



# BIRRONG BULLETIN

The Newsletter of Birrong Girls High School

Cooper Road, Birrong 2143 Telephone: 9644 5057

Issue No. 3

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## RELIEVING PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Dear Parents,

I would like to welcome everyone back to school for Term 2. I hope you all had a chance to rest and relax across the holiday break.

### School Development Day

Our Term 2 School Development Day on Monday 28 April provided an opportunity for staff to engage with the Department of Education's High Potential and Gifted Education policy and continue our individual journey to meet the needs of High Potential and Gifted (HPG) students at Birrong Girls. We are always working to improve the learning environment for all students at Birrong Girls.

### Building Upgrades

I am sure you have seen the major changes that have occurred to our school site between 2023 to the start of 2025 as you travel along Cooper Road. On the inside of the school our playground upgrades are complete, and we are waiting on shade umbrellas and extra seating that has been ordered. Following are some photos of our playground spaces.

Top Quad:



Tumalong:



Commons Area:



New Toilets attached to the Hall:



We are in the final stages of having access to the hall and the classrooms in the new building. We look forward to having our school community come onsite to see our upgrades in person.

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## Technology

At Birrong, students enjoy a fast, efficient network and have access to the internet through the DoE portal which filters information for student suitability. It is important that our students continue to exercise responsibility in their use of technology, both at school and at home. Students should not post anything online that they would not want their parents or teachers to read. Students need to be particularly careful when accessing Facebook, Snapchat, You Tube, Instagram and a number of other social media sites. While these sites provide an opportunity to connect and interact with friends, problems arise when students start to share their thoughts, photos and personal information online. This information can become public very quickly and stay on the internet indefinitely. In some cases such information can damage reputations and have implications far into the future. Parents can assist their child's involvement in social media in a number of ways:

**\* Be involved in your daughter's use of technology** - Set up your own account and learn about privacy settings so you can understand how to best protect your daughter. Monitor your daughter's use of technology and ensure that her accounts are set to private so that access is limited to family and friends.

**\* Encourage responsible use of technology** - tell your daughter that anything she posts or sends online can be difficult or impossible to remove and can have a long term impact on her digital reputation. Remind her that once something is sent, it is impossible to retrieve and may remain as a permanent electronic record. Hurtful and humiliating messages cause unnecessary grief to oneself and others and should not be communicated.

**\* Report any abuse or inappropriate content to the social networking site** and show your daughter how to do this. Learn how to block people to prevent issues occurring / reoccurring.

We recommend that parents access the eSafety Commissioner site which is a very user friendly and informative site for further information - <https://www.esafety.gov.au/parents>.

## Academic Reports

Term 2 is the reporting term. Teachers are now in the process of writing reports for Year 12 and reports should be distributed at the end of Week 4; Year 11 students should receive their reports at the end of Week 6. Reports will be distributed to students in Years 7-10 during Week 9 in preparation for parent-teacher interviews on Tuesday 1 July.

Reports include comments from teachers which indicate strengths and areas for improvement. Students should read their reports carefully and heed their teachers' advice to help overcome any

issues experienced with their school work. It is also important to reflect upon the 'Application to Learning' section of the report. It indicates the extent to which a student works to the best of her ability and applies herself to the demands of her subjects. All students should be achieving 'always' in this section. I encourage all parents to consider their daughter's report carefully, discuss teachers' comments with their daughter and acknowledge and praise excellent achievement and offer encouragement for improvement.

Please remember that additional support for students is provided through the Homework Centre which is open Tuesday – Thursday from 2:50pm to 4:45pm.

## Uniform Matters

Our school community has very high expectations with regard to uniform because students wearing neat and tidy uniform present a very positive message about the school and it also supports student safety. School jumpers and blazers, available from our onsite uniform shop, are an important part of our uniform now that the weather is turning cool. Cardigans, jackets, hoodies, short sleeved school shirts with long sleeved undergarments are not part of our uniform and are unacceptable.

Please ensure that your daughter wears her uniform with pride and conforms fully to the school's uniform policy, a copy of which can be found on our website.

## Watch out...Students about

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 students at risk. Parents please take care to follow the rules of the road when dropping off and picking up your daughter and ensure the safety of all our students. Remember that the car parks on the school grounds are for staff only.

## Gratitude and Well Wishes

I would like to announce that Ms Blue (Relieving Deputy Principal) is now a permanent Deputy Principal at Blakehurst High School. As a school community I am sure you will agree with me that Ms Blue has worked exceptionally hard supporting students and families across her year groups. We will miss her at Birrong Girls and thank her for her leadership across the school and within the Mathematics department. She worked hard each day whilst she was with us to 'change lives' and we will be forever grateful for the support, contributions and mentoring she provided to staff and students. We were very lucky to have Ms Blue with us, now we must support her move so she can continue to share her talents with Blakehurst High School. Good Luck Ms Blue, you will be missed.

