



Bankstown Senior College

Newsletter

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From the Principal



Term 2 marks a very important point in relation to the students' courses of study. HSC students have recently received their Semester

One reports and I encourage them to take notice of the comments their teachers have made and the suggestions they have made for future improvement. Preliminary, Year 10 and EFS students will receive their reports at the Parent/Student/Teacher afternoon on Tuesday June 27th. (Students will be given information about this important occasion in Mentor classes.) I encourage all parents and carers to make appointments with the relevant teachers on this day. Students can also make appointments with their teachers to discuss their results and progress in more detail.

Students should take this opportunity to stop and reflect on why they decided to study at the College. When asked, most will say that they wanted to gain an educational credential that will allow them to access further educational or vocational opportunities. However, having spent some time reviewing students' attendance this week, it is apparent that some students are not meeting the attendance requirements for completing their courses. The Department of Education requires that students have over 85% attendance in classes, in order to receive their RoSA or Higher School Certificate. It is apparent that a proportion of our students are not meeting these requirements, at this moment. These students will all be individually interviewed and, if appropriate, their attendance at the College may be terminated.

Although we would be sad to lose students in this manner, attendance requirements must be met if students are to gain the qualification they want. In order to gain the maximum benefit from their learning, each student must ensure that they attend regularly and participate in all learning activities in their classrooms. Our staff instruct, guide and support students but, ultimately, it is each individual student's effort and perseverance that will lead to success. The College provides a wide range of support structures, academic, social and emotional and students should avail themselves of this help as they prepare for important examinations.

The updated College Plan for 2015-2017 can be viewed on the College website, www.bankstownsh.schools.nsw.edu.au. A new direction in the plan is to prepare the students to meet the newly-announced Minimum Literacy and Numeracy Standards for the achievement of a Higher School Certificate from 2020 onwards. This information was presented by the Deputy, Ms Georgiou to our Parent Group on Tuesday 30th May and was warmly received. We welcome any parents, who would like to attend our term 3 meeting in August. Further information will be sent to you shortly. The end of the term will witness the graduation of students from the Intensive English Centre and English for Study courses. A number of these students will be joining preparation classes which commence next term. To others, you leave with our best wishes for your future endeavours.

I am very happy to announce that Mrs Jenni Gardiner was successful through merit selection in gaining the Deputy Principal's position left vacant by the promotion of Mrs Byron to Principal at Picnic Point High School.

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Mrs Gardiner was our school-funded Equity Deputy, so is very familiar with our College and how it works. Her Equity position has been filled for the rest of the year by Mrs Maria Georgiou, another extremely experienced member of our College executive. I am indeed fortunate to have two such excellent Deputies to join me in leading the College in a time of great change.

Lastly, I am more than happy to speak with any parent or carer about their child's progress. If you have any concerns, please feel free to contact me at the College. When teachers and parents work together, we achieve success.

Anne Doyle

From the Deputy principals

Deputy Principal: J. Gardiner



Term 2 has been a very busy term at Bankstown Senior College. All students have completed their Half Yearly exams and their reports have been written to provide feedback to both students and parents on progress made throughout the semester. Please

read these reports carefully and follow the advice given by the teachers to help improve your learning. Both parents and students are encouraged to attend the Parent/Student Teacher Meeting on Tuesday 27th June from 3:30pm – 5:30pm to get further individual feedback on how students can lift their performance and improve their results.

The College provides learning support for students in a number of ways and as part of our Learning Support program at the College we have invited guest speakers from 'Elevate Education' to present a series of study skills sessions for Year 12 students. The third and final presentation will be held in Week 7 of Term 3 to prepare students for their HSC exams by providing them with strategies to study effectively and online resources such as practice exam papers. The workshop will also include a session on 'Stress and Wellbeing'.

BSC teachers are also very busy developing their knowledge and skills in order to best teach and support student learning. We understand that student wellbeing is vital for successful learning so the staff have undertaken training in MindMatters which is a mental health initiative for secondary schools that aims to improve the mental health and wellbeing of young people. The program promotes the mental and physical wellbeing of both staff and students and aligns with our commitment as a public school to ensure we provide a teaching and learning environment that enables students to connect, succeed and thrive.

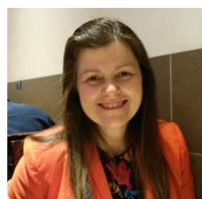
Other initiatives at the College that also promote emotional and physical wellbeing include Harmony Day which again was a big success, the upcoming Refugee Week Cultural Expo, the always exciting BSC Talent Showcase and the regular Term 3 Breakfast Club which provides a healthy start to the cold winter days.

