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#### The Balgowlah Boys Campus Newsletter

#### Principal's Report

#### Week 10 Term 1 2023

We draw to the end of another successful term at Balgowlah Boys. Feedback from parent teacher evenings was that the vast majority of boys are making satisfactory progress in their studies. We still have the Years 7 and 12 interviews scheduled for 1 May; the next round of feedback will be half year reports at the end of term 2.

Along with academic performances there have been outstanding sport results from the boys this term. Congratulations to our swimmers that have achieved at zone and regional levels and will be going onto state, including our amazing relay teams. It was a fantastic showing by our rowing team at the recent National Championships in Perth. The highlight of the

regatta was undoubtedly the outstanding performance of Dion Hansson, who took home the gold medal in the U19. Bally also won Gold in the School Boys Coxed Quad event with the crew made up of Bally's Dion Hansson, Zane McGregor, Sam Merry and Coxed by Hamish Reid.



The (my) Open Water Polo team were crowned state champions for the second successive year at Newcastle after competing in the state finals. Having only 8 placers on the card made this win over two days of competition in such a physical sport even more impressive. Balgowlah Boys has never before gone back-to-back as state champions.

Cory Webber, Lachlan Davies, Max Ryan, Gabriel Garwah, Cillian Mcgrath, Miller Manson, Lachie Morrow, Ethan Green, Paul Sheather, Peter Manson (co-coach)



Invitations are currently being emailed to parents for the *By Effort We Achieve Assembly* to be held the first Friday of term 2, 28 April. This special assembly, titled from our school motto, recognises students that have worked to their best in all their classes in term 1. The assembly will be held on the guad weather permitting.

#### School Attendance

Public Schools NSW has requested that principals remind their community of the importance of attendance at school. The Balgowlah Community is certainly cognisant of the importance of a good education and as a corollary, consistent attendance. I am somewhat conflicted in following this directive as we offer numerous co-curricula opportunities in sport, the performing arts and leadership which withdraw students from normal classes. As indicated above I have just taken a group of boys away to the finals of water polo for two days (two days the boys and I will never forget). So, it really is a balancing act for schools and parents. Arguably, the easiest way for a student to gain better results is to be in class, face-to-face with his teacher.

I have also been reluctant over the past year to deny approval for parents to travel oversees to join with families post-Covid yet knowing that it will be difficult for some students to catch up all the work covered at school. Hopefully in the future as we leave Covid behind the amount of extended leave requests will diminish and we can address some of the deficits produced by the online learning and teacher absences. In the meantime, I will be preaching to the somewhat converted community of the importance of attendance at school.

Paul Sheather

#### **Ancient History Excursion**

During this term the year 11 Ancient History class visited Sydney University's Chau Chak Wing Museum. The boys engaged in archaeological practice, handling artifacts from all around the Ancient world like Egypt, Pompeii, Athens and Sparta. This is a unique experience which will help them prepare for their year 12 studies where they will dive deeper into the



Ancient Mediterranean and Near East studying topics like Pompeii, the Greco-Persian Wars, the campaigns of Alexander the Great and ancient Spartan society.

Hayley Logg



# Creative and Performing Arts

#### MUSIC

#### MUSIC 2 AT SYDNEY SYMPHONY'S MEET THE MUSIC



On Friday 17th March, Year 11 and 12 Music 2 students, alongside Ms Stokes, headed to the Opera House to see the Sydney Symphony present New York Stories. This



programme includes
George Gershwin's
Rhapsody in Blue,
Charles Ives' Central
Park in the Dark,
Leonard Bernstein's
Symphonic Dances from



West Side Story and Australian composer Paul-Antoni Bonetti's The Bright Day Clarion Calls

the Quaking Earth. The show was understandably in huge demand, so our boys were very lucky to be in the audience! The Sydney Symphony put on a brilliant performance, and the boys left inspired about American Music of the 20th century.

#### BAND PROGRAM UPDATE

Our Band Program is well and truly in full swing with rehearsals coming to an end for Term 1. Each ensemble is meshing well together and are working hard in preparation for their first performances next Term. A huge thank you to band leaders Julian McKay, Damien Mathieson, Mr Iain Robertson and Ms Eva Stokes for their hard work getting the bands sounding so good!



Rehearsals for Term 2 will begin in Week 1 for all ensembles with the exception of Jazz Orchestra, Senior Concert Band and the Improvisation ensembles, which will begin in Week 2.