**Congratulations to:**

Year 10: Adila Musavi who attended the Awards Ceremony on Tuesday 13 May to receive her NSW Teachers Federation Refugee Scholarship.

Year 11: Motahara Noori who attended the Awards Ceremony on Tuesday 13 May to receive her Public Education Scholarship – Friends of Zainab.

Year 11: Parasto Hussaini who attended the Awards Ceremony on Tuesday 13 May to receive her Girls in STEM Scholarship.

Year 12: Seema Gul Askari, Sania Alizada and Elaha Nazari who attended the Awards Ceremony on Tuesday 13 May to receive their Public Education Scholarships.

Year 12: Ridha Afzal has been awarded a prestigious VET in Schools Scholarship.

**Coming Events:**

- The school's Athletics Carnival will be held at Wests Track & Field – Athletics Club, Wyatt Park, Auburn on Wednesday 4 June. Participation in such events is an important part of your daughter's co-curricular experience at school.

- I extend a warm invitation to all our parents to attend the next P&C meeting which will be held on Wednesday 28 May at 4pm in the Senior Learning Centre.

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

Please enjoy reading about the achievements and activities of the school in the following pages.

Warmest regards,

Renee George  
**Relieving Principal**

**REPORT FROM THE DEPUTY PRINCIPALS**

Congratulations to the students who have a **100% attendance** record for Term 1. Well done! This is a great way to maximise your opportunity to learn. Each of these students will have received a certificate of merit for this fantastic achievement at year meetings in early Term 2!

**Year 12** has been working to complete their assessment tasks and will be receiving their mid-course school reports at the end of Week 4 this term. Assessments have been returned to students and teachers will use information from the marking process to adjust teaching programs to ensure our students reach their full potential by the time the HSC starts on Thursday 16 October. Students should review their tasks to identify areas of strength and areas where they need to build on their knowledge, understanding and skill. The HSC

timetable was released on Friday 2 May and students should now know when each of their final exams are scheduled.

**Year 11** students have now settled into senior school life and understand the expectations that go along with being a senior student. This means that students should be devoting sufficient time to their studies and be reflecting on the feedback provided by their teachers during class and following their assessments. Students should be building a sustained homework and study routine at home in preparation for their preliminary exams which take place in late Term 3. Teacher feedback is the greatest resource students can access and use to make the necessary changes to enhance their personal educational growth. We encourage all senior students to make use of the teacher support / tuition offered in the library Tuesday to Thursday from 2:50pm – 4:45pm every week. Year 11 VET Retail students are engaging with their mandatory week of Work Placement to achieve their competencies for their Certificate III. We want to thank the parents and carers who attended the Studying in Stage 6 Parent Workshop on Wednesday 12 March.

The majority of **Year 10** students are applying the necessary work ethic in classes and at home to help them achieve successful results in their RoSA year. The Commerce Mother's Day Stall was held on Thursday 8 May and was a big success. Funds raised will be donated to support the Zonta birthing kit assembly. The half-yearly exams for electives and core subjects are scheduled during Weeks 4 and 5 of this term. Year 10 will also be undertaking the first opportunity this year to demonstrate a minimum standard of literacy and numeracy to receive the Higher School Certificate (HSC) from 2025. The three short online tests will consist of everyday reading, writing and numeracy skills. We have a busy term ahead for Year 10. Year 10 also attended Riverside Theatre in Week 2 to see Macbeth.

Term 2 is a time for all **Year 9** students to really engage in their learning now they understand what is required of them in all courses. Student application and progress will be recorded formally and at the conclusion of this term school reports will be distributed.

Most of our **Year 8** students have settled back into the routine of high school life with many already receiving achievement awards from their teachers. Many Year 8 students are taking advantage of the school's Homework Centre. The Homework Centre provides an excellent opportunity for students to engage productively in their learning. Experienced teachers provide assistance to students who require support with their homework, assignments and assessment tasks.

**Year 7** students have well and truly settled into the swing of 'life at Birrong GHS'. Many students have already been working hard and receiving achievement awards from teachers. When a student submits five achievement awards to a Deputy Principal they will be awarded a Certificate of Merit. All students are encouraged to be active participants in the *School Merit System* process. An outline of the School Merit System can be found in the school diary. Year 7 Scripture is running in Weeks 1-5 on Friday during Period 3 of this term.

