



# Bankstown Senior College

## Newsletter

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### From the Principal

Have your say on the Department of Education's plan for public education. The Department of Education is developing a plan for NSW public education and they want to hear from parents, carers, students and the broader school community. The draft plan sets aspirations for every learner and has been informed by teachers, school leaders, education partners and others in our education community, and their experiences working with students across the state. All staff, education partners and school communities are invited to have your say on the new plan for public education in NSW.

Your voice will help shape our future. What we do now will influence and change outcomes for an entire generation of students – right from early childhood, through to schools and pathways into their first job, vocational education or university. We invite you to have your say by completing an online engagement platform which will be published soon on our website and through our SchoolStream App. The link to the online engagement platform will also be available on the department's external internet page for the public to access. The online engagement platform will open Term 3 from weeks 1-6. Your contribution and feedback will help shape public education's future.

Have a safe and restful break.

**Relieving Principal: Jenni Gardiner**

<https://education.nsw.gov.au/about-us/campaigns-and-initiatives/draft-plan-for-nsw-public-education/have-your-say.html>

### From the Deputy Principal

Term 2 has indeed been a very eventful one for the students and staff of Bankstown Senior College and there have been some great achievements. As always, our focus has been on improving the literacy and numeracy skills of all our students, and I would like to again acknowledge the hard work of all staff to ensure students at Bankstown Senior College are always provided with innovative and personalised learning. Students have continued to work hard to achieve the outcomes of their courses with the ongoing assistance of other valuable support structures.

Our Parent/Teacher/Caregiver afternoon in the last week of Term 2 was a great opportunity for students' progress to be discussed with their teachers. Thank you to those parents and caregivers who took the time to book appointments with teachers and we hope you found it to be a valuable experience.

So many additional educational events and activities have taken place over the last ten weeks to enhance the teaching and learning for which Bankstown Senior College is renowned. At the beginning of Term 2, we welcomed a large number of students from the IEC into our EFS and Year 10 classes. Some of these students will have the opportunity to continue their educational journey next term through more EFS learning or in the Preparation course which begins in Term 3. We also welcomed a number of students that have

graduated from the IEC at the end of Term 2 and are studying in EFS or Preparation as well in Terms 3 and 4. We wish every student the very best in their studies.

Students in Years 10, 11 and 12 are continuing to achieve the HSC Minimum Standard in Literacy and Numeracy throughout the semester. So far the majority of our students have successfully achieved Level 3 or above in Reading and Numeracy, while Writing still remains a challenge for the majority of students in Years 10 and 11. Ongoing additional support from the Literacy and Numeracy teachers through the explicit teaching of literacy has enabled some improvement in writing skills so far this year for our students, which will mean that with continued effort, most students will eventually achieve Level 3 in Writing.

In addition, the College hosted a Cultural Expo through the hard work of our Refugee Support Team – Ms Brunet, Ms Pascalis, Ms Rahimi and members of the school community who contributed valuable cultural items for all of us to enjoy. Bankstown Senior College is always looking for opportunities to celebrate our different cultural backgrounds and embrace multicultural experiences.

I was very fortunate to have attended the Public Schools Awards presentation, where a number of our students received scholarships for a variety of reasons. A huge congratulations goes out to those students and an even greater thank you to the tireless work done by the staff at the school who ensure that our students receive the best that public education has to offer.

I would like to also acknowledge the work done by the IEC to College Transition Team which meets regularly to discuss and support students who are exiting the IEC and continuing their journey at the College. This year the IEC has exited over 100 students into the College throughout the year.

Finally, congratulations to the many students who received Gold and Silver Awards throughout this semester. At our last school assembly, 25 Gold awards were issued and so for this year, over 150 students have received a Silver award. Congratulations once again for all the hard work and commitment.

We are halfway through 2023. So much has already happened this year but so many exciting things are yet to happen. I wish everyone a safe and restful holiday and hope Year 12 students make the most of this coming break before their Trials begin next term.

