 23 May, a group of 23 enthusiastic students from classes 7B, 8B, and 9ENG1 attended the Sydney Writers' Festival at the iconic Sydney Town Hall. The excursion was an exciting opportunity for students to engage with the world of writing beyond the classroom and gain insight into the lives and processes of published authors.

Throughout the day, students listened attentively to a series of engaging talks by authors who shared personal stories and professional advice. A key focus of these talks was the different ways authors find inspiration for their stories. Some drew from their own lives, while others found creative sparks in everyday experiences or historical events. Students learnt that writing a book requires extensive research, particularly when stories are set in unfamiliar times, places, or situations. This was a valuable insight into the behind-the-scenes work that goes into a published piece.

Another highlight was learning about the drafting and redrafting process. Authors were open about the challenges they face, including the reality of rejection. Rather than being discouraged, they encouraged students to see rejection as a form of redirection — a normal part of the journey towards improvement and success.

Many students took the opportunity to purchase books from the on-site bookstall and expressed excitement about reading them. It was inspiring to see their enthusiasm and curiosity sparked by the authors' presentations.

Some of the key messages shared by the writers left a lasting impression. One author reminded the audience that "your work may not be liked by some, but it will be loved by others," highlighting the importance of persistence and writing with authenticity. Another takeaway was the simple but powerful idea that "the worst kind of writing is no writing," a reminder that starting is often the hardest — but most important — step.

Overall, the excursion was an inspiring experience that gave students a deeper appreciation for the craft of writing and the courage it takes to share one's words with the world.

Ms Tang **English Faculty**



SOCIAL SCIENCES FACULTY REPORT

Mother's Day Magic: Year 10 Commerce and Work Education

In the lead-up to Mother's Day 2025, the courtyard at Birrong Girls High School transformed into a vibrant and bustling marketplace as our Year 10 Commerce and Work Education students proudly hosted the annual Mother's Day Stall.

This much-anticipated event gave students a unique opportunity to apply their entrepreneurial and enterprise skills in a real-world setting while celebrating the important women in our lives. Over several weeks, students collaborated on product selection, pricing strategies, packaging, display setup, marketing, and customer service – and the results were nothing short of extraordinary.

From handcrafted dessert boxes and tea sets to personalised jewellery, luxurious gift hampers, custom keyrings, chocolate bouquets, and elegant soap flower arrangements, the stall offered a diverse and beautifully curated selection of gifts. Eye-catching displays of cupcakes, brownies, cake pops, lolly kebabs, and chocolate-dipped treats added a sweet touch to the celebration.

Not only did students demonstrate creativity and initiative, but they also showcased teamwork, time management, and communication – all essential skills in both commerce and everyday life. Every item was thoughtfully prepared, many featuring handmade decorations and handwritten cards.

The stall was a resounding success, with strong support from students, staff, and the wider school community. All profits raised will go towards supporting the Zonta Birthing Kits project, a global initiative that provides clean and safe birthing kits for women in developing countries — linking the celebration of mothers to a broader message of compassion and global citizenship.

Stay tuned – our birthing kits assembly will take place in Term 3 on Saturday 16 August between 9:00am and 12:00pm. Parents, students, and staff will be invited to participate. Further details will be shared soon, including how to express your interest in being involved.

Congratulations to all our Year 10 students and their teachers for their dedication, professionalism, and the care they brought to this wonderful celebration. The Mother's Day Stall truly reflects the spirit of gratitude, innovation, and community at Birrong Girls High School.



















Bubble Tea Fundraiser Warms Up the School Community

Despite the chilly weather, our students were brimming with excitement as they lined up for their bubble tea orders—especially our enthusiastic Year 7s!

Throughout Weeks 2 to 5, our school's **Social Justice Team** led a highly successful **Bubble Tea Fundraiser**. Orders were collected daily from students across all year groups, with drinks delivered every Thursday. Each tea was priced at \$10, and students could choose from three delicious flavours provided by Sharetea:

- Tiger Brown Sugar Milk Tea (our bestseller!)
- Mango Milk Tea
- Passionfruit Green Tea

While the original plan was to assign order slots by year group each week, the overwhelming demand and excitement saw students from all years placing—and re-placing—orders. The event quickly became a school-wide hit!

