

Candid

WHAT WE CAN DO. WHAT WE DID DO. WHAT WE WILL DO.



Acknowledgement of Country

Bankstown Girls High School acknowledges the people of the Cadigal, Wangal and Bendiagal clans of the Dharug tribe as the traditional owners of the land upon which our school stands.

Principal

Suada Bilali

Welcome to the start of 2021. It has already been a positive start to the year. We extend a warm welcome to all our new students, families and staff. We look forward to working with you in what will be a productive and exciting year.

At Bankstown Girls High School, our main purpose is to ensure that each student is well cared for and supported in an inclusive environment that allows all our students to achieve excellence. Our home-school partnership is vital, with parents and carers being encouraged to reinforce study routines, school attendance, appropriate use of devices and inform the school of any issues or concerns that arise.

Our first P&C meetings for the year was held on March 3rd and it was great to see a large number of parents attending. We extend an open invitation to all other parents to attend our P&C meeting each term during weeks 3 and 8 to maintain our commitment to a high-level of communication and interaction.

Despite the challenges of 2020, I would like to congratulate our class of 2020 on their exceptional HSC results. Thirteen of our students were named on the Distinguished Achievers list (HSC Honour Roll) due to their consistent top band performances across all their subjects. Seventeen band 6 performance were recorded across many faculties and our student Ward Moukkaddem's major work was selected for Art Express, placing her in the top 5% in the state. An extended thank you goes out to all the parents who supported and encouraged their daughters through the HSC. Strong partnerships achieve great outcomes.

Bankstown Girls High School is doing wonderful work across all areas of the curriculum and ensuring that every teacher is explicitly teaching literacy and numeracy. This year, we have officially launched our whole school STEAM program – 'Bankstown Girls STEAM Ahead'. Every student in Years 7-11 will have the opportunity to develop their critical thinking and problem-solving skills to prepare them for an evolving future.

The continual development of teaching and learning techniques remains crucial to our growth as a school. At Bankstown Girls, we look forward to sharing this journey with our entire school community.

Thank you to all my staff for your commitment and hard work, and also to our whole school community for your ongoing support.

I wish everyone a wonderful and restful break.



Deputy Principal

Cathy Porreca

The beginning of the 2021 school year has been very exciting as we celebrated our 2020 Year 12 cohort who achieved outstanding results in their HSC. Despite it being a COVID year and a year of remote learning, the girls proved that they were capable of being independent and resilient learners who achieved great results because they made a commitment to learning and were also supported by an equally committed and professional staff who focused on achieving the best outcomes for their students.

Ward Moukaddem is to be particularly congratulated for her outstanding achievements, with her body of work being selected to be part of Art Express.

Year 7 have adjusted well to the high school environment and are enthusiastic about their subjects and their learning experiences. The girls have adjusted to their new classes and are demonstrating positive behaviour and attitudes in all their lessons.

Overall the year has been very busy for us with lots of refurbishments around the school which have contributed to a more pleasant physical environment for the girls to immerse themselves in their learning. As the year progresses, we will see more changes to the school which should inspire the girls to do their best in all aspects of school life.

As Term One draws to a close, I would like to wish everyone a happy and safe holiday.



Deputy Principal

Mark Leary

After an incredibly disrupted 2020, it was great to start the year and I hope that as we approach the end of the first term of 2021 that as students you have worked hard and enjoyed the learning experiences that your teachers are presenting. As parents, I hope that your daughters have kept you informed of what they are doing in class and that they have been working hard on their subjects and assessment tasks.