With the introduction of new syllabuses in the Key Learning areas of English, Maths, Science and History, as well as the introduction of new minimum standards of literacy and numeracy as a requirement of the HSC course, staff have been focused on planning, programming and developing new resources in readiness for the implementation of these new courses and reforms. From 2020 students in NSW must reach the minimum standard of literacy and numeracy to be eligible for a Higher School Certificate. BSC teachers are therefore devoting a lot of professional learning time towards the smooth transition into the new syllabuses and the best ways to prepare our students for the online literacy and numeracy tests.

Other areas of professional learning for staff this term included Leadership and Evaluation Essentials, Working with Disengaged Students, Professional Growth through Feedback, and various subject specific training courses. Another big change the College is experiencing this year is the introduction of the Learning Management and Business Reform. This new management system involves the implementation of a standardised finance system (SAP) and new financial processes for all NSW Public Schools. This has required the School Administrative staff and Senior Executive to undertake intensive training in order for the new system to work successfully next term.

Finally I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Asaad AlShekhly (IDT) and Zaid Alsaberi (Construction) for being nominated to receive a Public Schools NSW VET Award. We are very proud of you!

Deputy Principal: M. Georgiou



As Term 2 draws to a close, it is important to reflect on the many events and achievements that have taken place across the College. Students in Year 10 and 11 have completed their half yearly

exams and are eagerly waiting for their school reports, which will be available in Week 10 on Parent Teacher afternoon. We look forward to meeting as many parents and caregivers as possible on this day, which will be Tuesday 27th of June.

Students need to take notice of what their teachers are saying in these reports so that their results can improve even further next semester. Year 12 students have already received their half yearly reports and should be busy preparing for their Trial exams which will take place next term.

This term, I was invited to attend the Macquarie Mentoring Campus visit at Macquarie University with Mrs Ginis and the Year 11 students who are participating in the Mentoring program. This program is so important in providing our students with insight into university life in Australia. It was a very special day for all of us.

Some of the other exciting events this term include: excursions to the Museum of Human Diseases for Science and Biology, to Cronulla Beach for Geography, cultural experiences to Parramatta for the Arabic classes and HSC study days. Metro Assist and Bankstown Corner Youth have also provided support and experiences for a variety of year groups and individuals in the pursuit of improved educational outcomes. As well, there are currently two competitions running in the College for our talented students to take part in – the Archies for the artistic students and the English Writing Competition. Both of these important annual competitions encourage our students to demonstrate their talent and develop their skills, with prizes to reward their efforts. All students are encouraged to enter.

As part of Refugee Week celebrations, the College will be holding a Cultural Expo, which will recognise the cultural backgrounds of everyone in the College community. This will provide excellent insight into the large variety of cultures that make up Bankstown Senior College. A special thank you must go to the Refugee Transition Team for their hard work in this area.

Many university experiences have been organised for students in Years 10 and 12 to learn about higher education options and it is great to see the positive **impact these days are having on our students'** motivation to achieve. We are looking forward to seeing the impact of these opportunities on their results at the end of the year.

The staff at Bankstown Senior College is very hard working and is always looking for ways of providing the best possible learning experiences for all students. I look forward to meeting many parents on Parent Teacher afternoon on Tuesday 27th June, where all teachers will be available to speak with parents and students. It is a good opportunity for a discussion about academic progress in all year groups and all subjects.

English/EAL/D Report

The Half Yearly exams for Year 11 and Year 10 have just been completed. Teachers are now busy marking these exams. Students must now look closely at their performance in these exams as well as the comments on their reports with a view to how they can improve. Students need to consider having a regular study timetable, having better attendance and completing all homework to maximise their marks in their yearly exams.

The annual Writing Competition for the College and IEC is now underway. Please consider entering, especially if you have never entered before. Entries are to be given to Mrs Ginis by the 15th of August. There are great prizes to be won!

To celebrate Reconciliation Week and NAIDOC Week, the college organised some special activities. Ms Maguire organised an Aboriginal speaker Pauline Ferkula to address the Year 12 English Studies and ESL students, supplementing the work they are currently doing in the module "We are Australians" and the poet Oodgeroo Noonuccal.

Mr Lowe, our librarian has been working with the EFS staff to improve students' research and literacy skills. He has also organised for the award winning children's author Nadia Wheatley, to speak to Year 10 students in preparation for their Term 3 English assessment task of creating their own picture book. Picture book illustrator, Ken Searle, has also been invited to speak to English classes. We can hardly wait for these exciting events to take place.

S.Ginis
Relieving Head Teacher

Macquarie Mentoring Report

The cloudy weather did not dampen the spirits of our bright and cheerful Year 11 students as they made their way to Macquarie University on Friday 19th May, accompanied by the coordinating teacher, Mrs Ginis and our Deputy Principal Mrs Georgiou representing the Principal.



These students were part of the very successful Macquarie University Mentoring team which has been meeting every Thursday afternoon for the last 8 weeks, culminating in the university visit.