#### CONCERT BAND PROGRAM:

- Junior Concert Band (Year 7 8, all welcome) Friday, 7:30am in the School Hall
- Senior Concert Band (Year 9 12, all welcome) Tuesday, 7:30am in the School Hall
- Guitar Club (all years, all welcome) Tuesday lunchtime in DEM6

#### JAZZ PROGRAM

- Junior Improvisation (for students new to improvisation) Monday, 8am in DS7
- Senior Improvisation (for students with experience improvising) Wednesday,
   7:30am in the School Hall
- Stage Band (all years, auditioned) Thursday, 7:30am in the School Hall
- · Jazz Orchestra (all years, auditioned) Monday, 8am in the School Hall

#### BALLY BANDS PERFORM FOR VOTERS AT BEACON HILL

The Bally Jazz Orchestra and Stage Band performed for the polling booths on March 25th at Beacon Hill Primary School. The boys played brilliantly and garnered a solid crowd by the end of their performance. A huge thank you to band leader Julian McKay and Band Program Coordinator Ms Eva Stokes.







Jazz Orchestra

Tristan Jorgensen (left) and Arkie Thomas (right) (Year 11) taking a solo





Banjo Kirkham (Year 8) taking a solo with Stage Band

Stage Band

#### **CURRICULUM MUSIC**

#### YEAR 7

The students in Year 7 have had a busy first term and have completed the famous Bally Chair Drumming unit as part of the curriculum. The boys have learned a number of songs including Aussie classics such as *Beds are Burning* by Midnight Oil and *TNT* by ACDC. Other songs the boys have studied include *Lonely Boy* by The Black Keys and *Uptown Funk* by Mark Ronson. All of our boys meet the program with great enthusiasm, and this has been a Bally staple for a number of years. The students have also completed stage 1 of their listening booklets and participated in an African Drumming workshop that had groups of 70 students playing polyrhythmic patterns in the school hall. It has been a lot of fun to teach and now we roll into our Music Technology program with the boys all composing on laptops next term.

#### YEAR 8

The boys in Year 8 have had an awesome Term! We have been working on producing our 3 best rock riffs from an epic rock compendium of classic hits from the 60's until now. The boys have chosen from around 30 different riffs and popular guitar licks including Day Tripper by the Beatles, Sunshine of your love by Cream, Smoke on the Water by Deep Purple, Beat It by Michael Jackson, and of course the seminal classic Sweet child o' mine by Guns n Roses. Most of our boys ended up playing some complex riffs and it was great to see them make a lot of progress. Next Term, the students are looking forward to putting their guitar skills into class band activities and also branching out into playing the piano, keyboard, drums, bass guitar, ukulele and singing. Thank you Year 8 for your hard work and dedication this term.

#### VEAR 9

Year 9 have had a brilliant Term studying Blues and Jazz. The boys are now confidently playing through a 12 bar blues structure and improvising over a form. Renditions of *Green Onions* by Booker T. and the MG's, *Great Balls of Fire* by Jerry Lee Lewis and *Take The A Train* by Duke Ellington were played for their assessment, and it's amazing to see how far the boys have come this Term. Well done Year 9, we're excited to see what's coming next Term as we delve into Popular Music.

#### YEAR 10

We have had a great term studying Electronic Dance Music (EDM). The boys have worked hard to create their own dance music piece for assessment, while also refining listening and written skills. These activities will be vital for continued success in the upcoming Half Yearly Examination next term, and will accompany a performance task. It has been a great term - thank you Year 10 for your ongoing efforts.

#### YEAR 11 MUSIC 1

The students of Year 11 have had an exceptional term with a large class full of students that are really keen to hone their performance skills. The main performance project entailed the boys selecting songs to play themselves and we had some great work with some songs to be

played in forthcoming concerts. Within the class we had some Radiohead, Jimi Hendrix, Dire Straits and Led Zeppelin pieces being performed and we can't wait to see these boys blow the roof off in forthcoming showcases. The class also concentrated on learning how to respond to HSC questions for their Aural Examination and this class is really one to watch out for with some exceptional talent being readied for Year 12.

