



Bankstown Senior College Newsletter

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From the Principal

I would like to begin by welcoming all the new students to Bankstown Senior College and of course welcoming back all returning students. It seems like 2022 is going to provide us with a whole new set of challenges, such as new Covid variants as well as heavy rains, storms and flooding but I know the Bankstown Senior College community will overcome these challenges and learn from them. I assure you that at all times, the staff at Bankstown Senior College will work very hard to continue to deliver high quality teaching and learning to students.

Last year's Year 12 students are to be commended for their outstanding results in the HSC exams despite the many Covid restrictions and a long period of lockdown where they were forced to learn from home. A special mention goes to the 2021 Dux of the College, Huixi Zhang who achieved an ATAR of 97.8! The College was also very proud to have exceeded our upper target for the top 3 bands in the HSC. In the words of our Director Educational Leadership, it was "a magnificent outcome for our students, but it doesn't happen without commitment, dedication, passion and selfless application from the teachers".

I would also like to congratulate the students who were elected to be on the Student Representative Council. I am very proud of this year's SRC representatives who have been very busy helping out at College events, fund raising for charity and organising fun activities for students and staff. I believe the teachers' team has been very successful in the soccer competition! The SRC team have come up with some great ideas to improve students' experiences at the College. Your ideas and contributions are vital in ensuring the College continues to be a healthy, safe and social environment where students feel a sense of belonging, build positive relationships and actively participate in the school community.

It was wonderful to be able to celebrate Harmony Day together as a whole school again. We welcomed Ms Doyle back from leave to officially open our new sports field and witness her basketball shooting skills! Harmony Day is a very special annual celebration of Australia's cultural diversity, reinforcing the message that "everyone belongs". This message of inclusiveness was promoted at Bankstown Senior College with a

showcase of cultural performances and activities. Students and staff from all cultures and backgrounds worked happily together, painting the 2022 Harmony Day banner to be displayed in the College cafeteria. We all enjoyed the music and dancing from many different cultures and of course the delicious food expertly cooked by Ms Parenzee and the students. Many thanks to Ms Rahimi and the College Events Committee for organising such an outstanding event.



Last year the College went through a process of self-evaluation where we assessed our school using the elements of the School Excellence Framework. We presented evidence to an external validation panel who agreed with our self-assessments and determined that the College is excelling the areas of *Wellbeing, Assessment* and *Educational Leadership*. We are currently developing a new 2022-2025 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/>

Please visit the website to view more detailed information about the College. We also request that all students and their families download the *SchoolStream* application on your mobile phones so that you can be kept up to date with important announcements.

Stay safe, keep dry and enjoy your school holidays.

Relieving Principal J. Gardiner

From the Deputy Principals

Deputy Principal: Maria Georgiou

2022 has begun with a lot of promise for things to get back to normal. At the start of the year we were checking in and wearing masks, but both of these things have become optional. We now have a new meaning for the word 'RATS' and we have become quite good at testing ourselves for COVID-19. We are no longer having separate recesses and lunches and we can once again sit in our wonderful cafeteria. We still have to ensure we are 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 taking place makes us all forget the difficulties we all endured last year when we spent a lot of time in lockdown. As well, I would like to welcome all new students to the college and hope everyone's learning journey is full of many achievements.

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 will be persevering in their endeavour to achieve this before they finish Year 12. Through the College's commitment to explicit teaching of literacy strategies, the Literacy team has created several resources, including a Writing Booklet which aims to improve students' academic writing skills in preparation for the HSC.

COVID Intensive Learning Support Program (ILSP) was created last year to provide small group tuition for students who need it most across NSW primary, secondary and specialist schools due to the disruption to learning caused by the pandemic. At Bankstown Senior College, the ILSP was again placed into Stage 5 (Year 10) to help students improve their learning with support that focuses on core content and skills, particularly literacy and numeracy. All students from each Year 10 class will receive small group tutoring in reading, writing and numeracy throughout 2022. There may even be tutoring offered before and after school in various KLA subjects to assist all students 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 a group of exiting IEC students into the College in Term 2.

Year 12 have completed their half yearly exams and this has been a very good opportunity for students to experience the exam process. Our new phone

lockers have been used and hopefully will ensure the HSC phone rules are followed for all exams. I wish all year 12 students all the best in their first Year 12 exams.

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 hope it will continue to be a better year here at Bankstown Senior College!

Relieving Deputy Principal: Lisa Fajou

It is with great privilege that I am writing this report in my role as Relieving Deputy. Thank you to all staff and students that have supported me during this time as I embark on the challenges that the Senior Executive experience on a daily basis.

It is very pleasing to report that 2022 has so far been a great improvement on previous years with a slow return to our pre-covid lives. Throughout the term our students have been able to mingle again, work together in groups and access excursions, all alongside COVID protocols which are constantly adapting to our ever-changing environment.