Thanks to the dedication of the Social Justice Team, who promoted the fundraiser through vibrant posters, school announcements, and daily reminders, the initiative saw high engagement from students and staff alike. Many teachers also joined in on the fun, placing repeat orders and showing their support.

In total, the fundraiser raised a fantastic \$300 profit, which will be donated to a selection of charities supporting meaningful causes.

A big thank you to everyone who participated and contributed to this wonderful initiative. It was a great example of our school community coming together to support both a good cause—and enjoy a sweet treat along the way!





Geo Trivia Sparks Curiosity at BGHS

This term, the Social Sciences Faculty continued our —Geo Trivia: "Behold the Unsolvable Enigma!"—inviting students to decode poetic geography riddles linked to famous places, cultures, and flags around the world.

Each week, students faced a challenging Monday riddle, ranging from flags split by golden stars to legendary cities that birthed algebra and scientific breakthroughs. Highlights included:

- Week 2: A bold flag with a sunburst star— Burkina Faso
- Week 3: A cultural riddle steeped in history—Baghdad, Iraq
- Week 4: Persian grandeur and poetic pride—Iran, Isfahan
- Week 5 Urban clues pointed to the global capital—New York City, USA
- Week 6: Bonus city riddles also led students to Gothenburg, Sweden!
- Week 8: Six symbolic colours revealed the "rainbow nation"—South Africa

Each week, participants submitted answers outside the Social Sciences faculty by 3pm for a chance to win **merit certificates** and **lucky dip prizes**. Students from Years 7 to 12 rose to the challenge, with multiple weekly winners proudly announced in the school notices.

The Geo Trivia series not only promoted global awareness but encouraged students to connect geography with history, language, mathematics and even music.

With strong student engagement and positive feedback, the Geo Trivia series will return next term with even more brain-teasing clues and geographic wonders. Congratulations to all participants for taking part in this world-class journey through riddles!

Ms Elmir Head Teacher Social Sciences

BIRRONG CROCHET GROUP



Attendance at the Birrong Crochet Group has been strong this term, averaging around 5 to 10 girls on Wednesday lunchtimes. It is one of my favourite days of the week, providing a wonderful opportunity for both me and the girls to get to know others in the school. It fills me with joy to see the satisfaction on the girls' faces when they have conquered a new skill or created something new with their own hands. I've found the group has provided a safe spot for students to be when they find themselves alone as well as a fun activity for friends to participate in together. It is wonderful to witness students complimenting one another on their achievements and teaching newcomers. One student, Yalda Hussaini has impressed us all with her newly gained skills. While most of us are learning new stitches or working on granny squares to create a blanket, Yalda has pushed ahead on her own steam, creating beautiful mini plush creatures to the delight of all students (especially those receiving them as gifts).





We welcome all students, so don't be afraid to come and have a go.

Ms Mezzino Coordinator

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS AT BIRRONG GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL

At Birrong Girls High School, we are proud to welcome International Students and support their individual educational pathways while studying in Australia. In 2025, we are pleased to have seven international students, all from Vietnam, who have chosen to be part of our school community.

Birrong Girls High School staff members attended the International Staff Training Day on 30 May to learn about important legislative and compliance requirements as well as relevant updates on DE International programs. Staff were provided with opportunities to share best practice models and how to manage student needs and expectations to improve student experiences.

A common theme throughout the presentations was the importance of **connection and communication**. For International students to truly thrive, they need to feel supported, safe, and valued. Wellbeing programs that build confidence and foster relationships with peers, staff, and homestay carers are essential.

Many of these students arrive in Australia and to our schools with limited English proficiency, so early introductions to the school community help ensure they are recognised and supported.

At Birrong, we warmly welcome our International Students through Roll Call and Wellbeing lessons, where they are introduced to our school community, routines, and support systems. During this time, they also complete the mandatory DE International Modules, which cover important topics such as personal safety, student visa and welfare requirements, and practical tips for living in Australia.

To help them integrate at our school, new International Students are invited to attend a 'Welcome BBQ' at the start of the school year—a wonderful opportunity to build connections in a relaxed and friendly setting.

We also encourage our International Students to actively engage in the wider school community. Many have participated in extracurricular activities such as badminton, the school vocal group, and the CAPA Extravaganza. Their involvement extends beyond the classroom—last year, several students volunteered their time to support the Zonta Birthing Kit project, and they are excited to contribute again this year.