#### **VEAR 12 MUSIC 1**

Year 12 are coming into the final straight while preparing pieces to play for their main electives. The boys all worked on an elective performance and they completed their compositions and diaries that took a lot of preparation and work. We hope that Year 12 can come back ready for a busy penultimate term in their HSC year with their final two electives being part of their work next term. We have had some amazing performances this term with J-POP, Extreme, Marvin Gaye and Jaco Pastorious among musical artists whose pieces are being prepared for forthcoming showcases. We really do have some amazing and eclectic students who want to display their talent in a future concert very soon. There will be an HSC performance show coming soon so keep an eye out!

#### **YEAR 12 MUSIC 2**

Music 2 have hit the halfway point of the course, submitting their core compositions for a check in and completing their test of limited scope. The boys have shown huge promise in their work and just need to keep the motivation up and push through the back end of the course. Between studying Stravinsky's *Rite of Spring*, attending the Sydney Symphony performance and working hard towards their compositions and electives, it has been a huge Term for Music 2. We've got some exciting things in the works with their electives and core compositions due to be finalised next Term, and we can't wait to share them with you.

#### DRAMA The Studio - Year 7 to

#### 9 Drama Club

James and the Giant Peach Friday, May 19th 7pm Saturday, May 20th 2pm

Our students are hard at work rehearsing for our upcoming performances of 'James and the Giant Peach'. Their holidays will be partially occupied with rehearsals, and they are all showing great dedication. The play will particularly appeal to young audiences and amuse with its witty dialogue. Our special matinee on Saturday May 20th is designed with this in mind.

Year 7s have also been given the opportunity to get involved with auditions running this week. There are some keen thespians in the midst! It is fabulous to see how far all our actors have come and so exciting that their hard work will be shared in the Bally School Hall.

Please come and join us. Alison Burns

#### DRAMA - THE COMPANY

We are in the throes of rehearsal for our production, 'Twelfth Night' by William Shakespeare. This is an exciting romantic comedy full of twists and turns presenting many challenges for our young thespians. There is song and much movement that has been choreographed tightly and many of the scenes afford the students an opportunity to improvise and literally have fun and laughter whilst preparing for production. We are thrilled to have back in our midst this year, Coll Burns who is assistant director and Owen Frost who is supporting and reinforcing text and blocking. Members of The Company who have worked together since 2018 love working with their role models.

Owen is now studying a Double Bachelor degree in Theatre and Performance/ Screen

Production at UNSW. We are thrilled for him that he feels so engaged with this course.

In the play, twins Sebastian and Viola both believe that their twin has been taken by a tempest at sea. As the play unfolds and Viola takes on the disguise of a young man the inevitable confusions arise. Drama. Olivia, a grief stricken countess falls in love with Cesario (Viola!) and Count Orsino is in love with Olivia, Malvolio, despised as the Steward for Olivia is tricked mercilessly by Maria (Gentlewoman to Olivia,) Sir Toby Belch, Sir Andrew Aguecheek and Fabian. As we know with Shakespeare:

"O time, thou must untangle this, not I, It is too hard a knot for me to untie". Tricia Herman (Director)

#### **ELECTIVE DRAMA**

Earlier this term, the P & C approved a proposal for a play by Anne Washburn, titled "Mr Burns: a post-electric play." Thank you to the P&C for approving this funding, as we are now able to stage this show for the entire school. Performing at the end of the year from November 30th - December 2nd, this will be a memorable production that we hope the whole school community will come to enjoy. All students, regardless of whether they take Drama as a subject, are welcome and encouraged to audition and be a part of this showcase.

Furthermore, if anyone has any areas of expertise in costume, set, or willingness to help out in any way possible, please let the CAPA Faculty know as we endeavour to put this amazing production together.

If you are interested in auditioning or helping out, please scan the OR code or head to the link below and fill out the survey on the poster.



#### SENIOR DRAMA

Finishing off their units of study, Year 11 and 12 have worked exceptionally hard over this term. Year 11 created their own Absurdist pieces, varying from a gangster story about a cat called 'Sir Roger', a group of socialites stranded in a lift, to a Truman Show styled performance.

Meanwhile, Year 12 have been looking into Black Comedy works in Theatre, staging Harold Pinter's 'Homecoming' and Martin McDonagh's 'The Lieutenant of Inishmore'. One of the stagings involved a gruesome portrayal of a cat (pictured right).

Please note, no cats were harmed in the making of this performance.



