



BIRRONG BULLETIN

The Newsletter of Birrongo Girls High School

Cooper Road, Birrongo 2143 Telephone: 9644 5057

Issue No. 2

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RELIEVING PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Dear Parents,

There have been many engaging activities across the school community from School Photo Day, Year 11 VET Work Ready Day, University link programs, Year 12 VET Work Placements to Study Skill sessions for Years 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12. It has been a jam-packed term so far for 2025. We have just seen the removal of the demountable office now that we have moved into the new building.

International Women's Day (IWD) - Saturday 8 March 2025

Congratulations to all students who have been fostering this year's theme for International Women's Day: Accelerate Action. The first International Women's Day was started by the suffragettes in 1911 whom were very conscious of the fact that they were left behind politically, socially and economically. The suffragettes had vigorously campaigned for the right to vote in public elections in Europe since the late-19th Century. All women in Britain were finally given the right to vote in 1928. Suffrage for women in Australia was much earlier: in 1902 women over 21 could vote in elections for the federal parliament. While the vast majority of women across the world now have the right to vote, there is still much work to be done to ensure that no woman is left behind and all women deserve the right to be included.

Our Prefects and SRC leaders engaged our school community with various IWD events across Monday 10 March following our IWD online Assembly. The school hallways are lined with inspiring women from the different faculties. The Zonta International Women's Day Breakfast was held at Bankstown Girls High School on Friday 7 March and attended by Kayla Tang (Year 11), Ms Dabaja and myself. It was wonderful to hear from the guest speakers who are reaching for the stars in their lives and who are inspiring others along the way.



Kayla Tang and Ms Dabaja at the Zonta International Women's Day Breakfast

NAPLAN Testing

Years 7 and 9 have engaged with their NAPLAN testing across Weeks 7 and 8 of this term. All NAPLAN testing has been online again this year. NAPLAN assesses literacy and numeracy skills that students are learning through their regular school curriculum. Students have completed assessments in writing, reading, conventions of language (spelling, grammar and punctuation) and numeracy. The questions assess content linked to the Australian Curriculum: English and Mathematics.



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Harmony Week: 17 – 23 March

This year's theme is 'Harmony - we all have a role to play - Everyone Belongs.' Australia is a multicultural country with nearly 50% of Australians born overseas or having at least one parent born overseas. Birrong Girls is proudly multicultural: 93% of our students are from Non English Speaking Backgrounds representing a vibrant mix of over 40 different language groups. Harmony Week is a time to celebrate our school values of understanding, tolerance and inclusion.

Building Update

Our new building is well on the way to us moving into the classrooms on the 1st floor and the VA space on the top floor. Some of our senior VA students have been able to use, over the past 3 weeks, the 2 VA workshops on the top floor. The girls have expressed the new space as being great to work in, large and the top floor comes with a great view.

I would like to show the transformation of Tumbalong so far:



Unapproved leave

Parents, please note that leave cannot be approved for family holidays. In the event that parents do plan a holiday during term, it is vital that the school is informed at least two weeks in advance and that the student attends the office with a note from home clearly explaining the reasons for leave. Please be aware that unapproved leave will generate warning letters for students who miss assessment tasks or examinations in Years 10, 11 and 12.

On time Arrival

It is important for all students to be onsite from 8.15am each day. We have approximately 40 students late to school each day. The delay in processing late arrivals means the girls are missing out on information from roll call as well as disrupting the learning of others if they arrive to Period 1 late. Please leave home with plenty of time to get to school knowing there will be delays with traffic each day.

Safe driving

Parents please take care to follow the rules of the road when dropping off and picking up your child and ensure the safety of all our students. The safety of our students is of paramount concern to us all; however, reckless and bad driving at the front of the school continues to put our girls at risk. With the additional traffic of large trucks due to the school upgrades there are greater risks if we are not driving to the specific road rules when navigating pick up and drop off. Remember that the car parks on the school grounds are for teachers only.

I extend to our community Ramadan Mubarak during the holy month of Ramadan, may the spirit of Ramadan illuminate your heart. Eid Mubarak to you and your families.

To our community celebrating Easter, all the best for your gatherings and shared time to reflect.

I extend a warm invitation to all our parents to attend our P&C meetings which are held in Week 5 of every term at the school.

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.

I hope you enjoy reading about the achievements and activities of the school in the following pages.

Wishing you all Happy Holidays and stay safe.

