



Term 1 2018

Upcoming events:

13 April	Term 1 ends
30 April	Term 2 begins
23 July	Term 3 begins
15 October	Term 4 begins
30 May	P&C meeting
27 June	P&C meeting

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Address: Rodd Street, Birrong NSW 2143

T 02 9644 5200

Facebook: www.facebook.com/birrong.boys/?fref=ts

email: birrongboy-h.school@det.nsw.gov.au

www.birrongboy-h.schools.nsw.edu.au

Twitter: @birrong_boys

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

This has been a great start to the school year. There has been many highlights so far this term. Our Year 7 students have transitioned well to high school under the guidance of their Year Advisor, Ms Davies. The Year 7 students participate in a fortnightly peer support lesson with the Year 11 peer leaders. This program has been invaluable in ensuring a smooth transition to high school for the students.

Currently the Year 12 Half Yearly Examinations are taking place. To assist our Year 12 students in achieving the best possible HSC result, each student has been appointed a mentor from the school staff. The role of the mentor is to meet with their nominated Year 12 students weekly and to assist with study skills, goal setting, stress management skills and to assist with completion of assessment tasks as required.

During the term the PBL team developed a number of lessons for Year 7 - Year 10 students to deal with conflict resolution skills and to practise good bystander behaviour. The lessons were delivered by teachers across all faculties. These lessons further empowered the students with skills and strategies in dealing with the effects of bullying. The school then celebrated the National Anti-Bullying day on Friday 16th March with a school assembly and a Year 7 art poster competition.

During Week 8 we held our term success assemblies to reward attendance and positive behaviour. A large number of boys received attendance certificates for 95% and above attendance and a large number received Year Advisors awards for positive behaviour. 20 boys received Principals awards for exemplary behaviour.

During Term 1 of each year, we welcome our Year 7 parents, open our school to the families of younger boys who may be looking to begin High School here in a few years and we provide an interim report to Year 12 and Year 7 parents and welcome them to our school to discuss their son's progress with his teachers. On Wednesday 14 March, we held our annual Open Night whereby these three events were combined in our school library. Due to the hard work of many staff and the efforts and skill of our Teacher/Librarian Ms Good, we were able to showcase our school to the many parents who turned up to make the night such a success. On this evening, our faculties put on display a variety of teaching and learning experiences so that the work of our boys could be

shared and that parents could see a snap shot of life at our school.

Each year in Term 1, we welcome students from the previous year in a celebration of the success in the HSC. This year we were joined by a large group of graduates from 2017 who shared their new University experiences with their teachers. It is very pleasing to see the tradition of over 75% of our ATAR candidates gaining University entry. A big thanks goes out to Ms Krnjaic for her ongoing efforts with our boys.

In conclusion I would like to thank all the staff at Birrong Boys for the continued dedication, commitment and hard work to ensure the students at Birrong Boys reach their true potential.

Have a safe and enjoyable holiday.

Ms C Scott

Relieving Principal

DEPUTY PRINCIPAL YEARS 7, 9 & 12

Term 1 is fast coming to a close and I would like to take this opportunity to reflect back on student achievement throughout term 1.

During week 9 of term, the school held its success assemblies which focused on rewarding students for their academic positives and attendance. It was great to see a number of students across stage 4 and 5 receiving attendance awards for a minimum 95% attendance rate. It was also great to see a number of students receiving either level 1, 2, 3 or 4 academic year advisor awards for a minimum of 15 positive entries on the schools Sentral system. These awards are given to students as a recognition of academic achievement across the curriculum. Many students have also achieved the status of Principals awards.

I would like to encourage all students to strive for academic excellence. This begins with punctuality and arriving to school on time. It is the schools expectation that all students are equipped with all necessary materials to enable them to achieve all

course outcomes to the best of their ability. The school has an attendance policy which all students are required to adhere to. Upholding the school motto "From each his best" is an integral part of academic success for all students.

All students as part of the schools Positive behaviour for learning have undertaken short lessons during the term which aim to reinforce the schools 3 key rules of Learn, Be safe and Show respect. A big thank you must go to Mr Mohamed and the PBL team for putting together these lessons together for the students.