International Student fees help provide them essential resources, including school and sports uniforms, lockers, school supplies, including subject specific and additional International student

excursions. Additionally, students benefit from academic support through the school's Homework Centre and receive tailored assistance from our experienced EALD staff.

At Birrong, we are proud to foster an inclusive and supportive environment where our International Students can thrive both academically and personally.

Some international students live with extended family, while others are placed with homestay carers who volunteer to provide a supportive home environment. Becoming a homestay family is a rewarding way to positively impact a student's experience in Australia.

International Students are also supported beyond the school as mental health challenges such as loneliness, isolation, anxiety, and depression are not uncommon. Support services are vital in helping students navigate these experiences and adjust to life in a new environment. DE International provides extensive wellbeing support International Students in partnership Medibank, who provide a dedicated Wellbeing Support Service to assist International students with the challenges of settling into a new country. Many arrive facing emotional or personal difficulties, and the transition can be overwhelming. This confidential service includes access to phone counselling, often in the student's native language, which makes it easier for them to reach out for help. We strongly encourage our students to use this vital service.

Ms Parmaxidis International Student Coordinator



M. Araujo, L. Maddick and M. Parmaxidis at the DE International Staff Training Day, 30 May 2025



BIRRONG GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL PARENTS & CITIZENS ASSOCIATION

Parents are invited to attend the P&C MEETING in the new Admin building meeting room at Birrong Girls High School on Wednesday 20 August 2025 (time to be advised) Please register your attendance by phoning the school office

A Journey of Growth: An's Experience at Birrong Girls High School as an International Student from Vietnam.



My name is Xuan, but at Birrong Girls High School, I also go by Anita.

I joined Birrong Girls in Year 10 at the age of 17—a bit later than most of my classmates, so I could increase my English language skills. At first, it was a tough transition. The language barrier

and cultural differences made me feel isolated, and I found it hard to connect with others. I was used to a school system where students stayed in one classroom all day, which made building friendships much easier. Here, moving between rooms each period felt unfamiliar and challenging.

Thankfully, I had the support of my International Student Coordinator, Ms Parmaxidis. Her enthusiasm, kindness, and constant encouragement gave me the confidence to keep going. With her support, I found the courage to step out of my comfort zone.

I soon joined the music vocal group, performed in the 2024 CAPA Extravaganza, made new friends and I also participated in meaningful activities like assembling the birthing kits for charity. Little by little, I began to feel like I truly belonged in the school community. I also became friends with the new International Students who joined Birrong in 2024.

Although adjusting wasn't always easy, the friendships I've made and the support I've received from my teachers, support staff and office staff have made my experience at Birrong Girls incredibly rewarding.

Thank you to everyone who has been part of my journey.

By: Xuan (Anita)

SOUTHWEST LINK UPDATE T6 Line trains resume from 30 June 2025

Train services on the T6 Line between Lidcombe & Bankstown will resume from 2am Sunday 30 June 2025 following the successful completion of 63 days of essential trackwork and upgrades by the Sydney Metro team.

Thank you for your understanding during this period, especially those who relied on replacement bus services to complete their journeys. We understand this is a disruptive time for passengers and we appreciate your patience. To plan your journey on the T6 Line, please visit: transportnsw.info/plan or check the Opal or other travel apps.

Special Religious Education (SRE) at Birrong Girls High School

NSW public schools offer special religious education (scripture) and special education in ethics, delivered by approved providers wherever available. During enrolment, you can choose a special religious education option for your child from the school's available approved providers. You can withdraw your child from special religious education by selecting alternative meaningful activities, or special education in ethics if it is available. You can update your preference by writing to the school or through the online form available at participating schools. Visit the department's website for more information about religion and ethics.

At Birrong Girls High School, SRE is delivered in 60-minute lessons in a 5-week block each term on Fridays during period 3 to timetabled year groups.

At Birrong Girls High School, SRE is provided at our school through the following providers:

• Buddhist Faith

The Hwa Tsang Monastery has been accredited to provide SRE in the Buddhist faith to primary and high schools for the NSW Department of Education since 1997.

For more information, including the authorised curriculum scope and sequence please visit the following site and selecting 'Education', 'Special Religious Education' and then 'Syllabus and Approach':

http://www.hwatsangmonastery.org.au/

• Combined Protestant Christian

Combined Protestant Christian Churches Special Religious Education (SRE) is being provided through BLAST (Bankstown Local Area Scripture Team). A number of Approved Providers of SRE that meet NSW Department of Education requirements have arranged to partner together to deliver a Combined Christian SRE curriculum.