The school athletics carnival is scheduled for Week 6, Wednesday 4 June and there is an expectation that all students will be in attendance. All students are required to travel to and from the event via the school organised bus. Payment for the bus is \$15 and must be made prior to the day no later than Friday 23 May. The carnival day is a great opportunity for all students to get involved in the fun activities offered. Join the fun by signing up to run a race, jump long or high or throw a javelin, disc or shot put.

Parents/Carers are encouraged to check the school website regularly at <https://birronggir-h.schools.nsw.gov.au/> or the Facebook page to keep informed about events occurring at the school. These sites are updated frequently with information and images that celebrate our students' achievements.

Ad Astra,

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

## INTRODUCING NEW STAFF

**Diana Linquist**  
**Teacher Librarian**



Hello, my name is Diana Linquist, and I am excited to introduce myself as the new Teacher Librarian at Birrong Girls High School. I feel greatly privileged to become part of this vibrant community.

I began my teaching career after completing a Bachelor of Economics (Social Sciences) at the

University of Sydney, followed by a Diploma of Education at the Australian Catholic University. With over 20 years of experience, I have taught a variety of Social Science subjects, including Business Studies, Economics, Commerce, Geography and History at schools such as All Saints Senior College Casula, St Patrick's Marist College Dundas, and Domremy College Five Dock. In 2022, I completed my Masters of Education (Teacher Librarianship) through Charles Sturt University, and I previously served as the Teacher Librarian at Georges River College Penshurst Campus.

I am deeply passionate about teaching, learning, and supporting students on their educational journeys. I believe the library and its staff play a crucial role in fostering a love for reading, enhancing literacy, and promoting information fluency within the school. My goal is to ensure that the library is a welcoming and engaging resource-rich learning space for all students.

I look forward to working collaboratively with all members of the BGHS community to create an enriching environment for our students.

**Nicole Darknell**  
**English Literacy/Language**



My name is Nicole Darknell and I'm grateful for recently joining the hardworking English faculty at Birrong Girls High.

I have an Arts and Humanities (English language and linguistics) Bachelors degree and a Secondary English PGCE from The University of the West of England.

My passion for teaching English began in 2013, when I was an au pair in Italy and it has taken me around the world ever since, including Portugal, Tanzania, China and now Australia.

In 2017 I travelled to China, where I lived for 5 years, initially teaching English at the international school, Jiaxiang Foreign Languages School, and then at Chengdu University of Technology. Following this I returned home, to Wales, where I



taught at Caldicot Comprehensive School, before moving to Sydney.

I've been lucky enough to have worked with some excellent teachers and a broad variety of students, in the past, and I look forward to learning from and growing with the staff and pupils at Birrong Girls High.

### **Hala Farhat English**

My name is Mrs Farhat. I have joined the English faculty, and I would like to thank everyone at Birrong Girls High School for warmly welcoming me to the school.

I completed my Bachelor of Arts with a major in English, Texts and Writing as well as a Master of Secondary Teaching both at the Western Sydney University. I have also attained qualifications in Training and Assessment through TAFE which enable me to teach vocational subjects like Retail to young people through schools.

In the past, I have been fortunate to teach at many schools within the Department of Education and other private schools where I adopted many new skills, roles and responsibilities, and even taught across different subjects, including Commerce and History. I also spent some time coordinating career related activities in an official Career Adviser role, in addition to an Acting Stage Coordinator role which focused on the holistic improvement of students across academic success, behaviour and wellbeing.

I look forward to working in the English faculty at Birrong Girls High School and I cannot wait to meet you or teach you during this new journey.

## **STUDENT WELLBEING REPORT**

### **The Resilience Project**

Our school continues to deliver **The Resilience Project (TRP)** to all our students as the program is committed to teaching positive mental health strategies to prevent mental ill-health and build young people's capacity to deal with adversity.

Our teachers and students engage in weekly lessons and activities around the key principles of Gratitude, Empathy, Mindfulness (GEM), and Emotional Literacy to build resilience. There are many ways that GEM can be used with families at home to reinforce the strategies being taught at school to increase student wellbeing and resilience. Please go to the following websites to access information about the program and for ideas for use at home.

Check out their website for more information:

[The Resilience Project  
https://theresilienceproject.com.au/](https://theresilienceproject.com.au/)

Have a look at their TRP@HOME section in the website; a place filled with inspiration and activities for the whole family, to help improve the wellbeing of all your family members and build resilience.