There are some changes happening with communication taking place this year. The Skoolbag app is no longer being used to send messages to parents. Messages have been sent to the email address the school currently has on file. If you are not getting any messages you may need to check that we have your current email address and update your information with the school. Mr Mohan is currently rolling out the SENTRAL Student and Parent Portal to provide parents and students with access to information. SENTRAL is the student administrative system the school uses and it provides access to information through the Student and Parent Portal. The portal will allow you to access your daughters timetable, attendance, messages from the school and we will also publish semester reports here for you to access. If you have not received an invite to the Portal to register please send an email to the school at the address below with your current email address and request the school sends a registration email.

bankstowng-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au

Year 12 have been working hard and at the end of this term they will be undergoing a Head Teacher Checkpoint. This will involve them being interviewed by the Head Teachers responsible for the subjects the girls are studying. In the interview, the Head Teacher will discuss attendance and check on their application to classwork. Throughout the course of the year it can be easy for the girls to overlook the importance of the work that they do in class every lesson while placing their focus on assessment tasks. It is important to acknowledge that both are important and this is one strategy being used to ensure the girls focus is on their classwork as well as their assessments.

We are currently working through the minimum standards literacy and numeracy tests with Years 10 to 12. The girls have to pass a minimum standard in reading, writing and numeracy in order to qualify for a Higher School Certificate at the end of Year 12. The girls will be offered a number of opportunities each year to meet the standard. If you would like more information on the minimum standard tests you are welcome to contact myself on 9709 6788 and there is information on the NESA website through the following link.

<https://educationstandards.nsw.edu.au/wps/portal/nesa/11-12/hsc/hsc-minimum-standard>

I hope you enjoy your break and we look forward to seeing you next term.



Learning Support and Wellbeing

Maria Varikos

It has been an amazing term for Learning Support and Wellbeing. The young Year 7 have settled in seamlessly, Year 6 primary school visits took place in preparation for a successful Open Day, the Wise Up program has engaged the Year 9 girls in empowering our future leaders, Year 11 has actively participated in Kalvi-Tree a program which bridges the gap between secondary schools and tertiary studies, ABCN Leadership program which engaged with mentors from Microsoft as they provided guidance for our potential student leaders, and of course, our peer support leaders have supported the transition of Year 7 into Bankstown Girls.

In Term 2, we are working to ensure that all Year 7 and 9 students complete the online NAPLAN assessment. The Pacific Islander Student Network group, a forum where Pacific Islander girls come

together to meet community member mentors to provide guidance and mentorship for their learning and career pathways, will commence. This year Bankstown Girls High School have formed a strong soccer team who will be representing our school across knockout competitions and some healthy peer games during break times. Year 10 will be participating in a pilot program in conjunction with Delaney College and Punchbowl Boys High School where they will be leading and participating in a compassion project of their choice within the wider community.

We have an exciting year ahead of us. Together with the Learning Support and Wellbeing teams, I look forward to delivering our objectives, recognising our achievements, and sharing our successes.



English

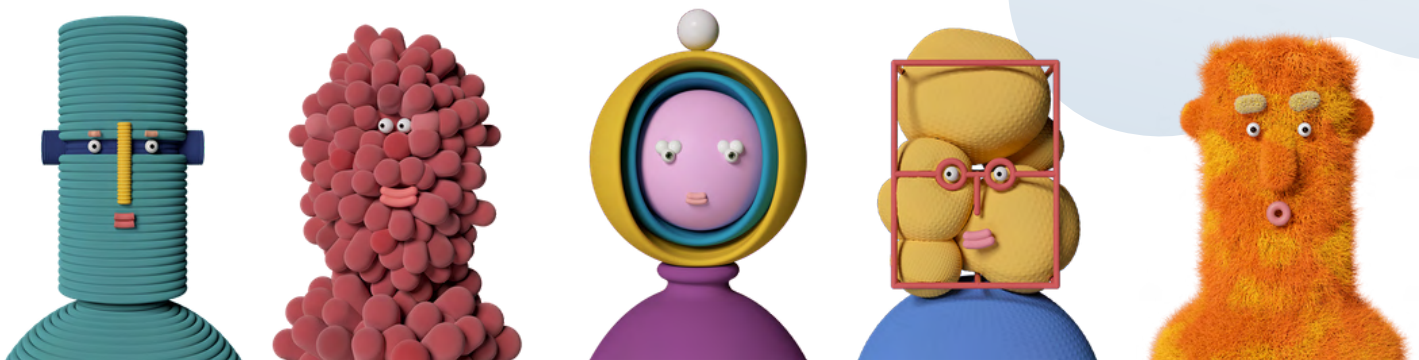
Lisa Carmody

The English Department's STEAM project is off and running as we have started to explore with our creative friends in Year 9. Our project sees a spaceship of aliens land on Earth with the mission of investigating what exactly makes us human. The problem is that these aliens don't speak English. So, we are asking the girls to explore the abstract nouns linked to human emotions and determine the most appropriate or important emotions that the aliens should take back to their own planet.

