

# Candid

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



# Acknowledgement of Country

Bankstown Girls High School  
acknowledges and respects the Bidjigal  
clan of the Darug Nation and their  
Elders, past, present and emerging.

We further acknowledge and understand  
that Aboriginality is defined not by skin  
but by relationships. While we are  
learning to 'always be our best', we will  
continue to grow alongside our  
Aboriginal sisters and brothers.

# Principal

Suada Bilali

Welcome back to what has been a strong start to the year. I'd like to extend a warm welcome to all our new Year 7 students and their families. Our new students have all transitioned successfully into their high school life and are engaging meaningfully with their learning.

Despite the challenges of 2021, we have much to celebrate when it comes to our HSC success. Our highest ATAR of 98.1 was achieved by Hibba Chaudhry who was also recognised as a Top Achiever. Many of our Key Learning Areas were also featured on the Distinguished Achiever list. Our Class of 2021 also managed to perform above state average in the following courses: Chemistry, Design & Technology, English Advanced, English Standard, English Studies, Investigating Science, Retail Services Exam and Visual Arts. There were strong results across all faculties and band 6 performances also included academically rigorous subjects like Biology, Business Studies, Legal Studies, and Music. Congratulations to all our students, staff and parents/carers for their hard work and commitment throughout the last two years.



*Image: Hibba Chaudhry*

Our current Year 12 are halfway through their final year and are consistently reminded to persevere, use their time wisely, and work hard. They are surrounded by committed and experienced teachers who will inspire them to do their best. We have complete faith in the capabilities of our young women, and we know that they will overcome any obstacles that arise in their final year.

Term 1 at Bankstown Girls has really set the standard for 2022. With several successfully managed school community-building events, our school is functioning as cohesively and unified as ever and, in turn, is creating the perfect environment to progress and develop our teaching/learning resources. This term has seen the beginning of STEAM practices for 2022, with several year groups showing a love for our interdisciplinary teaching methods. Our Literacy and Numeracy Teams have also been hard at work implementing engaging and thought-driven learning practices across all school faculties.

In March, we saw our Leadership Team work with Aunty Carol Brown to write Bankstown Girls High School's new Acknowledgement to Country, which was first announced at our Harmony Day assembly. We were fortunate enough to have several special guests at this assembly, including Aboriginal elders Uncle John Dickson and Aunty Liz Dickson, and Aboriginal artist Koreena Leverett. Our students and staff also took part in a smoking ceremony led by Uncle John and Aunty Liz - a common Aboriginal practice which involves the burning of native plants to produce a cleansing smoke that wards off bad spirits. Our students were grateful for the opportunity to share in such a special Aboriginal cultural practice and listen to the knowledge shared by Uncle John.

I hope that we continue this positive momentum into Term 2 to ensure that all our students develop their skills and expertise even further. For all our families who have started Ramadan, wishing you all a blessed month. I hope everybody has a safe break period and returns to school well-rested and ready to learn.

# Deputy Principal

Cathy Porreca

What an amazing term we've had to start the academic year! Returning to school in 2022 has been a bit of a rocky road thanks to the lingering reminders of COVID. Despite the slight disruptions, I feel that the students and staff are relieved to get back to some sort of normality.

Year 12 are well on the road to attaining their HSC. They have gone through their checkpoint interviews, with the majority of students succeeding in producing all classwork requested of them to a high standard. Now they are very busy completing assessment tasks and thinking about their end of year activities. We hope that the Class of 2022 will be able to enjoy their final year without the disruptions experienced by last year's Year 12.

Similarly, Year 10 are well aware of the expectations required to attain a RoSA at the end of this year and I am pleased to say that they are working very diligently to achieve the best possible results. Year 8 continue to show what a cohesive year group they are; I often hear comments from staff complimenting Year 8 and

their attitude to learning. Congratulations Year 8 on being such a diligent and kind group of young women.

On a different note, I would like to comment on the wonderful Harmony Day that was organised on 21st March. As a school, we participated in a thoughtful assembly where the SRC presented our school's new Acknowledgement to Country. We also participated in a smoking ceremony led by Aboriginal elders and were given a fascinating history of the smoking ceremony and its significance in Aboriginal culture. The national anthem was sung in the Darug language, and the ceremony concluded with thoughts about our multicultural society and what it truly means to be respectful and inclusive of all people despite culture, language, or religion. Money was raised for the Red Cross and cupcakes were enjoyed at recess! I'd like to extend a big thank you to Mrs Mircevski, Ms Kalivitis, the SRC, and the special guests who took time out of their day to share their knowledge and wisdom with us.