### **NSW School Vaccination Program**

In 2025 the following vaccines are offered for free this year:

- Year 10 students are offered a single dose vaccine for meningococcal ACWY vaccine **on 13/06/2025**. Students will receive a note and consent form closer to the time.
- Year 7 students are offered a single dose vaccine for diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis (whooping cough) and a single dose vaccine for human papillomavirus (HPV) **on 18/08/2025**. Students will receive a note and consent form closer to the time.

**Vaccination will only be given at school if consent has been received.**

For students in Year 7 or Year 10 this year, parents/guardians can now provide online consent for the above school vaccinations by following the steps in the attached **2025 NSW School Vaccination Program Newsletter**.

A hard copy consent form will be issued to students a few weeks prior to the vaccination date for those who are unable to provide online consent or for those who do not have a Medicare card.



Congratulations to all the students who maintained high levels of attendance

in Term 1. Students are issued merit certificates for attendance over 95% and several students in each Year group received 100% attendance certificates. 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 Term 1 you had 10 days absent that makes your attendance at 79% attendance. That is, you were present 37 days out of 47 school days. If you have no more absences in Term 2, then your 10 days absent will put you 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 for the year.

### Student of the Month Awards



Congratulations to Ravenne Mateo of Year 12 who has been awarded the Student of the Month award for February 2025. She has demonstrated citizenship, leadership and commitment to the school community.

She has a positive attitude

to all aspects of her schooling, and she demonstrates a mature and conscientious approach in her learning, showing strong academic achievement.

She has been an active and dedicated member of the Social Justice Team being involved in various fundraising events. Ravenne was a supportive and enthusiastic Peer Support Leader to Year 7 students transitioning into high school. She has demonstrated leadership and cooperation as a responsible member of the School Prefect Body and in her role as a Vice-Captain where she took part in the design process for the Year 12 jersey, and she has represented the school at events such as the NSW Government Iftar Dinner.

Her future goals are to attend the University of NSW to complete the Bachelor of Medical Studies/Doctor of Medicine and specialise as a pediatrician. Ravenne's goal is to assist those in need and make a significant contribution to society. She aspires to travel the world in the future and to document her travel experiences through photography and the creation of a travel journal that will reflect the diverse cultures, landscapes, and personal insights she encounters on her journey.



Congratulations to Zainab Al Saleh of Year 12 who has been awarded the Student of the Month award for March 2025. She is a positive role model to her peers, demonstrating citizenship, leadership and commitment to the school community.

Zainab is a mature and diligent student with a positive attitude to her studies.

She has demonstrated dedication, leadership and active participation as a member of the SRC and was elected as a Prefect for 2025. Zainab has been a supportive Peer Reading Tutor enhancing the literacy skills for Year 7 students. She also participated in and made valuable contributions on the school Debating team.

Out of school, Zainab has been volunteering at her local mosque teaching young children Arabic. She also volunteers her time assisting with the cooking and handing out food during Ramadan in various

mosques. Zainab is an avid reader and hopes to build herself a mini-Library in her home.

Her future goal is to attend university to attain a degree in the field of medical science to pursue a career as a doctor. Zainab would like to travel the world and volunteer in war-torn countries. She also aspires to teach Arabic to young people.

Ms Salvagio

**Head Teacher Female Students**

### SOCIAL SCIENCES FACULTY REPORT

Throughout the term, the Social Sciences Faculty has continued to deliver diverse, curriculum-aligned learning experiences that actively engage students across Years 7 to 12. Through inquiry-based tasks, real-world applications, and social justice initiatives, students have developed skills in critical thinking, problem-solving, collaboration, and communication across the disciplines of Geography, Commerce, Business Studies, Legal Studies, Economics, Work Education, and VET (Business and Retail Services).

In **Year 8 Geography**, students participated in the *Around the World in 80 Days* competition, a Google Forms-based challenge integrating Google Earth and Maps. The activity required students to solve riddles, interpret climate graphs, and explore cultural knowledge while virtually travelling the world. This strengthened their spatial skills and global awareness. Numeracy was integrated through analysis of climate data, while the ALARM scaffold supported structured written responses.

**Year 9 Geography** students investigated *Sustainable Biomes*, examining the use of natural environments for food production and how sustainability can be achieved. They are now progressing into *Changing Places*, where they'll explore patterns of urban growth and liveability.

**Year 10** students completed a study of *Human Wellbeing*, exploring global inequalities and development indicators. This term, they've begun the *Environmental Change and Management* unit, focusing on coastal environments and sustainable management practices. Literacy strategies such as sentence scaffolds and geographical glossaries have supported student understanding of key terminology and analytical writing.

In **Stage 6 Legal Studies**, students have been engaging in the *Jurisprudence Joust*, a weekly hexagonal-style quiz delivered via Google Forms. The gamified format has helped reinforce student understanding of legal institutions, law reform, and individual rights. Students have built skills in applying legal concepts to contemporary issues, supported by ALARM-based extended writing tasks and vocabulary development activities.

