

Semester 1 Update

2024

2023 HSC success

High performance

In the last days of 2023, we learnt our Year 12 graduates had received a high number of Band 5 and 6 results in their HSC. This result was the strongest HSC outcome for our school and was the second highest growth within the top two bands of all of NSW Public High Schools. Our graduates are now studying: Medical and Health Sciences, Biomedical Physics, Engineering, Psychology, Law, Nursing, Teaching, Social and Economic development, Humanities Science; Apprenticeships, Traineeships and TAFE/CIT training: Electrical, Construction, Cabinet making, Aircraft technician, Makeup and Special effects, Steel manufacturing. Other graduates already have employment in Retail, Hospitality and Steel work.

These fantastic outcomes were the result of students and staff working together to make a real difference in learning and preparation for the HSC. Many of our teachers undertook professional learning focused on explicit teaching and assessment practices for the HSC.

Mrs Barratt and the ELEVATE program provided one on one support for academic writing and worked alongside teachers to provide comprehensive feedback to improve major work performance. Data from the ACE YOUR HSC program showed that students who participated in the program, had gains higher than those who did not engage in this opportunity. We encourage all students to learn from this outstanding outcome and apply themselves to their study and assessment skills and reflective practice.

Attendance Matters: SMS Messages are sent if a student has not been to Roll Call in the morning or signed in at the front office when late. Parents can monitor period by period attendance through the SENTRAL portal. Students who have patterns of partial truancy (missing a period) are meeting with deputy principals and the Home School Liaison Officer to develop Attendance Improvement Plans.



Join

Our P&C

Our Parents and Citizens Association welcomes parents to join our meetings each month during school term. This year we will be running barbecues at Bunnings and during elections. Money raised will subsidise a range of activities at school, including our Year 7 excursion. Our P&C Facebook page advertises all meetings. By following the page on Facebook, you can stay up to date.

Community Charter and Right to be safe at work:

Across Australia, there has been an increase in aggressive or antisocial behaviour. Schools are no different to any other workplace and our staff and students have the right to be treated with respect. Let's work together to create a safe and harmonious environment for all.

Strong Culture, Strong Future

Birrigai

Over the last few weeks Queanbeyan High has been engaged with Birrigai outdoor school in partnership with the Indigenous Natural Resource Management team, who have been delivering the Kickstart On Country Cultural Engagement Program. The Program offers students on country cultural experiences where students can participate in bush 'walk and talks' with rangers and indigenous facilitators, learning about identifying plants, bushfoods, medicines, landscapes, cultural resources, and wildlife.

As part of the program, participants have had the opportunity to: create art; make tools (such as cordage from natural fibers); Learn how to make and use hunting and returning boomerangs; and Learning and practicing cultural protocol related to these cultural skills.

Additionally, as part of the program, students participated in planting at Jeggaline farm, located along the Murrumbidgee River, planting over 180 trees and shrubs. This activity provided students with the opportunity to build their teamwork and communication skills, learn proper manual handling techniques (including the safe use tools) and introducing work skills for the conservation industry. This work is part of an ongoing project restoring connective wildlife corridors. These landscape connections play a crucial role in facilitating the movement, expansion, and crossbreeding of various plants, animals, and fungi.



Fitness through participation

Students again participated with gusto in our cross country, swimming and athletics carnivals, with a strong contingent going on to represent at zone. Students also took part in Soccer, Touch Football, Cricket, Basketball and Netball Interschool sports competitions in the region.

Participation in sports improve individual fitness, development of social skills, and the camaraderie of being in a team working towards a common goal. It is a fun time when students and staff dress up and support the teams: Dilkarra (Rainbow), Arana (Moon), Mirrabee (Thunder) and Baringa (Light).

School Ready, Work Ready, Future Ready

Career planning

Careers teacher Yvette Cochrane and Katie Wightman – Inclusion Job Coach, work to deliver a range of programs that develop work readiness. This allows our students to leave with the maximum amount of choice around pathways to university, TAFE/CIT, apprenticeships and traineeships and employment. Across these years, it is important that families teach and role model work related values which school can reinforce and support with a wide range of opportunities to expected work behaviors, in learning, and social environments.

Our Job Coach program has successfully assisted our students in support gaining future employment opportunities. Students have voiced and then participate in work placements of their choice, gaining valuable insights into their desired fields and achieving personal and professional fulfillment.

During National Careers Week, students had access to a range of exceptional industry opportunities which for some started career focused conversations, for others, they were able to refine their pathway plan.

Goulburn interactive Careers Expo, Wool Harvesting Taster Day and the Make-up Industry Day. It was a very busy week to explore a wide range of careers.

Students learnt the skills of making coffee and coffee art at the Barista Basics course.

Senior Aboriginal students spent a week at the University of Canberra undertaking a range of workshops to build their confidence and skills to support their post school aspirations as part of the NRL School to Work Program.