Finally, I would like to wish everyone a safe and happy holiday. I look forward to seeing you all back at school in Term 2.

# Deputy Principal

Mark Leary

As we approach the end of the term, I would like to thank everyone for the hard work they have put in to help the girls get through a challenging beginning to the year. The effects of COVID were still having an influence on what was going on at school, but as things settle and we get back to a sense of normalcy, the girls have consistently demonstrated their resilience and ability to overcome the challenges that have been put in their way. I hope the rest of the year is a good one for everyone.

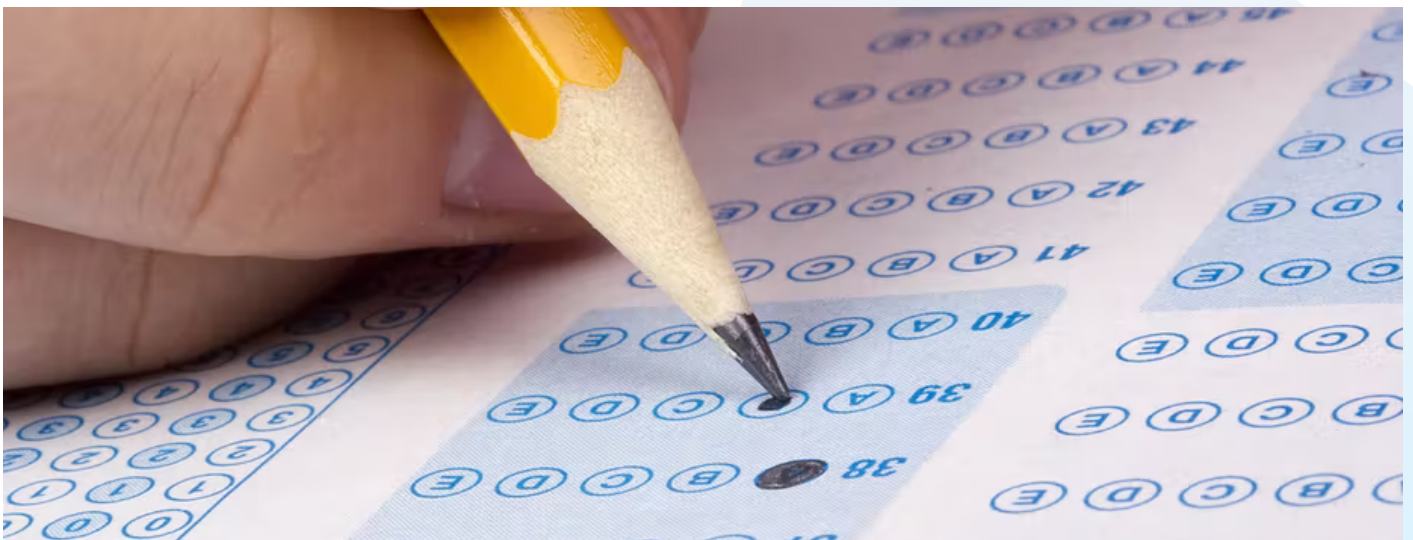
This term, Year 7 and 9 participated in preparations for the 2022 NAPLAN by undertaking the two practice tests. These tests allowed the girls to experience what it is like to complete the NAPLAN tests in an online environment and gave them a look at the types of questions they will be attempting when doing the NAPLAN tests in May. It was pleasing to see the girls taking the practice tests seriously and trying their best to understand the sort of test they would be facing. There were two practice tests for the girls to attempt, with the first being a writing test, where the girls were given a topic to write about, and the second was an omnibus test. The omnibus was a combination of the types of questions the girls will get in reading, language conventions and numeracy tests. The NAPLAN test will run from 10th May to 20th May. Earlier this term an information package was sent

out via email which gave you an outline of the NAPLAN tests and links which could be used to read more from the NESA website. If you did not receive this package, you can contact the school to have one re-sent. You can also use the following link to read more.