**Work Education** and **Commerce** students collaborated to plan the school's *Mother's Day Stall*, which was held on **Thursday 8 May (Week 2)**. The project has served as a real-world learning opportunity in areas such as budgeting, advertising, and customer service. Numeracy was explicitly taught through pricing strategies and calculating profit margins, while literacy was embedded through the creation of promotional materials and reflection logs. Notably, all profits from the stall will contribute to the assembly of **ZONTA birthing kits**, supporting maternal health in developing countries — linking learning with meaningful social justice action.

In **Business Studies, Year 11** students explored the nature of small business, investigating internal and external influences, business planning, and management responsibilities. **Year 12** students applied their knowledge to case studies focused on the Marketing and Human Resources functions of businesses. These included activities involving SWOT analyses, financial calculations, and strategic planning. Students used the ALARM scaffold to construct extended responses, applying business knowledge to real and hypothetical scenarios.

In **Economics**, students deepened their understanding of the current economic climate through the application of economic theory. Topics included market structures, economic decision-making by households and firms, and the role of government intervention. Numeracy was embedded through interpreting graphs, analysing inflation and unemployment data, and constructing economic models. Students practised structured responses using key economic terminology and scaffolding strategies.

**VET students in Business Services and Retail Services (Year 12)** successfully completed their mandatory work placements, applying skills in WHS, communication, and administrative procedures. **Year 11 Retail Services students** are currently participating in workplace learning, building competencies in gift wrapping, customer service, and product presentation. In Business Services, students undertook simulated administrative tasks to build workplace readiness. Literacy was supported through resume writing, document formatting, and proofreading, while numeracy featured in inventory and scheduling activities.

**Year 9 Commerce** students studied *Consumer and Financial Decisions*, learning about budgeting, ethical spending, consumer rights, and comparing financial products. They applied this knowledge through case studies and real-life decision-making tasks, building financial literacy and ethical reasoning.

In **Year 9 Work Education**, students explored workplace rights, responsibilities, and personal goal setting. Lessons covered workplace safety, interview skills, teamwork, and career exploration, preparing students for future work experience. These activities promoted self-reflection, collaboration, and communication while reinforcing essential employability skills.

To commemorate **International Women's Day**, students across all Social Science subjects participated in lessons that embedded gender equity themes. In Legal Studies, they examined the role of the legal system in addressing gender inequality. Business and Commerce students explored case studies of successful female entrepreneurs and reflected on women's leadership in corporate spaces. Geography classes investigated how gender-based inequality impacts wellbeing and access to resources globally. These lessons promoted deep reflection, scaffolded writing tasks, and student voice, contributing to the school's broader commitment to inclusive education.

Across all subject areas, a strong emphasis was placed on embedding **ALARM, literacy, and numeracy** strategies. These frameworks helped students deconstruct questions, structure responses, analyse data, and build confidence in academic writing and communication. As a result, students have not only deepened their subject knowledge but also strengthened the core capabilities needed for academic success and future pathways.

### **Birrong Girls Shine for Earth Hour – Congratulations Katie Tran of Year 8B!**

In celebration of Earth Hour 2025, Birrong Girls High School hosted a video competition encouraging students to creatively express their commitment to environmental sustainability. Participants were tasked with producing short videos demonstrating how they observe Earth Hour and inspire others to take climate action.

We are thrilled to announce that **Katie Tran from Year 8B** has been selected as the winner of this year's competition!

Katie's video stood out for its heartfelt message, innovative presentation, and passionate advocacy for sustainable change. She effectively highlighted simple yet impactful actions—such as switching off lights, reducing waste, and promoting awareness—that contribute to protecting our planet.

As her prize, Katie received a personalized gift from the **Harmony Bazaar**. She had the opportunity to select beads and charms to create a custom bracelet and pen, symbolizing her creativity and dedication to sustainability.

A huge congratulations to Katie, and thank you to all students who participated in the competition. Your voices and actions play a vital role in promoting environmental awareness and fostering a greener future.

Let's continue to embody the spirit of Earth Hour—every hour, every day.

### **ZONTA Bake Sale Raises \$867!**

The Student Social Justice Team hosted a vibrant Bake Sale at Tumbalong to support the assembly of ZONTA Birthing Kits for women in developing countries.

Thanks to the generosity and enthusiasm of our students, staff and families, we proudly raised an incredible \$867!