Year 12 have embarked on their first formal examination period of 2018. It is imperative that they approach all exams with a positive attitude. They are required to stay in the examination room for the duration of the exam. It is important that all students have a quiet place for studying at home. They are also encouraged to use the school library and see their teachers for assistance during this very important period of their education. I wish year 12 every success during this time.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish everybody a safe and happy holiday and look forward to seeing all students back in term 2 with a refreshed body and mind ready to learn.

Mr G Roukanas

Relieving Deputy Principal Years 7, 9 & 12

DEPUTY PRINCIPAL YEARS 8, 10 & 11

Welcome back to our school

Welcome back to our parents/guardians, students and community members, and a special welcome to our new students and their parents/guardians enrolled in 2018. We are all committed to ensuring that our students are engaged in their learning and are prepared for school and after school life. Our primary role and focus of our school will always be to ensure that we support our students to reach their full potential; as not only academics or sportsmen or artists but also as valued community

members.

Welcome Year 7

The Year 7 have settled in well into our school and we have established common routines and procedures to assist them transition into the life of high school. We are more than happy to discuss any school aspects with you regarding your son, you can contact the school and they will direct you to the relevant person.

ROSA, Preliminary and HSC Assessment

All students studying for ROSA, Preliminary and HSC have been issued with our Assessment policies and schedules, please be familiar with these documents. It is crucial that all students abide by the NESA requirements before they can gain their credentials. These include attending school; participate to NESA's satisfaction and satisfactorily completing the course of study with requisite examinations (YR 12 HSC external exams) and assessments.

Special Religious Education Program

Parents/caregivers in public schools have the right to have their children receive instructions in their in their preferred religious persuasion. We currently offer the following religions: Catholic, Christian and Islamic. These special religious education classes are held weekly, every Wednesday from 9.00am till 9.30am. Parents have the option for nominating their son to attend these classes or opting out.

Working together - a reminder to the parents in assisting the school by ensuring that if your son:

- is **late to school** - please provide a note outlining the reason, date and time.
- **needs to leave school early** for an emergency (eg specialist doctor) - he must see the Deputy in the morning with a note from home, indicating reason, time of appointment and home contact number.
- **attends school with the incorrect school uniform** - he must also have a note from home with a reason. He presents this note to his roll call teacher to obtain a uniform pass. Please note that students are no longer permitted to wear yellow shirts. The yellow sport tops are only to be worn during PE or sport time.
- **arrives early to school** - they are to remain

within school grounds - preferably in the Quad and they are not to be hanging around the front of the school or train station.

- **is absent from school** - he needs to present his roll call teacher with a note from home indicating date/s absent, reason, parent/carers signature and date.
- **Attends school with the right equipment/stationary which includes books, pens etc.**

Attendance is **compulsory** until the age of 17 by state law. In New South Wales, all children from six years of age are legally required to attend school or be registered for home schooling. After they complete year 10 and until 17 years of age, students then have the following options. They must also be in:-

- Full-time further education and training e.g. TAFE
- Full-time, paid employment of an average of 25 hours per week or
- A combination of the above.

If you need to make medical appointments they need to be made outside school hours wherever possible. If you are planning a family holiday during school periods this is to be discussed with the Principal. An "**application for exemption form**" is a requirement when students are expecting to be **absent for more than 15 days** during school time. **This is to be arranged with the Principal.**

We need current information

Could you please update any changes to your son's home contact details, ensuring that the school has the correct address and home and mobile numbers. These details are crucial in an event that the school needs to contact home in emergencies. This can be done at the front office by a note from home or visiting the school in person.

Homework Centre

The school offers a free homework centre to our students on Mondays and Tuesdays from 3.10-4.10pm, this operates in our school library. Please encourage your son to attend, for further information please contact me.

Saturday School of Community languages

The **Saturday School of Community Languages** is a vibrant learning environment. The school provides quality teaching and cater for the individual learning needs of students. The school is welcoming, friendly and encourages community involvement.

Information about Community languages schools is now available at education.nsw.gov.au/public-schools/community-languages-schools or contact me for more information.

I have the pleasure of looking after Year 8, 10 and 11 , please feel free to contact me for any queries concerning your son.

Working together

We are all looking forward to a very productive and rewarding 2018 , as we the school staff, students and parents / caregivers continue to work together with a shared vision and common goals so that our boys can strive from our school motto "from each his best".

