

BANKSTOWN SENIOR COLLEGE NEWSLETTER

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From the Principal



I would like to extend a warm welcome to all our students, both new and familiar faces. I am pleased to report a very positive start to the new year at Bankstown Senior College. Most new students have satisfactorily completed their probationary period and are now settled into their studies.

Due to another growth in enrolments in the English For Study and year 10 courses, we now have a waiting list for enrolments and I expect a large preparation class intake in Semester 2.

It has been very pleasing to see the majority of students getting involved in whole College activities like team building Day. Students gain great benefit from these days as they help to build a sense of community and connectedness, one of our main aims here at Bankstown Senior College.

Interim reports will be issued next week to students in years 10, 11 and EFS courses. Any students of concern will be interviewed by their year Adviser and either Ms Byron or myself.

Our College vision is to empower a diverse group of students to become active, confident, lifelong learners. In order for this vision to be realised, the College provides a comprehensive learning support system, supported by the College's RAM funding. Students should avail themselves of the large

amount of learning support provided, whether it be after-hours tutoring, help from the Learning Support staff (Ms Karpin, Mr Culligan and Mrs Harwood) or assistance provided every day by the university tutors in the Library.

The College welcomes parent contact and involvement and I would like to take this opportunity to invite all parents to our first "Parent/Guardian Morning Tea" at the College on Tuesday 10th March at 10am. The main purpose of this meeting is to get parental comment and feedback on our new College plan for 2015-2017. In the meantime, if you have any concerns about your son or daughter's progress, please feel free to contact the College to arrange an interview with the year Adviser or myself.

Anne Doyle

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From the Deputy Principal



Greetings Parents, Students and Friends of Bankstown Senior College!

It's great to see that 2015 has started so well at the college and I look forward to supporting our students, staff and parents over the rest of the year. It is with great pride that I share with you some of

the successes of our 2014 HSC students. Many students performed well against the state cohort especially in Extension Maths and Visual Arts. A big congratulations to Georges Auiter who had his HSC Creative Arts body of work showcased in the Art Express exhibition and who was the recipient of the prestigious Wilkins Award, making his art work one of the top ten in the state! Well done!

Our students' success can be attributed to the various teaching and welfare programs offered at the college which cater for both the well-being and academic needs of the students. Our aim at BSC is to provide a quality educational environment that recognizes and promotes the importance of the whole person!

I would like to take the opportunity at this point to recognise the tireless work of all staff at the college in the promotion of academic achievement and student well-being. I would also like to inform you of the many teams of teachers that are working collaboratively in the creation of individualized teaching and learning plans for college students. Examples of teams involved include; The School Professional Learning and Teaching (SPLAT), Welfare, Learning Support and Refugee Transition Teams and Cross curricula teams. These teams embrace our commitment (as outlined in the College Plan) to the "individual"; ensuring that students involved within the programs are able to access the curriculum at a level that is commensurate with their level of literacy and academic ability whilst maintaining high expectations. The main strategy implemented by all teams in 2015 will be the creation of individual learning plans based on authentic student data collected from a variety

of sources and team teaching with other college staff via the Lesson Study Project. This will result in a differentiated curriculum that addresses the inextricable link between welfare and curriculum and contributes significantly to improved student outcomes in the future.

I look forward to sharing with you the work and achievements of our staff and students and celebrating our successes in up coming College Newsletters

Yours in education.

S. Byron

2015 Dux of College Returns

Phuoc Dung Tran received the highest ATAR of 94.5 in the 2014 HSC. He has been accepted in to the Civil and Mining Engineering degree at the University of New South Wales. This ATAR score meant that UNSW awarded him the AAA Scholarship of \$4000.00 and 3 bonus points.

Phuoc worked very hard during Year 11 and 12 and knows about the effort and dedication needed for success.



He is also aware of the challenges that face students at Bankstown Senior College and is joining the Tutor Team this year to assist students during recess, lunch and study periods, particularly in Mathematics. Phuoc says he has come back to help others in the way the college helped him to achieve his goals and dreams.



