



Bankstown Senior College Newsletter

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From the Principal

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It is very pleasing to report that 2021 has so far been a great improvement on last year. Our students have been able to mingle, to work together in groups and to access excursions, as long as all COVID precautions are in place. Term 2 marks a very important point in relation to the year's academic work. HSC, Preliminary, Year 10 and EFS students have received their Semester 1 reports and will have an opportunity to discuss their progress with their teachers on Parent-Teacher evening on July 27th.

I was honoured to attend the Proudly Public awards at the Town Hall on Monday 31st May. A large number of our students were successful in gaining scholarships to support them on the next stage of their learning journey. It was wonderful to see our ex-students who received tertiary scholarships and who were happy to share stories of their time at university. I would like to publicly thank Ms Brunet, Ms Pascalis and Ms Qudisia Rahimi whose hard work and support (along with that of many other staff) has helped these students to achieve this success.

The new College Strategic Improvement Plan for 2021-2024 has been completed and can be viewed on the College website, www.bankstowns-h.schools.nsw.edu.au.

In any enterprise, it is beneficial to stop from time to time and take stock of our progress – to ascertain how successful we have been and to use the findings to help us plan for the future. 2021 has provided an important opportunity for the College to do just that. Part of the Department of Education's self-assessment process for all Government schools is the School Excellence Framework's Self-Assessment tool which we complete each year. Each school

measures their progress against fourteen elements, which are grouped under the domains of Learning, Teaching and Leading – our core business as a school. Once in a four year cycle, schools undergo an External Validation where a panel of peer Principals look at all the evidence that is used to complete the School Excellence Survey and 'validate' the school's judgement as to their progress.

The College is undergoing this process at the moment. This has given us an excellent opportunity to look very carefully at the direction our College is taking and the evidence we have gathered to support our judgement of our progress. The College Planning Team took leadership of the process along with the College Executive staff. A huge amount of data has been provided by staff, which can be used as evidence in the process. Although time-consuming, the experience has been extremely valuable, as we have taken the time to look closely at our data and evidence, to ascertain its usefulness and then to use it as a basis for future goal setting.

I would like to publicly thank my Deputies, Ms Gardiner, Mrs Georgiou and Ms Polley for their support and extremely hard work during the Validation process. Their work, along with that of Mr Wright and Ms Fajou, has been crucial to the success of such an important process.

Anne Doyle

From the Deputy Principals

Deputy Principal: Jenni Gardiner

2021 started with the lifting of many COVID restrictions which has allowed the College to return to delivering face to face practical activities, excursions and incursions. We have been able to re-open the cafeteria and hold group presentations and assemblies which strengthen the collegial nature of the College by allowing students and staff opportunities to develop positive, respectful relationships and celebrate successes. We look forward to many more College events happening in semester 2 and we are very excited about hosting the 25th Rotary Youth Vocational Awards on the 14th of September.

The College has developed a new 2021-2024 Strategic Improvement Plan with our three strategic directions being; *Student Growth and Attainment*, *Supporting Individualised Pathways and Building Strong Leaders*. The plan outlines the College's targets and describes the initiatives and activities we will be implementing in order to achieve those targets. The plan can be accessed through the Bankstown Senior College website.

<https://bankstowns-h.schools.nsw.gov.au/>

The College is always focused on ensuring that we provide a teaching and learning environment that enables students to connect, succeed and thrive. Some recent initiatives that help to promote emotional and physical wellbeing include Harmony Week activities, giant games, table tennis competitions, swimming programs, lunchtime sports and gym, reading groups, photography, coffee school and fundraising for charities. Please join in any activities on offer throughout the year.

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. Please remember to ask your teachers for individual feedback on how you can lift your performance and improve your results.

One way to improve your academic performance and achievement of course outcomes is to ensure you attend all classes every day. Research has shown that attendance is an important contributor to a student's academic achievement so the College is implementing an attendance improvement program to increase the proportion of students attending school 90% or more of the time. To support this program we are introducing the School Stream mobile phone app which will provide greater communication between the College and the school community. Training for students and parents will be provided in Term 3.

The College provides learning support for students in many ways and to assist students who have been negatively affected by missing school last year due to the COVID lockdown we have introduced an Intensive Learning Support Program. The program offers after school tutoring for Year 12 students and an intensive reading and writing program for Year 10 students. I encourage students to take advantage of this opportunity to access extra support.