#### VISUAL ARTS

#### YEAR 11 AGNSW Excursion

Year 11 Visual Arts Bally Boys had the opportunity to explore gallery spaces on Tuesday 28th March, viewing the 2023 Art Express Exhibition at the Art Gallery of New South Wales (AGNSW), and the New Modern North Building (part of the AGNSW).

The Art Express exhibition helped students gain extensive ideas and inspiration for their Artmaking Assessment Task, including the body of work which they have been working on this term. During the day, students engaged in various activities that required them to critically analyse and interpret artworks by the top performing 2022 HSC Visual Arts students and contemporary artists.



Additionally, the gallery visits helped students develop an understanding of various artists'

practices and how audiences can engage with artworks in

different ways. For example, students participated in an interactive artwork where they experimented with clay and helped contribute to the installation piece. Students found this particular work engaging and therapeutic. Please see images below of students engaging with the development of the artwork.



#### **YEAR 7 Portraits**



Year 7s are working on some beautiful realistic portraits developing their skills in shading, tone, detail and observation. These works in progress by Eddie, Gus and Oscar (left to right) are coming along so well!

#### YEAR 8 Flying Machines



Year 8s are currently working on designing large-scale flying machines using graphite - these are works in progress and we can't wait to show them when finished! Above artworks are by Zech, Oliver S, Micah, and Isaac (left to right). Risheet's flying machine drawing (bottom right) uses traditional drawing techniques to build up shading, tone, and detail. He then used Photoshop to enhance the work digitally. Well done Risheet!

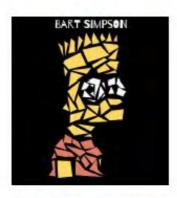


#### YEAR 8 Student Gallery

See below for some fabulous artworks produced by our budding Year 8 artists who have extended themselves to make artworks outside class time.



Liam C's digital solar system



Koby W's fractured Bart



Adam D's highly prolific photo gallery

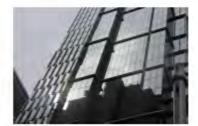


Riley B's beautiful scenic photography

#### Year 11 Photography

Year 11 Photography, Video and Digital Imaging recently had the opportunity to explore Sydney's architecture in the CBD and Martin Place, as part of their assessment task on the Urban landscape. This excursion helped students utilise their skills in composition and manual photography resulting in some great raw photographs. The boys will continue to edit in Adobe and extend their concepts surrounding these images in the upcoming weeks.







#### **Sports Report**

The end of term 1 has been an exciting time in sport for Balgowlah Boys Campus. We have had many of our teams participating in their various NSWCHS Knockout competitions.

The results so far are as follows:

The open soccer team have defeated Hunters Hill High (1-0) and Mosman High (6-0) to advance to the third round.

The open touch football team defeated Freshwater Senior Campus 8-4 to progress to the final 8 of Sydney North.

The open Basketball team defeated St Ives High 77-35 to also progress to the final 8 of Sydney North.

The 15yrs Bill Turner Cup soccer team defeated Davidson High 3-1

Congratulations to Jett Rocker Graham and Tyson Dagenais as they were members of the Sydney North open volleyball team that were victorious at the NSW CHS volleyball Championships. Jett was also voted MVP for Sydney North and selected in the NSWCHS volleyball team.

The school swim team were victorious in taking out the North Shore Zone swimming carnival.

From the carnival we had the following age champions and record breakers:

The age champions from Balgowlah Boys for the Zone swimming carnival were

12 yrs : Heath Schutt 14yrs: Liam Jordan 15yrs : Lachlan Davies Zone swimming record breakers were:

Lachlan Davies: 15-16yrs 200m IM, 15yrs 200m freestyle, 15yrs 50m freestyle, 15yrs 100m backstroke, 15yrs 100m butterfly

Mixed relay with Mackellar 12 x 50m freestyle: Ethan Green, Alex Smith, Lachlan Davies, Daniel Miners, Max Ryan, Keaton Ronge Smith

4 x 50m Medley relay: Lachlan Davies, Daniel Potega, Alex Smith, Ethan Green

6 x 50 age relay : Ethan Green, Max Ryan, Lachlan Davies, Liam Jordan, Jacob Chalmers, Heath Schutt

Open 4 x 50m relay: Ethan Green, Alex Smith, Keaton Ronge Smith, Daniel Miners

Congratulations to Max Marsters on his selection in the Sydney North Open Rugby League team.