Students were taken on a tour of the university facilities by the mentors, including the Science buildings, the library, as well as other places of interest. They even took part in a mock lecture, gaining insight into how much independent study and homework was required at university. Our own Hava Rezaie confidently took to the microphone speaking to the students from all the participating schools. An informational science show was also on display for our benefit, which inspired and interested many of us who wish to study science in the future.

A lavish lunch and some fun entertainment complemented a really wonderful day. We are grateful to Macquarie University for their generous program.

SRC Report

The SRC has been working with the Principal in determining where the new student kitchen/food preparation area will be situated. At present, it seems that it will be placed along one wall of the cafeteria. (See image below) Keep a look out for any developments in this area.



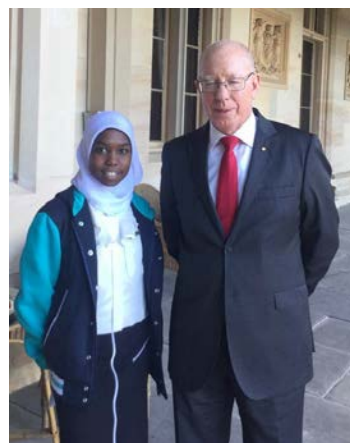
The Talent Showcase will be happening very soon (Week 10) and we want everyone in both the College and IEC to think about auditioning. Last year's event was SPECTACULAR! So let's do it again! This event is also our main fundraising event for the year, so please support our chosen charity 'World Vision'.

Leadership Excursion

On Wednesday 5th of April your school captains, Abdullah Al Zaben and Sara Ahmed attended a leadership excursion in the interest of broadening their horizons around the different styles of leadership. They met with the other school leaders as well as government leaders including the Governor of New South Wales and his wife Mrs Linda Hurley.

Abdullah and Sara learnt about the different stages of government leadership and how they came to be. They visited public galleries and the Legislative Council Chambers enhancing their experience of what happens behind the scenes to form a new law. During their lunch break, they had a chance to get to know school captains and prefects from other schools. After their lunch they were given a guided tour of Government House. Did you know that the waratah flower is the state emblem because it is the only plant that grows only in Australia and is the most admired flora.

Finally, they had a chance to get an insight of what his Excellency, the Honourable David Hurley Governor of New South Wales, does. One helpful tip his Excellency stated is to "Let your ego lead you. Don't lead because of your ego". Don't wake up every day to show off that badge, instead use it to influence people."



**His Excellency, The Honourable David Hurley,
Governor of New South Wales**

If you are interested in going on the Government House tour, it is free of charge and open every Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 10:30 am to 3:00 pm. Feel free to visit Government House gardens from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. And here is a helpful tip: If you ever get a chance to meet the Governor, you must always **address him by saying "Your Excellency" and you should bow respectfully.**

If you have any concerns or tips on how to improve the school, please don't hesitate to reach out to the captains or any of SRC member.

Welfare Report

The college is always seeking avenues to promote positive mental health. During this term the Corner Youth ran workshops for all of Year 10, Year 11, and Year 12 on anxiety and managing stress. Students took part in many interactive activities such as breathing exercises and progressive muscle relaxation exercises as a way of managing stress.



Sessions run by Corner Youth

Metro Assist ran a program for a group of Year 10 and Year 11 students promoting positive social behaviours. The program *Dare to be Sensible* ran four workshops addressing mental health, good nutrition, exercise, your legal rights and internet safety.



Photos highlighting sessions run by Metro Assist



Students at Burwood Court



Picnic at Burwood Park organised by Metro Assist

There was also a group of students who attended the Western Sydney Youth Summit 2017. The day was full of valuable information for the youth of today. There were presenters addressing goal setting, youth transition into employment, tips for finding work, safe work for NSW and tips for a healthy headspace.

As the winter months are approaching the college is inviting all students to the Breakfast Club beginning this term week 8. It's a time to connect and socialise, grab a healthy breakfast and be ready to start your lessons.

Niki Skourtis

Some tips from the Welfare Corner

Goal Setting
Dream BIG
SET Goals
Take Action

A goal is something that gives you direction and focus for the future

Why set Goals?

Goals motivate you
They create satisfaction once you complete them
They help you achieve what you want
Goals can challenge you and take you out of your comfort zone
Having goals helps you

From International Women's Day to RACS appeal fundraiser



BSC does not miss a beat when it comes to celebrations and making a contribution to support others in need.

On 8th March, with the celebration of International Women's Day, the Women's lunch group, guided by Ms Rahimi, who meet every Thursday in room A10, took the initiative to prepare and give a small gift to all staff and students of the College and the IEC.



