

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.

Relieving Principal

Lisa Edwards

Welcome to the first edition of our Candid newsletter for 2023. It's a bumper edition – and what a wonderful record it is of student learning, and the girls' engagement in a range of curricular and extra-curricular activities throughout this term.

It has been a whirlwind four weeks since I have taken on the role of relieving principal here at Bankstown Girls High School! I feel very privileged to have been entrusted with leading the passionate and motivated team of teachers and non-teaching staff who work hard every day to support your daughters to strive towards their personal bests inside the classroom and out. Thank you to our students, who have greeted me in the playground and in classrooms, and to the parents and carers who I have met so far, for your warm welcome to the school. I am very much looking forward to working with you in partnership to ensure that your daughters experience the best educational opportunities possible here at BGHS.

Our school plan

The focus areas of our Strategic Improvement Plan continue into 2023, and are:

- Literacy, numeracy and HSC growth
- Student wellbeing, belonging and attendance
- Community and parent/carer engagement
- Quality assessment and feedback
- Teacher innovation and collaboration

Our staff continue to work towards the achievement of these goals. We have strong literacy and numeracy initiatives in place, led by our English and Mathematics faculties.



This year, all teachers are taking part in instructional rounds, which involve observing each other's lessons and identifying patterns of learning across the school as we work hard to continue to improve our practice to maximise learning for our students.

In the 2022 HSC, average results remained higher than our similar schools group, and we continue to focus on growth for all students.

Attendance and lateness

In addition to wellbeing, we are working hard to support strong attendance patterns for our students, in line with the department's attendance policy, and this will be an ongoing focus throughout the year.

Please remember that every day, and every minute, missed of school has an impact on your daughter's learning, and her ability to achieve to her potential.

Lateness to school has become a serious issue for many of our girls, even for our senior students, and this can have a negative impact on their HSC performance. Did you know that 30 minutes missed each day adds up to 18 days of school missed over the year? All students need to be at school from 8:45am each morning, and late students are required to come through the front office with a note from a parent or carer explaining why your daughter is late.

Term 2 is a fresh start, so we'd appreciate your support in ensuring that your daughters can arrive to school on time and ready to learn as we launch into our learning again next term

Wellbeing support

This term we have welcomed Fiona Banbas as our new Head Teacher Wellbeing, who leads our wellbeing team of year advisors and school counsellors to support your daughters to feel safe, welcome and confident at school. Please have a read of the wellbeing section of the newsletter for updates from Fiona and our year advisors about wellbeing supports in 2023.

Student leadership

We welcomed our new Year 7 SRC members to the team this term, and our senior student leaders have been engaging in leadership development this term, supported by our SRC Coordinator and Head Teacher Science Anna Edwards – I look forward to seeing their leadership skills develop throughout their time at BGHS, and am looking forward to their next event, which is the Mother's Day stall on Friday 12 May.

Sorry Day

On Friday 26 May, we will host a Sorry Day event organised by Aunty Lyn and the local AECG to remember the stolen generations and work towards reconciliation. This is a particularly important event given the recent introduction of legislation about the First Nations Voice to Parliament to be decided at a referendum later in the year. Our students will speak about what reconciliation means to them, and we will have the opportunity to hear about the experiences of local elders.

Middle School and High Potential and Gifted Education

This year, we will continue to grow our middle school initiative, working with our local primary schools to provide the best possible transition from primary school to high school, and we are working hard on our High Potential and Gifted Education program to expand opportunities for high potential students. More on that to come.

Parents and citizens (P&C)

I would like to encourage all parents to attend our next P&C meeting, to be held on Tuesday 2 May at 10am here at school. I would love to meet you, and Fiona Banbas will attend to talk to you about our wellbeing programs. If you're working and can't attend, please get in touch with the school and let us know, and we will explore the possibility of alternating between daytime and evening P&C meetings.

If you are interested in joining our P&C, please [complete this 2-minute form](#) and let us know.



Our staff

In staffing news, a big congratulations to our fabulous Head Teacher English, Lisa Carmody, who has gained a three-year position with the Department of Education as an Evaluation Advisor with the Teaching Quality and Impact team. This is a wonderful opportunity for Lisa to support schools across NSW with evaluation practice and for her continued leadership growth. We will miss Lisa, but we wish her all the best. Denise Voros will be relieving as Head Teacher English for the remainder of 2023. We also welcome Kerri Zannettides who will join us next term as relieving Head Teacher PDHPE for the rest of the year. She comes with a wealth of experience from Marrickville High School and I know she'll be a fantastic addition to our leadership team.

Wishing all of our students and families a safe school holiday break, and I am looking forward to seeing the girls back at school for Term 2, beginning on Wednesday 26 April.

Lisa Edwards
Relieving Principal

Deputy Principal

Cathy Porreca

I would like to begin this report by welcoming Year 7 students to Bankstown Girls High School. The girls have settled well into high school and have adjusted to their new classes smoothly and with maturity. The year group has demonstrated a strong commitment to learning as well as understanding the expectations of high school.

Similarly, Year 9 and 11 have made a strong start to 2023. Both year groups have started new stages of learning, both in the early stages of preparing for the ROSA and the HSC respectively. I would like to remind the girls about the importance of regular attendance and punctuality. Regular attendance is very important to successful learning. Students can only achieve positive learning outcomes by being in class and participating in all class activities. Regular attendance also develops a strong sense of belonging and connectedness with the school.

As the term progresses there are an increasing number of assessment tasks that must be handed in across all year groups. I cannot emphasise enough the importance of handing work in on time to maximise learning potential and academic progress. Assessment is crucial in determining understanding and application of new knowledge and at Bankstown Girls High School we have high expectations that students can and will participate in all forms of learning and be assessed accordingly.

Another reminder is that Homework Centre has started and is very popular with many students. Homework Centre is run in the library on Monday and Wednesday afternoons from 3-4 pm. A number of teachers work with small groups of girls to improve literacy and/or numeracy; to help with homework or assessment tasks or to explain classwork.

Please take advantage of this opportunity to spend quality time in the library and using the resources made available to you.



Finally, I look forward to working closely with the school community throughout 2023 to support the learning and wellbeing of the students at Bankstown Girls High School.

Deputy Principal

Mark Leary

We have reached the end of another busy term and I would like to take the opportunity to thank Lisa Carmody who sat in my seat for part of this term while I was on leave for three weeks. I appreciate the care and consideration she had for all the girls I look after.

Year 12 underwent the Head Teacher checkpoint this term in week 6. This involved all of the girls meeting with the Head Teachers of the courses they study. In that interview they discuss their coursework and attendance in their courses. The girls need to produce samples of their coursework for the Head Teachers to examine. Students who were able to successfully demonstrate they are keeping up with their coursework were sent home a letter of congratulation and those who had work missing were sent home N-Warning Awards letters for coursework. Students who we have concerns for their attendance were also sent a letter to highlight this. If you would like to discuss your daughters progress, please feel free to give me a call on 9709 6788.

You will be aware that the NAPLAN testing has been moved on the calendar and was held in March this year. This will allow schools to get the test results back much earlier than previous years and help us with planning for teaching that goes on in the classroom. The girls sat tests in Reading, Writing, Conventions of Language and Numeracy. We had an extremely successful year with almost all of the girls completing their tests.

All students in Years 10 to 12 are required to complete minimum standard tests in reading, writing and numeracy in order to qualify for the award of a Higher School Certificate at the end of Year 12.