[educationstandards.nsw.edu.au/wps/portal/nesa/k-10/understanding-the-curriculum/naplan](https://educationstandards.nsw.edu.au/wps/portal/nesa/k-10/understanding-the-curriculum/naplan)

Year 11 have settled into their new courses and many of them will be undertaking their first assessment task for each course. I would encourage you to talk to your daughter about each of her courses and how she is progressing. On Monday 8th May, the girls will be part of the Head Teacher Checkpoint. Each girl will have an interview with the Head Teacher of each course they study. They will be checking on the classwork the girls have done, so each student will need to present a selection of work for the Head Teachers to check. This is an important procedure to ensure that all the girls realise the importance of the work they do as part of their courses. Classwork is just as important as the assessment tasks they do, as it helps them build strategies to achieve their full potential.

I hope that everyone has a wonderful and safe break, and I look forward to seeing everyone back in Term 2.



# English

Lisa Carmody

The English Department and their students have had a fabulous start to 2022. All students have been immersed in their learning and are now working feverishly on their assessment tasks due at the end of this term.

Year 7 have been studying a novel and learning about how characters and settings build interesting and engaging novels. The novel *Coraline* has been a great hit with Year 7. At this point, a special thanks must go to 7A who participated in a lovely community project. They designed and wrote birthday cards for Legacy that will be hand delivered to each of the Legatees on their birthdays.



Year 8 have been busily writing their first high school essay on their Close Study of a Novel; *Two Weeks with the Queen*, *Ella Enchanted* and *Chinese Cinderella* are just a few of the novels Year 8 are studying. Good luck with the essays girls and remember P.E.E.L or P.E.T.A.L!

Year 9 have begun their Gumby STEAM Project in their English classrooms, where they are looking at turning the abstract human experiences tangible. They created some fabulous freeze frames of abstract nouns. Below we have images of fear, love, and creativity.



Year 10 have jumped into the world of Historical Fiction this term and have been writing their essays on how reliable fiction is as a lens to history. The Aboriginal representation in our Australian history along with the silencing of the female experience in World War 2 are just some of the histories we are comparing to fiction.

Year 11 have started their senior course spectacularly and are immersed in Dystopian Worlds. The students are creating multimedia presentations that explore our current societal fears in those futuristic worlds. They have a lot to work with when we consider the year we had in 2021 – a dystopian world in itself!

## THE FUTURE?



ESTABLISHING SHOT



WIDE ANGLE SHOT



LOW ANGLE SHOT

### | NO MONSTERS & BEING PRETTY |

BY: DAVID JAMES ARMSBY

- Dark and foggy atmosphere of impending doom
- Technology advancements substitutes and imitates life
- Science is now the government
- Totalitarian society

## THE FUTURE?

### Chapter 1

Next to the Liners stood the Matriculators. The procession advanced; **one by one the eggs were transferred from their test-tubes to the larger containers**; deftly the peritoneal lining was slit, the morula dropped into place, the saline solution poured in . . . and already the bottle had passed, and it was the turn of the labellers. **Heredity, date of fertilization, membership of Bokanovsky Group – details were transferred from test-tube to bottle.** No longer anonymous, but named, identified, the procession marched slowly on; on through an opening in the wall, slowly on into the Social Predestination Room.

'Eighty-eight cubic metres of card-index,' said Mr Foster with relish, as they entered.

**'We also predestine and condition. We decant our babies as socialized human beings, as Alphas or Epsilons, as future sewage works or future . . .'** He was going to say future World Controllers, but correcting himself, said 'future Directors of Hatcheries' instead.



### | BRAVE NEW WORLD |

BY: ALDOUS HUXLEY

- Science is the government
- Citizens are **genetically engineered** in test-tubes and containers
- Before they are even born, they are **conditioned** to their castes and **their lives are regimented** by the government
- **Cloned** genetically to be **intellectually and physically equivalent**.

And finally, Year 12 are dedicated to their studies and working hard on their assessments due next term. Congratulations to all the students who made it through their Checkpoint Interviews – showing that they are dedicated to their classwork and success.

Thank you to all the lovely students for your hard work. You make teaching English such an enjoyable experience!

# Mathematics

## Vicky Saisanas

The Mathematics faculty welcomed back our dedicated staff; Mrs Rounis, Mr Mustapha, Mr Yilmazlar, Ms Doai, Ms Weston and Miss Wang with Mrs Newman joining our team.