Year 9 can only communicate non-verbally with the aliens, meaning they must create a short *stop motion* film exploring what they perceive is the most important emotion for the aliens to learn about.

Year 9 discovered which creative type they were and determined their groups based on creative partnerships. They recognise each other's creative strengths by the colour of the glasses they were wearing. So, the visionaries have teamed up with the thinkers and the artists with the dreamers.

Find out your creative type at mycreativetype.com



Year 9 have also explored abstract nouns. They were asked to represent a variety of abstract nouns in a physical tableau and upload their creativity to our google classroom. These are two examples of POWER and CREATIVITY.



Mathematics

Vicky Saisanas

The Mathematics faculty farewelled Mr Vrhovac and welcomed three new members: Ms Chand, Ms Wang and Mr Nguyen. We launched our in-class support with Mr Nguyen and Ms Wang, as well as, our lunchtime tutoring sessions.

The 'Numeracy in Mathematics' program with Ms Weston and Mrs Saisanas commenced with students working on numeration in Year 7 and a statistical inquiry unit in Year 8. Continuing the numeracy theme with our mathematics teachers, Mrs Rounis has been working with Year 8 students in Science with Mrs Edwards and her staff, and with Ms Kyritsis and the HSIE teachers in Geography. Both programs are providing students with the necessary skills to apply mathematics in the context of science and geography.

Our Mathletics program has also commenced, and we encourage students to take advantage of the additional support provided by this online resource.

Our Year 9 STEAM program commenced with Ms Doai and Mr Mohan focusing on skilling our students in robotics. We envisage that several groups of students will have the opportunity to take part in the URC Robotics challenge at the end of the year, which we have been a part of since its inauguration in 2019 with Bankstown Girls High School representing Australia in Japan.

The Mathematics faculty has a range of activities planned for our students to support their learning. The most vital aspect of the study of mathematics is how and when to apply skills in context. The problem-solving component of working mathematically remains a focus for our practice, providing students with real-world examples of mathematics in action. Numeracy days organised by the faculty will run in the next couple of terms, and have been a huge success in the past. Students will be supported with their preparations for NAPLAN in Year 7 and 9, HSC Minimum Standards in Year 10 and the Check-In Assessments in Year 8.



In Mathematics, we try to extend our students to 'think outside the square or box', where students can be creative in solving problems and producing high quality work. One of the units of work that we undertake in Year 7 is an inquiry-based assignment on "A World Without Numbers". Working in groups, students are asked to present a report summarising their thoughts on the topic using their choice of medium. We were unable to publish this work at the end of 2020 and wanted to acknowledge the hard work of our dedicated students.

The poem below was written by Yin Lin, Linda Kimmy and Vianna Phan as their response to the inquiry.

*In an ordinary world, in an ordinary place,
The world as we know it, would soon change
As the boy walked and walked
He noticed something was wrong
Because the world as he knew it, was suddenly gone...
As the cars passed and passed, he noticed their plates were bare
The signs lay empty
The world with numbers,
Was no longer there
He pulled out his phone,
Noticing the time had disappeared
Where did the numbers go? Had this been what he'd feared?*

*Soon, he realised the bus timetable was void
Everything with numbers had been destroyed
Who had wreaked havoc onto this poor place?
Time, car plates, phone numbers and signs,
Its existence left without a trace
All that was left was an empty space
Filled with confusion, a world of despair
The world without numbers was too much to bare*