The girls are given four attempts each year to reach a minimum standard. Year 10 will be undertaking their minimum standard tests early next term. These comprise of

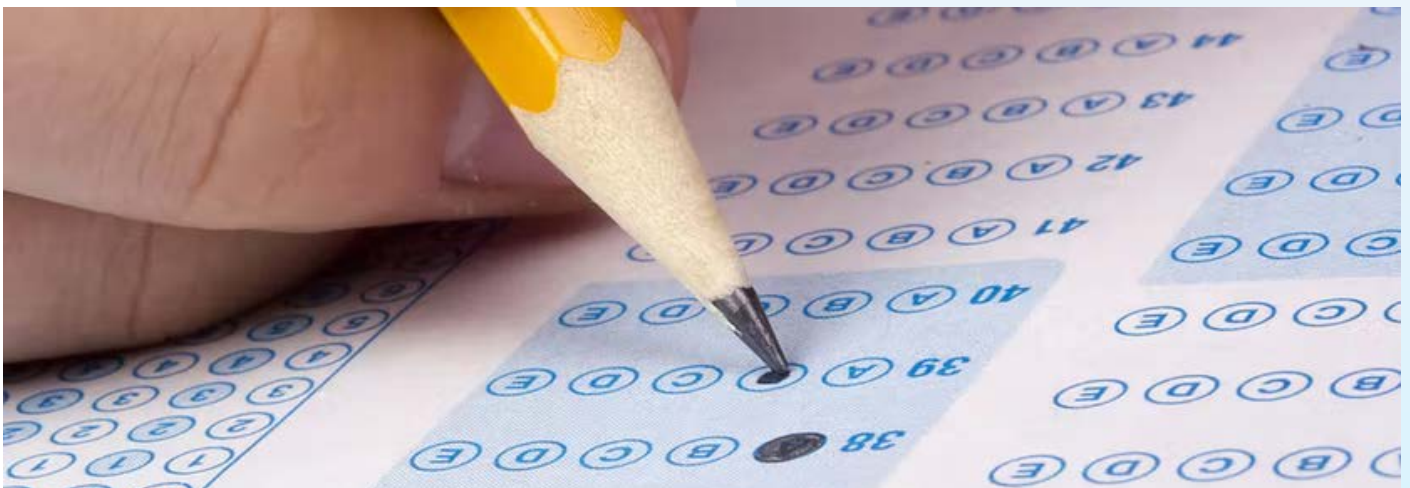
- a reading test of 45 multiple choice questions that they need to complete in 45 minutes
- a numeracy test is similar with 45 multiple choice questions to be completed in 45 minutes
- a writing test where the girls need to write a specified text type of less than 500 words in 45 minutes.

The girls are given a two pieces of stimulus material as the basis of an idea for their writing.

More information will be presented to the girls in the first two weeks of Term 2.

Students in Year 11 and Year 12 who still need to reach the minimum standards in one or more tests will have an opportunity to do this from mid Term 2.

I hope that everyone has a safe and restful break and see you all back next term.



Attendance Matters

We want to work with you to improve attendance, as every minute missed is a learning opportunity missed. Please note the following:

- The NSW Department of Education expects every student to attend school on time, every day.
- Your daughter's learning is negatively impacted every time she is absent from school for a day, or part of a day.
- All full day absences must be explained by contacting the school via phone, email, SMS reply, through the Sentral Parent Portal, or sending in a signed note with your daughter.
- Lateness is a form of absence. All lateness must be explained, as above.
- If your daughter's attendance drops below satisfactory levels, we will communicate with you to discuss a plan to improve attendance.
- **Please log into the Sentral Parent Portal and check your daughter's attendance.** You will see an overall percentage absence. Any attendance level under 90% is cause for concern.
- You may use the Sentral Parent Portal to explain any unexplained absences. All Term 1 absences should be explained by the start of Term 2.

If you are unsure about how to log into the Sentral Parent Portal, please contact the school via phone or email.



Uniform for Safety and Wellbeing

We require students to follow our uniform code for safety and wellbeing reasons. Please note the following:

- If students are out of uniform they should bring a note from home explaining the reason and present this to their ELP teachers to request a uniform pass.

Uniform must include:

- A school shirt
- A school skirt or trousers
- Black leather enclosed school shoes (for safety in science labs and TAS classes)
- If a jumper is worn, it must be the school jumper or jacket.

Unacceptable items include:

- Hoodies
- Other t-shirts
- Wearing no shirt with a jumpers/jacket over the top
- Sports uniform (this is only to be worn during sport/PDHPE periods) – girls must change into sports uniform at school
- Any shoes that are not black leather school shoes

Mobile phone policy

- Mobile phones must be switched off and in bags during the school day.
- Mobile phones will be confiscated by teachers and taken to the Deputy Principals if they are used by students without permission.
- Airpods and earphones are not permitted at any time and may be confiscated.
- Any confiscated items may only be collected at the end of the school day.
- Repeated breaches of the mobile phone policy will lead to parent interview and parent collection of devices from the school.



Our Year 7 SRC reps modelling full school uniform

MEET AND GREET

Year 7 Meet and Greet ~ Tuesday 2 May

All Year 7 parents and carers are warmly invited to attend our Year 7 Meet and Greet.

Please come along on Tuesday 2 May, between 3:15pm and 4:30pm, to meet your daughter's teachers, our Deputy Principals Cathy Porreca and Mark Leary, and our relieving principal, Lisa Edwards.

We are hosting the event in our Balcony Café and refreshments will be served.

Please RSVP via 02 9709 6788 or bankstowng-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au for catering purposes.

We're very much looking forward to meeting our new BGHS families!



English

Lisa Carmody

The English Faculty has had a creative and productive start to 2023. Both teachers and students have been learning about novels, poetry, Shakespeare, reading, writing and of course... learning about each other.

Year 7 have been studying the novel *Coraline*. We have been analysing themes and characters as well as learning how we can make our creative writing better. We are also being very careful of some doors around the school. We don't want to find ourselves entering into a portal to another world (wink wink).

Year 8 have been undertaking a novel study as well, however, they are learning to write their first academic essay. They are learning to structure their ideas using P.E.E.L paragraphs and argue the value of the themes and characters in their different novels.

Both Year 7 and 8 students have used the S.L.A.P cards in class, making sure they understand the purpose of writing and the audience they are writing for.



Year 9 have been studying a comparison of texts across time. Some classes are looking at the evolution of the vampire, whilst others are exploring how fairytales have been appropriated through time.

Year 9 have also begun their STEAM unit we call Gumby or Alien-Nation. They are exploring exactly what it is that makes us human. The girls have determined their creative type and wear coloured glasses to represent their creative style. This makes it great for group work as different creative types share their opinions and thinking styles – wow!! Great for collaboration.

Year 9 have also been looking at turning the abstract human experiences tangible.

They created some fabulous freeze frames of abstract nouns. Here is an image of Power & Grief.



More on turning the abstract tangible. Check these poems out about
Grief, Hope, Youth and Procrastination

Grief

It manifests the colour of a merciless grey
A shadow that never leaves your side in your light
The taste of the dry dustiness of thirst
The smell of salty tears streaming down your face
The desperate gasping for air of a drowning
person
The feeling of an inescapable pit
Moves like a snake eerily slithering in long grass
A dark, untouchable pool at the bottom of your
heart
One touch ripples endlessly.

Jamilla El-Omar

Procrastination

Procrastination is the colour of the bright beige
ceiling light standing over my head
It looks like the blank pure white paper stack sitting
in front of me
It smells like dead rotting flowers stenching in front
of me
It smells like my own sour, acid vomit rising
through my throat
It sounds like the old grandfather clock ticking
away the time
It feels like goosebumps going from head to toe
It moved like the sun setting and the moon rising
It lives in my mind, taking away my time and skill
Procrastination is my very own mind whispering to
me all the time

Hope

Hope is the colour of the first embers of a fire,
like a soft, golden orange.
It looks like the sun rising after a storm, the
rays peeking behind the clouds.
It smells like the first drops of rain, like damp
soil.
It tastes like warm chocolate oozing over a
plump strawberry.
It sounds like your alarm clock in the morning.
It feels like a warm, fluffy jumper, like a
mother's embrace.
It moves like rays of sunlight dancing over the
water's surface.
It lives in people's hearts and creeps into the
back of their minds.
Hope is the knowledge that the sun will rise
again.

Samah Rababi

Youth

Youth is the colour white like the blown
wish of a dandelion
It looks like the light of a sparkler on new
years eve,
It smells like the sweetness of a quickly
melting ice block on a sunburnt afternoon
It tastes like a heartfelt meal made by my
mother
It sounds like a classroom full of shared
laughter on a Friday afternoon
It feels like the peace of a night's light
breeze running through my hair
It moved a pebble skipping over the
surface of the sea.
It lives within a vast playground with
multiple obstacles.
Youth is my core memory being unhatched.

Lupe Kava

Year 7, 8 and 12 students are all lucky
enough to have the opportunity to have
their English skills polished up by our
Macquarie University friends and tutors.

Lorraine and Eliza are in their final Year Masters of Education course at Macquarie University and come every Monday and Tuesday to BGHS to work one on one with students. They are helping the students with their essay writing skills and broadening students' knowledge about literature. They are a great asset to the English classrooms.

As for Years 10, 11 and 12. You are all very busily preparing for your assessment tasks.
So next issue we will focus on your achievements!
Thanks for a fabulous start to 2023 in English.

Let's keep reading and sharing joy in our English
classroom

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 hardwork. You make teaching English such
an enjoyable experience!