A fresh, red, gala apple was decorated in a cello bag with purple ribbon and a suitable tag all prepared by the D12 Mentor group which includes all SRC members, the D16 Mentor group as well as all the females from the Women's group. Many hands make light work as all these hardworking individuals prepared 500 apples in one hour. The apple

was appropriate given it is a positive symbol of health, life and helps to build good relationships. It was so pleasing to see that the apple was well received by all.



The following day, there was a chocolate dipped strawberry fundraiser. In line with the idea of fruit and promoting something healthy but still enticing and delicious – chocolate and strawberries seemed like a successful combination. Over 600 strawberries were prepared and sold to raise money to assist with the employment of more lawyers at RACS (Refugee Advice Casework Service). Staff also purchased some delicious, homemade pesto sauce kindly prepared



and donated by Ms Holloway. At the staff morning tea, there was a raffle as well which together with the strawberries and pesto sauce raised an impressive figure of \$800. We wholeheartedly thank all the staff and students whose efforts contributed to the success of this mission.

Mrs Pascalis and Mrs Brunet

BSC proudly showcasing its successful students securing a scholarship

Pride, joy, fulfillment and enthusiasm were the feelings of staff who congratulated the following students in their official achievements of scholarship certificates in recent ceremonies.

Ms Brunet proudly accompanied Asaad Fadhil Alshekhly to the SSI Allianz scholarship ceremony on Wednesday 12 April at SSI Auditorium, Bankstown. Asaad successfully received a Scholarship offering him substantial financial assistance for his study of the HSC course. He is highly worthy of this honour and financial support as he has displayed strong commitment, diligence and academic excellence in the pursuit of his secondary studies.



Assad and Mrs Brunet at the Award Ceremony

More recently, on Wednesday 17 May at the Sydney Town Hall, BSC and BIEC teachers including Mrs Brunet, Mrs Pascalis, Mrs Georgiou, Mrs Milgate, Mr Russell, Mr Kametopoulos and Ms Massad-O'Reilly honoured the following recipients from BSC and BIEC who successfully achieved the Friends of Zainab Senior Secondary and Tertiary scholarships: Hadeel

Alnashy, Alaa Krayem, Ramsina Oshana, Saeeda Ahmadi (class of 2016) and Moo Ko Paw Ray (class of 2016).



From left to right Mrs Pascalis, Mrs Georgiou, Mr Russell, Moo Ko, Mrs Brunet and Mrs Milgate at the Award Ceremony

This scholarship supports Year 11 and Year 12 refugee students through the critical years of their HSC course and for tertiary students, it provides financial assistance for the first two years of fulltime university study for students of refugee background.

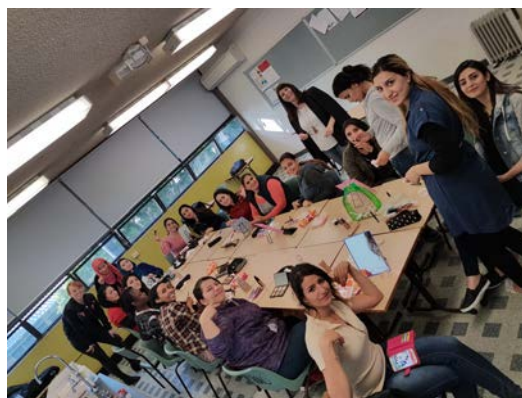
A sincere thank you is expressed to all the staff and Ms Doyle, our principal for their contributions to the students' applications and references for their scholarships. All BSC and BIEC staff wholeheartedly congratulate these students for their serious commitment to their study pathways. May these scholarships accelerate and contribute successfully to the pursuit of their chosen career pathway.

Hedy Brunet & Maria Pascalis
RTP team



STARTTS committed to help BSC look good – Hair & Make-up course

Thanks to STARTTS and their excellent ongoing initiatives, RTP has been able to offer 18 of our female students in the EFS course a 7 week course on grooming for Term 2. The course is called *I am beautiful* and it has been offering some great practical advice to students about managing their hair and make-up. This has been an excellent learning experience to make students aware of their appearance and presentation. It has helped to build their confidence and self-esteem.



Students were presented with a complimentary, colourful and useful grooming kit to help them pamper themselves. From week to week, there have been a variety of guest speakers who have visited to present and focus on hair and make-up. We are very grateful to Georgia Lethbridge and Lina Ishu who have arranged for this very worthwhile program offered for free to our College and our students. We also thank Mrs Rahimi for her availability during the course and Ms Kojic for her flexibility with room changes. We look forward to more exciting short courses offered to us by STARTTS for the rest of 2017 and beyond.

Mrs Pascalis & Mrs Brunet
RTP team

Journalists in the making in Year 10 CSWE

During Term 1, Year 10 students of the Certificate of Spoken and Written English course studied news articles. Towards the end of the term, students had the opportunity to become journalists and write a news article about Harmony Day. Below is one of the news articles written by Year 10 students from Ms Maguire's class.