Well done to Tyson Dagenais and his partner from Wonoona High School in winning the Australian school year 11 beach volleyball cup on the Gold coast. At the same competition, however, in the year 12 competition, Jett Rocker Graham and Adam Fejes were runners up.

A mighty effort from Dion Hansen for his victory at the National Rowing Championships in Mens Under 19 Double at Perth. Kieran Kobbelke will give a more detailed report on the rowing at the National Championships.

Congratulations to the Open water polo team and Mr Sheather for winning back-to-back NSWCHS open water polo titles. This is an outstanding achievement from all the boys as it is very difficult to win one CHS title, however, to win two CHS titles in succession firmly puts us as the most dominant CHS water polo school in NSW.

All boys in year 7-10 have now selected their term 2 and 3 winter sports. Term 2 sport will begin on the 3<sup>rd</sup> May as on the first Wednesday back 26<sup>th</sup> April, we will be holding our annual Cross Country carnival at North Harbour Reserve.

I wish everyone a safe and enjoyable Easter break and look forward to another big term of sport term 2.

Regards Gary Theodore



#### Year 7 - Putting the finishing touches on their skateboard designs











#### Year 7 - Putting the finishing touches on their skateboard designs











Year 7 Food Technology - Healthy Muffin Challenge





Year 8 Food Technology - Two minute noodle design challenge













Year 9 Engineering - Building their paddle pop stick bridge designs









Year 9 Design & Technology - Designing Fingerboard Skateparks











#### Year 11 Multimedia - Creating Stop Motion Animation













Year 11 VET Construction White Card Training

Year 12 VET Construction
Wall Tiling the Trade Training Centre







# GT Speed Coaching Learn to sprint...fast!



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Improve your technique, acceleration, and speed for all winter and summer sports.

Call Gary #0403936895 email: gtheo1@yahoo.com





#### SKATE AND BAND COMP EXCURSION TO RYDE

#### 20 APRIL | 9.30AM TO 4PM

If you're aged 12-24, you're invited to a Skate Jam and Battle of the bands in Ryde. You'll receive a free snack pack, lunch and free public transport.



#### BAND COMP EXCURSION TO LANE COVE

#### 21 APRIL | 12PM TO 5PM

If you're aged 12-24, you're invited to Battle of the bands in Lane Cove. You'll receive a free snack pack, lunch and free public transport.



#### DISCOBILITY

#### 28 APRIL | 6PM TO 9PM

Make new friends and dance the night away with our all abilities under 18s disco (12-18 years).

DJ, sensory tent, indoor lawn games, a silent disco, face painting, dinner and surprise entertainment.



#### SCAN TO BOOK

And check out youth.mosman.nsw.gov.au/ youth-week-2023-northern-sydney-region/ for activities in the area! #YouthWeek2023







Holidays can take students away from friends and their usual school supports.

Changes to routine can cause some young people to feel stressed, isolated and alone. Parent support is very important at this time.

Below is some information to help you support young people to stay in a healthy headspace in school holidays. There is also some information that may help you to identify when your young person might need some extra support and where to go for help.

There are a number of ways you can support your young person's mental health and wellbeing in the holidays:

# Encourage them to stay connected

Social relationships are important to your young person's general wellbeing.

It is okay if they take time out for themselves at times, but encourage them to keep in contact with friends over the holidays. Friends can provide both play and support, and spending time with friends is also important for keeping and building on existing friendships.

If your young person is not feeling up to going out, even a phone call, email, text message or Facebook message can help them to feel connected to friends and family.

#### Encourage them to stay involved

Encourage involvement with volunteer work, hobbies, clubs or committees, or sports – these can help young people feel connected to their wider community. Participate with them when you can.

Involve them in decisions and give them responsibility at home (e.g. deciding what to eat for dinner and helping to prepare it). Help them to identify and set realistic goals. Setting and achieving realistic goals can be incredibly motivating and can help build self-confidence.

#### 3. Encourage physical activity

Physical activity is important for everyone's health and wellbeing. If your young person is feeling down or finding things are difficult, physical activity may be the last thing they feel like doing. But even small activities, like walking around the block, can help relieve stress and frustration, provide a good distraction from worrying thoughts, improve concentration and improve mood.

If your young person is struggling to get active, find a physical activity that you both enjoy and can do together (e.g. swimming, playing sports with friends or cycling) and make a plan to do it regularly.

#### 4. Encourage a regular routine

Getting a good night's sleep helps young people to feel energised, focused and motivated.