Mathematics

Vicky Saisanas

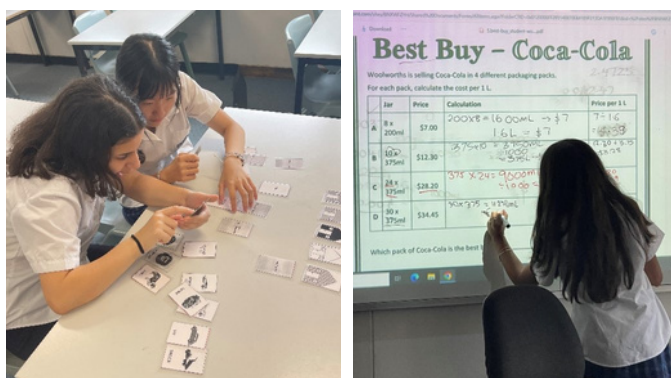
The Mathematics faculty welcomed back our dedicated staff: Mrs Rounis, Mr Mustapha, Mr Yilmazlar, Ms Doai, Ms Weston, Ms Wang and Ms Newman.

We launched our in-class support with Mrs Saisanas, Mr Yilmazlar and Mrs Rounis. Our lunchtime tutoring sessions with Ms Wang, which were a huge success in 2022, are continuing this year with a change of days. Lunchtime sessions are now held every Tuesday and Wednesday.

The 'Numeracy in Mathematics' program for Term 1 is based around skill development with the use of Mathletics and the Smarter Maths online programs.

We encourage all students to utilise these programs to support their learning in the junior school. Our senior students have been provided with access to Atomi which offers self-paced learning modules.

Continuing the numeracy theme; Mrs Rounis has been working with Ms Kyritsis and the HSIE teachers in History, Commerce and Retail. Ms Singh and Mrs Rounis are working with Stage 4 and 5 and focusing on Measurement. Both programs are providing students with the necessary skills to apply mathematics in the context of Science and HSIE.



Our Year 9 STEAM-Robotics program commenced with Ms Doai and the Mathematics teachers 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.

What we are doing in the classroom?

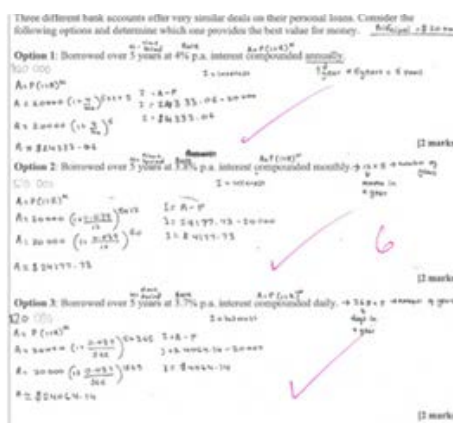
In Mathematics we try to extend our students to be creative in solving problems and producing high quality work.

In Year 7, students explored Integers and completed their first problem solving assignment. One of the sections required students to "Write a 100-word story about the adventures of the number 2. Your story must include the concepts of addition, subtraction, multiplication and division." Some interesting pieces of work have been produced and will be included in our next edition of Candid, as the assignment has yet to be finalised.

Year 8 students worked on Financial Mathematics and Pythagoras' Theorem. Both topics have real world applications which our students explored.

Our year 9 cohort have worked on Indices and concentrated on building their basic numeracy skills in preparation for NAPLAN. They have also completed their first take-home numeracy assignment.

Year 10, students were challenged with working with compound interest, buying items on terms and justifying their choice of purchasing.



Student Sample

Students were required to complete these calculations and then choose the most appropriate option using reasoning and mathematical justifications

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.

What next?

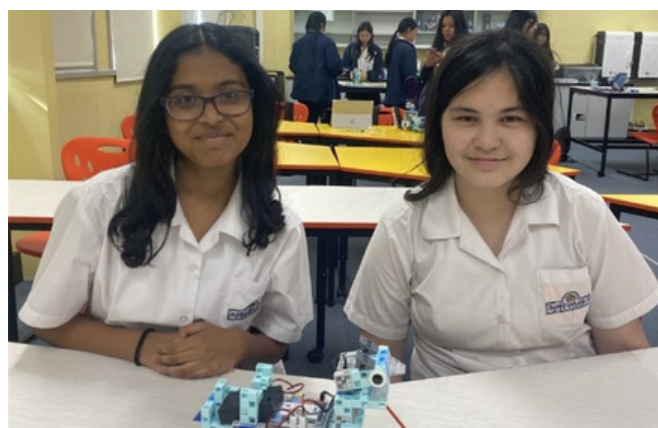
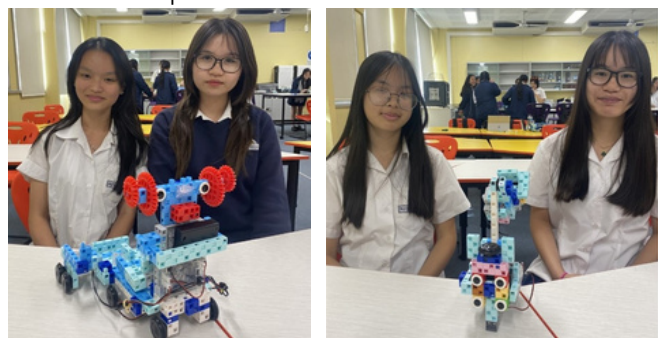
The Mathematics faculty has a range of activities planned for our students to support their learning. The most vital aspect of the study of mathematics is how and when to apply skills in context. The problem-solving component of working mathematically remains a focus for our practice, providing students 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.

The 2022 Robotics report is included in this first edition of Candid as it is the first opportunity that we have had to celebrate the successes of our students from 2022.

I would like to express my appreciation to Ms Doai for her contributions and commitment to this program and thank her for the brilliant and unwavering support of our students.

Year 8 and Year 9 students worked after school, and during the robotics periods in Term 2, 3 and 4 to complete their robots ready for the Universal Robotics Challenge (URC 2022). The mission was related to Agriculture Technology; design and code a robot that could plant six seeds on the field in the shortest time possible.

Our school had seven teams compete and we were triumphant!



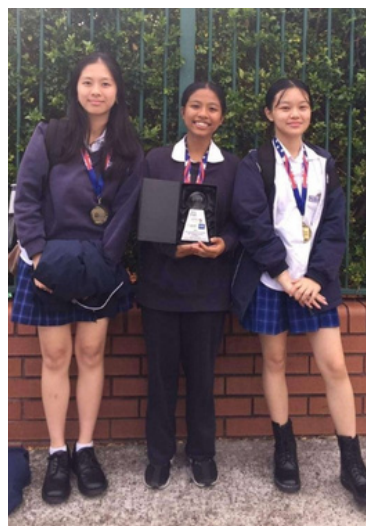
The girls worked tirelessly, especially on the day of competition. There were constant battery changes, practice runs, failed robotic parts that needed replacing, changes in codes and lots of nerves.

The first team up were Hanna Ramini and Amina Kamran, they demonstrated team work at its finest. I couldn't have felt more proud watching the first team succeed in completing the challenge smoothly and well-coordinated.

The second team were the Year 9 group: Yelleina Alabaso, Yin Yin Le and Kimmy Tran. Calm prevailed as they breezed through their round. They knew their roles and responsibilities and were moving through the two rounds without a hitch. They achieved their personal best time and, oh my days, did they celebrate. It was so close. 1 second off for 2nd place.

"Our group really enjoyed the progression of our robot and our skills in coding. Even through the ups and downs and all the trial and error, we never once lost hope or stopped trying to achieve our goal of making it to Japan. On the day we were able to get a record time of 41 seconds.

During that short moment of seeing our time on the screen we felt a bliss of euphoria and joy but was shortly broken as we overheard another group of students talking about other groups getting a time of 40 seconds and below. We felt doubtful and scared that we wouldn't even have a chance on the podium. Not only that but we were hungry, thirsty and exhausted because of the long and constant practice of our coding and routine before the actual competition had actually begun." Yelleina.



Human Society and its Environment

Jim Tsafis

The beginning of 2023 has been one of significant change in the HSIE faculty as we have had to farewell three faculty members in the space of a week.

Ms Komodromos, Mrs Chand and Mr Pratt were all farewelled at the beginning of term, all have been successful in gaining permanent appointments as HSIE teachers at other public schools.

FAREWELL



Ms Komodromos has been appointed to Georges River College – Oatley Campus, Mr Pratt to Ambervale High School and Mrs Chand to Bossley Park High School.