Writers of the news article from left to right:
Nourhan Sabouh, Mays Najah, Noor Hashisha and Marleen Maez.

Great gathering on Harmony Day

Tuesday 4 April 2017 12:30pm

Harmony Day is celebrated on the 21st of March every year and the aim of Harmony Day is to promote respect for cultural diversity. The message of Harmony Day is "everyone belongs". We wear orange to show our support for cultural diversity and an inclusive Australia. One fact about Australia's diversity is Australian people identify with about 300 ancestries.

On 23rd of March 2017, Bankstown Senior College celebrated Harmony Day in the cafeteria and quad area. The whole school including the principal, teachers and students went to the cafeteria. We enjoyed dancing, the BBQ and watching the Chinese dragons. We celebrated Harmony Day because we have multicultural people in Australia.

Students wore orange or traditional clothes because of their support for cultural diversity and an inclusive Australia. After that, everyone was sitting in the cafeteria, listening to Miss Doyle's speech. Later some students were bush dancing and Miss Doyle was a part of it. She did a fantastic dance. Some students were painting on a banner. They drew their names and their beautiful national flags. During the day, there were many students buying food like pasta and sausage sandwiches and some of girls were getting henna in different designs. It was a fantastic day with beautiful people.

Noor, a student from year 10 summed up Harmony Day by saying "I think this is a day of cultural respect for everyone who calls Australia home".



Students in traditional dress on Harmony Day

RTP Team

BSC expresses praise and thanks to our super supportive Mercy tutors

Since 2010, our College through the Refugee Transition Program (RTP) has been fortunate to offer academic and welfare support to our students of refugee and asylum seeker backgrounds through Mercy Works – Sisters of Mercy in Australia & Papua New Guinea. This worthwhile initiative holds the Mercy Connect program which invites, recruits, trains and supports former teachers and professionals of various fields and industries to volunteer their high level of expertise and lengthy experience to support students as they settle into primary and secondary schools in both the private and public education systems. The volunteer tutors provide support that nurtures well-being and self-esteem and improves students' literacy and numeracy skills.

The Mercy Connect program in Sydney has 67 volunteers and operates in 27 primary and secondary schools assisting more than 450 students each year. We are grateful to this program for increasing the number of tutors at our College from year to year reaching a peak of seven tutors in 2016. This year so far, we have the pleasure and benefit of the support from four highly committed tutors: Ms Chris Jinga, Ms Bronlyn Schoer, Ms Sue Cook and Dr Allen Conduit. In previous years, we have also been thankful for the efforts of Margaret Mayger, Evelyn Foltyn, Anastasia Tsiotsika, Marion Aranjo and Alison Edye. The tutors show incredible commitment, patience and flexibility to sincerely support our needy students with their school work, offer advice about study habits and simply provide emotional and mental satisfaction and stability. We thank them wholeheartedly for stretching their good will to fulfil our students' needs.

We thank the co-ordinators of this incredible program Julie Flynn (former) and Judith Hill (current) and their professional staff for the amazing direction and

support for Mrs Pascalis and Mrs Brunet who constantly liaise with them to operate this program in the most effective way in our College.

Maria Pascalis & Mrs Brune



Chris Jinga, one of the Mercy tutors



Sue Cook, one of the Mercy tutors

Another happy, healthy HARMONY DAY in the history of BSC

On Thursday 23 March 2017, Bankstown Senior College celebrated Harmony Day. It was fun-filled, colourful and eventful. The purpose for this day was to remind ourselves of the great diversity of cultures at our College and how well we learn, study and work together to achieve many things.

The day began with normal lesson from periods 1 to 4. Then the celebration started from lunch time at 1pm with meals on offer to staff and students. There were BBQ sausages in a bread roll for only \$2 with a drink which was great value. For vegetarians, there was a vegetable pasta which helped to fundraise money for Year 12 students. Students enjoy this time for various reasons. They come out of the classroom, take part in activities and enjoy the entertainment – the music and dancing.

Every year, there is a tradition at the College where students gather together to paint in colourful words on the HARMONY DAY banner always successfully co-ordinated by our Visual Arts teacher and Head Teacher Welfare (relieving), Mrs Skourtis. On this fabric sign, students can paint a message about Harmony Day. Then this banner is usually hung on the balcony of the cafeteria to honour the students' combined effort to create a colourful meaningful sign.

After lunch, there were many exciting activities which invited the students to enjoy. They could play basketball, soccer, badminton or table tennis or they could line up to have their hand or body beautifully decorated with a Henna design. This is always a popular activity on Harmony Day. The important part of the day is the performances which take place in the cafeteria. All the students and staff gather in a huge circle to watch the Chinese dragon dances, join the bush dancing with the Australian country music band and enjoy the Middle Eastern drummers (zaffa). The best part is when our own students and staff dress in traditional costumes and proudly perform their country's folk dances. The popular colour of the day is orange. It stands for happiness, unity and of course, harmony.