*The boy wandered far and wide
And all he could see were people unfazed
He walked and walked, quickening his pace,
Walking urgently with haste,
Looking around at the numberless world in a daze
What kind of world was this?
What was this place?
He tried to live his daily life like the rest
But the more and more he tried,
the more and more it felt like a quest
Every task was harder to do
Was he the only one with this view?*

*The days stretched on and on
As the boy pondered what to do
Every task and every job
Made his head throb
The lack of numbers in the world
Proved to make everyday hard
And the boy wondered how anything could last
Would the survivors live like nothing was wrong?
Or would they live like animals?
With all the numbers gone!
Adjusting to this new, numberless world was hard
Without numbers, civilisation was impossible.
No way for civilisation to be sustained meaningfully
No useful technology
No way to tell time, pay or even count
No way to contact others, reach out to friends
No way to know the weather or even the day
A living nightmare, a horror story
The way humans could live was limited
Was this permanent?
That very thought made him worry
And him taking numbers for granted made him sorry*

Human Society and its Environment

Jim Tsafis

Year 9 Commerce classes attended a Fieldwork excursion to Bankstown Central and the Bankstown CBD to complete their *Consumer and Financial Decisions* assessment task on March 5th. The excursion provided the Commerce students with a valuable and authentic opportunity to gain further understanding of the unit of work on Consumer Decisions and in particular Comparative Shopping.

The fieldwork excursion on Comparison Shopping enabled the students to act as consumers and identify suppliers in the

Bankstown CBD to find the best price for the items they were willing to buy. The students were asked to use their knowledge, understanding and evaluation skills to identify potential sellers to see which one is offering the best deal. The excursion allowed the students to visit Aldi and Woolworths in order to compare prices, identify promotions and physically see the layout of the stores. Through the process of comparing price, quality and service of similar products, the students can make an informed and ethical decision to avoid impulse buying.



After a quick rollcall at the beginning of Period 2, we left school to walk to Aldi in Bankstown with Mr Mohan, Mr Tsafis and Mr Dalton. As the class entered Aldi in an orderly manner, we were trying to work out what tasks we needed to do. On the left of the store, there were Tim Tams, cookies, mint chocolate, and to the right there were the "Special Buys". During our time in the store we spent time sharing ideas about Aldi and completed part of the task on comparative prices.

Leaving Aldi with the teachers, we walked to Bankstown Central to go to Woolies to compare their prices and offerings with Aldi. When we walked into Woolies, on the right side there was the fresh fruit and vegetables, as well as the bakery. This was different to Aldi. On the left side, there was the beauty and cosmetic aisle. Some girls headed towards the canned fruits and vegetables, others walked to

the frozen food, while others walked to the cereal section. All students did the fieldwork that needed to be done. The students exchanged information to help them complete their assignment on Comparative Shopping.

When we left the supermarket, Mr Tsafis took group photos of the classes. Finally, the group walked to the food court to have lunch, with each person buying their meals and sitting with friends in small groups. As we walked back to school the students chatted happily about their excursion, whilst some started to compare store layouts, prices and quality. The excursion was successful, hard work and fun. The classes hope that there will be more fieldwork like this soon in Commerce and would like to thank their teachers for this real world opportunity.

By Basma Hayder and Prabhleen Issar

Science

Anna Edwards

At our school, 2021 started with two new staff members commencing in the Science Faculty. With an increased interest in taking senior courses, we needed more staff.

We were thrilled to welcome Mr Daniel Golestan, who comes to us with a wealth of experience in teaching Physics at the University of Technology. He has quickly become an integral part of our faculty and school, and recently showed his commitment by shaving his hair during "Shave for a Cure".

Mrs Hneide Charif started in a part-time capacity and is an experienced Science teacher who has a passion for encouraging knowledge acquisition through experimentation.

We welcome them to our school!