English/ESL Report

The English/ESL staff would like to welcome all students to a great year of learning at Bankstown Senior College. We look forward to helping our students develop their literacy and language skills so that they can become better communicators and successful members of the community.

To our continuing and new HSC students, we would like to encourage them to make a special effort to do as well as they can in their English course, as English is included in the calculation of the ATAR. Remember, achievements of bands 4, 5 and 6 can earn bonus points for most universities. Revision for exams needs to be ongoing and SMART.

Welcome to our new Preliminary students. We would like to emphasise the importance of making the correct choice in English course. Students who do not want to receive an ATAR are encouraged to choose English Studies, as this will provide a very useful English course without the pressures of external exams. Students who do not achieve the outcomes of ESL or Standard/Advanced English will be advised to change to English Studies over the next two years.

Year 10 students have begun the year very positively, exploring the concept of Being An Individual. A number of assessment tasks will take place in the first term to help students adjust to the requirements of the ROSA year.

Finally, a huge welcome to our EFS students! It is so pleasing to see so many students so determined to improve their English language skills and wanting to complete higher studies. Learning a new language can be quite difficult but with perseverance and dedication, a great deal will be achieved this semester. All EFS staff strongly encourage students to read widely at home and listen to a variety of English texts at home. English must be spoken in the classroom at all times if progress is to be made in the acquisition of verbal and listening skills.

Congratulations on your decision to study English with us and we wish you a very successful year.

Maria Georgiou

Head Teacher English/ESL

Art Honour

The Art Gallery of New South Wales is an amazing place to visit on any day but even more so for the next few weeks due to the piece called "Hidden Beneath", by our own 2014 HSC student Gorges Auiter.

Gorges's artwork was selected from over 10,000

student submissions last year to be part of the Art Express Exhibition which travels around NSW to inspire other students. This in itself is a great honour but on the opening night of the exhibition, Gorges's work was also presented with the Wilkins Collection Award.

Gorges's family, Ms Skourtis [sic], Mr Azzi, Ms Byron and Ms Doyle were present and all very proud to be part of the event as well as witnessing the possible start of a brilliant art career.

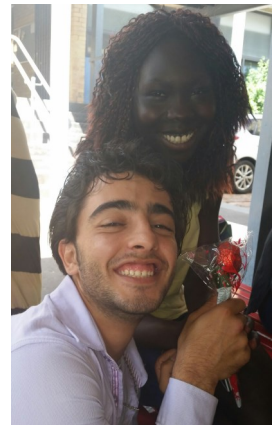
"Hidden Beneath" has already received an offer of purchase, and if Gorges accepts, his piece will be displayed in the gallery of the NSW Education Building to inspire future generations of young artists.

The body of work "Hidden Beneath" comments on environmental issues associated with pollution and hazardous materials. It invites the audience to question the risks connected with these products, such as asbestos.



SRC Spread the Love

February 14th Valentine's Day, is known around the world as the day to commemorate love and commitment. This year our Student Representative Council (SRC) team spread a little love around the College, by providing and selling chocolates and flowers during recess and lunch. There must have been a lot of "love" in the college because they quickly sold out. The money raised goes to the College sponsored child Claude a young person from Burundi. Great day and successful fundraiser.



PATHWAYS TO THE FUTURE

Australian Catholic University Updates Our Students

Recently Bankstown Senior College was visited by a team from the Australian Catholic University to assist our students in researching their future options.

The group met in the Careers Room and focused on course selection and ways to maximise HSC marks. Students were able to spend time on a one-on-one basis with the mentors to discuss the types of degrees and courses best suited for them.