Adolescence is a time when a number of changes to the "body clock" impact on sleeping patterns and young people are more likely to have problems with sleep. Developing a sleeping routine can help. Encourage your young person to

wake up around the same time each day, get out of bed when they wake up, and go to bed around the same time each night.

Avoiding caffeine after lunchtime, having a quiet, dark and uncluttered bedroom and shutting down electronic devices before bed can also help them to get a good night's sleep.

#### 5. Encourage healthy eating habits

Eating well doesn't only reduce the risk of physical health problems, like heart disease and diabetes, but it can also help with sleeping patterns, energy levels, mood, and general health and wellbeing.

A good balanced diet with less junk food/ lots of sugars and more vegies, fruit, whole grains and plenty of water will ensure your young person has all of the vitamins and minerals to help their body and brain function well.

#### 6. Encourage play!

Devoting time to just having fun can help to recharge your young person's battery, revitalise their social networks and reduce stress and anxiety.

Version 1 - June 2015

headspace National Youth Mental Health Foundation is funded by the Australian Government Department of Health under the Youth Mental Health Initiative.

# CHILD& FAMILY

SERVICES IN YOUR AREA?



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OR VISIT: BIT.LY/CHILD-AND-FAMILY-SERVICES-FLYER



Parenting a teen? Stressed, isolated, confused? This free parent program is formulated for you.

# **EPIC PARENT PROGRAM**

A five session program to build understanding, knowledge and confidence

Facilitated by parents of young people with lived experience of teens in crisis.

Created for parents and carers of young people who are facing challenges.



Bookings and information https://www.empoweringparentsincrisis.com/parentprogram



Thank you to The City of Ryde Council for its dedication to community connection of parents and carers.





Stressed, isolated, confused as a result of supporting your teen?

# CALL EPIC OUTREACH

# **Peer Parent Phone Support**

For parents & carers of teens in crisis

#### Call or sms 0400 000 000

#### Monday - Saturday, 9am - 5pm

- · Compassion and understanding
- A non-judgemental, anonymous peer parent teen conversation
- Local up-to-date support information
- · EPIC community connection

#### Visit www.empoweringparentsincrisis.com



EPIC thanks CCF for their partnership and support of the EPIC Outreach Peer Parent of Teen Phone Support







ALL ABILITIES U18S DISCO + SENSORY TENT + INDOOR LAWN GAMES + SELFIE WALL + BUBBLE & SMOKE MACHINES + DJ DANCE FLOOR + SILENT DISCO + CRAZY HAIR & FACE PAINT ARTIST+ GLOW STATION & SNOW CONES + PRIZES + GIVEAWAYS AND MORE!



# FRIDAY 28TH APRIL | 6-9PM

12-17 YEARS

THE DOUGHERTY CENTRE | 7 VICTOR ST, CHATSWOOD

THIS DISCO IS OPEN TO ALL ABILITIES AND IS SUPPORTED BY ABILITY OPTIONS AND VOLUNTEERS.

Young people needing 1:1 support or direct supervisor will require a carer to assist on the night. Carers do not require a ticket unless they would like a meal.



#### BUY TICKETS HERE

Dinner, drinks and snow cones included in ticket price.

SUPPORTED BY









# ArtSpace: Art therapy group

headspace Chatswood, in partnership with the City of Ryde, are taking our art therapy group to West Ryde!!

Artspace is an art therapy group that allows young people to be introduced to art as a form of therapy, it's benefits and how it can be utilised especially for young people.

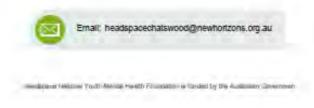
This FREE, open drop in group will also be a place for young people to develop and express their love of art and creative thinking, as well as giving them an opportunity to connect with other young people who share the same passion.



#### Monday 17 April 2023 6:00pm-7:00pm

Starting Monday, the 17th April, the group will be held fortnightly at the Station Street meeting room located at 1A Station Street, West Ryde 2114.

Spots for this group will need to be booked in advance, as we have limited capacity to accept new people on the day. To enquire about the group or to book your spot, please contact headspace Chatswood at (02) 8021 3668, or through our email at headspacechatsood@newhorizons.org.au.





# NSW Department of Education

## Compulsory school attendance

#### Information for parents

Education for your child is important and regular attendance at school is essential for your child to achieve their educational best and increase their career and life options. NSW public schools work in partnership with parents to encourage and support regular attendance of children and young people. When your child attends school every day, learning becomes easier and your child will build and maintain friendships with other children.