BSC teachers are very busy developing their knowledge and skills in order to best teach and support student learning. We understand that staff professional learning is vital for successful student learning so the staff have undertaken professional learning and training in areas such as HSC High Impact Strategies, School Leadership, Literacy and Numeracy, Vocational Education Training, Careers, KLA curriculum updates, Refugee Student Support, NESA Curriculum Monitoring and Assessment, technology workshops, student wellbeing and school law.

The College acquired two new permanent teachers this term and I would like to warmly welcome them to our College community. Ms Emma Dodson has joined the HSIE faculty in her role as a PDHPE teacher and Ms Anna Korondi has become a permanent member of the English/EAL/D faculty and will be continuing in her role as an English/EAL/D teacher.

Finally I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate all of our students who received an award at the 2021 Proudly Public Awards. We are very proud of you!

Deputy Principal: Maria Georgiou

Deputy Principal: Maria Georgiou

2021 has definitely been a better year for Bankstown Senior College! We have seen a return to normal school life (with social distancing of course) and learning has been face to face since the beginning of the year. Seeing the cafeteria reopen, students attending excursions and work placement and classes running popup shops makes us all forget the difficulties we all endured last year when the pandemic was at its worst. As well, I would like to welcome all new students to the College and hope everyone's learning journey is full of many achievements.

2021 began the new cycle of our School Improvement Plan, and student learning and attainment continues to be a strong focus at the College. Bankstown Senior College maintains its commitment to helping students in Year 10, 11 and 12 meet the minimum standard in literacy and numeracy in readiness for the online tests. So far this year, students have completed testing in the HSC Minimum Standard in literacy and numeracy and while some students achieved Level 3, many others

As a result of COVID-19 in 2020, there was considerable disruption to the learning of students across the state. The 2021 COVID Intensive Learning Support Program (ILSP) was created to provide small group tuition for students who need it most across NSW primary, secondary and specialist schools. Schools were provided with funding to employ additional educators to deliver small group tuition for students who need it most. At Bankstown Senior College, the ILSP was placed into Stage 5 (Year 10) and Stage 6 (Year 12) to help students improve their learning with support that focuses on core content and skills, particularly literacy and numeracy. Identified students from each Year 10 class receive small group tutoring in reading, writing and numeracy throughout 2021 as a way of addressing the disruptions caused by COVID-19 last year. Year 12 students will receive tutoring in their KLA subjects to assist them with their learning.

I would like to acknowledge the ongoing work done by the IEC to College Transition Team which meets each term to discuss and support students that are exiting from the IEC to the College, with the main purpose being to see the College a more viable option for students. We will welcome another 35 students into the College in Term 3.

Term 2 also is a time for half yearly exams in Years 10 and 11. Students have used this opportunity to develop their formal exam techniques in order to prepare for the realities of the HSC. Students will receive their half yearly reports following the exam period and these will provide them with valuable feedback as they progress through their studies. Congratulations to the EFS and IEC students who graduate at the end of Term 2. We look forward to a continuation of your learning journey in Term 3.

I have been very impressed with the large number of Silver Awards that students have earned so far this year. These show how dedicated and hard working our students are as they strive for Gold.

Let's keep the learning journey going!

English/EALD Report

In 2021 we have been very fortunate to secure two permanent teachers in the English/EAL/D faculty. Ms O'Reilly and Ms Kormondi have now joined the faculty on a permanent basis. Congratulations to both of these excellent teachers. We are also fortunate to have Ms Nordstrom, Ms Barnes, Ms Aranjo and Ms Soljic, working in our faculty, Ms Soljic also teaching French.

Year 12 students have just received their Half Yearly Reports. Most students need to be congratulated for their great effort, results and excellent attendance.

However, there are some students who need to take on board the advice from their teachers on how to improve. This advice needs to be followed immediately, as there are only 10 weeks left of school for Year 12. After-school tutoring is being offered, so students need to make the decision to attend if they possibly can.

Years 10 and 11 have just completed their Half Yearly exams. Students need to look carefully at their results and reflect on how much more work they need to be doing. Some students have still not achieved the Minimum Standards particularly in writing, so students need to be constantly practising their writing and showing it to their English Teacher or to their Literacy teacher.

Year 10 students are also involved in the ILSP Reading Program (Intensive Learning Support Program). This special program is helping Year 10 students improve their Reading (Terms 1 and 2), Writing (Term 3) and Numeracy (Term 4) skills, which may have been affected by the disruption caused by Covid-19.

Attendance issues in EFS have resulted in many students not making the expected progress. If students are not in class, they cannot be learning at the appropriate speed. Students need to be attending every lesson, unless they have a medical certificate or equally valid reason. Those students who are attending are making solid progress.