The message of Harmony Day is 'everyone belongs' and aims to engage people to participate in their community, respect cultural and religious diversity and foster a sense of belonging. Thankfully this is achieved on a daily basis throughout the year at our College. We have 33 countries represented by our student and staff population in both BSC and BIEC campuses - always collaborating harmoniously. In our efforts to celebrate Harmony Day, during Mentor time, all staff and students were offered orange wedges to freshen their palate and remind them all that to live harmoniously we have to be healthy and eat fruit. So Harmony Day was also about promoting healthy habits.

A special presentation this year was held with the presence of a RACS (Refugee Advice and Casework Service) representative, Amanda Hall, the Administration & Communications officer who received a cheque of over \$1000 from BSC to provide financial support to RACS for the exceptional legal service they provide to countless refugee and asylum seekers. Staff and students supported this successful fundraiser – purchasing chocolate dipped fresh strawberries, homemade pesto sauce and auctioning of an organic pumpkin to raise money for RACS and their outstanding services.

Our sincere thanks are expressed to Mrs Rahimi, Mrs Skourtis, Mrs Ginis, Mrs Miglionico and the SRC team and all other staff involved for their tireless efforts to offer us such a fulfilling and successful day.







BSC STUDENTS AND STAFF IN HARMONY



Year 10 students at Jobs and Skills Expo 2017

On 25th of May 2017, our Year 10 students went to the South-West Sydney Jobs and Skills Exposition with Ms Dokmanovic, Ms Xie and Mr Russell. The weather on the excursion day was nice and sunny, students had a lovely excursion, full of fun and educational knowledge.



Students arrived at Bankstown Library and Knowledge Centre at about 9:30 by bus. When they arrived, they first went into Bryan Brown Theatre to learn about "Youth Step Apps", "Bright Employment" and "Scopesuite Pro". This whole workshop took about one hour and students gained a lot of useful information and knowledge about resumes and apprenticeship and traineeship opportunities which will also help them in finding jobs in the future.



Students in the Bryan Brown Theatre

After that, students had opportunities to walk around the centre with their friends to fully experience the job exposition. There were more than 50 exhibitors and over 800 specific job opportunities on the job board listed by category, such as accounting, retail and sales. Students signed up happily with the exhibitors and took information about jobs.

When students were hungry, there were hot dogs for them to eat. In the afternoon, there was a workshop to help people to update their resume in the technology room; students took this chance to update their resume which they had brought along with them.

We left the centre at about 2 pm; everyone was packed with a lot of resources and information. It was a great and educational excursion.

Sherrie Xie



Photos highlighting students at the Jobs and Skills Expo

Library Report

A jazzy college library with flair

What makes a school library an exciting place that makes people come to it and want to spend much time there? Research shows that a library that is colourful, warm and inviting is a place that encourages people to come to it to read, rest, daydream and work together for longer. For this reason, over the course of term 1 four students and a number of teachers from the IEC collaborated with the Teacher Librarian to design a mural and paint it on the circulation desk in the library.



The college library would like to thank students Hind Al-Zuhairi, Riyam Shekh Elyars, Noha Al-Zuhairi and Ledyaz Azeez, and IEC teachers Ms. Parmaxidou and IEC SLSO-ethnic Ms.Marco for their guidance and assistance. To create this lovely mural, the students painted a picture on A4 paper, created a digital copy of it and then projected it onto the desk using a data projector. They then traced the image onto the desk and painted it over many weeks.



Students artwork in the library

Maths Excursion

On the 16th of March 2017, the Year 12 2-unit Mathematics class went on an excursion to Bankstown Hoyts for a newly released film, Hidden Figures. Ms La our teacher, without whom this excursion would have only been a plan, accompanied us on that day. She had reassured us that this film was excellent and that it will inspire us as mathematician and show us why studying maths can open doors for the future.

Hidden Figures is an incredible story of three African-American women who serve as the brains behind one of the greatest operations in history – the launch of an actual astronaut into orbit, giving back to the USA its first place in the space race. The message we got from the movie is that people should be given equal opportunities to pursue their passion and not be judged based on their gender or ethnicity. We strongly recommend this movie for any other teacher or student as it is not only entertaining but also rich on social values.

After that one-and-a-half-hour session of consistent concentration on our “maths lesson”, we treated ourselves to a delicious buffet for lunch at the Bankstown RSL club. It was a wonderful day bonding with our teacher and class mates.

By Gia Hau Tran Year 12

Parent/Student/Teacher Afternoon

On Tuesday 27th of June the annual Bankstown Senior College Parent /Student/ Teacher Afternoon will be held in the College Library.