Warmest regards,

Renee George
Relieving Principal

REPORT FROM THE DEPUTY PRINCIPALS

We are fast approaching the end of Term 1, 2025 and there have already been many fantastic opportunities for our students so far this year. We celebrated International Women's Day, with our students participating in various activities to mark the occasion. Congratulations to Kayla Tang, who represented the school at the Zonta International Women's Day Breakfast. It was a wonderful opportunity to acknowledge some outstanding women and to reflect on what the day means to us all. The Mathematics Faculty seized the opportunity to celebrate the names of the mathematicians our mathematics classes are named after!

International Women's Day (8 March) is a reminder of the strong connection between education and life outcomes for women. Every great success story is a series of little choices, moment by moment, that have an enormous impact on learning, life experiences and opportunities. There is such a strong connection between students' success at Birrong Girls and their active participation in learning. It is one choice at a time; attending school every day, being on time, being prepared, doing your best and getting involved. Many of our students are already thriving this year and we can't wait to see what they will achieve in 2025.

We also recently celebrated Harmony Day; with a Harmony Bazaar and a beautiful reflection activity that invited staff and students to record what Harmony Day means to them. We have enjoyed this feature in our Top Quad over the last week, inspiring a world that embraces and accepts each other in all our diversities.



Year 12 participated in our annual *Study Skills* program, which reinforced the valuable study tools required that will continue to support their preparation for future assessments, examinations, and tertiary studies beyond the walls of Birrong. The VET Hospitality and Business Services students have participated in their week of Work Placement. It was a great time for students to experience the world of work and put their skills into action.

Year 11 students have commented on how much work they are doing during the early stage of their journey towards the HSC in 2026. The Year 11 VET (Vocational Education Training) students completed their 'Work Ready' day to prepare themselves for the 70 hours of mandatory work placement that will begin during Term 2 for the Retail Cert III, Business Services Cert III and the Hospitality Cert II students. They have also participated in their *Study Skills* program, where students were supported in gaining greater insights into effective study habits. Selected Year 11 students have continued supporting the Year 7 students in the Peer Support Program this term and will continue to provide support to their Year 7 groups into Term 2.



Year 10 has recently participated in their *Study Skills* program which introduces effective study techniques and time management skills as well as providing students with tips to build their confidence and increase their motivation to learn.

Year 9 students are enjoying having a greater variety of subjects as they begin their elective courses. They are also scheduled to participate in their *Study Skills* program this term which aims to develop skills to organise their home learning and maximise their school achievement. As the year progresses there will be increased opportunity for Year 9 students to take on some of the leadership roles in the school's extra-curricular clubs and teams. For Year 9, NAPLAN testing took place during Weeks 7 and 8 of this term. This testing provides vital information for your child's teachers so they can cater for individual student needs. We are thrilled that many of our Year 9 students are the most active participants in the school's Theatresports club. Find out more about how you can get involved in this weekly activity through Ms Wright and Ms Waters in the English Faculty! It's a brilliant initiative.

Year 8 students have settled back into the school routine, and they will also participate in the *Study Skills* program this term which helps them to develop good learning habits at home that complement the school learning.

Year 7 students have settled in well and have been mentored by Year 11 peer support leaders. The peer support sessions organised by Ms Tang aim

to increase the awareness, support and connectedness Year 7 students have with their new surroundings and to ensure that they understand the expectations we have of students at Birrong Girls. For Year 7, NAPLAN testing took place during Weeks 7 and 8 of this term. This testing provides vital information for your child's teachers so they can cater for individual student needs. It was wonderful to welcome so many of our students and parents/carers to our Year 7 Welcome BBQ earlier this term. It was a wonderful way for our community of staff, students and their families to meet in a relaxed, informal way; having a chat and eating together. A fabulous afternoon making connections.

HSC Minimum Standards

Students will meet the HSC minimum standard through short online tests in reading, writing and numeracy. Tests can be taken in Years 10, 11 or 12 and will be again organised here at school. Students can take the test more than once if they need to. We will provide more advice about achieving the minimum standards throughout the year.

Homework and revision

A reminder that all students are expected to complete homework. This includes formal work set by teachers as well as revision and wide reading. The following guidelines indicate the number of hours students in various years should set aside for homework:

- Years 7 and 8: 2 hours each night
- Years 9 and 10: 2-3 hours each night
- Years 11 and 12: 3-4 hours each night

This type of commitment leads to success through school and beyond. Remember: every huge success story is the result of a series of little choices.



To those celebrating Eid, we wish you 'Eid Mubarak'. To those celebrating Easter in the school holidays, we wish you a 'Happy Easter'.

We wish all our families a safe and happy holiday break.