S.Ginis
Relieving Head Teacher English EAL/D



Tuesday 27th July
Parent/Teacher/Student
Evening

Year 12 English EAL/D students composed poems about identity as part of their focus on writing for Module A: Language, Identity and Culture. Students studied the poetry of Langston Hughes and explored how texts represent cultures and identity in their works to challenge and shape audiences' perceptions. Enjoy the following student poetry.

Ms Kormondi EAL/D Teacher

The courageous me

I am the brave girl
like a daring lioness
Queen of my world
in my imagination

I want to fly really high
Like a bold eagle in the sky
But there are days when I feel low
Stop progressing like a snow

I seek motivation from the nature
Standing straight in storming weather
This is how I change my behaviour
Over days I'm becoming bold stronger

I fight for my right
I stand on my side
Situation can get worse
I need to stay alive

Trying to make myself solid
To survive in this world
To be included and not being hurled
To deserve being my self

I have a dream
One day I'll win the world
I'm so close to my goal

By: **Rahela Mominati** 



Vung Tau

I can hear the waves
I can smell the sand
I can feel the air
But where am I now?
Somewhere far away

Look at the sky, clear as crystal
Look at the cloud, white and puffy
Look at the food, fresh and tasty
Seafood is not a fancy thing
But memories are...

The place is strange
Two seasons: hot and hotter
Barely feel the cold
Love is blind, they said
I fell in love somehow

A walk along the beach
I can see my mom, my sister
I can see my friends
I can see the people
But I am somewhere far away
Memories are fulfilled within this place
Unerasable, unforgettable
The city creates me
The city raises me
The city is a part of me



I have to grow up
I have to leave
To somewhere far
To somewhere new
To chase my dream

I can hear the waves
I can smell the sand
I can feel the air
But where am I now?
Somewhere far away

By: **Trina Nguyen**

If,
If you look back in history,
All you see will be
If you look back in history,
All you see will be

From there, the world was born.
Come and visit me,
My home isn't mine, but yours
Dates or figs, your sweet will be

When you feel in need,
South to north,
Hearts stand serving you
Hands connect with yours,
Only for you

Frost on cheeks, ears,
And even your toes
watery freshness breeze
Snows on the tops
Mountains

Look at me, look at my face.

Wrinkles, those you see, do not show my age.
But instead, engraved rivers,
Tigris and Euphrates.

Two white swans floating
On the surface of the southern marshes, persisting the harsh
Of the nature

And dignity, into my veins
Blended within my blood.
Sacrifices, wars, and winnings
Made us alive

If you look at me,
No matter what, where, or when
You would know me.

I'm the Mesopotamia, and from me, everything

By: **Aram Shmoni**



TAS CAPA Faculty Report

Despite all the various challenges faced by students both at College and outside, they are resilient learners who have produced some excellent pieces of work for their various subject projects.

I am very proud of the excellent work and commitment shown by our faculty staff towards students. Below is a list of major milestones/achievements in the TAS CAPA Faculty:

- A record number of collections produced by Visual Arts students for their Major Works including paintings, ceramics, drawings and sculptures.
- HSC Music students are refining their pieces of work for the upcoming HSC Music practical exam.
- All year 12 Industrial Technology students are on track to complete their Major Design Projects due later this term.
- Year 11 Industrial Technology students have made coffee tables using timber products as their main task this semester.
- All year 11 and Year 12 VET students are on schedule to complete their mandatory work placements in Construction, IDT and Hospitality.
- All Year 11 Construction students are completing their Cluster tasks for concreting and White Card.
- A large number of students are taking part in the Barista Coffee course.
- Year 12 IPT students are using school-based scenarios to come up with authentic solutions for staff carpark issues and the electronic message board. Students had the opportunity to identify, plan, research and suggest computer-based solutions for information systems for effective communication between the College and the community.
- The Photography classes are using professional SLR digital cameras for their projects. It is very pleasing to see a number of budding professional photographers assisting with whole-College events such as assemblies, Valentine's Day and special events.

Congratulations to Mohammad Zia Takkawoi (Yr12 IPT) for successfully completing the Python Programming Challenge hosted by UNSW and the Australian Computing Academy. He

achieved a perfect score in the Beginners category and received a Certificate of Participation in the Intermediate category. Mohammad Zia received the Principal's Award for his excellent initiative.

A big thank you to Mr Ho (GA) and Mr Ram for assisting Construction students to complete various projects in and around the College, including installing the table runners in the hall and outside seating.