The list of providers represent various Protestant denominations:

- Christian Community Churches of Australia
 - https://cccaust.org/
- Uniting Church in Australia (NSW Synod)
 - https://nswact.uca.org.au/
- Presbyterian Church of Australia (NSW)
 - https://pynsw.org.au/
- Australian Christian Churches
 - https://www.acc.org.au/
- Churches of Christ in NSW & ACT
 - https://ccnswact.org.au/
- Anglican Diocese of Sydney
 - https://sydneyanglicans.net/
- Baptist Union of NSW
 - https://nswactbaptists.org.au/

The name of the curriculum is called Think Faith. Information regarding the curriculum can be found at http://thinkfaith.com.au.

Islamic Charities Projects Association

The Islamic Charity Projects Association (ICPA) is accredited by the NSW Department of Education to teach Islamic Special Religious Education in NSW public schools. The ICPA works under the guidelines of Darulfatwa - the Islamic High Council of Australia.

For more information about this provider, including the authorised curriculum scope and sequence please visit the following sites:

- http://www.icpa.org.au/
- o www.darulfatwa.org.au

Islamic Council of NSW

The Islamic Council of NSW is authorised through the Department of Education to provide Islamic Special Religious Education lessons in NSW Public Schools. ISRE teachers are provided with approved teaching materials and pedagogy.

For more information about this provider, including the authorised curriculum scope and sequence please visit the following site:

o http://www.isre.org.au/scope-year-7-year-12/

BIRRONG GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL CALENDAR

July:

Tuesday, 1st Wednesday, 2nd

- Parent/Teacher afternoon, 3-5pm
- Excellence Assembly for award recipients, 9am for 9:15am start
- Year 7 Reptile Incursion
- Friday, 4th
- Last day of Term 2

Enjoy the school holidays!

Monday, 21st

- · School Development Day for staff only
- Tuesday, 22nd Wednesday, 23rd
- School resumes, all yearsYear 10 Subject Market, p1-4
- Thursday, 24th
- Year 10 Subject Selection info session p4 (students)
 Year 10 Subject Selection info session p5 (parents)

Year 11 VET Hospitality & Cookery Work Placement Monday 28th July – Friday 15th August

August:

Monday 4th to Friday 8th

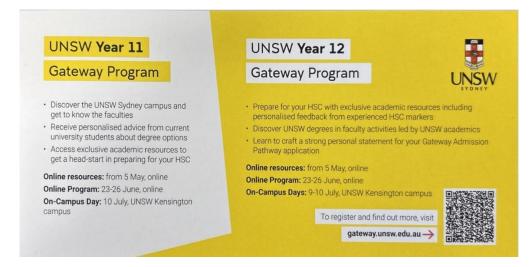
Tuesday, 12th Saturday, 16th Monday, 18th Monday, 18th to Friday, 29th

Wednesday, 20th

- EDUCATION WEEK
- Year 8 Field Day at Condell Park
 Profile Park
- Birthing Kits Assembly, 9am 12pm
- Year 7 Vaccinations
- Year 12 TRIALS
- P&C Meeting (time to be advised)

UNSW GATEWAY PROGRAM







Build your future. Don't wait for it.

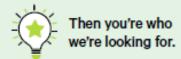
A Transgrid apprenticeship is more than a trade, it's a hands-on career with purpose. Earn while you learn, get real mentoring, and help build Australia's clean energy future.

What you'll get

- A nationally recognised trade qualification
- 16% super + paid leave
- · 9-day fortnight
- · Equipment + tools provided
- · Safety + high-risk licence training
- · Mentors, mates and support networks

Is this for you?

- ✓ Finished Year 10?
- ✓ Got your drivers licence (or getting it soon)?
- Love hands-on work and learning on the job?



Choose your trade pathway



Electronics & Communications Technician



Electrical Substations Technician



Transmission Lines Technician



Roles available at
Eastern Creek | Newcastle | Orange | Tamworth | Wagga Wagga | Yass



Scan the QR to learn more and apply by 20 June 2025





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PROGRAMS







Sydney Adoption and Education Centre 201 Rookwood Road, Yagoona NSW 2199

Sessions include:

- Walk through the shelter and see our work in action
- Fun and interactive activities focused on animals
- Creating animal enrichment toys
- Animal Welfare focused encounters
- Learn how to be an animal advocate in your community!