**Deputy Principal: Maria Georgiou**

## Careers News

This term has been a busy one with the school offering as many extracurricular activities as possible to widen student future prospects when making decisions and choices about post school options.

Urooj Fatima (Year 12 2022 HSC) is congratulated on being awarded the prestigious Walker Family Scholarship for Academic Achievement from Western Sydney University which gives her \$7,500 per year for the duration of her 3 year degree in Bachelor of Policing (Leadership Program).

## Year 12 University of Sydney Future Focus Visit

Twelve students attended an on-campus event for year 12 metro students who attend University of Sydney partner schools and organisations. Students participated in a self-chosen practical faculty experience, one faculty information session of their choice, a staff/student ambassador led session on important University of Sydney information and a tour of the campus. The event objectives:

- Increase attendees' understanding of study options available at the University of Sydney
- Increase attendees' knowledge and confidence in accessing essential information about the University of Sydney
- Increase attendees' knowledge and confidence in applying for University of Sydney entry schemes and scholarships and applying for USYD entry pathways and scholarships.
- Encourage attendees to consider the University of Sydney as a realistic post school option for them.

## Year 12 Careers Market Penrith

Year 12 students attended a magnificently supported event by a huge range of providers informing them of their future pathway choices post year 12. This specifically catered not only for those students wanting the university option but information on apprenticeships and traineeships. This was an opportunity to link with employers, agencies and providers that support student education at TAFE and other colleges that lead to meaningful employment opportunities.

## Settlement Services International Youth Employment Planning Passport

This was a pilot program generously offered to Bankstown Senior College to cater for those students who have only recently arrived to Australia and our education system. It was an opportunity for 4 students to receive mentor support from Rahaf Alrifai enabling a thorough understanding of their transition options and thereby supporting their continued engagement and connection with education. Katrin Akhtiar and

Takla Alassaf from Year 11 benefited greatly and developed confidence in their career planning strategies. Mirna Kandlan and Maryam Badr also derived great support and benefit from the program in order to make more informed decisions about their future study opportunities. The four students along with EFS Orange all attended a Youth Career Expo delivered at Liverpool Community Centre hosted by SSI and the YEPP program.



## Big Day In

Year 12 Information Processes Technology students attended an Information Technology Expo at UTS in March this year. This enhances understanding of future trends in employment prospects, courses to study at university and delivers insights to students on major global IT companies like Microsoft, Adobe and WiseTech Global, amongst others.

## Western Sydney Careers Expo 2023

On Thursday 22 June 2023 Year 12 students attended the Western Sydney Career Expo at Sydney Olympic Park. The exhibitors included universities, TAFENSW and training colleges. There were also exhibitors with HSC, career development, apprenticeship and gap year information. Students had the opportunity to attend the seminar program on topics like the ATAR, exam preparation for the HSC and tertiary course advice.



## Aviation and Airport Operations TAFENSW Padstow

Over the course of Term 2 nine students for one day per week over eight weeks attended a TAFENSW Youth Engagement Strategy program in Aviation and Airport Operations, a special blend of industry training and hands on activities delivered by expert teachers. Students were provided with the opportunity to gain industry experience and employability skills.

The program provided an insight into the world of aviation and the future employment opportunities

with the Western Sydney International (Nancy-Bird Walton) Airport. Students learnt some basic skills in Airport Ground Operations, Airport Security, Air Services, Drones and more.

On completion, students all received a Certificate of Participation outlining the skills gained which is an excellent addition to help build their professional portfolio.