We hope to get a record number of student entries for the upcoming BSC Archies Competition. Students are invited to participate by entering a portrait in any expressive form. The four categories are painting, photography, drawing and prints. A First Place and Achievement Award will be presented for each category.

We wish all HSC students all the best in completing their projects on time.

Ms J Meissner
HT TAS CAPA



Information Digital Technology Work placement

" I liked working with students from other schools at this workplace. I learned to fix computers, help clients, assemble computer hardware and replace computer components. Mr Abbas was very helpful and patient with me" **By Majd and Agha**



Majd Neamat (Yr 11) with Mr Amir Abbas at Choice CMN Computers



Agha Walizadah at Choice CNM Computers

IDT Work placement students in the BSC Library

Students, teachers and staff are now not simply "borrowers". They are knowledge and information learners and teachers. They access books and magazines online. They can search for books and information online on the library catalogue at school and on the go. They can use computer programs to complete assignments and set work for completion. The two Year 11 IDT work placement students doing their mandatory 35 hours of VET work placement in the library in weeks 6 and 7 this term (Levon Mousa and Tella Ahmadi) were expected to be able to show an awareness of web sites and how to use them to make information and resources available to students, teachers and staff for reading for pleasure and research.



Mr Lowe and Tella Ahmadi at BSC Library

They both used the Online Integrated Library Management System to create catalogue records for new books. They assisted students, teachers and staff with various websites and computer programs, including PowerPoint and Excel. I have very much enjoyed working with these two talented students in the school Library and have learnt much about using keyboard shortcuts, Excel spreadsheets and PowerPoint.

**Mr Lowe
Workplace Supervisor**

Year 11 Ceramics

This term the Year 11 Ceramic students made colourful ceramic tiles by using the following steps:

- Cutting to desired size
- Choosing a design
- Drawing the outline of the image using paint
- Glazing the tile using a special liquid
- Firing the tile in the kiln



Construction



Concreting



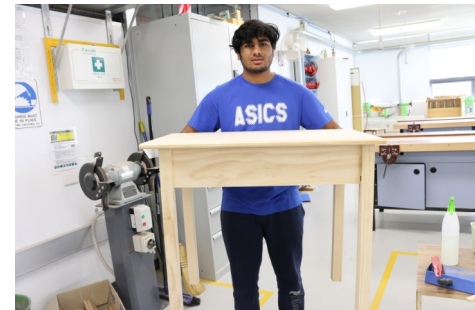
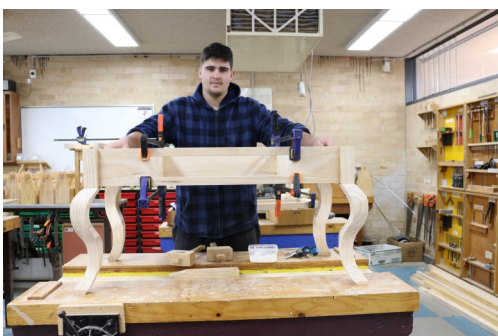
Industrial Technology Report

We believe *girls can do anything*. That's why we have chosen to do Industrial Technology as a subject at Bankstown Senior College.

We learn new skills like sanding, making different types of timber joints, use power and hand tools. It is fun as we use our hands to plan, design and create wood projects.

We like it because the boys in the class treat us as their equals. Mr Ram always encourages us. We are making a small coffee table.

By: Muqqdas Afzal and Freeba Rahimi
Year 11 Industrial Technology



Ceramic



Visual Arts



Music



Photography



HSIE VET Report

BUSINESS SERVICES WORKPLACEMENT PROJECT WITH SSI

Thanks to the initial support of Violet Roumeliotis, CEO of Services Settlement International, Ebadullah Amid, Head of Facilities & Operations at SSI and Emma Middleton, Acting Volunteer Program Manager at SSI and Mrs Brunet, Business Services teacher and Refugee Student Support Officer, we were able to establish an effective working collaboration in order to organise work placement for five Year 12 students studying towards their Certificate II in Business Services. Work placement is a mandatory component of this VET course. This type of work placement has been a first for Services Settlement International as they generally support university and TAFE students with their social work practice. The first steps of this project took place in February 2020, but the project had to be put on hold because of COVID. With most of the SSI offices closed and the staff working from home, this project could only take place once the various SSI offices were back in operation.