Please use this opportunity to collect **your child's/family member's report and speak to your child's or family member's teachers to get an update** on their progress and ways in which they can improve.

Time: 3:30pm to 6:00pm

Year 10 Visit to Wanda Beach

On Wednesday the 3rd of May, Year10 HSIE classes explored the coast of Wanda beach.

The day started out at school waiting for the teachers to mark the roll so we could hop on the bus to Cronulla. The bus picked us up right outside the school at 8:50 am and dropped us off 40 minutes later at the corner around from the beach.

The teachers told us we had to walk for a little bit because we were dropped off at the wrong stop. As we were walking, a lot of the students stopped and took in the view of the beach. Some would describe the ocean as bright and as blue as the sky.

We finally reached Wanda beach where we were met by some coastal guards/ educators who were going to teach us a few things about the beach and the landscape. We then separated into groups. Each class/group went away with a guard onto separate parts of the beach.

The guards explained to us about how they were previously science teachers but had a huge passion for the coastal environment.

Some of the students and teachers took their shoes off to enjoy the sand under their feet and some of us took them off because there was sand in our shoes.

During the day we were given worksheets to complete and some gadgets to use to help us answer the questions on the worksheets. We also partook in some practical activities that we enjoyed most.

The best part was walking on the sand dunes and discussing their protection. We even discussed the natural process of the volcanic rocks that had travelled to the beach all the way from New Zealand. The rocks are light and scruffy and mostly used for scrubbing feet.

Just after midday we left the sand dunes to go to lunch and search for some food like the seagulls. Some of the students stayed at the park for lunch and some went to nearby cafés. The weather had been perfect all day, unfortunately towards the end of lunch it changed and started to pour with rain. So to our disappointment we all had to head back onto the bus to go back to school.

In conclusion, it was a great experience and we definitely learned some amazing things.

By Chloe Bartley



Aboriginality 'Kinection' Workshop

This term, Aboriginal guest speaker, Pauline Ferkula, ran an Aboriginality 'Kinection' workshop with Year 12 English Studies and ESL students, which was supported by the Refugee Transition Program.

The aim of this workshop was to deepen students' understanding of Aboriginal culture and benefit their learning in English. Year 12 English Studies gained authentic firsthand knowledge of Aboriginal culture to assist them with the completion of the module 'We are Australians – English in citizenship, community and cultural identity'. The workshop was also valuable for Year 12 ESL students in their study of poetry by Aboriginal poet, Oodgeroo Noonuccal and the text, 'The Stolen Children: Their Stories' edited by Carmel Bird.



Pauline Ferkula talking to Year 12 students about the importance of flora in Aboriginal culture

Greeted by the sounds of the didgeridoo at the start of the workshop, students were formally welcomed by Pauline's daughter who acknowledged the traditional custodians of the land in her language. Seated in a circle, traditional of storytelling in Aboriginal culture, students shared their backgrounds by passing clap sticks to one another.



Year 12 ESL and English Studies students about to introduce themselves using clap sticks

The workshop had a strong personal touch throughout, as Pauline shared many photographs and videos of her 'mob' (family) with students, demonstrating that there is much more to Aboriginality than skin colour. Students learned about the importance of nature to Aboriginal people and had the opportunity to touch and smell native plants from Pauline's garden like Lemon Myrtle and Lilly Pilly. Students also gained an awareness of the difficulties

faced by Pauline's family due to the changing conditions of post-colonial Australia.



Year 12 student, Jolie Yako getting her face painted using the paint from ochre

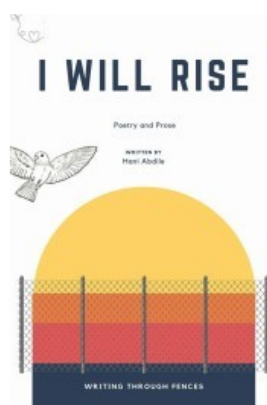
At the end of the workshop, students participated in making paint from ochre and ended up with bright, unique markings on their faces. Two lucky students, Abdullah Al Zaben and Kim Mercado, won a boomerang and the clap sticks for their enthusiastic participation in the workshop, which will be showcased later this term at the cultural expo.

Overall, both staff and students thoroughly appreciated the workshop. Students gained a deeper awareness and understanding of Aboriginal culture, which will assist their studies in Year 12, and the only criticism was that the time with Pauline was too short!

S. Maguire
Year 12 English Studies Teacher

From the poet/author Hani Abdul

People often ask me why I write? What they don't know is that



I wasn't a writer or a poet until moments of suffering made me a writer. I was sitting in a place where there was only a fence and hapless humans. My pen and paper were bright flashes that lit up my mind. I had no hope other than writing poetry and turning what I wrote into reality.