Year 7 Science learned how to light a Bunsen burner and conduct experiments and this is always exciting. Year 7 are also involved in a STEAM project which, for this semester, is to design and construct an Orrery. By the end of the project we hope to see some wonderful designs of models that depict the way the moon orbits the Earth as it, in turn, orbits the Sun.

Year 8 students have had a focus on their numeracy skills in Science. With the leadership of Clare Rounis, from the mathematics faculty, a program of lessons (one designated class per cycle) have been designed to build the numeracy skills of our students and ensure that all our students have the capacity to be numerate in Science. Numeracy skills in Science form a key foundation to the working scientifically skills.

Do what's hard.

Take risks.

Set high standards for yourself.

Do something that matters.

Professor Michelle Simmons

Our two Year 11 Biology classes took the trek via public transport to Cronulla's Shelly Beach to undertake their compulsory field work excursion, which forms part of their Depth Study on Ecosystem Dynamics. For many girls this was their first opportunity to explore an intertidal rock platform and 'think and act like a scientist', performing various measurements and investigating the organisms found in rock pools.

Looking forward, a number of Science activities are planned. The International Chemistry Quiz is being promoted for all interested students in Years 7-12 and the Big Science Quiz is also on the horizon. A number of other excursions are also planned, with the Year 12 Biology Museum of Human Disease excursion planned for the last day of Term 1.

Our motto in Science is borrowed from the 2018 Australian of the Year, Professor Michelle Simmons (Quantum Physics): "Do what's hard. Take risks. Set high standards for yourself. Do something that matters". In Science we encourage all our students to live by this mantra and look forward to seeing what we can do in 2021.

Personal Development, Health and Physical Education

Shadi Ghazal

Term 1 has been a jam-packed and exciting term for the PDHPE faculty with many programs and events taking shape.

With most carnivals in 2020 being cancelled, it has been a refreshing start to the year with the PDHPE staff running the school swimming carnival along with the Edmondson Zone swimming carnival. The students had the opportunity to showcase their skills in the pool and Bankstown Girls High School proudly entered a squad to take on the other schools in the Zone swimming carnival. The girls gave it their all and represented the school with pride, producing some respectable results at Zone level.

Lead by Ms Baddah and Mrs Vratavic, the event was the first time that parents were allowed to spectate in over a year. All the staff, students, and parents involved were extremely grateful for the opportunity to be a part of this event. The staff were supported by a gallant and proactive group of Year 10 PASS students, who were also at the forefront of running the carnival. The students showed the quality we have at Bankstown Girls High School by displaying exceptional leadership and organisational skills that contributed to the success of the event.



Staff and students within PDHPE have been working extremely hard in Term 1 and have been producing meaningful, quality work. Our senior students have been excelling and have pushed themselves very hard in preparation for their HSC examinations. Students in CAFS have produced relevant *Individual Research Projects* that highlighted their ability to conduct and analyse meaningful research topics. The Year 12 PDHPE class has also been busy analysing injuries and providing plans that guide athletes towards injury prevention.

The PDHPE staff are very excited to be working alongside Year 8 students in a STEAM project that aims to develop a ball launcher. The students have been extremely creative in their approach, producing innovative and engaging ideas. Students will soon begin the process of building their ball launcher and we are excited to see the final products.

Thank you to all PDHPE students and staff for their amazing work in all areas of the school. We are looking forward to seeing the results of all this hard work in the near future.