The preparation to complete the work placement at SSI was particularly intense and thorough: students not only had to fill the compulsory paper work set by the Department of Education, but they had to complete an online application as volunteers for SSI, obtain the Working With Children Check and the Police Check, successfully complete the online COVID training, fill and sign confidentiality and student agreements, scan and email a number of IDs and various documents and finally attend a mandatory induction training through Zoom run by Ms Emma Middleton from SSI. This preparation has been by itself a valuable practice of skills students have acquired in class. Throughout this preparation Fadi Esho, Ryan Lazo, Sarah Alzahri, Fatima Alizada and Mohanad Alzuhairi displayed a positive and proactive attitude, helping each other and making sure they attended all the meetings organised by Mrs Brunet.

The five students were allocated to four different SSI offices: Bankstown, Parramatta, Ashfield and Liverpool. On Friday 12 March 2020, after only 11 days since the re-opening of the SSI offices, our students attended their first day of work placement, straight away impressing their supervisors. Mrs Brunet received very positive feedback after the first day: "I would like to convey that the students showed a great sense of punctuality and fellowship. The students also maintained the tasks in a great manner in terms of teamwork. I am glad that I was able to assist in the assigned project". "I noticed that they showed great enthusiasm and agility in the tasks I gave them. They seemed to be very bright and alert." Fadi, Ryan, Sarah, Fatima and Mohanad put in practice what they learnt in class: answering phone calls and taking messages, helping clients at the counter, checking delivery dockets against the goods received,

organising back-office supplies, designing a COVID poster and collating information for an updated internal directory.

The SSI managers and supervisors commented about the positive effects brought by this project for the parties involved. Mrs Brunet and Ms Emma Middleton are now working on establishing a roster so that other Business Services students can have the opportunity to complete their work placement at SSI.

I would like to thank the students' supervisors: Arpi Garabet, Lava Sheikh Ahmad, Mohita Karira and Mythra Hedge. A massive "Thank you" to Ebadullah Amid, Head of Facilities & Operations at SSI and Emma Middleton, Acting Volunteer Program Manager at SSI for their trust in this type of educational engagement.

A particular "Thank you" to Mrs Violet Roumeliotis, CEO of Services Settlement International (SSI), for her initial assistance with this project and her continuous support to the students of Bankstown Senior College.

Ms Brunet
Business Services Teacher and Refugee Student Support Officer





Some of our students even had previous retail experience in their country of origin and did a great job training and supporting their fellow students. Many of them skilled in point-of-sale procedures and customer service. It was very rewarding to see our students work so well as part of a team.

The two events could not have gone ahead without the help of Mrs Fedes and Mrs Rahimi and their great skills in sourcing stock. Not to mention Ms Azzi and her Year 10 Retail Services class who came in each time at the end of the day and did an excellent job of returning the BSC Shop into a well presented and organised store ready for our next pop-up shop.

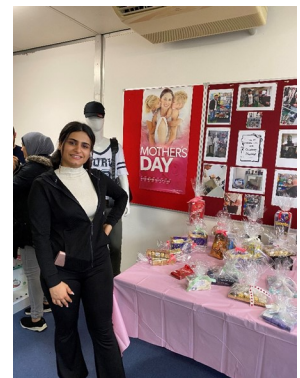
Both days were a great success with the BSC shop packed to the rafters with customers from both the College and IEC, making many purchases for themselves and their loved ones. The Retail Services students and their teachers would like to thank everyone for their support because without it we would not have had such a great opportunity to put our new retail skills into practice.

Mothers Day

SHOP TILL YOU DROP.....WHO NEEDS MINDFULNESS WHEN YOU CAN GET RETAIL THERAPY?

This semester the Retail Services classes had a wonderful opportunity to set-up and operate two different pop-up shops. Mrs Gavrielatos' Year 12 class started the ball rolling with the first pop-up shop which was held to celebrate Valentine's Day. The Retail Services students were able to showcase their skills, creating interesting merchandise displays as well as applying their customer service skills and demonstrating their point-of-sale techniques.

In Term 2 Ms Makridis' Year 11 class organised the second pop-up shop for Mother's Day. The students were engaged in a variety of activities in preparation for the day's event. Creating promotional posters and flyers as well as organising stock and displays, pricing and wrapping gift packages and on the day providing personalised service to their customers.



Refugee Student Support

Proudly Public awards celebrated BSC's Friends of Zainab scholarship recipients

At the end of term 4, 2020, The Public Education Foundation selected 27 BSC students to receive a special scholarship. The majority of these students received a Friends of Zainab Scholarship and one received a scholarship from the Royal Bank of Canada. The students were presented with their awards at a special ceremony at the majestic Sydney Town Hall on Monday 31st May. This was a very prestigious event with inspiring speeches and entertainment from highly talented performers making the night most memorable.