## Refugee Student Support (RSS) Report

### BSC IS PROUD OF ITS SUCCESSFUL SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Throughout the year, selected students apply for a variety of scholarships to financially support their learning and long-term study pathways in both secondary and tertiary levels. This is a highly involved and lengthy process which requires time, effort and direction from various key staff ranging from the Careers Advisor to the Refugee Student Support team to Classroom teachers, Year Advisers and Senior Executive. This is a really effective exercise for each individual as they self-reflect and learn things about themselves that they may not have been aware of in the past. They need to think carefully about their strengths, their academic achievements, their community involvement, their skills, their connections with their teachers who would best serve them as referees and then need to put all this to paper in their request for



references. Furthermore, they must carefully and cleverly address certain criteria in the questions of the scholarship applications, including looking at their attendance and their future education goals. Students at Bankstown Senior College receive great support for a number of scholarships, including NSW Youth Housing, Youth Off the Streets, Friends of Zainab, and SSI/Allianz Initiatives.

We are most proud of our successful recipients of the Public Education Foundation, Friends of Zainab and SSI/Allianz initiatives which have recently staged their ceremonies for these great achievements. SSI/Allianz invited its successful applicants to a ceremony in the city. Hala ALJASEM was a successful applicant who received \$1500 to support her secondary studies.

Further to this, on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> May at the Sydney Town Hall, the Public Education Foundation celebrated achievements of excellence in the wide array of scholarships that it offers its students in the public school system. Ms. Brunet, Mrs. Georgiou and Mr Russell attended this prestigious ceremony to applaud the outstanding achievements of our Year 12 students.

Fadi KATO, Athraa ALKACHO, Orshina KHOSHABA,



Monera AELESHA, Orshina YALDA, Kawthar ALMAJEED, Marzia GHOLAMI, Zainab HASSANI, Amnar SAKA, Mojedh DABESTANIGHAMSARI (Friends of Zainab Secondary Scholarship) Orlina YALDA (Union NSW Jeff Shawn Scholarship) and Rahmatullah HUSSAINI (VET in School Scholarship), were proudly presented with their awards on stage. Successful Tertiary scholarship recipients included Marco Antonio BARRERO (Public Education Foundation Tertiary), Mariam AHMED (NSW Nurses and Midwives Association Scholarship), Fatima MARDANI (Walter and Eliza Hall Trust Opportunity Scholarship), Urooj FATIMA, Sumaiya KAZIMI, Sandy AL-JAMEEL, Birola HANA, Murtaza MURTAZA (Friends of Zainab Tertiary Scholarship), Kands GORYA (NSW Teachers Federation TAFE Scholarship),

Bankstown Senior College and IEC wholeheartedly congratulate these worthy achievers and look forward to hearing their success stories as they travel along their study and career pathways to arrive at their fulfilling, professional roles in the future.

Ms. Brunet & Ms Pascalis

## WESTERN SYDNEY REFUGEE YOUTH AWARDS RECIPIENTS

On Friday, 23 June 2023, two of our refugee students were acknowledged at the Western Sydney Refugee Youth Awards, run by Accessible Diversity Services Initiative Limited (ADSI), Auburn.



The ceremony took place in Lidcombe at the Renaissance, (Piano Room), where students from many schools gathered in a formal setting to acknowledge and congratulate students from a refugee background who excel in specific categories.

For Bankstown Senior College, Orlina YALDA (Year 12) and Farzana FAYAZI (Year 11) were the proud recipients of First Place in the Leadership Award (Orlina) and First Place in Arts and Performance Award (Farzana).

Congratulations to Orlina and Farzana and thank you for representing Bankstown Senior College!

Hedy Brunet

## BSC REFUGEE WEEK CELEBRATIONS – CULTURAL EXPO

In Term 2 Bankstown Senior College welcomed the second Cultural Expo with the first having taken place 6 years ago, in 2017. Our College is so blessed to attract students from interesting places around the world, representing 33 countries with more than 90% of students speaking a language other than English and with 84% of students of refugee background.

We wanted to showcase this culturally colourful community in a Cultural Expo which represented 18 countries through stall exhibits in the College Hall on Thursday 8 June. Staff and students were invited to contribute their personal artefacts of various countries and cultures on display for all to view and appreciate. This was a mammoth task to co-ordinate, but it was successfully presented with the

the great efforts of Ms. Rahimi and Ms. Brunet with the support of Ms. Pascalis, together with the amazing backing of College staff, student stallholders and helpers from various College year groups including the supportive members of the SRC committee.