The College is always focused on ensuring that we provide a teaching and learning environment that enables students to connect, thrive and succeed. As covid restrictions have eased some recent initiatives that helped promote emotional and physical wellbeing include Harmony Week activities, giant games, soccer competitions, swimming programs, lunchtime sports and gym and fundraising for charities. Please join in any activities on offer throughout the year.

This term an EFS review was completed by the staff and students with external consultants. This was due to the recommendations that were made from the 2021 External Validation and Attendance Review. The preliminary findings were positive with only a few recommendations being given to assist our EFS cohort with future planning and programming. Congratulations to the staff and students involved. We thank you for your contribution and look forward to helping the course evolve from the recommendations made.

As we head toward the school holidays, I would like to wish everyone a great and restful break. These two years have been far from easy and as we continue to learn to live with Covid and the outbreaks that are occurring as a result, it is imperative that you maintain your own wellbeing.

Have a safe and restful break and see you in Term 2!

Careers News

The Year 12 class of 2021 achieved to a very high standard and are congratulated for their effort in very trying times due to COVID19. They overcame the high-level challenges and barriers which beset them and will transition to their next phase in life pursuing either further study at university, college or TAFE, others have opted to work or take a gap year. In particular, three students were successful in receiving a University of Sydney E12 Scholarship of \$6,000.00 who could demonstrate not only socio-economic disadvantage but the highest level of academic standard, motivation and commitment to their chosen field of study: Aram Shmoni Bachelor of Applied Science (Diagnostic Radiography), Ardwan Alkuheli Bachelor of Pharmacy & Management and Huixi Zhang Bachelor of Advanced Computing/Bachelor of Commerce.

Congratulations to Noor Abuzamaq Year 12 who is a 2021 recipient of the Youth Off The Streets National Scholarship Program. Nour is one of the 25 recipients who has demonstrated drive and commitment to her studies despite the challenges and barriers she faces. This generous scholarship program will support her on the path to achieving her educational goals with both financial (\$6,000.00) and mentor support. Noor will be assisted in her journey of self-discovery, development of skill, growth and education.

Ms Dokmanovic

THE JMJ GRANT FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP

Noor Abuzamaq, 18
Liverpool, NSW

Noor Abuzamaq is an 18 year old Palestinian who arrived in Australia in 2019 after being separated from her father for six years. Unfortunately, she lost him four months ago.

Noor is a student at Bankstown Senior College. She recently finished Year 11 and started Year 12 this term. Learning is a hobby of hers; she is passionate about learning new things. This scholarship will help her to achieve her goal of becoming a lawyer by providing moral and financial support.



"I feel lucky to have this extraordinary scholarship. I believe that through these two years, the scholarship will provide support for me to get my HSC and to enter university. I'm passionate about my education because I believe that I'll be able to help disadvantaged people who are experiencing similar difficulties. Thank you to my sponsor, The JMJ Grant Foundation, for their generosity. I would like to thank my mentor Majella Skansebakken. I look forward to getting to know you. I'm confident you will provide the best support to me through the next two years."

English/EALD Report

Term 1 has sped by and so much has been achieved in the English/EAL/D faculty. Year 12 have completed their Half Yearly exams and are mid-way through their HSC year. These important exams will be excellent preparation for the HSC exams in October. Success in these exams is dependent upon a lot of study, revision and hard work. Most students have realised that time management in exams is vitally important to achieving their best. Students are strongly encouraged to attend all English classes and discuss with their teacher any issues they may have concerning the work studied.

Preliminary students as well as Year 10 Additional English have experienced their first formal assessment task. It has been very pleasing to see how motivated and hard working the majority of students have been in preparing for all of the set tasks. Improvements you make through your effort will ensure better results later in Years 11 and 12, where the English course remains a mandatory and very important subject.

Students in EFS have also settled in their classes and are also improving. It is pleasing to see so many students eager to improve their English and pursue a successful education. We hope that through their hard work and the guidance of their teachers, they will progress quickly towards the acquisition of strong English skills.

While many students have Achieved a Level 3 in the HSC Minimum Standard test in Reading, this is not the case with the Writing exam. It is to these students that I say, that without practice, you will not improve. These students need to be typing up at least one piece of writing per week, and seeking feedback from their English or Literacy teacher. It is a concern that very few students are doing this regularly.

Finally, I hope every student makes the most of 2022 at Bankstown Senior College, a wonderful school full of enthusiastic, hardworking, knowledgeable, caring and supportive teachers. Make every day count on your journey towards education.