On behalf of the staff, students and your colleagues and friends in the HSIE faculty I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate them on their well-deserved permanent appointments. We wish them every success and happiness at their new schools and the very best as they forge rewarding, enjoyable and successful teaching careers in the years ahead. As Head Teacher of HSIE I would like to thank them for their hard work, commitment and dedication during their time and BGHS. The staff and especially their students will greatly miss them. Good luck and best wishes from all of us at Bankstown Girls High School.

WELCOME

As we bid farewell to our departing staff we now have the opportunity to welcome two new members of staff and a returning staff member to the HSIE staffroom in 2023. A warm welcome to Mrs Prasad, Ms Merha and Ms Stournaras

Hi all! I'm Mrs Prasad. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for making me feel at ease with the friendly, helpful and warm welcomes I have received coming into BGHS this year. I completed a Bachelor of Business management, sub-majoring in international management, Masters in Teaching, Diploma in Finance and a variety of certificates in Financial Services focusing on banking, finance and mortgage broking.



I worked in the financial sector for 9 years, while volunteering my services by teaching at a local language school before beginning my journey to a full-time teaching career. I've taught in a range of public schools and found long term employment at Al-Faisal College, then made the decision to move back to public education when the opportunity presented itself to come and teach at BGHS.

What excites me about teaching, is being able to have deep and meaningful discussions with students that enhance understanding and develops excitement of new knowledge. I'm passionate about encouraging growth mindsets in students and building enjoyment in accepting and tackling challenges. What I love the most is connecting with and watching students feel proud of their achievements, no matter how big or small they may be. I hope to encourage the same mindset and support as a teacher here at BGHS for our students and make our school proud.

Hi there!

Many of you know me, but for those of you who don't, I am Ms. Mehra and I am very pleased to have joined the HSIE faculty at Bankstown Girls High!

I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone for such a warm welcome and for making me feel at home right away. I have really enjoyed meeting many of you and look forward to getting to know more of you over the coming year. I am very excited to play a role in your learning and my personal development as a HSIE teacher here at Bankstown Girls High School.

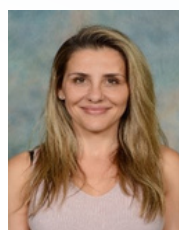


By way of background, I undertook my secondary and tertiary education overseas, before relocating to Australia. I have spent my entire career, both here in Australia and overseas, working primarily with students from different backgrounds and varying abilities to further their learning and skill-building. I am passionate about helping young people understand and harness their strength - so they can go on to live happy and fulfilling lives.

If you ever have a question, or if you simply just want a listening ear, my door is always open. I aspire to provide all my students with a safe, respectful and nurturing environment where each one of you feels heard and seen. I look forward to getting to know you all better and continuing our work together.

If you ever see me around the corridors and we've never spoken, come say hi!

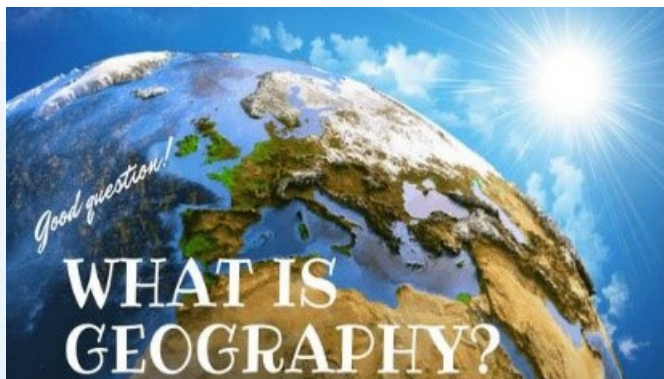
SPOTLIGHT ON HSIE



We also welcome back Ms Stournaras for Terms 1 and 2. Wonderful to have you back teaching in the HSIE faculty

Year 7 Geography

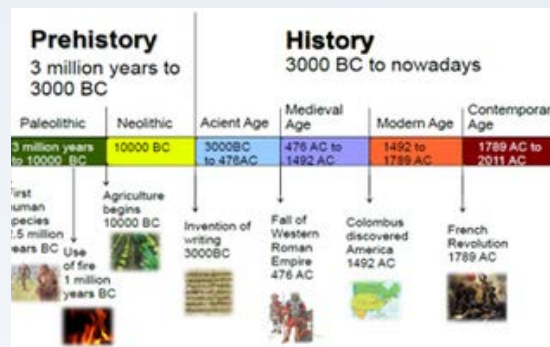
Term 1, 2023 has been a great journey so far for our Year 7 Geography students who have settled well into their learning and have displayed great enthusiasm! During weeks one to six students successfully completed their Geography orientation program which introduced them to the study of What is Geography? and various numeracy and geographical skills.



Moving forward students have commenced their new unit of work 'Landscapes and Landforms', using examples from Australia and throughout the world! Year 7 have also been in the process of completing their Multimedia assessment tasks in collaboration with their peers, focusing on a chosen landform and examining its uniqueness and also applying the concepts of BOLTSS and SPICESS. Overall, students have demonstrated an excellent effort in term 1 and we look forward to seeing their progress in the year ahead!

Year 8 Geography

In stage 4, History, our students are critically analysing new historical terms and concepts in order to understand and investigate essential yet challenging historical times. They are using questioning skills to incorporate the study of the nature of History and historical sources, both archaeological and written. Students explore ancient history from the earliest human communities to the end of the Ancient period. While they study these concepts, the learning journey in Term 1 also includes an investigation of the ancient past and learning about ancient Greece.



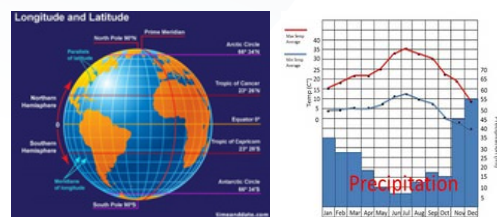
Year 9 Geography

Year 9 Geography have been busy investigating sustainable biomes and environmental change and management this term. The students have looked closely at the productivity of biomes, their role in global food security levels, and the need to sustainably manage them for the future. Students have applied their knowledge through case studies, such as the use of palm oil, and have compared environmental issues occurring in the marine biome- the Great Barrier Reef and Indonesia. Students have put their numeracy skills into action, by using latitude and longitude to locate biomes, and have graphed the expected climate for them, through climate graphs. All of this will prepare them for their upcoming STEAM-based assessment task - Project Global.



Year 10 History

In Stage 5 History, we are extending our students to look at the past with a critical lens. Studying History, enables us to better understand the world in which we live. Building knowledge and understanding of historical events and trends, enables students to develop a greater appreciation for present day society.



Year 10 is currently studying “The movement of people”, focusing on the slave trade and its lasting impact on society. The students have been learning to apply source analysis skills to extrapolate information relevant to the unit of study. Working in pairs, the girls have applied the source analysis principles (TOPMACRU) to their assessment task, where they have selected, analysed, and curated a virtual museum exhibition that highlights the nature of the Slave Trade and its lasting impact on society. The girls have been using their ICT skills across different digital platforms including Artsteps and Minecraft, to produce an interactive exhibition that is both informative and engaging.



Science

Anna Edwards

Focus on Stage 6

The Science faculty is keen to inspire Australia's future female scientists and, pleasingly, several Year 11 and Year 12 Students have chosen to undertake 3 Science subjects, which is the maximum allowable, during their senior years of study. The following quotes* reflect our Year 11 students' experiences of Term 1 in Science. The faculty is excited by our students' progress in their courses this year and look forward to helping them achieve their best (and become Australia's next female Nobel Prize recipient for Physics, Chemistry, or Medicine and Physiology).

Hiba Kazi: *"Chemistry is hard to understand at time but is easy when you spend the time to understand it. Biology is easy and allows me to work at a slower pace. Physics is hard and needs practice for perfection – which I need to work on".*

Manhoor Khan: *"I struggled in Chemistry at first, as I wasn't prepared for the pace of the course and the workload. Particularly with concept of gravimetric analysis, and I fell behind in my work. However, I've worked hard and am on top of everything. I achieved a great result of 94% in my first assessment task and am so proud of myself for bouncing back. Physics has been challenging – the problem is knowing how to piece all those concepts together to effectively answer a complex question. Investigating Science is a course where I'm confident I will do well in. The content seems easy, but through continuously dissecting simple, self-explanatory processes a lot, it can become a lot to handle."*

As senior science teachers, our focus is on ensuring that our students have the skills to enable them to apply their knowledge in new and unfamiliar contexts, which is required if students wish to achieve Bands 5 & 6 in the HSC. Fortunately, these skills are taught explicitly in the Stage 6 Investigating Science course.