Mr Derbas

Deputy Principal Years 8, 10 & 11

COMMUNITY LIAISON OFFICER (CLO)

I extend a warm welcome to all parents and in particular to our new 2018 Year 7 students and parents. I look forward to working with all Yr 7 parents to ensure that your son's transition into the Birrong Boys High School community is as smooth and successful as possible.

As Community Liaison Officer, I will be available to provide information and support for families and students to develop their understanding of Australian education systems and curriculum policies, encouraging parent/caregiver partnerships and participation in school eg organising parent meetings and forums as well as parenting skills and understanding the importance of parental involvement into their child's learning.

7 TIPS FOR PREPARING FOR HIGH SCHOOL

Entering high school is an exciting time for students. They are moving into what is often a larger school environment. This can lead to anxiety or periods of unease. Here are some steps parents and caregivers can take to help students start high school on a positive note.



1. **Be interested and enthusiastic about their move to high school.**
Your encouragement will help your child to make a successful transition to High School. Listen to their experiences and expectations. Don't dwell on your own experiences of school.
2. **Attend Orientation Day/Parent Meetings.**
These days are designed to help parents and their children prepare for starting high school and Parent meetings are a great avenue for you to actively become involved in school activities and voice concerns or positive comments. Some children, because of pressure from their peers, will try to discourage their parents from attending orientation days.
3. **Learn about school routines and your child's timetable.** Talking to your child about routines and what subjects he has on each day will ensure your child will be organised and prepared for each lesson.
4. **Help your child to develop good study habits.**
Try to provide them with somewhere private and quiet to study. Help your child to set aside a particular time to study. Work out a daily timetable that incorporates all your child's

needs and interests.

5. **Practise organisational skills.** In the first few weeks of high school you might want to check with your child that they have the right books for the following day. You will quickly encourage a good habit.
6. **Discuss emergency and safety issues.** Talk about these issues - including crossing roads or taking essential medication.

Finally, **let your child know that you trust them and that they can trust you.**

PARENT MEETING

Parent meeting provides parents with the latest school information from our executives the principal & the deputies. Further updates also delivered by our Community Liaison officer and P & C committee. Outside guest speakers are at times invited to inform you of their services and activities. Parents also have the opportunity to ask questions and speak to executives, careers advisor etc. Your presence and feedback is important to the school and we encourage you to attend. We had our first meeting on Wednesday 7th March with approx. 50 parents attending. Guest speaker was from the University of NSW who run the ASPIRE program at our school and Ms Mira Krnjaic our Careers Advisor.

We also took this opportunity to assist parents gaining access to the Parent Portal which allows them to monitor their son's progress via their phone or computer. Thank you to all the parents who took time from their busy schedule to attend.

We look forward to seeing you at our next meetings, which are held on **Wednesdays at 9.30 am** in the school library. Dates for 2018 next Parents meetings are: **6 June, 29 August and 21 November 2018.**





P & C MEETINGS

This meeting is for parents who would like to take a more active role within the school such as assisting and organising fundraising activities, talk about issues of concern for the school and its students, assist in school BBQs, fetes, and other events. The P & C meets twice a term.

Our first P & C meeting was held on 28th February and I am proud to announce our new committee members:

President - Ms Mona Mahamed
 Vice President – Noha Beshir
 Secretary – Mariam El Kheir
 Treasure – Amne Hawa
 Grants Officer – Souhair Harris

Meetings are held on **Wednesdays at 9.30 am** in the school library. Dates for 2018 P & C meetings are **28 March, 30 May, 27 June, 22 August, 19 September, 14 November and 12 December 2018**. All are welcome to attend.

TOUR OF BANKSTOWN LIBRARY & KNOWLEDGE CENTRE FOR BIRRONG PARENTS

On Wednesday 14th March, I organised for Birrong Boys High Parents a tour of the local Bankstown Library & Knowledge Centre. Parents found it very informative and commented that they are now more confident in sending their boys and children in general to use the library facilities. Thank you to all the parents who attended.

PARENT/TEACHERS YR 7 & 12 INTERVIEWS

14th March BBHS held its OPEN DAY and Yr 7 & Yr 12 Parent Teacher Interviews. I had the pleasure of meeting prospective parents and assisting Yr 7 & 12 parents with translations and general support. Thank you to all parents who attended .