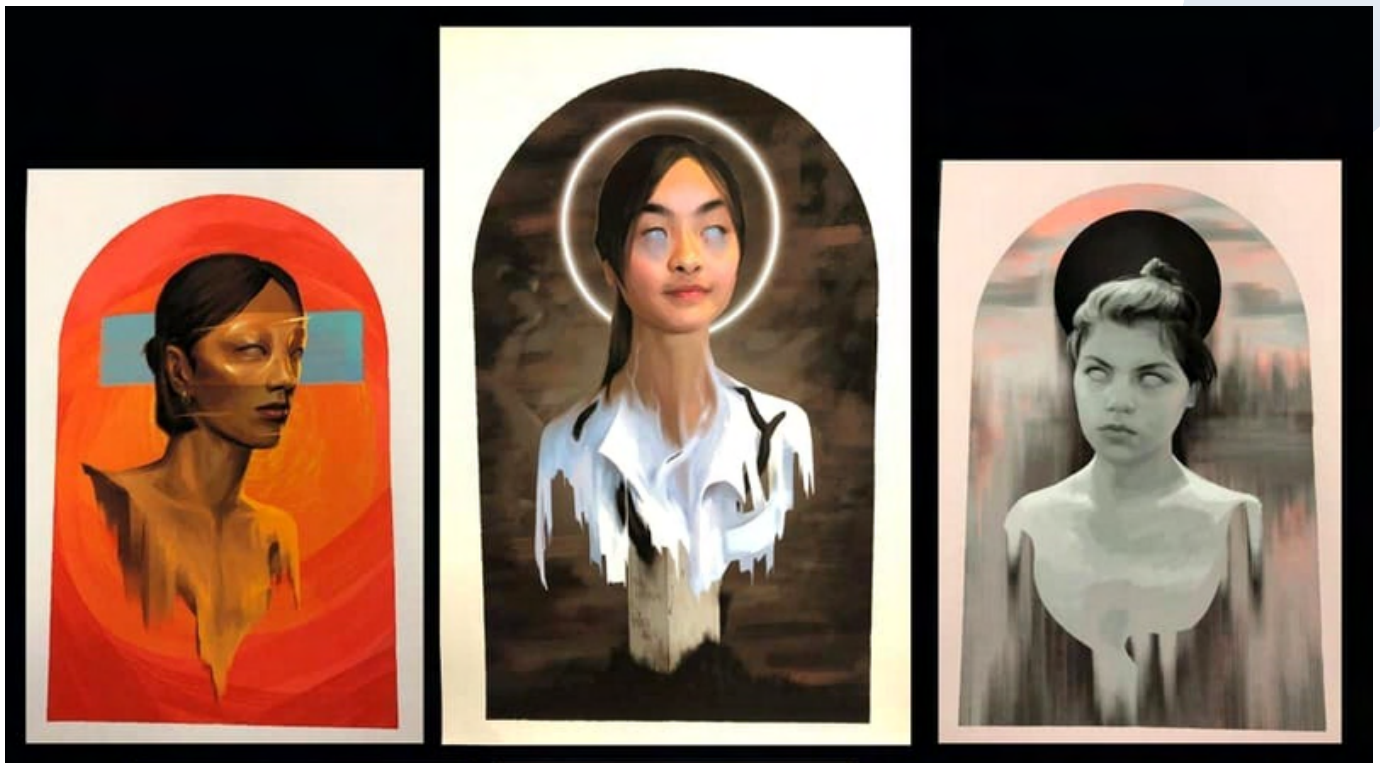
Technology and Applied Studies and Creative and Performing Arts

An insight into the works of Ward Moukaddem

Year 12 Visual Arts student Ward Moukaddem was nominated and has been subsequently selected for the HSC exhibition of artworks, ARTEXPRESS. This is an annual showcase of Higher School Certificate Bodies of Work representing exemplary and dynamic artworks created by New South Wales Visual Arts students for the 2020 Higher School Certificate examination. Ward's collection of work titled, *A portrait is only the ghost of a human*, consists of digital illustrations, paintings, chalk pastel and coloured pencil drawings. The work depicts a series

of portraits represented in a highly realistic manner.

By being listed for nomination and included in this exhibition, her work places Ward in the top 5% of HSC results in the state. Ward's outstanding Body of Work will be exhibited at The Armory, Sydney Olympic Park on 2 March - 11 April. A nomination and selection for ARTEXPRESS is an incredible achievement and Bankstown Girls High School congratulate Ward for creating such a high quality and resolved work.



Ward Moukaddem's dedication and abstract insight into creative worlds has provided future Bankstown Girls High School students with an icon of success. We would like to thank Ward for her passion and commitment to learning.