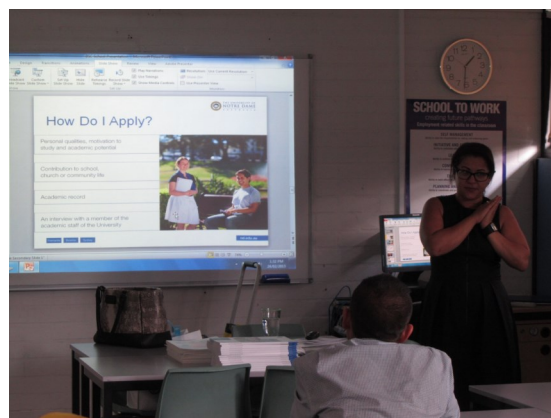


University of Notre Dame

As part of our ongoing Guest Speaker Program for Year 11 & 12 students Regina Armanios from Notre Dame student recruitment visited to explain ways students can access further education and what courses the university offers. Regina was an engaging speaker and those present were most interested in the Academic Enabling Course the university offers for those who may not meet the ATAR requirement.

Lunchtime talks are scheduled for the remainder of the term on a Tuesday: March 3 **UWS College**,

March 10 **University of Sydney**, March 17 **University of Western Sydney**, March 24 **University of Technology Sydney** and March 31 **University of Wollongong**.



Speakers will explain to students what the point of difference is about their university and will include information about alternate entry programs which in many cases are of benefit to our individual student circumstances.

Divna Dokmanovic

Careers Adviser

Getting to know the College

Starting at a new place can be daunting. It can be difficult to settle in and meet new friends. This is not the case at Bankstown Senior College and is evident in the success of Orientation Week. During the first week, students in Years 10 and 11 participated in a special program designed to assist them in getting to know the college, teachers and each other. A series of fun activities focussing on teamwork were held on the last day, followed by a BBQ cooked by the Principal Ms Doyle, the Deputy Principal Ms Byron, and talented SRC students that was enjoyed by all.



Bankstown University Tutor Program

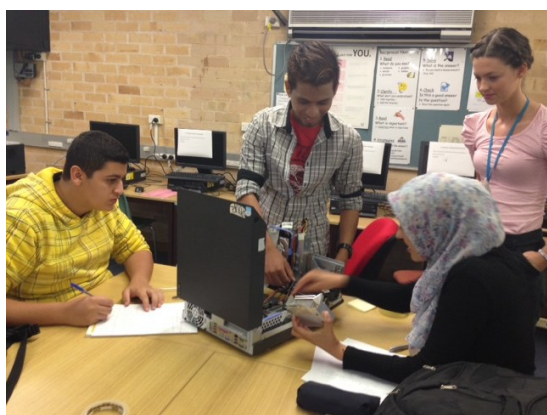
The Bankstown University Tutor Program has been in operation at the College for three years. It aims to provide individual and personalised assistance to all students in their efforts to attain their personal learning goals.

The program operates from the library's Learning Centre headed by Mr Culligan, the Learning Centre Coordinator and is staffed by a dedicated team including; two other Learning and Support Teachers, Ms Karpin and Mrs Harwood and several university tutors from various academic backgrounds.

The program attempts to cater for all students of the college both in and out of the classroom and provides access to online educational resources, computers, a SMART board, iPads and the Learning Centre itself.

The tutors timetable and information is displayed outside the Learning Centre. If you would like any further information please contact one of the team from the Learning Centre.

IPT - Year 11 students working on identifying computer components



Construction - students learning to use basic hand tools in the workshop



BANKSTOWN SENIOR COLLEGE



2015 CALENDAR

For your diary / notice board

Term Dates :

Term 1:	Tues 27 Jan to Thurs 2 April
Term 2:	Tues 21 April to Thurs 25 June
Term 3:	Tues 14 Jul to Thurs 17 Sep
Term 4:	Tues 6 Oct to Tues 15 Dec TBC

HSC Written Exams Begin : Mon 12 October

Year 12 Half Yearly Exams : 23 March - 2 April

Trial Exams : 3 August - 13 Aug

Year 11 Half Yearly Exams : 18 May - 27 May

Year 11 Yearly Exams : 7 September - 17 Sep

Upcoming Events:

10 March	Parent Meeting
17 March	College Assembly
19 March	Harmony Day

Parent Meeting

To all parents,

You are invited to our first parent/guardian morning tea

on Tuesday, 10 March

from 10am – 11:30pm

for a welcome to Bankstown Senior College



We hope to see you there !