The successful applicants for the Friends of Zainab Scholarship in the Senior Secondary category included Farah Eshaq, Grace Mirindi, Nayereh Norzahi, Stali Alshamsooki, Zahra Mardani, Ahmed Alzahri, Aram Shmoni, Ardwan Alkuheli, Benazir Alizada, Fadumo Ilimi, Freshta Alizadah, Mamlakat Yari, Rand Al-Dugharee and Mariam Ahmad. The successful applicants for the Tertiary category included Ali Ashraf, Karla Yousif, Maryam Jafari, Meena Rasoli, Najma Osman, Nargis Haidari, Sahira Alyounany, Shaher Bano, Shokofa Karimi, Duy Cam Pham and Zeenat Batool. The Royal Bank of Canada scholarship was presented to Batool Mohammed Hussein. The Tertiary category of the scholarships provides financial assistance for the first two years of full time university study for the successful students. Fortunately, the unsuccessful applicants from 2020 were also winners when PEF contacted them to offer them refurbished laptops. We are most grateful to Karen Griffiths, the Head Scholarship Administrator, for her efforts to fulfil this great initiative.



We are so appreciative that BSC students are generously supported annually by the Public Education Foundation initiative.

The committed BSC staff attended the ceremony offering sincere thanks to the recipients who invited the staff as guests. The following BSC staff proudly applauded their students on the night: Ms Doyle, Ms Gardiner, Ms Georgiou, Ms Rahimi, Ms Brunet, Ms Pascalis, Ms Ginis, Mr Kametopoulos, Ms O'Reilly and Mr Russell. It was pleasing that Aram Shmoni and

Batool Mohammed Hussein were invited to be interviewed about their scholarship experience before the ceremony.

Overall, BSC had another record achievement of scholarships and we are most grateful to the scholarship donors and judging panel from the Public Education Foundation. We sincerely thank all the Refugee Student Support team, Year Advisors, executive and teaching staff for their assistance with online applications and written references. The students have carefully spent their funding from the scholarships on educational technology and other school related expenses. We are currently supporting applicants for 2022 and look forward to their success.

Ms Pascalis, Ms Brunet and Ms Rahimi

WELCOME TO AUSTRALIA PROGRAM

During Term 1 for 4 weeks, the three EFS 2 classes participated in the "Welcome to Australia" program run by MYAN NSW. Twice a week the EFS students engaged in workshops run by Youth Ambassadors of MYAN NSW and coordinated by Abdallah Altibi, an ex-student of the IEC Bankstown and now a Multicultural Youth Worker at MYAN. Another ex-student of the IEC, Helen Guliana ran some of the workshops in her role of Youth Ambassador of MYAN NSW.

This program helped the EFS 2 students to improve their language skills, become more aware of their culture and other cultures in Australia, gain new knowledge and understanding of Australian culture/slang, increase knowledge of Aboriginal history and increase awareness of youth specific services. The program concluded on 18 March with an incredible event: almost 50 students attended an art workshop facilitated by Raneen Shamon, a young artist studying Visual Arts at University of Sydney.

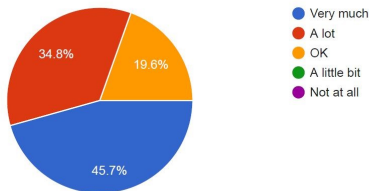


During this art workshop Raneen was supported by Anmar Al-Zuhairi a student from EFS 1C who helped the EFS 2 students and gladly shared his art knowledge.

The evaluation students completed at the end of the "Welcome to Australia" program clearly shows that it was truly a worthwhile experience for them.

1. How much did you enjoy the "Welcome to Australia Project" run for the EFS 2 classes?

46 responses



We would like to thank Abdallah Altibi for organising and co-ordinating the "Welcome to Australia " program, Hannah Lai, Youth Programs Coordinator at MYAN NSW and the incredible Youth Ambassadors who facilitated the workshops: Helen, Jamshidi, Shahida, Asal, Ishan, Majd, Raneen and Anmar Al-Zuhairi from EFS1C.

Ms Brunet and MS Pascalis
Refugee Student Support Officers

International Women’s Day

As we all know, 8th March is a day to celebrate Women’s Day worldwide. At BSC, students and staff were offered a dark chocolate bar for a gold coin donation. The gold coin donations were gifted to a women’s charity supporting disadvantaged women. Students were also reminded about the importance of females in their lives through various lessons which studied and praised the efforts and achievements of women of diverse backgrounds.