RSPCA NSW Education Team

Comparison of the comparis

Birrong Boys High School and Birrong Girls High School

Welcome Pack - May 2025

Welcome to your upgraded schools

We are excited the first stage of the upgrade at Birrong Boys High School and Birrong Girls High School is complete and ready for students and staff to use.

The new facilities for Birrong Boys High school include:

The new facilities for Birrong Girls High school include:



new 3-storey teaching building with 11 classrooms, 2 wood and metal workshops, 3 science labs, 2 food technology kitchens



new 3-storey teaching building with 13 classrooms and 2 visual art workshops



refurbished hall and new canteen



new hall



new administration and school entry



new administration



new covered outdoor learning area



new covered outdoor learning area (COLA)



outdoor sports court and newly landscaped areas



newly landscaped areas

More information about the next stages of works at both schools can be found on page 4.

Thank you for your patience during construction. We are thrilled to deliver this project for the school community.



For more information

Phone: 1300 482 651

Email: schoolinfrastructure@det.nsw.edu.au Website: schoolinfrastructure.nsw.gov.au







Message from your Principal – Birrong Boys High School

Welcome to Birrong Boys High School as we await the opening of the final stages of our building with a sense of excitement.

On day 1 of 2025 we moved into a large section of our new building; Administration, TAS and Science as well as a range of classrooms and have been excited to access such an amazing facility in support of the delivery of a quality education for all our students. The woodwork and metal work facilities consist of the latest technology and ensure access to industry standard training. Similarly, our new kitchens, including one at commercial standard, will ensure subjects such as Food Technology and Hospitality continue to grow in popularity and a subsequent improvement in academic achievement.

Each day we witness the ongoing works here at school, the development of dynamic spaces and look forward to soon being able to access our upgraded hall and adjoining all weather court.

In coming weeks, we welcome the opening of stage 2 of our development which will also provide us with a significantly enhanced support unit facility, an amazing fitness hub and new classrooms.

Darren Stevens Principal











Message from your Principal – Birrong Girls High School

Welcome to our school.

The recent upgrades at Birrong Girls High School feature a new, state of the art building that include 12 new classrooms with the top floor comprising a modern Visual Arts hub. A cutting edge multipurpose hall and architecturally designed internal quadrangles, provide reinvigorated play, learning and meeting spaces for all members of the school community. These fresh facilities enhance a longstanding history and culture of high performance, underpinned by strong collaborative practice and stakeholder partnerships. Birrong Girls High School's consistent record of high achievement is driven by a commitment to girls' education and the belief that our students can achieve anything they plan and work towards. The Birrong Girls High community have embraced the exceptional facilities as an investment in their commitment to the values of public education.

Renee George

Relieving Principal







Birrong Boys High School and Birrong Girls High School

Did you know?

The new teaching buildings are designed to be eco-friendly. They feature solar panels, rainwater harvesting systems to be used for irrigation, and designed to achieve a 4 Star Green Star rating from the Green Building Council of Australia.



Ongoing upgrade work at Birrong

Birrong Boys High School

Stage 2 works include minor refurbishment works updating areas within Building A to General Learning, Building D to Student Support Unit, and Building G to Fitness Centre.

This is expected to be completed during Term 2 2025.

Birrong Girls High School

Building H will be refurbished and repurposed into a Materials Learning Unit and Building B into a senior learning area.

This is expected to be completed during Term 2 2025.

Contact us

For information about Birrong Boys High School activities and operations, contact the school directly:

Principal: Darren Stevens

Website: birrongboy-h.schools.nsw.gov.au Email: birrongboy-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au

Phone: 02 9644 5200

Address: Rodd Street, Birrong NSW 2143

For information about Birrong Girls High School activities and operations, contact the school directly:

R/Principal: Renee George

Website: birronggir-h.schools.nsw.gov.au Email: birronggir-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au

Phone: 02 9644 5057

Address: 14 Cooper Road, Birrong NSW 2143

For more information about this project, contact School Infrastructure:

Website: edu.nsw.link/Birrong-Boys-Girls-HS Email: schoolinfrastructure@det.nsw.edu.au

Phone: 1300 482 651

