Next Parent Meeting:
Friday, 7 November 2014 9:30am
in the School Library. All Welcome!

Principal’s Message
Higher School Certificate
Our Year 12 boys are currently completing their HSC exams, for some of our boys the success of these exams, combined with their assessments over the past 4 terms, will lead to further studies at University or TAFE, I’d like to congratulate these individuals, and their teachers, for the serious manner in which they have pursued their studies. For some of our boys there may not have been any exam to complete their studies and for others there may have been just a single exam. Nevertheless, this marks the end of secondary schooling for our entire Year 12 cohort and I wish all of you the best for the future. I think it is vastly important to recognise the impact that your teachers have had on you over this period of your lives, it is easy to blame a teacher if you don’t achieve the marks you desired but I believe that students at Birrong Boys have been provided every opportunity, by a group of highly motivated, dedicated and experienced teachers, to succeed.

In a recent survey of staff, students, parents and members of the wider community, the single greatest area in which our school received recognition and praise, was the willingness and capacity of our staff to meet the educational and welfare needs of our students.
Our New Year 12
The course work for the 2015 HSC commenced day 1 of term 4. Assessments will be handed out, collected and marked very shortly. Firstly, welcome to the final year of your high school education to this group, secondly, make the most of it, don’t wait, there isn’t time, this is it. The marks that you achieve this term count towards your HSC! Whilst there are many enjoyable aspects of the final year of your schooling, the most important part of it is your education.

The ‘New’ School Plan
For most people the school plan is just the guiding principle behind which the whole school is structured, for a small group it is months of hard work to devise a document that is meaningful to our school and everyone within it. The new school plan 2015-2017 is currently being developed. The new format allows us to have whole school commitment to and ownership of a document which will guide everything that happens within the school on a daily basis. At the core of this document are three strategic directions that will be the focus of our school business, whilst still in the formative stages the three strategic directions are currently as follows;

1. Students are engaged as resilient and responsible 21st century learners
2. Teachers are world class leaders in learning
3. A high performing school within a community that is inclusive, informed and engaged.

New Enrolments
Often at the start of a term there a number of students who wish to enrol at Birrong Boys’ High School. Term 4 has seen quite a number of boys enrol; most have come to us from nearby Private Schools. We welcome our new students and hope that we can work together with their family to ensure a successful and fulfilling education here with us at Birrong.

Campsie Rotary Club
The recent reunion of the BBHS Class of 1974 has led to our school forging a great link with the Campsie Rotary Club. For those who don’t know much about the Rotary Organisation, it was founded in Chicago in 1905 and is a global association that has clubs on six continents and works tirelessly to solve some of the world’s most serious issues.

Ex Birrong Boy student Wayne Morrison is currently the President of Campsie Rotary Club and has offered the support of his club in assisting with any issues facing our boys. Another ex-student, Barry Antees is currently the District Governor and has also offered the assistance of the wider Rotary Association. On 8 November, members of our Prefect body and our SRC will be volunteering their time at the Rotary BBQ at Bunnings, Greenacre between the hours of 10:00am-4:00pm. If you are in the area please drop in for a sausage sandwich and have a chat with our volunteers, it is for a very worthy cause.

Mr D Stevens
Principal
Deputy Principal - Administration

Year 11 Students Embark On Their HSC Journey
Yr 11 students have just started their HSC journey. From now on, all assessments they sit for will go towards a mark that will be submitted to the Board of Studies at the conclusion of the HSC year. I would like to encourage students to stay on top of their work and ensure that work is completed well and on time. Students may seek support from their teachers, Homework Centre staff and HSC tutors if they wish to get some help with the work. I am looking forward to great achievement from our school’s senior group.

Year 7 Students Develop Healthy Relationships
On Wednesday 15 October 2014, BBHS staff and Bankstown Council Youth Workers worked collaboratively to deliver a workshop to all year 7 students called "Healthy Relationships". The workshop focused on creating a fairer and a more harmonious society, where everyone can take part and where everyone has the opportunity to be all they can be. Students were encouraged to reflect on their own behaviour and how they can be responsible citizens.

During the one day workshop, students were able to refine their communication skills and understanding of the impact of irresponsible behaviour on others.

Learning and Multimedia Programs
On Friday 17 October 2014, all Year 9 students were involved in a workshop called "Out of Bounds". The purpose of the workshop was to increase students’ awareness of their roles and responsibilities when it comes to the use of multimedia.