Over the past 11 years, Birrong Girls High School has contributed over 11,000 birthing kits. With this event, we are well on our way to reaching our next milestone of 12,000 kits – a testament to our school's ongoing commitment to global citizenship and community service.

From cupcakes and croissants to lamingtons and handmade jewellery, the variety of treats on offer was impressive. Students swarmed the stalls with excitement, enjoying the delicious baked goods and beautifully crafted pens, keyrings and rings.

Thank you to all the bakers, sellers, buyers and organisers who made this event such a success. Your efforts will help provide life-saving care to mothers and babies around the world.

Together, we're *baking* a difference!

### **Social Justice Team Report**

Term 1 was a vibrant and rewarding term for the Social Justice Team. Students enthusiastically led several impactful initiatives, including our two-day Harmony Bazaar, which celebrated cultural diversity and unity across our school community. We also held a successful bake sale and coordinated the Community Kitchens Toiletry Drive, where generous contributions supported those in need. These activities not only raised valuable funds but also fostered a strong sense of compassion, inclusion and student leadership.

Term 2 promises to be just as exciting, with a range of new projects underway. Beginning this week, we are launching our Bubble Tea Fundraiser. All drinks will be \$10. Students in each year group will receive their orders on the following dates:

- Years 7 and 8 – Thursday 15 May 2025
- Years 9 and 10 – Thursday 22 May 2025
- Years 11 and 12 – Thursday 29 May 2025

All profits from the bubble tea fundraiser will go towards a charity initiative chosen by the Social Justice Team, allowing students to take ownership in directing support to a cause they care deeply about.

In Week 6, the team will be back in action with a colourful presence at school events—offering face painting, cheer items and carnival novelties to raise further funds. This not only supports important causes but adds vibrancy and school spirit to our community events.

Due to its popularity, the Harmony Bazaar will return again in Term 2, providing another opportunity to celebrate cultural diversity, creativity and community engagement.

The Social Justice Team thanks all staff and students for their ongoing support and generosity. Together, we continue to make a real difference both within our school and beyond.

### **Environmental Team Report**

Our passionate Environmental Team – Birrong's own Eco-Warriors – has been working diligently to promote a greener, cleaner school. This term, the team focused on implementing strategies that support environmental wellbeing, improve recycling and waste management, and raise awareness about our impact on the environment. Key initiatives have included regular discussions on how to reduce single-use plastics, educating peers on proper waste sorting, and developing campaigns to foster responsibility for our shared spaces.

A major highlight this term has been the Earth Hour Video Competition. Students have showcased their creativity and commitment by scripting, filming, and editing videos that deliver powerful messages about the importance of protecting our planet. These videos are part of an ongoing environmental awareness campaign designed to encourage positive change in our school community. As part of this effort, the team has also created posters that will be displayed across the school to promote sustainable habits and shift attitudes about conservation and waste reduction.

Looking ahead, Term 2 will see the return of the Lunchtime Clean-Up Challenge, inviting all students to take an active role in keeping our school grounds clean and litter-free. To support this initiative, the Environmental Team has secured rubbish pickers, empowering students to lead by example and continue the war on waste at Birrong Girls High School.

The Environmental Team extends its thanks to all students and staff for their support and enthusiasm in building a school culture focused on environmental responsibility and sustainability.



## Geography Riddle Challenge continues in Term 2!

The **Geography Riddle Challenge** has quickly become a favourite tradition at Birrong Girls High School. Launched by the Social Sciences Faculty, the competition invites students to solve a weekly riddle focused on world geography - from landmarks and capitals to flags and hidden global clues.

Each Monday during **Roll Call and Assembly**, a new riddle is revealed. Students then have until **3:00pm that same day** to submit their answers via the **entry box outside the Social Sciences staffroom**.

During Term 1, students successfully solved **every weekly enigma (riddle)**, demonstrating impressive teamwork, geographical knowledge, and reasoning skills.

The challenge is now back for Term 2 - and the big question is:

**Can students keep the winning streak alive, or will they finally meet their match?**

Weekly winners receive certificates, prizes and school-wide bragging rights. The Geography Riddle Challenge continues to spark curiosity and build global understanding in a fun and interactive way.

For more information, students can visit the Social Sciences staffroom or speak to **Ms Elmir**.

## Harmony Bazaar 2025: Beads, Bracelets & Big Hearts for Pakistan

Event Dates: Thursday 20 March & Friday 21 March 2025



What happens when creativity, compassion, and community come together? You get Birrong Girls High School's Harmony Bazaar—a vibrant two-day celebration run by our inspiring Social Justice Team that raised over \$1,000 to build a well in Pakistan.