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

CAREERS NEWS

Western Sydney University



Attention Year 9 students and parents/caregivers. It is that time again to select students who would like to participate in the Western Sydney Fast Forward program. This

program is a four-year program to assist students with university entry in 2028. Students and families must match criteria and are requested to see Ms Shinas for an interview to see if they're eligible candidates for the Fast Forward Program. There are limited spaces, and every student must complete an online application for this program.

The criteria directly from the coordinators of the program include:

- Low family income or financial hardship
- First in family to enter higher education
- Single parent family
- Child in out of home care
- One or both parents unemployed
- Student with a disability
- One or both parents from CALD/LBOTE

If you think you're eligible, please see Ms Shinas for your interview process and to receive a link to register online.

University of New South Wales



*See unsw.to/reputation

Year 11 Cohort,

This year UNSW are providing students with an excellent opportunity to be involved with the Gateway Leaders Program. This is a special event which is supporting the development of young female students to develop the skills to promote empowering young female leaders in the community. On 26 March, Saira Ali Zada, Inez D'Adam, Aurora Beaumont, Kayla Tang, Stephanie Mafi and Celestia Elali will be attending the university campus to explore and navigate their way into this leadership incentives program. We look forward to hearing from these young leaders about their experience.

University of Technology



Year 11 are asked to register their interest in the U@Uni program. This is another partnership program offered to successful applicants who meet the specific criteria. This program focuses on the Early Entry application process for all courses at UTS. The program runs over the school holidays as well as after school. It is designed to develop students' capacity to deal with university life. Students must meet the criteria, be available to attend workshops and programs in their own time during the holidays and complete the 12-module course program over a two-year period. We have enjoyed this successful partnership along with many other university partnerships for seven years. Students have been advised to attend a meeting with Ms Shinas, the Careers Adviser, to go through the expectations and application process prior to registration. I am looking forward to working with students in this program. Limited places available so students must be organised and attend the scheduled meeting dates posted on the Google Classroom Careers page.

Year 12 students have begun their U@Uni program for 2025. We had the ambassadors come out to Birrong Girls on 4 March, where I was trained up to deliver support and help to our Year 12 cohort. One of the tutors was an ex-Birrong student who completed the U@Uni program four years ago. The tutor, along with her peer tutors, supported our Year 12 students through the program set for 2025. It was a fun afternoon jam packed with information and positive role modelling from our ex-student Ceydan Yorulmaz. Congratulations to Sarah Ali, Eunice Simpson, Ferdos Haidar, Maryam Al Ghazi, Namariq Al-Janabi, Shereen Ibrahim and Sherine Dennaoui who are our 2025 U@Uni candidates.

Universities Admissions Centre



Year 12 News.
The Universities Admissions Centre will be sending out information regarding NESA PINS and advising students to begin the UAC early entry program in April. I will be hosting UAC sessions for Year 12 in the library starting Week 2 Term 2. Students are encouraged not to attempt signing up without attending at least one session that will be delivered on Mondays at 2:16pm. I will be informing students when they should be attending their session, so every student receives equal opportunity to understand the application process.

Students who attempt to apply without supervision are at risk of incomplete or unsatisfactory applications.

I encourage Year 12 students to ensure they have a USI and \$80 for compulsory UAC fees. Parents and caregivers are advised that these fees are paid by students directly to UAC and not part of the school fees process. UAC is a government organisation and not associated with the Department of Education.

I strongly promote students and parents/caregivers to follow UAC on social media platforms or online for the latest and most current up to date news regarding their daughter's Year 12 university transition plans. This is a very informative website directly linked to every university in NSW.
<https://www.uac.edu.au/>

Ms Shinas
Careers Adviser

BAKE SALE FUNDRAISER

On Thursday 20 February, the Social Justice Team hosted its annual bake sale in the newly renovated Tumbalong. The event kicked off with contributions of baked goods from team members, teachers, and students, all coming together to support the cause. In addition to a variety of homemade treats, handmade pens and keychains crafted by the Social Justice Team were also available for purchase.

The bake sale was a great success, raising \$867.30 for Zonta Birthing Kits, which provide essential birthing supplies to help prevent infections during childbirth in underprivileged communities. This achievement was made possible by the hard work and dedication of the Social Justice Team, with special thanks to Mrs Elmir and Mrs Tariq for organising the event.

These funds will significantly contribute to Zonta's mission, helping to improve maternal health worldwide. A heartfelt thank you to everyone who baked, purchased, and supported the event—your generosity is truly making a difference!





By: Laiyla Jalloul
Year 12 – Social Justice Team

BIRRONG GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL CALENDAR

April:

- Thursday, 10th ■ Year 8 Swim School at Birrong Leisure Centre
- Friday, 11th ■ Last day of Term 1

Enjoy the school holidays!