We are very excited by the fantastic start Year 11 students have made in their Science courses and encourage them all to keep up the good work and ask their teacher for assistance if needed. Attending the Biology tutoring sessions on Thursday morning at 8am and Investigating Science at 8am on Friday mornings will also assist making connections and developing exam skills. Keep up the great work Year 11.



Year 12 Biology – Museum of Human Disease excursion

Both Year 12 Biology classes attended the Museum of Human Disease to participate in two workshops that cover aspects of all four Year 12 Modules in the HSC Biology course. The students were very engaged and enjoyed the hands-on activities. The disease includes hundreds of real human disease specimens, and the girls were fascinated with the effect both infectious and non-infectious diseases can have on our body.



The museum is housed within the University of New South Wales. This gave the girls the opportunity to travel via public transport and know that they'll be more than capable of doing the same by themselves next year when they go to university themselves!



Upcoming incursions

Thanks to Mr Golestan we have a couple of exciting excursions planned for late this term – a visit from a genetic counsellor who will explain the role and some of the conditions that are commonly identified for counselling. This will assist our Year 10 Students who have recently completed a topic on genetics, as well as our Year 12 Biology students, who look at genetically inherited non-infectious diseases as part of the HSC course.

The second incursion will be a whole school opportunity to listen to one of Australia's great science communicators, Dr Karl Kruszelnicki. Karl popularises science on ABC radio stations across Australia and, on the BBC, for several hours each week. He has written (so far) 47 books, beginning with 'Great Moments In Science' in 1984, and includes such titles as 'It Ain't Necessarily So...'Bro' (2006), which was launched, quite literally, via rocket at Sydney's Bondi Beach (a world first).

This will be a brilliant event that will happen on 15 May in Term 2. Suffice to say, the Science Faculty is super excited for Dr Karl!

Stay tuned to Candid in Term 2 for a write-up!



Personal Development, Health and Physical Education

Krishnal Mohan

introducing...

Lisa Bakhos

Hi, Bankstown Girls High School community! I am the new PDHPE staff member Miss Bakhos! A big thank you to all the staff and students who have welcomed me to the school open heartedly. I finished studying a Bachelor of Exercise and Health Science, followed by a Diploma of Education at ACU in 2014. I am a vibrant and enthusiastic young teaching professional with a passion for learning. I am looking forward to providing a positive a challenging learning environment and motivating students to achieve academic and personal growth here at Bankstown Girls High School.

We are delighted to inform you that our Year 7 gymnastics program has been a tremendous success this term. The students have made excellent progress in their gymnastics skills, and many of them have learned new things that they can be proud of.



The students have been working hard, practicing a range of skills such as balance, coordination, flexibility, and strength. Their enthusiasm and dedication to the sport have been fantastic to see, and we are proud of their achievements.

Not only have the students been improving their physical abilities, but they have also been developing important life skills such as teamwork, communication, and perseverance. They have learned to support each other, work together to achieve common goals and push themselves to overcome challenges.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the students for their hard work, as well as the staff who have supported them throughout the term. The PE faculty is excited to see the progress they will continue to make in the future.

Thank you for your ongoing support of our gymnastics program!

Creative and Performing Arts and Technology and Applied Studies

Evelyn Mircevski

Year 12 Design and Technology have visited the Shape Exhibition at the Powerhouse Museum and gained further inspiration for their major design projects. It offered a great opportunity to explore previous successful projects. A great time was had by all.



The achievements of all Visual Arts and Music students deserve to be acknowledged this term. The CAPA staff have once again had the pleasure in teaching so many dedicated and talented students.

YEAR 10, 11 and 12 Visual Arts Students

A highlight for the CAPA staff along with Year 10 and 11 and 12 Visual Arts students was spending a wonderful day out at the newly renovated Art Gallery of NSW to view the annual showcase of the HSC Visual Arts Bodies of Work exhibition representing exemplary and dynamic artworks created by NSW Visual Arts students for the 2022 HSC examination. All students left feeling motivated and inspired by the high standard of works exhibited.



ARTEXPRESS 2023 OPENING

Congratulations to Year 12 2022 Visual Arts student, Maria Kontakos on her nomination and selection of her Body of Work in ARTEXPRESS 2023.



Maria's Body of Work is on showcase at *The Armory, Sydney Olympic Park* until 16 April, 2023 for the public to view. Mrs Bilali, Ms Cho and Ms Vassiliou had the pleasure of attending the opening night in celebration of the outstanding achievements of the state's top 5% of HSC artworks. A nomination and selection for ARTEXPRESS is an incredible achievement and we are so proud of Maria Kontakos for creating such an exceptionally high-quality HSC Body of Work.

ARTEXPRESS

Maria Kontakos
Bankstown Girls High School
EVER-PRESENT

Painting
Acrylic on canvas

Inspired by Neoclassicism, *Ever-present* represents humanity morphed through the ages, challenging the viewer's concept of time as contrasting characters interact timelessly in a shared space. My body of work juxtaposes various life forms and inanimate objects from prehistory to the not-too-distant future, exploring the power humans hold in a rapidly evolving world. My work expresses the dichotomy between natural and artificial evolution, using Greek mythology as an overarching theme connecting life to tradition and culture and shaping the present. I chose this imagery as my Greek heritage and Australian culture occasionally clash, yet both contribute significantly to making me complete.

My artmaking practice has been influenced by the study and interpretation of the following artists: Jacques-Louis David; Angelica Kauffman; John Glover; Joan Ross; Sandro Botticelli, *The Birth of Venus*; Anton Raphael Mengs, *Parnassus*; Jean-Antoine-Théodore Giroust, *Oedipus at Colonus*.

Maria's spectacular paintings occupied a considerable space in the gallery creating an impact on the audience who viewed her works.

Mrs Vassiliou

Our teachers experienced the power of working together for the "International Women's Breakfast on Wednesday 8th March. Hospitality, Music and Visual Arts students integrated their skills by demonstrating the good feeling of contributing to a common goal. I think I will leave the rest to the contributions of our senior students who contributed wholeheartedly to the event.

I've always been hungry for success in my artistic creations. When Mrs. Mircevski asked me to design the menu cover, I was surprised as well as ecstatic. International Women's Day is monumental in history; becoming a focal point for Women's Rights movements, and bringing attention to the issues of gender equality, reproductive rights, and violence and abuse against women. It became my obligation to reflect the stunning, empowering women, which is why I decided to go with a playful colour palette and detailed sketches [especially on the back, to provide a break in the seriousness of the event, and to bring joy to people who see my artwork!]. More than anything, I felt really happy to contribute in a unique way. In my own way - and was delighted to see the reactions from my teachers and guests. Emynah Hafda - Year 11



For International Women's day, the day before I helped prepare the food with my classmates and I helped out for about 2 hours before I went home. On the day of the event, I came to school at 6am to serve the food we prepared and set up the area. I really enjoyed being at the event with around 130 guests and having the people come up and acknowledge and enjoy the food that was made. The event was well prepared and I'm sure everybody enjoyed it, I feel like all my hardwork and efforts Year 11 were accomplished well as well as being accompanied by my friends made the experience more enjoyable.

Angelina Luu - Year 11

International women's day is a day where we celebrate women's achievements and contribute to a positive change, and to me, this day was exceptional and empowering. A catering event was hosted to celebrate, and this was my first time helping out for a catering event. Getting up and preparing food for so many people was exciting! The event itself was what made it unique in my heart. Hearing other people's stories about how they got to where they are today was inspiring! As for helping out with the event, being able to greet people with a smile, see so many different faces, have the opportunity to get upfront and serve people, and even be able to welcome my friends and family was such an exceptional experience! I'm glad to have been a part of this event, as this experience allowed me to help out in the kitchen, be inspired, realise my true potential, and gain independence and responsibility!