REPRESENTING OUR SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY

As CLO I represented our school on various committees and events. This term I attended Canterbury Bankstown Workers with youth Committee, Migrant Interagency Committee, Canterbury Bankstown Council Social planning event, Human Appeal International – HSC High Achievers Awards Night, Yagoona Community Centre Launch and CLO/CEO Professional Development and Network meeting.

CERT IV IN EDUCATION SUPPORT (TEACHERS AID)

BBHS in conjunction with BCA National Training Group are currently successfully running 2 fulltime Cert IV in Education Support (Teachers Aid). Course are usually held from 9.30am to 2.30pm.

If you are interested in trialling a **FREE TASTER COURSE** – 5 sessions – every fortnight for one term, feel free to contact me on 02 9644 5200 or email: souhair.afiouny3@det.nsw.edu.au.



Wishing all a successful year ahead.

Ms S Harris
Community Liaison Officer

THE TRANSITION REPORT

The CAT team meet fortnightly to develop career and transition opportunities for our boys. We have begun the process of selected developing transition plans with selected Years 10, 11 and 12 students. This will help us identify their individual needs and map out a suitable career pathway. We look forward to working with these remarkable young men during the 2018 Year.

We have organised many career and transition pathway programs for the boys for the 2018 year thanks to the support of the ASPIRE team at the University of NSW (UNSW). This will include incursions where the ASPIRE team will hold workshops at school to build connections for the boys and university. They will attend numerous excursions such as Uni For a Day, Taster Day, CSI Workshop, AFTRS, Connect Day, Sydney Observatory and the Degrees to Work Programs. The Year 11 & 12 students have already attended their first Degrees to Work Program in Week 3.

DEGREES TO WORK PROGRAM:

Students from Years 11 & 12 were invited to attend the Degrees to Work program held at Clifford Chance which is a global legal firm in Sydney. The boys who attended are to be congratulated on how well they represented themselves, BBHS and their families. The Careers and Transition Team are meeting each fortnight to offer our students different career building opportunities. We have started Individual Transition Plans with selected Year 10 and 12 students which helps us cater for their different career pathway needs.

For many of the boys it was their second opportunity to investigate the different career opportunities in the corporate environment. The day started with the boys being met by a panel of employees from the company where they explained their different roles in the business, what they love about working with the company and some of the challenges they face. The boys then had opportunity to question the panel and they really came up with some clever and engaging questions. The organisers and panel members were improves with the quality of Mounir Chami,

Mohamad Hasan and Cem Uyanik's questioning and engagement with the team. The boys were then taken on a tour of the business and their behaviour was outstanding. The final activity was the most engaging where they boys were placed in groups with one or more of the executives to discuss individual career pathways and the skills required for future success. These executives then helped the boys create short and long term goals for their future.

It was a rewarding excursion and I was very proud of all of the boys. The staff at Clifford Chance and ASPIRE continuously praised the boys on their uniform and their overall behaviour on the day.

Ms K Khelladi

Transition Coordinator





SPORTS REPORT

As term 1 comes to an end, it is now an opportunity to reflect on student sporting achievements throughout the term.

Birrong Boys held their annual Swimming Carnival at Birrong Pool in early February. Students who attended the day had the opportunity to compete in a host of competitive and non-competitive events. Mattie Eldridge of year 8 was outstanding on the day, qualifying for a number of events at the Bankstown zone swimming carnival. He finished 4th in a number of events, and narrowly missed selection for Sydney South West Regional carnival.



Throughout term 1, students have had the opportunity to trial for Bankstown Zone Representation across a range of sports. Wesley Aloifi and Kendrix Heywood were successful in gaining selection in the Open boy's rugby league side. Adam Lababidi, Khaled Hawa, Ayman Hawa and Zoran Kirisome were selected in the 15's rugby league. A big congratulations to Adam Lababidi who was selected in the SSW regional side to compete at the CHS carnival in the coming weeks.

The Sydney South West knockouts have also been in full swing with a number of teams competing. Unfortunately, many teams have been knocked out in the early rounds. I must commend the effort and commitment of these teams who represented the school with distinction:

- Open boys Volleyball
- Open Boys Basketball
- Open Boys Soccer (Rnd 2 to Picnic Point)

During term 1, 20 year 9 PASS students have been participating in "In League In Harmony" rugby league program which has been co-ordinated and run by the NRL. Students have been given the opportunity to develop leadership, communication and goal-setting skills. They have also developed their skills in rugby league. The program culminated in a gala day of touch football at Ringrose Park at Wentworthville. The messages of cultural diversity and acceptance were at the forefront on the day.



attend the morning celebrations. These boys achieved a strong ATAR and scheduled to begin their studies the following week.