With just one incredible stall, students transformed the playground into a

bustling, colourful marketplace. The display featured handmade name bracelets with uplifting words like 'Believe', 'Kind', 'Strong' and 'Awesome', alongside character-themed novelty pens—from unicorns to pandas—that flew off the table. DIY bead stations were set up with hundreds of charms and lettered beads, all colour-coded in rainbow trays. Bright keychains, stationery sets,

personalised accessories, and decorative pinwheels added even more charm to the stall, capturing the joyful energy of the event.

Students from across all year groups flocked to the stall during both lunch breaks. They built custom jewellery, picked out gifts for friends, and proudly supported a cause that will change lives far beyond our school gates.

A huge shoutout goes to our Social Justice Team who designed, priced, packaged, and staffed the stall from start to finish. Special thanks also go to the Year 9 Work Education and Commerce students who applied real-world business and teamwork skills, and the Year 12 Business Services students who created eye-catching posters and promotional signage to draw attention to the event.

This wasn't just about selling, it was about service, solidarity, and student voice in action. The Harmony Bazaar showed us that even the smallest items—like a bracelet or pen—can make a big global impact. Thank you to our school community for your overwhelming support. Every dollar donated will help bring clean water, hope, and dignity to those who need it most.

Ms Elmir

**Head Teacher Social Sciences**



### BIRRONG GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL PARENTS & CITIZENS ASSOCIATION

Parents are invited to attend the  
**P & C MEETING**  
in the Senior Learning Centre  
at Birrong Girls High School  
on Wednesday 28 May 2025  
at 4pm  
Please register your attendance  
by phoning the school office

### BIRRONG GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL CALENDAR

#### May:

Monday, 19<sup>th</sup> to  
Friday, 23<sup>rd</sup>

▪ Year 11 VET Retail Work Placement

Thursday, 22<sup>nd</sup>

▪ Social Justice Team Bubble Tea  
Fundraiser Year 9&10

Wednesday, 28<sup>th</sup>

▪ Year 10 Exams – English am, Maths pm  
▪ P&C meeting 4pm

Thursday, 29<sup>th</sup>

▪ Year 10 Exams – Science am,  
History/Geography pm  
▪ Social Justice Team Bubble Tea  
Fundraiser Year 11&12

Friday, 30<sup>th</sup>

▪ Year 10 Exams – PDHPE am

#### June:

Wednesday, 4<sup>th</sup>

▪ School Athletics Carnival at Wests Track &  
Field – Athletics Club, Wyatt Park, Auburn

Monday, 9<sup>th</sup>

▪ KING'S BIRTHDAY – Public Holiday

Friday, 13<sup>th</sup>

▪ Year 10 Vaccinations

Monday, 16<sup>th</sup> to  
Friday, 20<sup>th</sup>

▪ The Ration Challenge

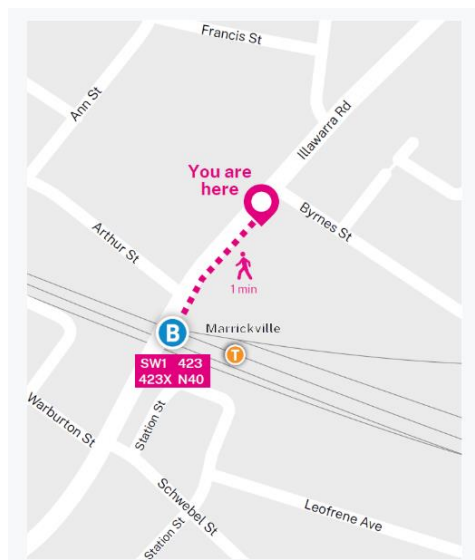
**SCHOOL ATTENDANCE MATTERS – Remember, give your child every chance to succeed. A day absent from school here and there doesn't seem like much, but...**

If your child misses	That equals..	Which is....	Over 13 years of schooling that is..	Which means the best your child might perform is....
1 day/fortnight	20 days/year	4 weeks per year	Nearly 1.5 years	Equal to finishing in Year 11
1 day per week	40 days/year	8 weeks per year	Over 2.5 years	Equal to finishing in Year 10
2 days per week	80 days/year	16 weeks per year	Over 5 years	Equal to finishing in Year 7
3 days per week	120 days/year	24 weeks per year	Nearly 8 years	Equal to finishing in Year 4



**Marrickville bus stop changes from Friday 9 May**

From **4am Friday 9 May**, the Southwest Link bus stop on Illawarra Road at Marrickville for passengers travelling towards Bankstown will return to its original location in front of Marrickville Station.