Ms Pascalis



BSC giving generously our great supporters



Recently, the SRC organised a successful raffle of a box of chocolate bars in its aim to raise funds and support an organisation which has offered legal support to its students. RACS (Refugee Advice & Casework Service) is a reputable organisation that has provided important legal advice to the wide refugee and asylum seeker

community. It successfully serves its goal to be a strong, independent public voice for the rights of disadvantaged individuals seeking asylum. Since RACS has been a great supporter of BSC students, it was time for us to give back and express our gratitude to this valuable community agency. The raffle amount of \$231.40 raised was recently donated to RACS. We sincerely thank Sarah Dale, the principal and award-winning lawyer and her team for years of commitment to BSC.

Ms Pascalis & Ms Brunet

Harmony Day at BSC

Harmony Day was celebrated with oranges and bookmarks in 2021. Students enjoyed creating their own orange bookmarks using markers and colourful string to design their own which they kept or swapped with fellow students. This was a fun, easy and interactive task that took the students back to basics by having a break from using technology and reminding them to use hard copy books instead of e-books. The College prides itself on reminding students to keep healthy by offering all members of the College a healthy, fresh orange to eat and enjoy. By eating an orange, we increase our Vitamin C and we are healthier in trying to prevent diseases to enter our bodies. Further to this, the traditional BSC canvas banner was available for all students and staff to sign as a reminder of the importance of unity in the way that we live given our diverse backgrounds.

Ms Pascalis and Ms Rahimi



Year 10 - Let's learn about Wellbeing

In Term 2, Year 10 students participated in a Wellbeing program presented by Collective Leisure. Collective Leisure was founded with the purpose of helping reduce chronic diseases in Australia operating with the belief that 'well-being is without boundaries' which means no matter who you are, where you're from or what your background is, you have the right to be a well being.



Founder David Burns, in his previous role, developed a relationship with the College to create excellence through team diversification at Auburn Ruth Everuss Aquatic Centre. He engaged with BSC students and set up a training and employment program 'Breaking down cultural barriers', which won the Parks and Leisure NSW Community Initiative of the year and was featured on SBS in December 2018. Thanks to this unique and progressive program, the Aquatic Centre now employs more than 20 students from BSC in roles ranging from lifeguards to duty managers, swim teachers and customer service personnel. The centre together with ADSi run a free program for swimming lessons which many BSC students enjoy. The BSC community is so grateful for the staff organising these important initiatives.



In the Wellbeing program delivered to Year 10, presenters David Burns and Jennifer Barker addressed some very important areas of health and self-care. As most BSC students are mature age, they have many study, family and work commitments which impact on their lives and cause them stress. So the College thought it was essential for the students to be guided and advised about aspects of their wellbeing. Jennifer and David were thoughtful in their delivery of the program and invited a former student of BSC, Dean Ross who spoke about his personal experiences

with his health and development which successfully engaged the students. This provided Dean with a great opportunity to re-connect with the College through work experience.



Students will engage in a series of three day sessions to learn about the Wheel of Wellbeing -nutrition, hydration, exercise, management of stress, money, time and leisure, as well as the importance of connecting with the natural environment. The sessions and activities were varied and engaging and served to reinforce the Mentor module for Term 2, *Keeping Well*. Students initially found the meditation sessions challenging but through practice, they were very receptive to this totally new experience for many. The sport and fitness activities in the Hall created some great team building experiences which students enjoyed. Students were able to document their learning in their interactive booklets which they kept to ensure good wellbeing practices for their future.

Thank you to David and Jennifer for their valuable and enjoyable presentations.

Ms Pascalis & Ms Brunet

Community Report 7News Young Achiever Award

It wasn't long ago that Auburn Youth for Diversity were celebrating the achievements of some of our amazing students and young people at the 7News Young Achiever Awards. Students were commended for their inspiring leadership skills, academic achievements or volunteer efforts – congratulations to these young, outstanding students.

We are proud to be part of their journey in Australia and we can't wait to see what they achieve next!

Ms Rahimi

Congratulations to:



Kamila Asghari
Freemasons NSW and
ACT Community Service
Award



Benazir Bagheri
Freemasons NSW and
ACT Community Service
Award



Nargis Bagheri
BSC Ex- Student
Western Sydney
University Academic
Achievement Award

Austswim Training

During the Term 1 school holidays 5 students from BSC and 1 student from the Intensive English Centre completed Austswim training. They are now on their way to becoming swimming teachers!