Soula Ginis Head Teacher English/EALD (Relieving)

Parent/Carer Teacher Night
Term 2
Tuesday 28th June 2022
3:30pm to 06:00pm

Wellbeing

At Bankstown Senior College, we are committed to providing an environment which is safe and supportive to not only foster the wellbeing of all students and staff in the College, but to value the diversity and provide an inclusive environment, making sure students are safe and respected. According to the wellbeing framework, when students are healthy and happy, they are more engaged in the learning environment.

At the beginning of the year, students from all cohorts participated in team building activities. The aim was to develop relationships, develop communication skills, problem solve, engage and empower students to provide positive learning experiences. The day was a success and enjoyable for both teachers and students.

This term also saw teachers explore the concept of building relationships throughout their mentor lessons. They have been discussing what a positive relationship looks like, what strengths each student brings to the relationship and unpacking how students can use this knowledge explored this term to assist them in strengthening these relationships with those around them.

I would like to thank all the staff at Bankstown Senior College for their continued efforts and hard work throughout the term.

Vanessa Kojic



News from the Library


Hi one and all, Mr. Lowe the Teacher Librarian here. I would like to mention improvements to the library this term. The installation of the lighting was completed with the addition of extra lights to the Learning Support office. Instead of a gloomy, sleepy place that gives one sore-eyes and a headache, the library and the rooms within it are now well lit and very pleasant to work in. The new lighting will also make it easier for students to do exams in the library. Many old, smelly, and out of date books and magazines have been taken out of circulation and are available for students, teachers and staff to take and love. They are near the circulation desk. Take as many as you like and put them to good use. Any that are not taken will be recycled at the end of this term.

The library has about 15 Dell laptops for use by teachers with classes in the library. Individual students can also use the laptops but cannot take them out of the library. To ensure that the devices are returned by students the library staff will need an identification card that will be given back when the laptop is given back. I would really like to do more displays this year showcasing such important themes as ANZAC day, Reconciliation Day, Science and book weeks. Last Friday was global recycling day and the display is still up in the library. Come and have a look.



The garden out the back is looking pretty miserable. Due to all the rain, the grass and the weeds have taken over. When I get a chance and it dries up a bit more, I'll try to weed it and get it under control. If you would like to make your green thumb a little greener come and help next term.

Mr LOWE



Parent/Carer Meeting
Term 2
Tuesday 24th May 2022
10am to 11:30am

International Women's Day

This year for International Women's Day, the campaign theme was #BreakTheBias. Students across the College and IEC were able to watch a video made by the SRC to find out more about International Women's Day and why we celebrate it. As part of their Mentor lessons, students were encouraged to break the bias of women and females in their lives, acknowledging the current divide in genders and different ways they could address these stereotypes. They could also participate in mindfulness activities that acknowledged strong women of the world.



At lunchtime, despite the pouring rain, a group of students and staff made sure they acknowledged the day with a photo in the Library. Overall it was a successful day and my privilege as Girls Supervisor to help organise it.

Ms Emma Harwood #breakthebias

On Wednesday 9th March IWAA Sydney hosted an International Women's Day celebration at Rydges Bankstown. Ms Harwood and I had the pleasure of being welcomed along with officers from Campsie and Bankstown Police Area Command, community Leaders, IWAA's Network Partners and their clients across their Aged Care, NDIS and Settlement program. We were honoured to have Crime Coordinator Senior Sergeant Keith from Campsie PAC as a guest speaker, share her inspirational journey as a woman, a mother and leader.



The day was enjoyed by all attendees with live entertainment from Kupur Dance Groupe, the Blue River Choir and Nemer & Patrick.nup.

We would thank IWAA for their seamless support they provide to our college community.

Ms Rahimi

Refugee Student Support Report-RSS "WELCOME TO AUSTRALIA" AGAIN

During Term 1 2022 for 3 weeks, the three EFS 2 classes participated in the "Welcome to Australia" program run by MYAN (Multicultural Youth Affairs Network) NSW. On the second year of running, the program is welcome by staff and EFS students. Twice a week students engaged in workshops run by Youth Ambassadors of MYAN NSW and coordinated by Abdallah Altibi, an ex-student of the IEC Bankstown who is now the Multicultural Youth Worker in this not-for-profit organisation. Another ex-student ran some workshops, this time from the college, Ranya AL-ABBOOD. Ranya was a Year 12 student in 2020 and she is now studying at university.

The "Welcome to Australia" workshops ran twice weekly for three weeks. These workshops helped the EFS 2 students to increase their language skills, to become more aware of their culture and other cultures in Australia, to gain new knowledge and understanding of Australian culture/slang, to increase knowledge of Aboriginal history and to increase awareness of youth specific services and employment opportunities for young people. The program will conclude on 31 March but the EFS2 students wish it would be much longer because they have acquired very useful information about settling in Australia. The teachers have also commented how truly worthwhile this program is, especially because it is run by young people for young people.



We would like to thank Abdallah Altibi for organising and co-ordinating the "Welcome to Australia" program. It is always great to see him.