- Monday, 28th ■ School Development Day for staff only
- Tuesday, 29th ■ School Development Day for staff only
- Wednesday, 30th ■ School resumes for all students

May:

- Friday, 2nd ■ School Cross Country Carnival
- Tuesday, 6th ■ Excellence Assembly for award recipients and their parents, 8:45am for 9am start
- Monday, 12th to Friday, 23rd ■ Year 11 VET Retail Work Placement
- Wednesday, 14th ■ Zone Cross Country Carnival
- Wednesday, 28th ■ Year 10 Exams – English am, Maths pm
■ P&C meeting, 4pm
- Thursday, 29th ■ Year 10 Exams – Science am, History/Geography pm
- Friday, 30th ■ Year 10 Exams – PDHPE am



BIRRONG GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL PARENTS & CITIZENS ASSOCIATION

Parents are invited to attend the
P & C MEETING
at Birrong Girls High School
on Wednesday 28 May 2025
at 4pm

Please register your attendance
by phoning the school office

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:

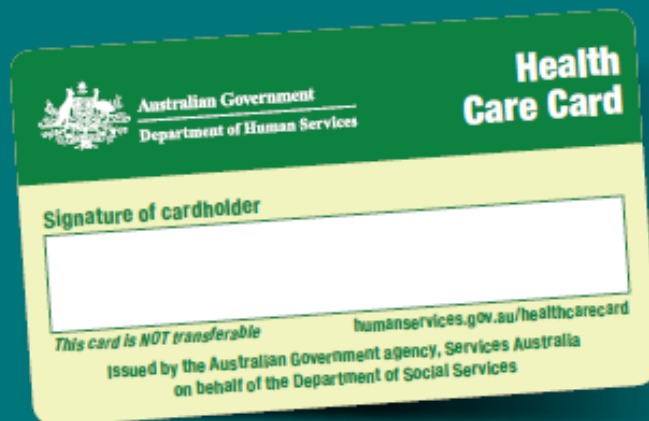
- <http://www.icpa.org.au/>
- www.darulfatwa.org.au

- **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:

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



Do you have a health care card? You could be eligible for Saver Plus.

For every dollar you save, you'll get a dollar from ANZ to spend on educational costs, up to \$500.

To join, you need to meet all of these requirements:

- ✓ Be 18 years or older
- ✓ Have a current Health Care or Pensioner Concession Card
- ✓ Have a child in school, starting school next year, or be studying yourself
- ✓ Get a regular income (can be you or your partner)
- ✓ Agree to join in free online financial education workshops



1300 610 355

saverplus.org.au



SOUTHWEST LINK: SOUTHWEST METRO CONVERSION PERIOD TO BE EXTENDED INTO 2026



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

Good Afternoon,

Earlier today, Sydney Metro announced that the extension of Metro services from Sydenham to Bankstown will be completed in 2026.

This means that fare-free Southwest Link buses will continue to operate until the new Southwest Metro opens.

In addition to Southwest Link buses, a range of alternative transport options will also remain available to passengers to help get them where they need to go during the T3 Bankstown Line conversion.

Passengers can continue to choose from:

- Southwest Link buses
- turn-up-and-go Metro services at Sydenham
- local buses
- trains
- light rail
- cycling and walking routes.

Plan your trip:

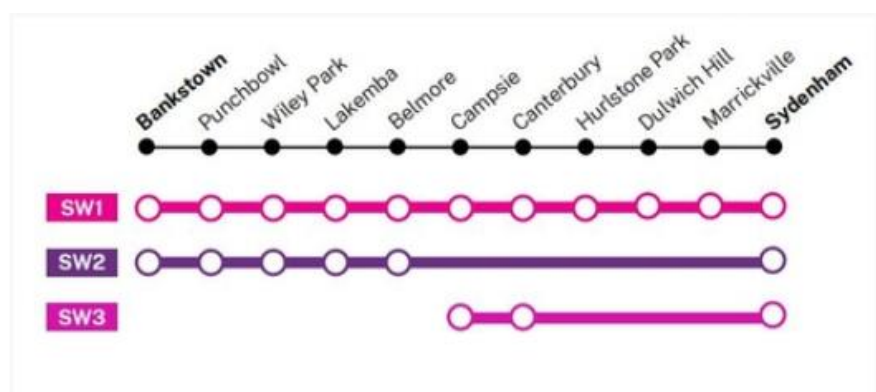
To plan your travel on Southwest Link bus services or explore other transport options, please visit: transportnsw.info/trip

Further information:

For further information about Southwest Link please visit: transportnsw.info/southwestlink

Kind regards

Southwest Link, project team
Transport for NSW



As at 5/3/25.