Our students are very lucky to be offered these free learn to swim lessons. Currently 15 male and 15 female students are joining the classes every week at Auburn Aquatic Centre and Liverpool Leisure Centre. Thank you so much to Austswim for supporting our young students.

Ms Rahimi



Thank you IWAA for your great generosity!

We, at BSC greatly appreciate IWAA's donation of 100 Ramadan Iftar bags for our year 12 students.



On Tuesday 27th April IWAA Sydney SETS Team hosted an Iftar Dinner at Hamalaya Emporium in Bankstown for their network partners and clients under the Settlement Engagement and Transition Support Services. It was a delightful dinner attended by Principal Ms Doyle, HT Welfare Ms Fajou and Community Liaison Officer Ms Rahimi.



Ms Doyle, Ms Fajou and Ms Rahimi with IWAA Team

IWAA and BSC Parent Excursion

"We wanted to thank you for planning such a wonderful, fun, stress-free and safe trip. Also thank you to everyone who was involved in making Bankstown Senior College's first excursion for parents such a success. We had a wonderful time! For many, it was the first time away from the family and household duties. We can only imagine the behind the scenes work that goes into organising this trip and we are so grateful that IWAA and the school offers such a terrific program. We were very nervous to go but it was an experience that we will remember forever."

By: BSC Parents



Doing the "wright" thing

Mr Andrew Wright showed his heroic qualities at the end of Term 1 when floodwaters tried to block the entry to the school Library. As students jumped over puddles to get to dry land, he showed his expertise in cleaning blocked drains. As you can see from the photo, he was very dedicated to saving the library. Fortunately, our General Assistant, Ho came to the rescue and unblocked the opposite end of the drain, allowing the water to escape and students and staff to avoid the wet weather for the week.

Thanks Mr Wright!



IEC Report

The IEC students and teachers went to Taronga Zoo on Thursday May 27, 2021. We travelled together in a coach. We looked at a wide range of animals, and the students liked the Australian and African animals most. Some students and teachers watched the educational Seal Show, and the Bird Show. The weather was beautiful and sunny. We had a great day!



Attendance - Why it's important!

We all want our students to get a great education, and the building blocks for a great education begin with students coming to school each and every day. If students miss school regularly, they miss out on learning the fundamental skills that will set them up for success in the future. There is no safe number of days for missing school – each day a student misses puts them behind and can affect their educational outcomes. Each missed day is associated with progressively lower achievement in numeracy, writing and reading.

Thank you to parents for your support in sending your child to school each and every day! (Unless they are sick of course!). Congratulations to students who have attended more than 90% of the time! Your commitment to learning will be rewarded!

Minutes lost = days lost per year

A couple of minutes here and there doesn't seem like much, but...

When your child misses just...	they miss days per year
5 mins per day	3 days
30 mins per day	18 days

Patterns of lateness can have a serious impact on your child's education.

education.nsw.gov.au

Days missed = years lost

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

When your child misses just...	they miss weeks per year	and years over their school life
1 day per fortnight	4 weeks	Over 1 year missed
1 day per week	8 weeks	Over 2.5 years missed

education.nsw.gov.au

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. 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 Board of Studies, Teaching and Educational Standards for homeschooling.

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)

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.

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.

Why attendance matters

When your child misses school they miss important opportunities to...



Learn



Build friendships



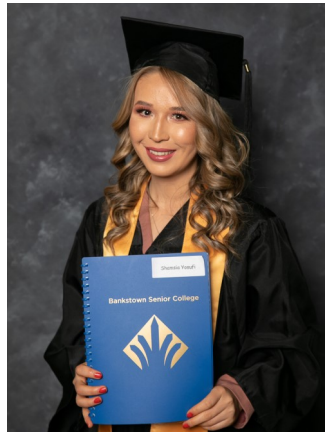
Develop life skills

education.nsw.gov.au



Year 12 Class of 2020 Graduation







2021 CALENDAR

For your diary / notice board

Term Dates 2021:

Term 1:	Wednesday 1 st February - Thursday 1 st April
Term 2:	Tuesday 20 th April - Thursday 24 th June
Term 3:	Tuesday 13 th July - Thursday 16 th September
Term 4:	Tuesday 5 th October - Wednesday 15 th December

Term 3 Dates

Monday 12 th July	SDD : Professional learning
Tuesday 13 th July	Students Return
Thursday 22 nd July	Wellness Expo
Tuesday 27 th July	Parent Teacher Student Evening

Exam Dates:

HSC Trial	Term 3 Week 4 - 5
Year 11 Prelim	Term 3 Week 9 -10
Year 10	Term 4 Week 3 - 4