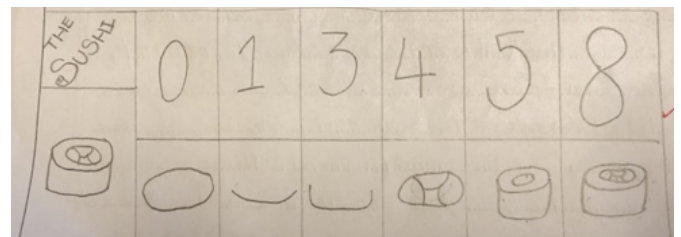
We launched our in-class support with Mrs Saisanas, Ms Doai, Mrs Newman and Miss Wang, as well as our lunchtime tutoring sessions. Additionally, our Mathematics program has also commenced, and we encourage students to take advantage of the additional support provided by this online resource.

The 'Numeracy in Mathematics' program with Ms Weston commenced with students working on graphs and tables using the S.T.A.R.T cards in Year 7 and a problem-solving unit exploring the working mathematically component of the course in Year 8. Continuing the numeracy theme, Mrs Rounis has been working with Ms Kyritsis and the HSIE teachers in History, Commerce and Geography. Mrs Singh has taken on board the numeracy role in Science. Both programs are providing students with the necessary skills to apply mathematics in the context of Science and HSIE.

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 BGHS representing Australia in Japan.

Year 7 students completed the Best Start assessment, while Year 8 students completed the Check-In assessment. Both assessments provided us with valuable data focusing on areas of mathematical strengths and concepts that require additional support.

In Mathematics, we try to extend our students to be creative in solving problems and produce high quality work. In Year 7, students explored, researched, and created new number systems. Students named their number system and provided detailed explanations of how their number system operated. Eiliyah El-Jammal created "The Sushi" which can be seen below.



In Year 10, students were challenged by working with compound interest, buying items on terms, and justifying their choice of purchasing. Meanwhile, Year 12 students were immersed in their investigative tasks in all three courses. The Standard course students explored networks and their implications, while the Advanced course put into practice their statistical skills. The Extension 1 class had to develop a drinking capsule given a set of constraints.

The Mathematics faculty has a range of activities planned for our students to support their learning. The most vital aspect in 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 proven to be a huge success in the past. Students will be supported in their NAPLAN preparation in Year 7 and 9, as will Year 10 for their HSC Minimum Standards.

# Human Society and its Environment

Jim Tsafis

It's great being back in 2022. It's been wonderful seeing all the students return to the classroom and both teachers and students have enjoyed being on site this term. I'd like to offer a special welcome to our new Year 7 students.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all the students and the HSIE staff for their efforts and dedication during online learning. I know there were many rich learning experiences occurring across all year groups and students have developed more confidence in tackling video conferencing and online educational platforms - an important skill for today and the future.

We would like to warmly welcome Ms Chand and Mr Pratt to the HSIE faculty in 2022 and I look forward to the positive contributions they will make throughout the year in the classroom, faculty and at Bankstown Girls High School. Ms Chand is teaching in the HSIE faculty full-time this year. In 2021, she was predominantly in the Mathematics faculty. Ms Chand will be teaching a variety of HSIE courses including Stage 4 and 5 History, Geography, Commerce and Stage 6 Work Studies. Mr Pratt was a tertiary education student in Term 4 last year and it has been wonderful to be able to offer him a full-time position in the HSIE faculty for 2022. Mr Pratt is working very closely with Mr Dalton and is teaching Stage 6 Business Studies, Economics, Work Studies and Stage 5 Commerce.

## Get to know Mr Pratt with the Fast Five *History or Geography?*

Geography because I am passionate about the environment and how people interact in environments!

*What was your favourite subject at school?*

I loved Geography

*What would you be if you were not a teacher?*

If I was not a teacher, I would be working as a Town/City Planner so I could devise plans that protect the environments of local areas but also offer people great places to live and work!

*If you could get on a plane tomorrow, where would you go?*

Canada! I'd love to see the variety of natural landscapes and go skiing!

*Name three people (past or present) you would like to have dinner with.*

Heath Ledger, Steve Irwin, and Cathy Freeman - I think these people are iconic Australians who have represented our country in great ways and so it would be interesting to sit with them to pick their brains.