# Trackwork

27 April - 29 June



## T6 Lidcombe & Bankstown Line

From **Sunday 27 April to Sunday 29 June 2025**, buses replace trains between Bankstown and Lidcombe due to Sydney Metro construction works.



### Replacement bus services

- **8T6** – Bankstown, all stations to Lidcombe and return
- **8AT6** – Bankstown, express to Lidcombe and return
- Buses are **fare free** – **no need to tap on and tap off**.

#### On weekdays:

- **8T6** services will run up to every 8 minutes between Bankstown, Yagoona, Birrong, Regents Park Berala and Lidcombe
- **8AT6** services will run up to every 8 minutes between Bankstown and Lidcombe.

#### On weekends:

- **8T6** services will run every 15 minutes between Bankstown, Yagoona, Birrong, Regents Park Berala and Lidcombe
- **8AT6** services will run every 15 minutes between Bankstown and Lidcombe

Southwest Link bus services will run as normal between Sydenham and Bankstown.

### Other transport connections

- **T3 Liverpool & Inner West Line** trains continue to run between Liverpool and the City via Lidcombe.
- **Change at Lidcombe** for **T1, T2 or T3** trains towards the City or Parramatta.
- **Change at Regents Park** for **T3** trains towards Liverpool.
- **Change at Bankstown** for **Southwest Link** bus services towards Sydenham.

At times, other trackwork may also affect your trip. Plan ahead at [transportnsw.info](https://transport.nsw.info) and allow extra travel time.



Scan the QR code to plan ahead.





## 2025 NSW School Vaccination Program Newsletter

Immunisation protects your child against serious vaccine-preventable diseases.

**In 2025 the following vaccines are offered for free:**

- Year 7 students are offered a *single dose vaccine for diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis (whooping cough) and a single dose vaccine for human papillomavirus (HPV).*
- Year 10 students are offered a *single dose vaccine for meningococcal ACWY vaccine.*

Vaccination will only be given at school if consent has been received.

If your child is in Year 7 or Year 10 this year, you can now give consent online for these routine school vaccinations. Parents/guardians can consent online at any time. However, to help our school vaccination team with clinic planning, we kindly ask that you can do the online consent as soon as possible.

**How to provide consent for your child's school vaccinations:**

1. To complete online consent, visit [https://nswhealth.service-now.com/school\\_vaccination](https://nswhealth.service-now.com/school_vaccination).
2. 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 ServiceNSW account, refer to the instructions on this website to create one: <https://www.service.nsw.gov.au/services/myservicnsw-account/how-to-create-an-account>.
3. Update or confirm your personal details in ServiceNSW, if needed.
4. Complete the School Vaccination Consent Form for your child. You will need to:
  - a. enter your child's personal details
  - b. provide the Medicare card details for you and your child
  - c. read the linked Parent Information Sheet and privacy statement
  - d. give separate consent for each recommended vaccine.

For detailed steps on how to provide consent, visit <https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/immunisation/Pages/online-consent-school-vaccination.aspx>. Translated guides are also available in Arabic العربية, Korean 한국어, Simplified Chinese 简体中文, Traditional Chinese 繁體中文 and Vietnamese Tiếng Việt Nam.

**The benefits of providing consent online:**

- easily update your child's details
- receive SMS and/or email notifications when vaccinations are given
- faster upload of vaccination records to the Australian Immunisation Register (AIR).

If you or your child do not have a Medicare card or internet access, ask your child's school for a **paper consent form**. Please complete and return the form as soon as you receive it. This is important for the Immunisation Team to plan for the clinics and for you to receive an automated text message 72 hours before, to remind you about the clinic.

**For Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students:**

Aboriginal/Torres Strait Islander families are encouraged to contact the Aboriginal Immunisation Liaison Officer for any questions around the school vaccination program.

For more information on routine school vaccinations, please visit [www.health.nsw.gov.au/schoolvaccination](http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/schoolvaccination) or scan the QR code:



If you require information in your language, please visit [www.health.nsw.gov.au/immunisation/Pages/school\\_vaccination\\_language.aspx](http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/immunisation/Pages/school_vaccination_language.aspx) or scan the QR code:



## 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](http://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/>



# 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:



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



refurbished hall and new canteen



new administration and school entry



new covered outdoor learning area  
(COLA)



outdoor sports court and  
newly landscaped areas

The new facilities for Birrong Girls High school include:



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



new hall



new administration



new covered outdoor learning area  
(COLA)



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](mailto:schoolinfrastructure@det.nsw.edu.au)  
Website: [schoolinfrastructure.nsw.gov.au](http://schoolinfrastructure.nsw.gov.au)





# Do you have a pensioner concession 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](http://saverplus.org.au)



NSW PENSIONER