The half day workshop was delivered by a group of service providers including Bankstown Council staff to improve student self-image, communication skills and understanding of the laws regarding the use and abuse of media and technology.

A big thank you goes to Bankstown Council Youth workers for running the workshops.

Bankstown Council Recognises Inspiration
I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Ibrahim Aslam of Year 11 for being a winner in the Bankstown Youth Awards in the category of inspiration. Ibrahim was recognised for his efforts in overcoming health challenges and persevering to achieve success. Ibrahim also received a $200 voucher as a gift from Bankstown Council. As Ibrahim was unable to attend due to surgery, Musa Kan volunteered to attend the ceremony and received the award on his behalf. The school would like to congratulate Ibrahim and thank Musa for his support of his friend.

BBHS Upcoming Events to Remember

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>Parent Meeting 9:30am</td>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>7 November</td>
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<tr>
<td>Multicultural Day</td>
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<td>25 November</td>
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<td>Year 7 Orientation</td>
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<td>Parent Meeting 9:30am</td>
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<td>Presentation Day</td>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>11 December</td>
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**Deputy Principal - Curriculum**

**HSC 2014**
Our 2014 Year 12 students will soon have finished their HSC. We wish them well as they complete their examinations and hope that when the results are published, everyone has been successful in reaching their goals. However, it should be kept in mind that there are many ways to a goal and so students who have not achieved according to their expectations need to investigate the many other avenues available. The school would be very happy to help with advice in this area.

**RoSA**
As we no longer have the School Certificate, students in Year 10 will aim for a Record of School Achievement (RoSA).

To qualify for the RoSA a student must have:
- attended a government school, an accredited non-government school or a recognised school outside NSW.
- completed courses of study that satisfy the BOSTES curriculum and assessment requirements for the RoSA.
- complied with all requirements imposed by the Minister or the BOSTES.
- completed Year 10.

More information on the RoSA can be obtained from the Board of Studies online site: [http://studentsonline.bos.nsw.edu.au](http://studentsonline.bos.nsw.edu.au).

Year 10 students will have their yearly examinations during their assessment week in Week 6.

**Uniform and Behaviour**
People’s perception of a school is often determined by first appearances and it is essential that the behaviour and dress of our boys, your sons, brings credit to our school. Full school uniform, mature, responsible behaviour on the station, trains, buses and at the shops etc. are what people are going to notice. The continued improvement of our school image will benefit all our students over the longer term.

Our welfare system involves a variety of measures designed to support students. Unfortunately at times when students are not able to improve behaviour or act in unacceptable ways it is necessary to suspend them to allow time for reflection. In order to return to school there needs to be an interview involving the student and the caregiver where a specific code of conduct is agreed to and a red monitoring book will be issued which needs to be presented to the Deputy Principal each day and signed by a parent each night.

Also, while most boys come to school each day well dressed in the school uniform, I need to mention that some persist in wearing coloured tops and shoes and tops with hoods. The uniform quite clearly requires a black school jumper, white collared shirt, black shoes and black trousers or shorts. (Yellow PE shirts are to be worn in Sport and PE classes only.) Hoods are essentially a means by which boys disguise their identities and are not allowed at school. **Wearing a hood is not allowed.**

Ms S White
Deputy Principal Curriculum (Relieving)
Mathletics
This year Years 7-10 students enjoy the privilege of learning Mathematics online. Most of them are actively engaged in the activities of Mathletics, which is a great way of learning Mathematics.

Mathletics is the world's most used Mathematics website, helping students enjoy mathematics, improve their engagement or skills and achieve outstanding results. Mathletics covers all aspects of Mathematics. It responds to your child's individual strengths and weaknesses through the provision of engaging tasks and step by step animated support. “Mathematics Live” captivates students by allowing them to challenge each other in real-time games of speed and skill. Weekly reports can be obtained and students are rewarded with Bronze, Silver and Gold certificates for their hard work and effort.

Encourage your child
- To log on to use Mathletics 3-5 times a week.
- To attempt activities that challenge, rather than those he finds easy.
- To find a balance between the full curriculum section and Live Mathletics.

Take an active role in your child's mathematical progress and celebrate your child's success.

Australian Mathematics Competition
The Australian Mathematics Competition was undertaken last term with 78 students participating. It was pleasing to see so many students engaged in this opportunity to discover their talent in Mathematics.

Of the 78 students who participated in the competition, 1 student received a Distinction, 3 students received a Credit and 24 received Proficiency. Certificates for these students will be presented at a formal assembly. All other students will receive a certificate of participation. Well done to all students for their efforts!