NATIONAL DAY OF ACTION AGAINST BULLYING AND VIOLENCE

Birrong Boys High joined students from around the nation to acknowledge and promote this important national day of action against bullying and violence.

The boys raised money by holding a Jersey Day. Students in Year 8 created a poster, this gave the students the opportunity to think about their world and present visual ideas about how everyone can work together to create a world free from bullying. Omer Giweli and Reda Issa were selected as the winners.



As a result of the program 5 students were selected as NRL ambassadors and had the opportunity to attend an induction at NRL headquarters on March 23. The students involved were Adam Lababidi, Isaak Al-Awick, Khaled Hawa, Jacoub Elachkar, and Riad El Halabi. Well done boys on your new roles.

Mr G.Roukanas
Head Teacher PD/H/PE

HIGH ACHIEVERS MORNING TEA

A small group of the class of 2017 returned to school this month to celebrate their HSC Achievements. As many of the past students had already started University they were unable to

BIRRONG BOYS CHESS TOURNAMENT

The Birrong Boys prefects are proud to announce that they will be organising and managing the first ever chess tournament in the history of the school. Students and school staff are invited to register and partake in the majestic game known as chess.

Chess mentoring will be held in the weeks leading up to the commencement of the chess competition and will help beginners understand the core chess rules and basic class strategy.

A limited edition Birrong Boys chess champion hat alongside a prestigious trophy will be awarded to the grandmaster of the tournament. 20% of all proceedings will go towards Breast Cancer Research.

For further details please feel free to contact Ms Good, the school librarian.



MOBILE PHONE POLICY

A reminder to all students and parents regarding the use of electronic devices at Birrong Boys High School.

Students are discouraged from bringing mobile phones and other valuable items to school. No responsibility by the school can be taken for lost or broken items.

All electronic devices are to be put in bags at the beginning of each lesson.

This will maximise the learning experience for all students.

Student Profiles



Student	John Alofi
Year	12
Favourite Sport	Rugby League
Favourite Food	Sushi
Favourite Subject	Music
What I like about BBHS	Mixed culture
When I leave school I want to	League Star

Student	Brian Silva
Year	12
Favourite Sport	Basketball
Favourite Food	Ramen noodles
Favourite Subject	Music
What I like about BBHS	Being able to hang out with my friends
When I leave school I want to	Study and work in IT

Community News

HOMEWORK CENTRE

When: Mondays & Tuesdays
3.10pm to 4.10pm

Where: F1

Who: All students welcome

Research and reading
Help with assessments/assignments/internet access

A quiet place to finish school tasks

IT'S FREE

Afternoon tea provided

You cannot attend the Homework Centre without a signed permission note from your parent/carer.

NSW SENIOR SECONDARY STUDENT CONCESSION CARD

Birrong Boys High School students aged 16 years and older are eligible to apply for a NSW Senior Secondary Student Concession Card. ***This card entitles the holder to half fare concessions at all times on the following services:***

- Local bus services (school services and regular route services) across NSW.
- Sydney Trains services (note: a separate concession station access fee is payable for entry/exit of Domestic and International Airport stations).
- Sydney Ferries services and Newcastle Ferries services.
- NSW TrainLink rail and coach services.

Concession fares are not available on special and premium services, charter services, special event services or tourism services.

Eligible students can make application at the student window in the front office.



School Opal cards:

- Tap on and off for each journey.
- For between home and school use only.
- Not for school excursion use.

Payments

Payments for school fees, uniform, equipment and excursions can be made at the front office. Cash (correct money please), cheques and EFTpos may be used. **No cash out available.**



STUDENT WELLBEING

At Birrong Boys High School student wellbeing is of paramount concern to all staff.

If you have any concerns about your son's attendance, behaviour or academic performance, please contact the school on 9644 5200 and speak to your son's Year Adviser. The Year Advisers are as follows:-

Year 7—Ms Davies
Year 8 – Mr Matar
Year 9 – Mr Hill
Year 10 – Mr Karam
Year 11 – Mr Ewen
Year 12 – Mr Mohamed