Our Careers and VET (Vocational Education and Training) staff have offered a range of course supporting students' achievement of a range of Micro-credentials courses and micro-credentials not only enrich their skill set but also enhance their readiness for future career goals, all while they continue their regular studies.



Wellbeing

Our wellbeing team has grown this year with new Student Support Officer Yvette Latu, and WHIN Nurse Carol Lancaster joining our school counsellors. This team are available to assist students and parents with concerns of wellbeing. They can assist in school and support referrals to a range of outside agencies and services. All of these can be contacted through the front office.

Year Advisors are the first person to call about wellbeing matters and can refer your child to these services.

Holidays Ideas and help:

Holidays can be fun, but for some can be boring. The Queanbeyan Public Library is a great facility people often overlook. All you need to get a library pass is a letter with your address in Queanbeyan and ID. Here you will find a range of books, e books and audiobooks.

Whilst the holiday period can be a time for relaxation and fun, this can also be a challenging time for some children and young people being away from usual routines and adjusting to changes. The below resources can be shared with your community as needed.

For students (and/or their parents)

- Kids Helpline: [Positive self talk](#)
- Kids Helpline: [Think calm thoughts](#)
- Kids Helpline: [Resilience strategies for emotional strength](#)
- Headspace: [How to stay healthy over the holidays](#)
- Headspace: [Tips for a healthy headspace](#)
- Headspace: [How to help a friend going through a tough time](#)
- Reach Out: [Ways to chill for cheap](#)

For all parents

- Headspace [Keeping healthy over the holidays - for friends and family](#)
- Kids Helpline: [My child struggles with mental health](#)
- Telephone support: [Parentline](#) NSW 1300 1300 52
- Raising Children Network: [Signs of mental health concerns in pre-teens and teenagers](#)
- Raising Children Network: [Helping pre-teens and teens manage emotional ups and downs](#)

Grief resources for students and parents

- Telephone support: [Grief line](#) 1300 845 745
- Understanding Grief and Loss: Click [here](#)

Assessment information: Deadlines for assessments are important. We encourage students to work to submit on time. If your child is having difficulty understanding a task, they can receive assistance scaffolding the task through our ACTIVATE program in the library. You can book this in by talking to the classroom teacher. If your child misses a deadline and receives a non-completion letter, it is a good idea to get in touch so you can support your child to complete and submit the task so that they do not miss out on their Record of school Achievement for year 10, 11 or 12.

Learning and support: Our school has a team of Learning and Support teachers who undertake assessments and identify students requiring additional learning supports to meet specific needs. This team meet with parents to develop personalised learning and support plans and special provisions for examinations. A large team of School Learning and Support Officers deliver small group programs targeting literacy and numeracy.

Extracurricular corner: Students and staff have been busily engaged in a range of activities that extend their interests. Band, Craft groups, Book club, Karaoke, and Dance Ensemble. These programs run due to the additional efforts of staff who plan and supervise, and we thank them for this.

Racism: No way!

ARCO: Public Education rejects racism. Our school rejects racism. Our Anti Racism Contact Officer Leo Pepingco is available to support students concerned with racism related behaviour.

Canteen Changes

Our current Canteen operator will finish up at the end of this term. Scott has looked after our empty stomachs since 2019 as we commenced our rebuild and operated out of a food van. We thank Scott for his delicious food and milkshakes and wish him the best for his new business adventures.

In Term 3 we will be employing a casual chef to run the canteen.

Once approved by the Department of Education, we will be advertising for a full time Canteen Supervisor – temporary for Term 4 through to the end of Term 1 2025, as we investigate the viability of operating this within our school staffing. If you know of someone who is great at cooking healthy and delicious food and works well with young people, we would love to hear from them. We are happy to arrange a tour of the canteen and discuss the role statement with keen applicants.

Applicants will need to undertake training in the appropriate Food Safety and Handling qualifications and have an NSW Working with Children Check. Our school will undertake Police screening for the successful applicants. An Induction program will be provided to cover the NSW Department of Education Policies and Procedures and familiarise them with the canteen.

Parents Corner

Keep up to date by following our Facebook page. The SENTRAL portal allows parents to track partial attendance and we have begun to move academic records here.

Phone the school if you require assistance, but please be aware that we may not be able to have the best person speak with you when you ring as they may be teaching or in a meeting.

Our School Improvement Plan

Next term we will commence updating our School Improvement plan. Parents will receive emails requesting feedback. We will also run several focus groups to identify areas parents would like addressed. This year we continue to focus on strategies to build student performance through high leverage strategies and explicit teaching for literacy and numeracy. Strong pathways focused on transition to Year 7, subject selections and post school pathways. Our staff will collaborate with teachers from other school on professional learning that focuses on shared improvement.