Shaneece Alamenddine Year 11



For International women's day I participated in playing music and helping out with food service for the guests. With music, we planned to play calming music and just accompany the event and set the mood for the guests while it was early in the morning. We played a variety of songs, including many famous songs on the piano, for example Bohemian Rhapsody by Queen, calming Chinese pieces on the guitar, and a original song made by a small lovely group of three year 10s and one year 9 student. It felt really nice to see how the event went, participating in this event was the most fun and seeing the guests enjoy the food and the music really paid off for all the hard work we put in preparing the performances and food. Rihanna Hamdoush - Year 11



Wellbeing

FIONA BANBAS

We are very excited to welcome all our students back this term, particularly our new Year 7 cohort. Year 7 students have been able to connect with their peers and teachers during transition and Peer Support, led by a fantastic team of Year 10 leaders. We are very proud of our Year 7 students who, in a few short weeks, have matured and grown, worn their BGHS uniforms with pride and have been speaking with confidence about their transition to high school.

The Wellbeing Team – who we are & what we do!

The year advisors are the first point of contact for parents and students who have any questions, concerns or wish to share information that help us support student learning and wellbeing. Each year group has a year advisor and their shadow, who are dedicated to supporting students, journeying side by side with them throughout their high school experiences. We also have a Student Support Officer (SSO) and a wellbeing nurse who can provide additional wellbeing support to students, including links to external services.

You can contact any of the year advisors through the front office by phone 9709683 or email bankstown-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au. Please be aware that we all have teaching duties and may not be immediately available, but we will do our very best to respond quickly.

The Wellbeing Team is here to help our students reach their potential to be, Always the Best. Students learn best when families and schools work in partnership to support their growth and development.

Please reach out to your year advisor if there is any information or concerns that may impact your daughter's learning and wellbeing. Be assured that information is treated sensitively and with respect to the privacy of our students.

The Wellbeing Team provide tiered support to our students through a range of programs and in 2023 we will be continuing our 'Wellbeing Wednesdays'. Every Wednesday in replacement of reading in ELP, students will be encouraged to use their school-provided diary to practise self-awareness and promote positive mental tracking.

YEAR ADVISOR UPDATE

Year 7

What a busy Term 1 it has been for Year 7 students. Year 7 students have been getting accustomed to life at high school. In the first couple of weeks, the students took part in peer support with Year 10 students. They were issued diaries to help them keep organised and which they are encouraged to use every day. The girls found their way to classes, made new friends, sat for NAPLAN and are getting to know their teachers.

It has been fantastic getting to know all their faces and helping them to navigate all the different opportunities and challenges coming their way.

We look forward to the Year 7 'Meet and Greet' on Tuesday, May 2, when parents, carers and teachers have the chance to have an informal chat with their daughter's teachers and meet with other parents and carers.

We also hope all the girls and families have a restful holiday and they come back in Term 2 as eager as they were at the start of the year.

Ms Anna Cowin & Ms Nagwa Elads

	Year Advisor	Shadow Year Advisor
Year 7	Anna Cowin	Nagwa Elads
Year 8	Daniel Golestan	Anjum Newman
Year 9	Carli Weston	Nahla Amin
Year 10	Yasmine Baddah	Tania Vrataric
Year 11	Sadia Ijaz	Randa El-Haddad
Year 12	Rita Matty	Chris Dalton
SSO	Christine Kalivitis	
Nurse WHIN	Alicia Croxford	
Counsellors	Hailey Lynch	Louise Hoarau
Head Teacher	Fiona Banbas	

Year 8

In 2023, Year 8 has become the largest year group at BGHS and we have welcomed a number of new faces to our community this year. I'm pleased to see so many students making a high standard of effort in class, and the recent assessments have demonstrated excellent commitment to learning.

This year, I've emphasised resilience and making positive choices, which helps us to navigate through life's inevitable ups and downs. I encourage all Year 8 students to be strong in the face of the upcoming academic challenges and to remember that a teacher's role is to challenge students so that they can discover their interests and capabilities.

To my clever students in Year 8: I'm so grateful to be your year advisor and to see how much you're already growing and developing in your skills, knowledge, and maturity. Each of you have impressed me in your own unique way and I hope that you have impressed yourselves just as much. I look forward to continuing our journey of teaching and learning together and seeing the amazing things you'll achieve in the rest of 2023.

Mr Daniel Golestan

Year 9

Year 9 marks the beginning of Stage 5 learning, where students have commenced their chosen electives and participated in NAPLAN in Term 1. Students were encouraged to do their absolute best as it provides all teachers with important data to allow us to best support Year 9 in Reading, Writing and Numeracy.

This term, during a year meeting, Year 9 focused on wellbeing and mindfulness. Students learned about a variety of tips for a healthy mind and were introduced to a few great apps for improving wellbeing. Apps such as the Headspace App (for reducing stress and anxiety), the Gratitude Journal App (for developing positive thinking), and the Recharge App (to improve sleep) can be downloaded and used any time. Students were also reminded about how to use the school's self-referral system to get the help they need from specialists such as the school psychologist, SSO, and WHIN. Finally, Ms. Amin designed some handy mini mindfulness cards that students can carry with them and use whenever they need to practise mindfulness.

We look forward to all the wonderful achievements and personal growth of Year 9 in the coming year.

Ms Carli Weston & Ms Nahla Amin

Year 10

We welcome back Year 10 students to yet another productive and successful year. I encourage our students to continue taking a mature approach to their learning, with a focus on grasping all opportunities available to them this year as we head into senior studies in 2024.

This year we have been fortunate to welcome a number of diverse and down-to-earth girls to our year group. Starting a new school is never easy, especially when entering a group with long, well-established relationships. Our cohort welcomed our new students with open arms and displayed maturity, kindness and a strong sense of inclusion to BGHS.

Year 10's resilience and adaptability is shining through and these characteristics will remain with them for life. It has been an absolute privilege to watch Year 10 strengthen their relationships and communication skills over the last few years. I look forward to seeing what the rest of 2023 has in store for us and making more memories with this amazing group of students.

Ms Yasmine Baddah

Year 11

Whoa, what a roller coaster start for Term 1, Year 11. I can't believe that we are in Year 11 already, where has the time gone? This year, we have welcomed many new local and international students in our year group. A big THANK YOU to all Year 11 students for being so friendly and helpful to our new students, who are settling in smoothly.

The Year 11 have started working on designing their Year 12 jerseys and have nominated 6 students from the Year 11 cohort to form a Jersey Committee. The Jersey Committee is currently brainstorming the design for our BGHS 2024 class and are receiving feedback and suggestions from the rest of the year group through the Year 11 Google classroom.

In Week 10, Year 11 checkpoints were held. This was an opportunity for students to show their progress and ensure they're on task, to date. As you are becoming more committed towards your studies I just want to leave you with the John Wooden quote:

"Don't let what you cannot do interfere with what you can do." – John Wooden

When you lack motivation or have difficulty in a specific topic, don't just leave every other topic thinking you have difficulties in understanding everything. This will spoil the whole scenario and you won't be able to concentrate on your favourite topics as well. So, what to do in such situations? Start concentrating on the good part, which means studying the topic of your choice, when you start building interest in that you will automatically find the difficult topics to be interesting as well. This way you will also learn to manage your time wisely.

I wish you all a very productive and positive Term 1 and a continuation of this throughout all your Preliminary studies.

Thank you for your beautiful smiles and personalities that always cheer me up and make my job easy and worthwhile.

Dr Sadia Ijaz

Year 12

January 31, 2023, will go down as the historic day (at least for me...) that Year 12 started their final year towards their HSC; they hit the ground running and haven't stopped since. Unsurprisingly, I cannot believe that we are already (almost) done with Term 1. It has been a jam-packed term for the Year 12's social calendar, starting with a hugely successful fundraising event at the swimming carnival. The girls organised a sausage sizzle with all the trimmings to generate money for their formal. The success of the fundraiser has energised the Year 12 to start planning for the upcoming athletics carnival, and some secret *soon to be announced* activities for the rest of the BGHS girls to partake in!

Outside our busy social calendar, the girls have been working steadily toward upskilling themselves for life beyond school. Year 12 have been utilising their study periods to obtain certificates e.g. First Aid, navigating pathways to university and tertiary study, as well as looking into career pathways after school. This term has been a time of reflection for the year 12 who have been working hard on establishing a routine that involves good habits, to ensure that they are well-rested and prepared for the challenges that lie ahead. They have built an enclave in the back of the library that serves as their home base for all things related to Year 12 - enter at your own risk!

As we wrap up an already eventful Term 1, I would like to refer the girls to some wise words said by a very fashionable brunette... (no, it's not me)

"Nothing is impossible, the word itself says I'm possible". Audrey Hepburn

In 2018 our then-Year 7 would have started high school with trepidation about the journey ahead. What seemed then like an impossible idea, is now a reality. Year 12 are now world-weary seniors, standing on the precipice of the world that lies ahead of them, making a new impossibility seem possible.