Our Captain

Soundarya Deshmukh



I never thought I'd be finishing my high school career at the same school since Year 7, let alone as the school captain. The students and teachers believed in me. The once timid and self-doubting girl changed, she changed for the better so that in the real world she would be capable of expressing her voice. I know that once I leave the school I'll leave matured, goal oriented and overall with a positive mindset. Bankstown Girls offered a variety of opportunities which allowed me to explore my interests and challenged me to try new things regardless of the outcome. Although I'm one of very few students with an ethnicity like mine, at Bankstown Girls High School both the teachers and students provided an environment where I felt like I belonged and was appreciated. Our school is continuing to build a name for itself in the community and I am highly confident it will continue on. I am who I am today because of this school and I am very grateful for everything that I've been resourced with.

Our Vice Captain

Tamanna Farheen



Where should I start? Once a shy and quiet girl entering Year 7 in a high school with over 300 students, I would never have thought to be such an independent and strong woman. Bankstown Girls High School has given me the life that I have always longed to live for. It's like the saying, "when life gives you lemons, make lemonade". Through the support of my teachers, friends, and the opportunities that I have been honoured with, such as SRC, ASPIRE, Girls in property etc, Bankstown Girls has made me a competent and brave woman who can see her dreams closer than ever before. Bankstown Girls High School is made up of over 30 different cultures, making it a multicultural school. It shows that no matter what race or ethnicity you come from, we treat everyone with respect and we always strive our best in everything. Throughout these six years, Bankstown Girls has made many things possible for me and I am always grateful for the principal, Mrs Bilali, and all the teachers who have made me the woman I am today.

candid

A School Recap

Celebrations and Events

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

On March 8th, Bankstown Girls High School celebrated the globally recognised holiday, *International Women's Day*. The theme for 2021 was 'Choose to Challenge', a statement of activism that means by challenging old ideologies we can promote change. This theme focuses on our individual responsibility to challenge gender bias and inequity in a global society where it has become rampant.

Bankstown Girls High School is dedicated to protecting the sanctity of intellectual growth and development. We value the ever-growing potential for change and aim to create an environment that appreciates the academic, creative, social, and cultural individuality of our students. Therefore, we aim to equip our young women with the qualities, mindset, and independence to embrace a new tomorrow. We want to celebrate the achievements of women and campaigning against gender bias and inequality. We will stand with and support women.

Our young women will be future leaders, pioneers, and champions.



WORLD'S GREATEST SHAVE

Excitement and pure joy are the descriptors for the *World's Greatest Shave* at Bankstown Girls High School. With the goal of furthering life-saving research and supporting families facing blood cancer, the *World's Greatest Shave* is an event of shared support, bravery, and hope.

On March 11th, the scissors and clippers worked hard, but our Bankstown Girls' school community worked harder as a new school record was set. In total, the school raised \$3,812, breaking the last record by over \$1,800.

Whilst staff haircuts were the main event, the students set up stalls for hair braiding, hair colouring using hairspray, and henna applications. This all allowed the students to have fun whilst building relationships with people they might not usually talk to.

Students and staff came together to create a day of fear, fun, and laughter, as our staff paraded their freshly cut locks. This day embodied the importance of creating safe, respectful, and lively connections between our students and staff.



HARMONY DAY

Harmony Day is a celebration of cultural diversity and acknowledgement of the contributions of our multicultural communities to Australian society. *Harmony Day* coincides with the United Nations International Day for the *Elimination of Racial Discrimination*, a clear message of shared acceptance and love.

Bankstown Girls High School encourages inclusivity through the promotion of respect for cultural and religious diversity. It is our belief that even through each and every difference, we all belong. Bankstown Girls High School believes that everyone deserves acceptance!

Bankstown Girls celebrated this day by holding one of our first post-COVID events, consisting of a *Harmony Day* assembly and a bake sale. All the money collected from this event was donated to the Australian Red Cross.



Candid

WHAT WE CAN DO. WHAT WE DID DO. WHAT WE WILL DO.