The great learning experience for all was that regardless of the different countries, cultures, and languages that students belong to, many noticed countless unexpected similarities between their various backgrounds. This made us all realise that we are more alike than different – a very valuable message resulting from this memorable event.

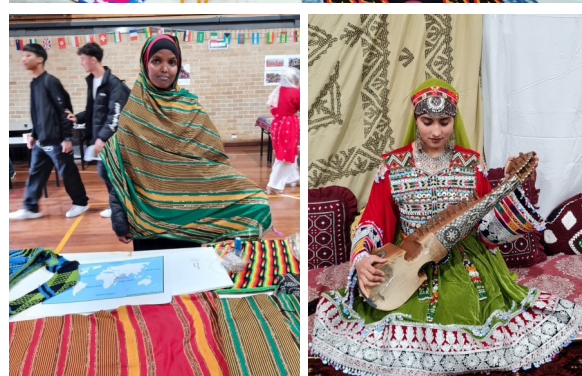
The Expo presented an excellent opportunity to combine students within their cultural groups to proudly present and share unique aspects of their culture. The educational aspect of this event was the passport booklet received at “Arrivals” which included valuable information about various agencies and services and in it every student had to receive a stamp from various stalls. In the booklet, students were also required to identify cultural items and finally at “Departures”, students received a complimentary gift bag with a very informative and colourful book on Aboriginal Culture and a fresh lamington, a typical Australian cake.

Ms. Rahimi, Ms. Brunet, and Ms. Pascalis were truly grateful for the receptive and overwhelming positive feedback from both staff and students. We thank Mr. Mazzitelli for supporting this event.

**Ms Brunet, Ms Pascalis and Ms Rahimi**







## REFUGEE WEEK – FINDING FREEDOM THROUGH DANCING

As part of Refugee Week, there were colourful and vibrant dance celebrations in the quad presented by various cultural groups. It was wonderful to see how welcomed these dances were but also how students were given the opportunity to join in and be taught intricate steps, showing one more time the amazing spirit, cultural awareness and acceptance that this college is known for in the wider community.

This year four Filipino students, Andrew, Dwayne, Ellaine and Nycolyn, performed the Tinikling, a traditional Filipino Dance. Tinikling is a particular dance that involves two long bamboo poles that are parallel and held by people kneeling, known as clappers. The clappers tap and slide the sticks on the ground as the dancers dance across them. It takes a lot of practice to be able to dance while jumping across the bamboo poles. It was very heart warming to see staff members and students trying this intricate dance under the guidance of Ellaine. We thank again Wayne Fabien, a member of the Filipino community who prepared and donated the bamboo poles. Well done to our Filo Gang for their fantastic performance!

Our Iraqi students also worked hard collaboratively to perform a well-polished traditional dance. Their intricate steps are always admired by all the students and staff and the music is captivating. We thank these students for allowing us to discover and enter in a world so rich in history. In particular, we thank Orlina Yalda, the BSC Vice-Captain, for her leadership in organising this superb dancing group.

**Ms Brunet, Ms Pascalis and Ms Rahimi**





## LOTE Report French Beginners

During Term 2, Year 11 French Beginners students commenced their participation in a pen pal exchange program with students from Northholm Grammar School. This initiative offers our students an authentic and immersive experience to consolidate their proficiency in reading and writing French.

Students enjoyed receiving their initial letters from their pen pals and embraced the task of reading and writing responses in French. Within their letters, students introduced themselves and also described their families, homes and interests. They also asked their pen pals questions about their lives. Their letters have been sent and Year 11 are eagerly awaiting their responses.

"I love the penpal program because it engages us in communicating with other students who are learning French like us." Andrew Manriquez, Year 11 student.