## Get to know Ms Chand with the Fast Five *History or Geography?*

History

*What was your favourite subject at school?*

Maths

*What would you be if you were not a teacher?*

An Accountant

*If you could get on a plane tomorrow, where would you go?*

I would embark on a much-awaited trip to Europe

*Name three people (past or present) you would like to have dinner with.*

1. Oprah Winfrey
2. Priyanka Chopra Jonas
3. My Grandma



Ms Kyritsis and Mr Mohan in 2021 attended a weeklong Retail immersion program enabling them to participate in authentic retail industry experiences. They both came away from the experience keen and enthused to impart the new knowledge and skills acquired during the program into the retail classroom.

A plan was devised to reconfigure and redesign Room 28 into a more authentic retail learning space. Working merchandise displays have been installed to enable students to practice and demonstrate their merchandising capabilities and allow for authentic teacher instruction. New furniture has been purchased to allow greater learning flexibility in the classroom and an eye-catching mural has been added to transform Room 28 into a truly fantastic learning space. A huge thank you to Mrs Bilali, Mrs Porreca and the staff for their support in enabling this project to come to fruition. However, the ultimate credit goes out to Ms Kyritsis and Mr Mohan for their tireless efforts in making this vision a reality.

Bravo to all!



# Science

Anna Edwards

The Science faculty is so happy to be welcoming our wonderful students back to the laboratory. It is fantastic to be back!

2022 has commenced with our first HSC Physics class since 2016. During this same period, the number of senior science classes (Biology, Chemistry, Physics, and Investigating Science) has grown from four classes in 2016 to ten classes in 2022.

We also welcome a new member of staff this year, Mrs Anjum Newman. Mrs Newman comes with a swathe of experience in teaching both science and mathematics. She has fitted in perfectly to our faculty and we are lucky to have her at Bankstown Girls.

Our Physics teacher, Mr Golestan, is the new Year 7 Advisor. During his address to his new cohort, he made the following analogy, *"Would an avocado seed thrown in the middle of Chapel St make roots and grow? (students called out 'no') An avocado needs a variety of nutrients from the soil, enough water, and enough sunlight to grow into a small plant and finally into a tall, mighty and productive tree. You are now at the start of a certain learning journey that in many ways resembles the growth of a tree. It starts out small and fragile, despite having the potential to grow. Without the right support and without safe and nourishing conditions, it will simply not grow. Now, you may feel a little bit like this seed, suddenly planted into a new world - but each of you has the potential to grow into a strong, intelligent and productive woman and this is how I see the role of Bankstown Girls High School and my role as your teacher and year advisor."*

To commemorate the journey our Year 7 students are embarking upon, Mr Golestan planted an avocado seed with the assistance of some the BGHS Environmental Team, and, just like our students, we look forward to watching it grow.



The Environmental Team has also had a busy start to the year, both in ensuring our staffrooms are clear of recyclable materials and promoting the care of the school's environment. Their message is clear: Remember to reduce, reuse and recycle. Always put your rubbish in the red bin and recyclables in the yellow bin.

They have also continued to be involved with the *What'll Happen to the Wattle* project, whereby wattle seeds that were sent to space with the Japanese Space Agency are planted and their growth compared to that of 'normal' wattle seeds. Stay tuned for updates on this Australia-wide citizen science project.

The students have come back to school ready to learn and we are pleased with the progress they have made thus far.

Year 7 have been introduced to the Science lab and have commenced their STEAM Project to *Design and Construct an Orrery*. Year 8 have started with a Chemistry subject and have recently performed an assessable group research task looking at the effect of the concentration of sugar on the production of carbon dioxide by yeast.



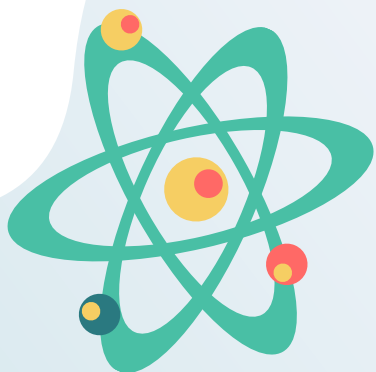
The last semester of 2021, which was spent largely working online, has prepared our students for becoming more independent learners. This has been evident in the willingness of students to engage effectively with their work posted online when they are absent from school and during classroom tasks. We have noticed a marked improvement in the digital literacy of our students this year. Many of our assessments in science, such as the Year 10 Student Individual Research task and the Year 12 Biology Depth study, are being submitted and marked via Google Classroom using a bespoke marking rubric. This will help prepare our students for the rigours of university and other work environments where communicating via a digital medium is required.