Ms Rita Matty

What is bullying?

Bullying is when someone with more power than you deliberately and repeatedly tries to upset or hurt you. It can involve one or more of the following:

- the misuse of power in a relationship
- is intentional, ongoing and repeated.
- behaviours that can cause harm.

Bullying can be physical, verbal, or social. Bullying can be easy to see (overt) or hidden (covert) Cyberbullying is online bullying that involves the use of technology such as the internet or mobile devices.

I've seen someone bullied

Have you seen bullying happen but didn't know how to stop it? There are things you can do. Don't put your own safety at risk. Step in only if you feel safe to do so.

Who are bystanders?

Bystanders are people who watch or are nearby at the time the bullying takes place. You can be a bystander in person or online.

You may have been a bystander if you have:

- stood and watched in silence
- seen bullying happening online and said nothing
- laughed or walked away from the situation
- cheered or encouraged the person bullying
- forwarded an offensive image, post or text message to someone.

Who are upstanders?

An upstander is someone who offers support to the person being bullied.

What can I do?

If you see bullying and feel confident enough to take safe action, there's a bigger chance that the bullying will stop. You can use words or actions to help someone who is being bullied. This is called being an upstander.

A group of students standing up to bullying together helps everyone to stay safe.



Say or write something supportive to the person being bullied

For example:

- "Do you want me to come with you to the office to tell a teacher about this?"
- "I know you must feel pretty bad but they're the one with the problem."
- "Just ignore what they said. They're doing it to feel better about themselves."

Do something to help the person being bullied

You could:

- take them away from the person doing the bullying.
- encourage them to ask for help, for example go with them to get help.
- include them in your group and introduce them to your friends.
- suggest safe places for them to go.
- show them how to set their privacy settings on social networking sites and mobile devices.
- Avoid joining in
- Don't behave in ways that make the problem worse, such as:
- joining in with harassing or hurting someone.
- reinforcing the bullying behaviour by encouraging, cheering and laughing, even if it's from a distance or when you hear about it later.
- resending or responding to messages or photos that may be offensive or upsetting to someone.
- harassing, teasing or spreading gossip about others on social media.

Tell someone

If someone is being hurt, it's important to seek help.

If you're worried about what other people will say, tell someone else privately.

Even if the bullying happens outside of school, report it to someone who can help or someone you trust such as:

- the media platform
- your parents or someone in your family
- a teacher or a school counsellor or psychologist
- the police, if the bullying is causing serious harm
- to the The eSafety Commissioner if it is serious bullying online.

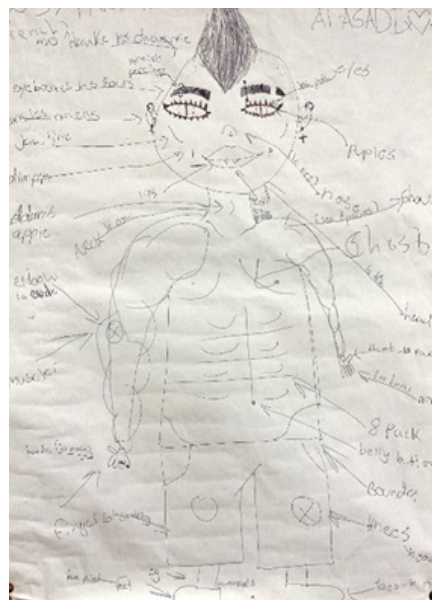
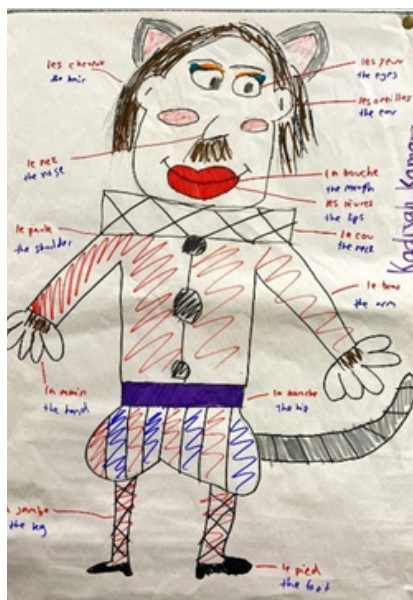
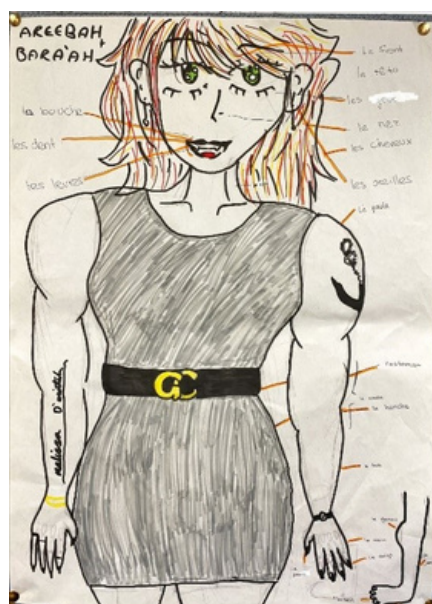
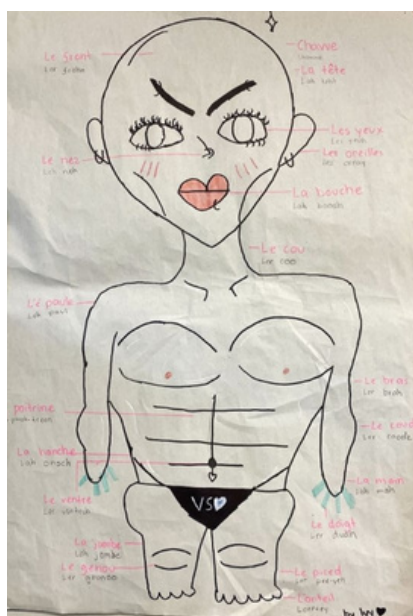
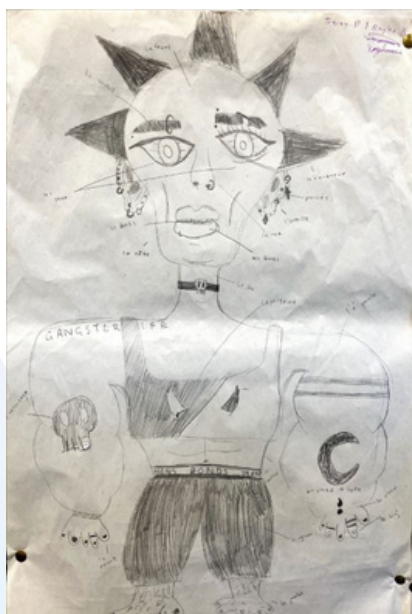
Languages

Anna Cowin

Year 8 French

Bonjour a tous! Year 8 has been experiencing the wonders of learning language through speaking, listening and creating. During this term, students have learned basic greetings and have presented themselves in French, to their classmates. Students have expanded their vocabulary and were able maintain short conversations in French between each other.

In addition, they have learned how to name family members and identify parts of the human body. They transferred this knowledge and created some artistic and imaginative art works to grace our classroom walls.



VET

Elizabeth Kyritsis

Our VET students have kickstarted Term 1 with great enthusiasm and willingness to immerse themselves within the business, hospitality and retail frameworks, all of which comprise the VET courses offered at BGHS. Fifty-nine Year 11 students have successfully been inducted in Vocational education and training frameworks.

In addition to a mixture of theory and practical coursework, students will undertake a work placement in industry and simulated work hours in running the school-based Balcony Cafe. Thus far, the simulation has been an excellent opportunity for the students to gain a perceptive insight into what the retail and hospitality sector has to offer.