When everything else in your life is dictated by others, writing becomes enjoyable. It is not forced. It is a weapon against stress and despair.

About the Author

Hani Abdile is a talented student at Bankstown Senior College, currently studying the Preliminary course. She has been a high achiever at Bankstown

Senior College since 2015. Hani is the lead writer for "*Writing through the Fences*" and performs her work throughout Australia. Her work has been published in literary journals, online and in anthologies.

Hani was the recipient of the Performance Art and Community Leadership awards during Refugee Week in 2015 and 2016. She was also awarded the Civics and Citizen merit award by the NSW government in 2015.

Hani fled Somalia in 2013 and was held in Australian immigration detention for 18 months. During that time, Hani found solace and empowerment in writing. Hani has a huge thirst for education and has learned to read and write over the past three years. She plans to become a journalist and human rights lawyer.

The work of Maya Angelou had a profound influence on Hani's poetry whilst in detention. She published her first poetry anthology in 2016 called "*I will rise*". The opening poem in her book refers to Maya Angelou's poem "*Still I rise*".

Bankstown Senior College is most fortunate to present Hani during Refugee Week where she will deliver her poetry to Preliminary students, on Monday the 19th of June. We look forward to hearing her highly inspirational poems.



IEC Report

Students get ready for Working in Australia

During Term 1 IEC students spent two days trying out vocational study at TAFE NSW. The students were able to choose from four different courses: First Aid, Hair and Beauty, Auto - light vehicle, and Barista/Hospitality.

Students who have been living in Australia for less than one year were able to find their own way to the different TAFE campuses offering the courses, including Wetherill Park, Granville and Bankstown TAFEs, sometimes rising very early to be on time for the 9.00am start.

Skills developed included filling out enrolment forms, independent travel, and vocational learning. Students were able to clarify whether their English language was ready for vocational study, and whether the courses chosen were good pathways for them.

IEC teachers congratulate the students on what they have achieved in their first year in Australia. We look forward to having a coffee while we are having our hair cut, or our car fixed by one of our past students, or for our First Aiders, maybe being looked after in hospital by a future nurse, or doctor.



IEC Students at the First Aid Course

Coffee Course



In this course, we learnt the art of coffee making as well as appreciating the effort that goes into brewing the perfect cup of coffee. It is all in the minute details that makes the coffee rich. For us beginners, it was a difficult task pouring the steamed milk to make a beautiful

leaf pattern. But the instructor was very patient with us and let us try again until we got the presentation right.

Students not only learnt the ways to make coffee, but also the proper protocols in dealing with things hygienically. The course also offers responsible service of alcohol skills, where students are required to execute certain scenarios on how to turn away a customer when he/she is intoxicated. Presenting the scenarios where hilariously fun, especially for the other person playing the drunk patron. Establishing a bond with the teachers made the course very enjoyable. They showed professionalism and kindness towards us and most importantly, patience.



IEC Students at the Barista Hospitality Course

IEC Sport News

Every Wednesday and Thursday, Bankstown IEC students have been having fun while participating in a variety of sport activities such as volleyball, AFL, soccer, badminton, walking and Latin dancing. A big 'thank you' to all the teachers for running the activities and to the students for participating with enthusiasm. A big 'thank you' also to all the students who are helping the teachers set up and pack up the equipment. Wonderful teamwork!

Ms. Tsoli
IEC Sport Coordinator



Walking group



Students playing AFL



Students playing Badminton



IEC students playing Volleyball

Attention to All Students



Bankstown Senior College

DATE: 13 JUNE 2017

TIME: EVERY DAY

TERM 2 WEEK 8

7:45AM TO 8:20AM

Breakfast club for students is due to begin this term, just in time for the cold weather.

All welcome for the free breakfast served in the Cafeteria.

Breakfast Club will begin in Term 2 Week 8 and will conclude at the end of Term 3.

Breakfast served will include cereal, toast, fruit, juice, tea and coffee.

We hope the students will make the most of this program.



Breakfast Club



2017 CALENDAR

For your diary / notice board

Term Date:

Term 2:	Monday 24 th April - Thursday 29 th June
Term 3:	Monday 17 th July - Thursday 21 st September
Term 4:	Monday 9 th October - Thursday 14 th December TBC

Exams:

HSC Trial:	7 th - 17 th August
Prelim Yearly:	11 th - 21 th September
Rosa Yearly:	6 th -16 th November
HSC Begins:	16 th October-10 th November

Term 2:

12 th June	Queen's Birthday Public Holiday
13 th June	Breakfast Club starts
15 th June	College Assembly
18 th - 24 th June	Refugee Week
21 st June	BSC Cultural Expo
22 nd June	Year 12 Careers Expo
27 th June	Parent/Student/Teacher Evening
28 th June	Talent Quest
29 June	EFS/IEC Graduation -Last day for Term 2