Our resident Professor, Wilhelmina Van Rooy, joins our senior biology and investigating science students two days a week as a part of the Covid tutoring program.



Professor Van Rooy brings to a wealth of experience to Bankstown Girls High School, being a senior HSC examiner and exam writer in both Biology and Investigating Science. She also has extensive experience in the university sector with primary and secondary educators. A former science teacher herself, she is committed to a targeted approach in assisting the students developing their science skills. An analysis of past HSC performance in Sciences at Bankstown Girls High School has demonstrated our students require assistance in their ability to analyse and interpret data in different formats and within new contexts, which has become the prime focus of Professor Van Rooy's tutoring. The Year 12s love having Professor Van Rooy around and she is an amazing resource for our senior science students.

That's all from Science.



*STAY  
CURIOUS*



# Personal Development, Health and Physical Education

Shadi Ghazal

The beginning of 2022 has been a very busy and exciting time for the PDHPE faculty. With restrictions easing there was huge anticipation for the return of programs that have been extremely successful in the past. We were excited to run a swimming carnival, however, due to some restrictions being in place, we were forced to run a competitors-only carnival. This did not dampen the spirit of our amazing competitors and our very eager PASS students. The event ran smoothly and was such a great success. Thank you to the Year 10 PASS students for running very successful event and displaying exceptional leadership and organisational skills. A huge thank you to all students who were involved and a big congratulations to Ms Baddah, Mrs Vrataric, Mr Heptinstall, Ms Boz and Ms Cho for contributing to a very successful and engaging day.

Not only have we been really excited to have practical activities back, but the students have been super keen to get back into doing some physical activity. We have been working hard to forge a partnership with Football Australia and, through the Sporting Schools funding, we've engaged our students in a 6-week football program. All of Year 8 has been participating in this program that's run by professional coaches. It has helped them develop their footballing skills in a fun, safe and engaging environment. The students have really enjoyed the program and have gained valuable lifelong skills.



Within the classroom, our staff and students have been working extremely hard to continue their learning across the PDHPE subject. Students have been engaging in relevant and meaningful activities, showing an eagerness to continue their learning in many different contexts. Our new Year 7 students have settled in well and are displaying a passion for physical activity and sport by actively engaging in many of the programs offered by the PDHPE staff. Our Year 7 students participated in a 2-week Gymnastics unit in the school hall and have developed their skills in different disciplines such as floor work, beam, mini trampoline, and trampolining.



We would like to send out a huge congratulations to Mary Hussain (Year 9) and Zaynab Darwiche (Year 8) for being selected to represent the Sydney South West Region in Touch Football. The students undertook a gruelling selection process in difficult weather conditions to gain selection in the representative team. Students had to first qualify for the Zone team, then compete in a Zone competition to gain selection. After being successful, the students then competed in a state-wide Touch Football competition which took place over 2 days in Nelson Bay. Both students competed at a very high level and have done Bankstown Girls High School very proud. Congratulations Mary and Zaynab!

# Creative and Performing Arts and Technology and Applied Studies

Evelyn Mircevski

We are very pleased to be applying the practical component in all our courses. Many of our senior stage 6 students are producing quality work within Design and Technology, Music, Visual Arts and Hospitality. They are all currently creating the foundation for their creative and innovative practical major work and performances. Many of our stage 6 students have also demonstrated their skills within school-hosted events such as Harmony Day and the Principal's Conference.



In TAS, Year 7 are currently developing their woodwork skills by designing and producing a timber photo frame. Most importantly, they've continued developing and applying their design thinking.