H Brunet and M Pascalis
Refugee Student Support Officers

Year 10 Cronulla Beach Excursion

Year 10 went on an excursion to Kurnell and Cronulla Beach on Tuesday 15th March. We were very lucky we had beautiful weather and no rain. Our first stop was Silver Beach at Kurnell. Here we saw the Groyne that were built to protect the beach from erosion. Then we went to Greenhills Beach and walked along the beach from South to North Cronulla.



We saw the Seabee Wall that was built to stop the sand from being eroded. It had been stormy and we could see the remains of the old sea wall which was built 50 years ago.

After walking along the beach learning about coastal management strategies and enjoying the sun, we had an interesting lunch break!

We went to the local shops and restaurants in Cronulla. We had so much fun taking photos and enjoying learning at the same time with our friends in Year 10 on the Cronulla Excursion.

By : Abdallah T S Abuzamaq & Hala Aljaseem

Acting For Wellbeing

Thanks to the links established with MYAN NSW, in 2021 Bankstown Senior College was approached by Ms Ruth Horsfall, a researcher for University of NSW to have some of our female refugee students involved in a PhD project. It took us almost a year to make this project a reality, due to the lockdown and COVID restrictions at the college.



Eleven female refugee students from the EFS 2 classes agreed to join this study which explores the

experiences of young refugee-background women taking part in an 8-week program of beginner acting classes, to see how these acting classes might impact their wellbeing.

On Tuesday 5 April 2022, we welcomed Ms Ruth Horsfall, researcher and PhD Candidate at UNSW and Ms Zoe Tomaras, Theatre Maker, Director and Interdisciplinary Artist. They met our female refugee students for the first time.

More news about this incredible opportunity in the next newsletter!

H. Brunet, E. Harwood, M. Pascalis and Q. Rahimi

SRC Report

As we all know, on 14th of February Valentine's Day is celebrated. At BSC, SRC coordinators and SRC members along with some volunteer students helped in organising the day of love. The students were offered candies, lollies, chocolates, teddy bears, roses, secret love letter, photographs with Valentine's Day frame, tickets for winning a jar of chocolates and many more. The college prides itself for collecting \$300. The money will be donated to the NSW Flood Appeal. Further to this, the students and staff had a great time enjoying and celebrating the day of love with some students and staff wearing red, representing love, admiration and friendship. The students and staff were reminded to share and spread this love outside the college, to their peers, families, relatives and all their loved ones. We sincerely thank SRC coordinator, Ms Dodson and Ms Rahimi and all SRC members and students volunteering in arranging the occasion and making it special and memorable.

By: Orlina Yalda & Urooj Fatima Year 12

FILIPPA BUTTITA WHITE 1969-2022

A great loss has been felt the art world as we farewell our ex BSC teacher who sadly passed away recently.

She will be remembered for her enthusiasm in teaching and for her passion for visual art.



Filippa was an inspiration to many art students, she excelled within her own practice and won numerous art awards. She was highly recognized as an Archibald Prize finalist in 2015 for her painting titled Judy Cassab portrait of an artist.

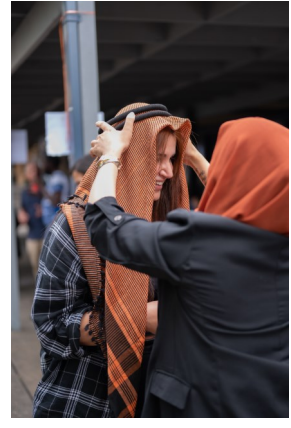
REST IN PEACE.



A Harmony Day to Remember

Colour of culture: Bankstown senior College/Bankstown IEC students and staff were invited to dress in either their national costume of heritage, or the colour orange, to recognise Harmony Week.







2022 CALENDAR

For your diary / notice board

Term Dates 2022:

| | |
|---------|---|
| Term 1: | Friday 28 th January - Thursday 7 th April |
| Term 2: | Tuesday 26 th April - Thursday 30 th June |
| Term 3: | Tuesday 18 th July - Thursday 22 nd September |
| Term 4: | Monday 10 th October - Tuesday 20 th December |

Term 2:

| | |
|------------------------|---|
| 25 th April | ANZAC Day Public Holiday |
| 26 th April | SDD |
| 27 th April | Students Return |
| 4 th May | Year 12 French Excursion - Year 11 Vet Work Ready Day |
| 19 th May | Year 10 Careers Market Penrith |
| 24 th May | Parent Meeting |
| 9 th June | UOW Discovery Day |
| 13 th June | Queens Birthday Public Holiday |
| 16 th June | Wellness Expo |
| 21 st June | Refugee Week Cultural Expo |
| 28 th June | Parent/Teacher Afternoon |
| 30 th June | Last Day |