# What are my Legal responsibilities?

Education in New South Wales is compulsory for all children between the ages of six years and below the minimum school leaving age of 17 years. The Education Act 1990 requires that parents ensure their children of compulsory school age are enrolled at, and regularly attend school, or, are registered with the NSW Education and Standards Authority for home schooling.

Once enrolled, children are required to attend school each day it is open for students.

# The Importance of arriving on time

Arriving at school and class on time:

- Ensures that students do not miss out on important learning activities scheduled early in the day
- Helps students learn the importance of punctuality and routine
- Give students time to greet their friends before class
- · Reduces classroom disruption

Lateness is recorded as a partial absence and must be explained by parents.

# What if my child has to be away from school?

On occasion, your child may need to be absent from school. Justified reasons for student absences may include:

- · being sick, or having an infectious disease
- · having an unavoidable medical appointment
- being required to attend a recognised religious holiday
- exceptional or urgent family circumstance (e.g. attending a funeral)



#### **NSW Department of Education**

Following an absence from school you must ensure that within 7 days you provide your child's school with a verbal or written explanation for the absence. However, if the school has not received an explanation from you within 2 days, the school may contact you to discuss the absence.

Principals may decline to accept an explanation that you have provided if they do not believe the absence is in the best interest of your child. In these circumstances your child's absence would be recorded as unjustified. When this happens the principal will discuss their decision with you and the reasons why.

Principals may request medical certificates or other documentation when frequent or long term absences are explained as being due to illness. Principals may also seek parental permission to speak with medical specialists to obtain information to collaboratively develop a health care plan to support your child. If the request is denied, the principal can record the absences as unjustified.

#### Travel

Families are encouraged to travel during school holidays. If travel during school term is necessary, discuss this with your child's school principal. An Application for Extended Leave may need to be completed. Absences relating to travel will be marked as leave on the roll and therefore contribute to your child's total absences for the year.

In some circumstances students may be eligible to enrol in distance education for travel periods over 50 school days. This should be discussed with your child's school principal.

# My child won't go to school what should I do?

You should contact the principal as soon as possible to discuss the issue and ask for help. Strategies to help improve attendance may include a referral to the school's learning and support team or linking your child with appropriate support networks. The principal may seek further support from the Home School Liaison Program to develop an Attendance Improvement Plan.

# What might happen if my child continues to have unacceptable absences?

It is important to understand that the Department of Education may be required to take further action where children of compulsory school age have recurring numbers of unexplained or unjustified absences from school. Some of the following actions may be undertaken:

· Compulsory Schooling Conferences

You may be asked, along with your child, to attend a Compulsory Schooling Conference. The conference will help to identify the supports your child may need to have in place so they attend school regularly. The school, parents and agencies will work together to develop an agreed plan (known as Undertakings) to support your child's attendance at school.

 Application to the Children's Court – Compulsory Schooling Order

If your child's attendance at school remains unsatisfactory the Department may apply to the Children's Court for a Compulsory Schooling Order. The Children's Court magistrate may order a Compulsory Schooling Conference to be convened.

· Prosecution in the Local Court

School and Department staff remain committed to working in partnership with you to address the issues which are preventing your child's full participation at school. In circumstances where a breach of compulsory schooling orders occurs further action may be taken against a parent in the Local Court. The result of court action can be the imposition of a community service order or a fine.

# What age can my child leave school?

All New South Wales students must complete Year 10 or its equivalent. After Year 10, and up until they reach 17 years of age, there are a range of flexible options for students to complete their schooling.

#### Working in Partnership

The NSW Department of Education recognises that working collaboratively with students and their families is the best way to support the regular attendance of students at school.

We look forward to working in partnership with you to support your child to fulfil their life opportunities.

# Days missed = years lost

A day here and there doesn't seem like much, but...



#### More information



Further Information regarding school attendance can be obtained from the following websites:

#### Policy, information and brochures:

Please visit the Department of Education's Policy Library AND The Department's Attendance Matters Website

#### The school leaving age:

Please visit the Department of Education's Wellbeing and Learning website

#### Do you need an interpreter?

Interpreting services are available on request, including for the hearing impaired. The Telephone Interpreter Service is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week on **131 450**. You will not be charged for this service.