Ms S White
Head Teacher Mathematics

Literacy & Numeracy Program
Birrong Boys' High has initiated a new Literacy and Numeracy Program. It is specifically aimed at targeting the strengths and weaknesses of our Year 8 boys and improving their skills base in both Literacy and Numeracy. The program will run over the last term of 2014 and the first term of 2015. Every Year 8 boy will compulsorily attend two half-hour specialist sessions with each of the Literacy and Numeracy coordinators every fortnight. Ms Wennekes from the Maths faculty and Ms Good from the English faculty have an individually planned scope and sequence for each of the eight groups.

Ms D Good
Year 9 Year Adviser
**Library – What’s It All About?**

Hi, I’m Miss Healey and have been filling the role of Teacher Librarian at Birrong since Term 3 this year.

Often I am asked – but what is there to even do in a library? Although it is quite a different environment from my PDHPE background, there are many roles I fulfil as a librarian.

I take each Year 7 class for a library lesson once a fortnight. Here students are given the opportunity to expand on their research and literacy skills by learning about the Dewey Decimal System, identifying relevant and credible information, and reading up on a whole range of topics.

Recess and lunch often sees the library transform into a bustling area, where the boys like to come in and pursue recreational activities, research topics that interest them, and complete homework and assignments, all in a safe environment. The past term and a half has allowed a strong rapport to develop between these regular library visitors and myself, and I quite enjoy their company during these breaks.

Throughout periods, other classes may come in to make use of the library’s resources to facilitate learning across all Key Learning Areas, and senior boys who have study periods also pop in for the same reason.

The library is further expanding its horizons by providing a space for Ms Good to conduct her Year 8 literacy classes, and I am happy in seeing this once wasted space utilised to its full potential.

Other tasks I find myself doing include borrowing out and returning books, plus ensuring books are in their proper place – this definitely keeps me busy!

The library is a great resource for our school, and I have enjoyed stepping into the role of Teacher Librarian and seeing the boys flourish in many ways through its use.

Ms M Healey  
Temporary Teacher Librarian

**Roundabout Youth**

On 28 October 2014, ROUNDABOUT Sefton youth workers brought Alfonz, a 3rd year UWS medical student to Birrong Boys to help and discuss career pathways in medicine to the Year 11 students. Questions about UMAT requirements, medical school life, the life of a Uni student and opportunities available for both HSC and Uni students were all answered with enthusiasm.

This workshop helped us discover the different pathways that will get us into medicine and also taught us that if we are truly passionate and are keen to work hard, then we can achieve anything, it being medicine or not.

By: Taufiq Arahman and Shariq Qureshi

**Smart Travelling**


**Community Languages**

Do you speak a language at home other than English? Would you like your child to learn that language or improve their skills? Saturday School of Community Languages enrolments for 2015 are now open. Find out more: [http://www.sscl.schools.nsw.edu.au/how-to-enrol](http://www.sscl.schools.nsw.edu.au/how-to-enrol)
HOME WORK CENTRE

When: Mondays and Tuesdays
3:10 to 4:10pm
Where: School Library
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.

Looking for a Fun and Educational Family Activity in the Holidays?
The 1000 Norms Project is investigating how physical ability changes across the lifespan and needs 1000 healthy volunteers from 3 to 100 years of age! Travel reimbursement is available.

Participation involves 2-3 hours once only at The University of Sydney Lidcombe campus.

During the assessment you will perform basic physical tests and complete several questionnaires. Children receive a certificate and some results to show their class mates.

To be part of this project or to know more about it, please:
Call: Marnee or Jen (02) 9036 7435 or
Email: 1000.norms@sydney.edu.au
Facebook: 1000 Norms Project

UTS Summer School for Year 10 students
Any students interested in attending the UTS Summer School program 12 to 23 January 2015, please see Ms Sharma in the HSIE staffroom for further information.
**Student Profiles**

**Nepa ALAI**  
Year 7

*Favourite Sport*  
T-Ball

*Favourite Food*  
Fried Rice

*Favourite Subject*  
Sport

*What I like about BBHS*  
Teachers are kind

*When I leave school I want to be*  
Police Officer

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**Feeras TAGEDDINE**  
Year 11

*Favourite Sport*  
Rugby League

*Favourite Food*  
All Lebanese food

*Favourite Subject*  
Sport

*What I like about BBHS*  
The students & teachers

*When I leave school I want to be*  
Business Manager