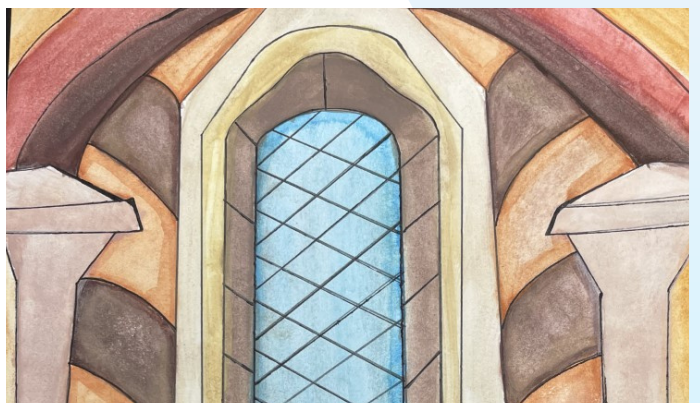
Year 8 are very committed to creating an Asian-inspired food truck dish and learning the skills necessary to sew their Indigenous-inspired tie-dyed tote bag.

As part of their first term work, Year 9 Food Technology have been focused on Food for Life and working on deepening their knowledge of nutrition. Meanwhile, Year 9 Design and Technology explored and constructed a sustainable bucket hat.

In their investigation of food product development, Year 10 Food Technology have created a new type of biscuit for a product line extension. Information Software Technology has been busy developing and creating their own games and we can already see such great results!



Within Visual Arts, Year 7 have been drawing, manipulating, and enlarging still-life objects and repeating the process to create a design artwork. Year 8 are using watercolour to explore Architectural facades by Frank Chery. Digital still-life photography has been a major focus of Year 9 Visual Arts. The students' results have reflected some excellent skills. Year 10 Visual Arts have investigated the representation of the female role throughout art history and produced a mixed media artwork. As part of the Year 10 Photography course, students have explored the theme of "fragmented identity" and produced a digital manipulation.



In Music, Year 7 have been exploring how the concepts of music are used and manipulated in compositions and musical arrangements. They have experienced various musical genres and performed in class groups. Year 8 students have built skills which allow them to read and identify the functions of music in film. They explored how film and television music evokes an emotional response from the audience. As part of the introduction to music, Year 9 have investigated women in popular music throughout the ages; in fact, as part of their topic students have engaged in listening and performing this music. When exploring the origins of rap music, Year 10 have discovered the power of their voice by composing their own rap lyrics. Another aspect which was equally as powerful is their mature peer feedback.

# Wellbeing

Maria Varikos

What a fabulous start to 2022 it has been. We welcomed 2022 with a great bunch of Year 7 students that have come from many different primary schools. They all adapted well to the cohorting rules and then they slowly adapted to how high school was always intended for them - following a timetable, moving from class to class, meeting all the different year groups, and meeting the staff that will support them through their high school journey. They've adjusted beautifully.

Our students in Year 8 participated in a 3-day program with ABCN's Full STEAM Ahead program at Sydney's Powerhouse Museum. The day was led by mentors from the Commonwealth Bank who gave the girls the opportunity to boost and develop their skills in digital literacy. Our students had the opportunity to explore career paths and future prospects with the Commonwealth Bank and the Powerhouse Museum experts which may be of interest to them.



Students in Year 10 participated in an online 3-week program at school with Ernst and Young. Their aim was to provide our young women with the essential leadership skills they need to engage in a successful and meaningful career. The program involved our students working in small groups with female Ernst and Young executives who act as role models and mentors. They had a unique experience to which the feedback was very positive.

The senior SRC team joined the Zonta Club for Sydney West for the International Women's Day Awards via Zoom. Siti Jahera in Year 11 received the Citizenship Award this year. We stand by Zonta as they advocate to:

- improve women's health and well being
- ensure women's economic wellbeing
- strengthen women's representation in decision making processes
- work to end violence against women

Zonta's objectives are in line with the ethos of Bankstown Girls High School where we encourage and support the empowerment of women across the globe.

This year's SRC team did a huge fundraiser for the recent flood victims that affected NSW by setting up a sweet stand where they sold different desserts during recess and lunch. The money they raised was given to Brothers in Need - a charity that is working closely with people that were affected by the recent floods in QLD and NSW.



Overall, it has been a very busy term and we have enjoyed learning and growing in these turbulent times. I feel we all are looking forward to a well-deserved break.

See you in Term 2!



# candid

A School Recap

Celebrations and Events

# WELLBEING WEDNESDAY

In 2022, Bankstown Girls High School will be trialling a new practice called 'Well-being Wednesdays'. Every Wednesday in replacement of reading in ELP, students will be encouraged to use their school-provided diary to practice self-awareness and promote positive mental tracking.