"What I really liked about the penpal program was that it allowed me to use more sophisticated words and expand my vocabulary" Mohamed Badawi, Year 11 student.

Ms Maguire



## SRC Report

### Zonta Birthing Kit Assembly Day at Bankstown Senior College

On 27th of June, 2023, Bankstown Senior College, in partnership with the Zonta Club Botany Bay, had a tremendous experience participating in the Birthing Kit Assembly Day. The SRC and EEC students volunteered enthusiastically to pack 600 birthing kits which have been sent to countries throughout Africa where mortality rates of mothers and their newborn babies are very high. These kits play a significant part in reducing the problem in many communities that are having to cope with the impact of both poverty

and ongoing warfare. The kits go to women living in and facing the most challenging of circumstances when they give birth. One kit can mean the difference between life and death.

The Zonta staff expressed their thanks to the volunteers involved. They said, 'It is a pleasure to work with such a wonderful group of mature students each year. They are so very inspiring and impressive.'

Many thanks to the staff and students of BSC who participated and have demonstrated their generosity in caring for young women and babies who struggle to survive in very challenging living conditions.

By Orlina Yalda Year 12



## Welfare Report

On the 20<sup>th</sup> June a select number of students were invited to participate in a workshop opportunity provided by ABCN called Empower. The aim of the workshop was to allow students to have mentors throughout the day to discuss the rapidly changing world of work and gain confidence in the skills required to attain a job.

We would like to thank ABCN for their continued support in providing students from disadvantaged backgrounds the opportunity to think beyond what they believe is possible.



## IEC Report Level 3 Canberra Trip

On the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15 of June, class 3A and 3B IEC students went on an overnight excursion to Canberra to support our learning of Australian government, law and commerce. On the first day, we visited Old Parliament House: Museum of Democracy. We needed to wear gloves because of all the historical things around the museum. Our guide, Cameron showed us around the old rooms and press gallery. We discussed the role of journalists and media in our democracy. Cameron showed us a well-known political cartoon and we analysed the visual and language features. Finally, we were able to see the political cartoons exhibition and had many important discussions about freedom of speech in Australia. We even drew our own and presented them to the group!

That night we had fun bowling with everyone, we enjoyed being part of a group and cooperating with each other and our teachers.

On the second day, we visited Parliament House. We had the opportunity to see both the House of Representatives and the Senate and discuss the role of both in our Australian democracy. Our presenters gave us a lot of information and we were able to ask questions and take many photos.

It was a great opportunity to visit our capital city and we made many great memories together!

Ms Mraovic



## Level 2 IEC English visit Dendy Cinema & The University of Sydney

We all know that learning comes to life when we can take it beyond the classroom. So, on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> June we embarked on a wonderful excursion to watch a powerful documentary on the Stolen Generation. In the previous week we had been learning about cinematic techniques and camera angles as well as visual literacy. We were able to apply our knowledge by watching the very moving but satisfying story of an Aboriginal woman named Brenda who feels she belongs to two families – her loving white foster family who adopted her and her Aboriginal family, who she was forcibly taken away from as a young child and then returned to years later. Decades later, Brenda feels disconnected, and her identity feels incomplete. As a grown married woman with adult children, she goes searching for her white foster family. Together with Brenda, we learn that the government lied to both families, claiming her father was an alcoholic and her mother neglected her, that is why the government removed her from her Aboriginal family. Even when the government recognised the wrongs of the past they still lied and denied Brenda compensation she is entitled to today. They claim she is not part of the Stolen Generation because she was born after 1969, when the policy was abolished. Despite this sadness and pain there was so much love between the two families and the uplifting message touched our heart. It is a powerful story and clearly resonated with our students and teachers because the applause at the end and the thank you summed it up.

After a lovely bite at the local cultural food stores, we moved on to experience what a university looks and feels like in Australia. The students were awed by the beauty and size of The University of Sydney, an iconic institution that some have dreams of attending in the future.