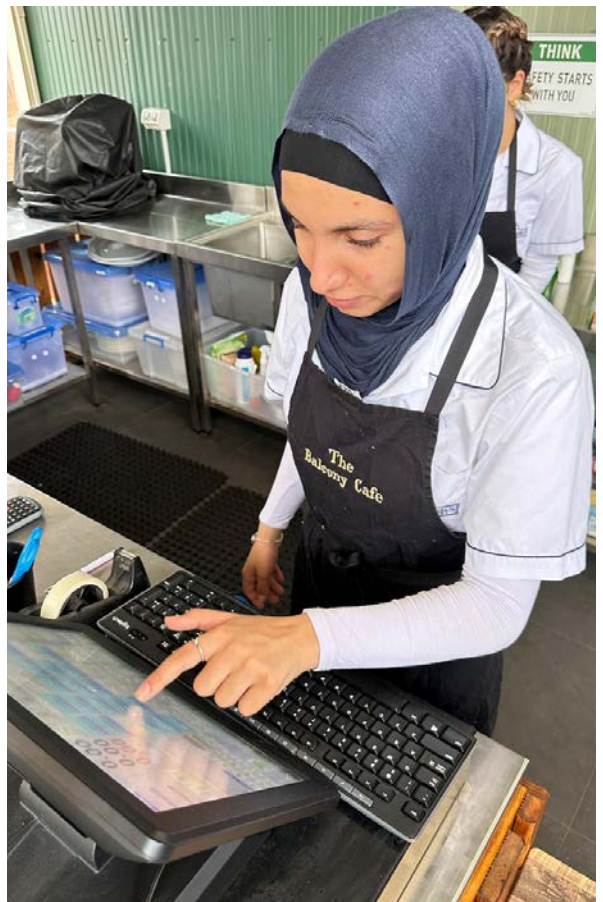
The Balcony Cafe will be open to all staff and special guests every Tuesday from period 2 to period 3. Students involved will rotate shifts and complete tasks as required.

Some of the skills students will learn and demonstrate in the cafe are:

- Work effectively in a service environment and team.
- Front of house operations
- Prepare beverages and apply the principles of hygiene and food safety.
- Contribute to workplace health and safety.
- Customer services
- Operate point of sale terminal
- Create and dismantle displays.
- Stocktake

Students will be provided with the best training and assessment to an industry standard.

By the VET team



CAREERS

Michele Hundy

FAST FORWARD CONFERENCE

A big thank you to all my Year 12 Fast Forward Students!

Our amazing Year 12 Fast Forwards students were invited to attend the annual Year 12 Conference, earlier in the term, on Friday 17 February. The aim of the conference was to provide opportunities for the students to meet with a wide range of education plus industry professionals and explore the options available to them after they have completed their high school learning. Students on the day were able to attend a selection of interactive academic workshops and explore state of the art, purpose-built facilities at the Parramatta South campus.

A 'shout out' to Mr Stamm who attended the conference and assisted me on the day. The students had a really productive and immersive experience, which will greatly assist each of them in their future post - school career pathway planning.



YEAR 10 ABCN DIGITAL CAREERS EXPO

BGHS was so fortunate to be invited by ABCN, along with only seven other schools, to participate in a 2 day Digital Careers Expo pilot program.

What was the purpose of the ABCN Digital Careers Expo Program?

The program was developed in response to increasing evidence that many Australian students don't understand the diversity of what tech jobs are available, or how to get into them.

The program was funded by Microsoft, and aimed to inspire young people to pursue technology careers in line with industry demands and raise awareness of the wide range of career options in technology.



The two day Digital Career Expos gave our Year 10 students an exclusive look behind the scenes at some of Australia's most recognisable companies, with the aim to demystify digital career options and capabilities required for the future world of work.

The students visited, on two separate days, **Westpac, KPMG, Microsoft and NBN** and were able to speak with an amazing group of mentors, attend workshops along with an industry tour at each venue.

A HUGE Thank you to Ms Baddah and Ms Doai who assisted me each at one of the career expo days.

Along with ABCN / Microsoft, who funded the program, and all the other participating companies.



ABCN QUOTE

Take any opportunities that arise.

Support

Lisa Pacey

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

This year has started off with just a small but beautiful group of international students, including Tanya, Patty and Joyce in Year 11 and Quynh and Alice in Year 12. The girls are working hard to improve their English language skills at the same time as learning the content of their elected HSC subjects, which is no easy feat! With the support of our dedicated staff and their own determination to succeed, the girls will continue to develop as strong learners at BGHS.

Throughout the year we are anticipating the arrival of several more international students who are currently enrolled at the IEC to help prepare them for their transition into our high school. I know that the BGHS community will give them a warm welcome on their arrival.

We are currently planning a cultural excursion for the international students which will take place during Term 2, and we look forward to celebrating milestones together throughout the year, like the girls' birthdays.

HAPPY 17TH BIRTHDAY TANYA!



Mrs Pacey - International Student Co-ordinator

Transition

Lisa Pacey

A huge congratulations to the Yr 11 and Yr 12 PCYC students!

Over four days during Term 1, nine students were given the opportunity to participate in the PCYC – Stepping Up Work Readiness program. The aim of the program was to provide the students with the opportunity to participate in work related practical sessions gaining transferable job ready skills to assist them with their post-school planning.

During the four days of the program the students explored career opportunities and developed skills to better prepare them for job interviews and entering the workforce. The girls also completed their First Aid and White Card and on successful completion of the course the students received nationally recognised Statements of Attainment which will be most valuable when entering the workforce.



Transitioning from School

My role as Transition Adviser is to promote the active engagement and retention of students who may be experiencing difficulty in the school environment. I also aim to help guide and facilitate a successful transition from school to alternative study or employment for those students who are not aspiring to complete their HSC and have a strong sense of direction for their future career pathway. By working in collaboration with the student, parents, school staff and external stakeholders we can develop personalised programs of career and transition support for our students.

Towards the end of last year and during Term 1, we have had a number of students successfully transitioning into full-time study at TAFE, various private providers and full-time employment in order to pursue their chosen career pathways.

If this is an option that you would like to explore or you feel that you would benefit from participating in programs to help you better prepare for entering the workforce, please pop into the Careers Office and we can have a chat about your goals and aspirations and establish a transition plan to allow for a successful transition pathway.

Library

Sarah Marchant

As my first term as Teacher Librarian at Bankstown Girls draws to a close, I want to express how wonderful it has been getting to know the staff and students. Engaging in conversations about books has been delightful, and even more rewarding has been guiding students in discovering the joy of reading through tailored book recommendations.

Our library has undergone some significant changes this term. We've added new study desks and group work hubs, along with stunning display shelves. The shelves and desks have been rearranged to create an abundance of cozy nooks and crannies for students to read, study, or chat.



Earlier in the term, we meticulously curated our non-fiction collection by weeding out nearly 1000 outdated or unused books. The purpose was to ensure our resources are current and relevant, and that the library has ample space to accommodate new and exciting resources. We have also added a plethora of books to our collection, most of which were student requests. The shelves are now brimming with new romance, fantasy, and mystery books, as well as a wide selection of graphic novels and manga.

We're thrilled to have initiated a Student Librarian Team, who have recently started their training. They are responsible for maintaining the library and shelves in impeccable order, and are also actively brainstorming new and innovative displays and initiatives to promote reading and the library.

We organised some exciting displays and competitions this term. For Library Lover's Day in February, our 'Blind Date with a Book' display was a huge hit, where students selected books based solely on a few descriptive keywords. This resulted in many successful 'dates,' with students discovering new genres and authors. In March, to celebrate International Women's Day, students delved into books about inspirational women, made a pledge to embrace equity, and even became codebreakers to decipher some inspiring quotes.



"The only thing that you absolutely have to know, is the location of the library." – Albert Einstein

candid

A School Recap

Celebrations and Events

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 2023 theme, #EmbraceEquity. 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!



SWIMMING CARNIVAL

We are excited to share with you the success of our recent school swimming carnival. The event was a huge success, and we couldn't be prouder of our students for their enthusiasm, sportsmanship, and participation. The day started with a burst of energy as our students gathered around the pool, ready to compete. The carnival was a fun-filled day of competition, with students participating in a range of events, including freestyle, breaststroke, backstroke, and butterfly. There were also relay races, which added an extra element of excitement to the day.

It was wonderful to see so many students participating in the carnival, and we were thrilled to see the support they gave to their fellow housemates. The atmosphere was electric, with cheers and applause filling the air as each student took to the water to compete.



The carnival was not only a day of fun and competition but also an opportunity to celebrate the hard work and dedication of our students. We were impressed by the level of skill and determination shown by our swimmers, and we are proud of each one of them for giving their best effort.

We also want to acknowledge and thank the staff and year 10 PASS who helped make the carnival such a success. Their dedication and hard work behind the scenes ensured that the event ran smoothly, and they should be commended for their efforts.

Overall, the school swimming carnival was a fantastic day, filled with laughter, competition, and a great sense of community. We hope that our students enjoyed the event as much as we did and that it has inspired them to continue to pursue their passion for swimming.

Thank you to all who participated and helped make the carnival such a memorable event. We look forward to seeing you all at next year's carnival Sincerely,

PE STAFF

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