We have designed and produced a fully customised diary for Bankstown Girls' based on our chosen theme, 'Bold and Inspirational Women'. With the support of these diaries, students will reinforce their own positive mental habits; they'll discuss the weekly quote, colour in their wellbeing tracker, answer the empowerment prompts, and document school-related material.

Over the past few years, our lives have been bound by such uncertainty. And whilst uncertainty doesn't always have a solution, it can most certainly be managed to ensure that our personal outlook on the future remains bright and hopeful.



# SWIMMING CARNIVAL

On Monday 21st February, Bankstown Girls High School held their annual Swimming Carnival at Max Parker Leisure and Aquatic Centre. It was a great day for our competitors who raced their hearts out, our house captains and vice captains who cheered on their teams and the Year 10 PASSB students who officiated the day.

Congratulations to the winning house, **FREEMAN!**



Ten Bankstown Girls students were selected for our Zone Swimming Team. The Edmondson Girls Zone Swimming Carnival was held on Friday 25th February. Our Year 10 PASSB and student competitors braved the wet conditions to officiate and compete alongside Liverpool Girls, East Hills Girls and Birrong Girls High School. Despite the rain, the carnival was a great success. Congratulations to the students who placed and made the Regional Team.

# INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

International Women's Day is a commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion; it provides us with the opportunity to reflect upon and embrace the influences that women across all industries and pathways have had.

On March 8th, Bankstown Girls High School celebrated International Women's Day through the 2022 theme, #BreakTheBias. This statement of activism for greater gender parity means that 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.

At Bankstown Girls High School, we always want to shine a bright light on the achievements and efforts of all women. By championing these successes, we build momentum and foster power for even greater change. Bankstown Girls High School hopes to act a vessel for growth for our young women. By supporting their academic and personal development, we can ensure they thrive in an ever-changing society. We will shatter the glass ceilings, no matter how thick that glass may be!

Let's forge a new today and, with it, change history!



# HARMONY DAY

Harmony Week is observed for a week in March and includes 21st March. Initially celebrated in 1999, Harmony Day coincides with the UN's International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, which was established in 1966 with the aim of eradicating racism and racially-fuelled hate crime.

Harmony Day is the introduction to a week-long celebration of Australia's cultural diversity. It is built on inclusiveness, respect and a widespread sense of belonging. Bankstown Girls High School will always focus on the incredible contributions that all cultural backgrounds have to the continuing progression of our country.

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.

This year, Bankstown Girls High school was fortunate enough to share the start of our Harmony Day with special guests Uncle John Dickson, Aunty Liz Dickson, and Aboriginal artist Koreena Leverett. Our girls learnt about the true descriptors of Aboriginal culture and togetherness. We also witnessed and partook in a beautiful smoking ceremony led by Uncle John and Aunty Liz - a practice which involves the burning of native plants to produce smoke that, when walked through, provides a spiritual cleansing and protects against bad spirits. Aboriginal artist and educator Koreena Leverett sung the National Anthem in the Dharug language, further fortifying the true owners and history of our country.

We would like to extend our deepest gratitude to Uncle John, Aunty Liz, and Koreena Leverett for making this Harmony Day so special and memorable for all of us at Bankstown Girls!



# SWEET STAND FOR BROTHERS IN NEED

From COVID to floods, Australia has been ravaged by difficulties, but our Student Representative Council continues to take steps forward in the right direction.

The recent floods have affected thousands of lives financially, emotionally, and through physical displacement, but today, our Bankstown Girls SRC hosted a Sweet Stand during recess and lunch to support those in crisis from the recent floods. The SRC spent the day preparing for the Sweet Stand before serving Bankstown Girls students and staff with bright and beaming smiles.

We'd like to thank our SRC for organising this event to support and aid those in need. We'd also like to thank and praise our SRC Coordinator, Miss Komodromos, for her continued dedication to the SRC, leading them to new and greater heights! The SRC raised over \$900 - all profits will be donated to the Brothers In Need foundation.

*Brothers In Need* is a Muslim-based movement dedicated to working tirelessly for equality, building connected communities, caring for those in need with compassion, and creating healthy pathways for partnership and growth. Brothers In Need was proactive in assisting those affected by the floods in terms of financial support and donating food and other items to assist those whose lives were turned upside down by the floods.



*Candid*

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