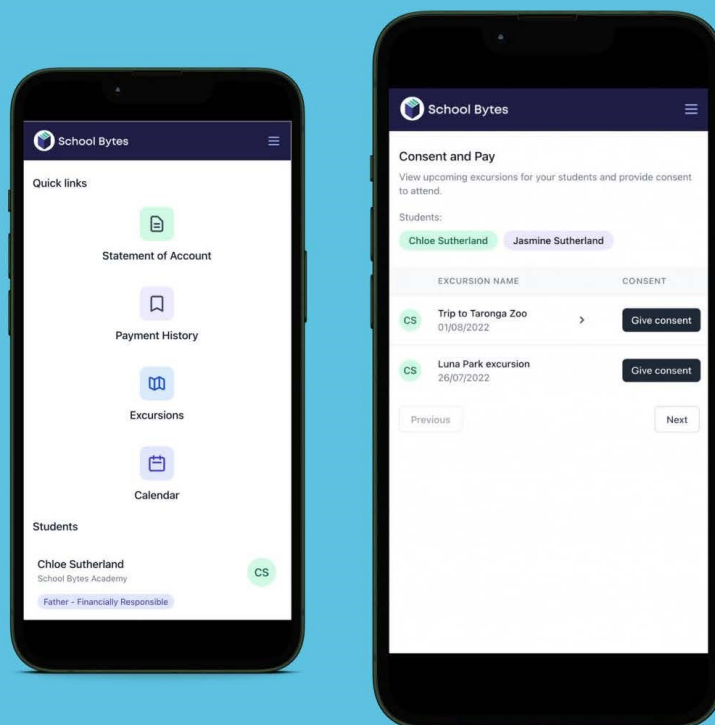
Mrs Anaxagorou





# COMING AUGUST 2023

We are excited to announce our school will be transitioning to a more flexible and simplified way students/parent/carers can make payments online



## The Parent Portal

- Easily make a payment online for fees, excursions etc
- Download your receipt
- Sign and return permission notes digitally
- Use any credits on your account to make payment
- View your complete payment history
- Request a refund

AVAILABLE DURING

# TERM 3



School Bytes

Register for the Parent Portal via the QR Code or visit

<https://portal.schoolbytes.education>





## 2023 CALENDAR

*For your diary / notice board*

### Term Dates 2023:

Term 1:	27 <sup>th</sup> January - 6 <sup>th</sup> April
Term 2:	24 <sup>th</sup> April - 30 <sup>th</sup> June
Term 3:	17 <sup>th</sup> July - 22 <sup>nd</sup> September
Term 4:	9 <sup>th</sup> October - 19 <sup>th</sup> December

### Term 3:

17 <sup>th</sup> July	SDD
18 <sup>th</sup> July	Students Return
25 <sup>th</sup> July	Year 12 chemistry Kickstart Chem/Year12 Connect Dedication
26 <sup>th</sup> July	Year 12 EALD Assessment
27 <sup>th</sup> July	Opportunity Class Placement Test
28 <sup>th</sup> July	RAW Program Career Expo/Yare 11-12 Study Sensei
31 <sup>st</sup> July	Year11 Work placement Sydney Metro
1 <sup>st</sup> August	Year 12 Legal Studies Connect Education
2 <sup>nd</sup> August	Year 11 Legal Studies Connect Education
7 <sup>th</sup> August	HSC Trial Exams Start
9 <sup>th</sup> August	Year10-11 Future Thinkers– Microsoft North Sydney
15 <sup>th</sup> August	Year11 Western Sydney Airport Site Visit
24 <sup>th</sup> August	Wellness Expo
29 <sup>th</sup> August	Year12 SLR Excursion Appin Cataract Park
6 <sup>th</sup> September	Year10 World War 1 Incursion
11 <sup>th</sup> September	Year11 Yearly Exams
20 <sup>th</sup> September	Year12 Graduation/Formal
21 <sup>st</sup> September	Last Day Term3