Welcome to Mr Prasad

Mr Prasad has been an integral member of the school for many years in his role as Teacher, Year Adviser, WHS Committee Chairperson, etc. I’d like to welcome Mr Prasad to a new role as Relieving Head Teacher Administration, a key member of the Executive Team at Birrong Boys’ High School. Parents may receive notes signed by Mr Prasad in regards to any unexplained absences, please ensure, that if your son is absent for any reason, he brings a note to explain the absence on the day that he returns to school.

DER-NSW Program Closure

Over the past 5 years the federal government has funded the distribution of over 350,000 laptops in NSW alone. This program comes to a conclusion at the end of Term 2 this year. Students who have received a DER laptop may keep the device should they continue and complete their studies at a NSW Government High School. With the closure of this program, the Technical Support Officer who has maintained these computers ceases to be employed at Birrong Boys. Should any student or staff member experience technical difficulties with their computer after this date the school, unfortunately, does not have the means for resolving the issue. The closure of this program has caused much controversy and discussion amongst School Principals. We will endeavour to ensure that the quality of education delivered at our school isn’t diminished.

VET Audit

Students at Birrong Boys’ are very lucky to have a wide range of VET courses to choose from when completing the Year 11 subject selection process. At Birrong we offer 4 VET Curriculum frameworks; Construction, Hospitality, Retail Services and Sport Coaching. These courses are delivered to industry standards and may lead to external qualifications such as Cert II or III. On Thursday 5th of June our school was the subject of an external VET Audit led by Senior Pathways Officers and our Director Ms Jan Green. This comprehensive audit examined all aspects of our delivery of these subjects, interviewed students and staff, looked at work spaces, dissected teaching documents and provided detailed feedback to myself and our VET coordinator Mr Derbas about their findings. Whilst an audit must always, by nature, present recommendations, the team were glowing in their praise of our VET staff and their efforts to continuously
meet the needs of our students. They singled out Mr Livermore for a special mention and complimented all teachers; Mr Ewen, Mr Roukanas, Ms Sharma, Mr Legge, Ms Khan and Mr Derbas. Well done!

Principal’s Conference

From Monday 9th to Thursday 12th of June I joined 400 other High School Principal’s at the 2014 Secondary Principal Council Annual Conference. This year’s theme was ‘Blue sky thinking, Red dirt reality’, and saw guest speakers from Canada, Hong Kong as well as the Minister for Education, the Hon Adrian Piccoli and the Secretary of Education and Communities Michelle Bruniges discuss a variety of contemporary educational issues. A constant theme was ‘what can we do to make education better?’, ‘how can we, as educational leaders do more to ensure that the young people of today, our students, have every opportunity for educational and life success?’ It was an ideal opportunity to gain some new ideas; the job at hand now is putting them into practice in support of the young men at Birrong Boys High school.

Equity in Education

I urge everyone to seek out and read the work of eminent Finnish Educator Pasi Sahlberg. Mr Sahlberg discusses the importance of an equitable education system, a system where a student’s academic success is indicative of academic ability and other positive qualities such as work ethic. Unfortunately, in Australia, the greatest single indicator of academic success is socio economic status.

Mr D Stevens
Principal

Deputy Principal

Another Busy Term at BBHS

Term 2 is always a busy term jam packed with assessments and reports. An extensive amount of work goes into compiling and producing reports to ensure students receive accurate feedback for improvement. It is important for students and their parents to make appointments and see teachers and seek feedback on where and how students can improve. Parents and students will have the opportunity to do so during our Parent/Teacher evening on **Tuesday 24 June between 4 and 7 pm**. Parents who wish to have interpreting services need to alert the school in advance to organise the service required.

Students Embark on a Spiritual Journey

The beginning of the holidays will mark the beginning of the holy month of Ramadan. I would like to wish our students and their families a blessed and safe Ramadan. I would like to wish all of our students a safe and blessed holiday.

Boys and Girls Discuss Multiculturalism

On Thursday 12 June, two senior students Hussein Bahmad (ambassador and senior prefect) and Paulo Tomasi (Prefect) spent the day at Beverly Hills Girls’ High School. Hussein and Paulo received an invitation from the leadership team at the girls’ school to participate in the school’s multicultural day.

During the day, Paulo and Hussein joined students from other schools in a discussion about multiculturalism and how it affects young people in society today. The day provided the senior students with an opportunity to refine their leadership skills, network with others and strengthen their understanding of living in a multicultural Australia today, a key element of the National Curriculum.

During the day, Paulo and Hussein participated in a range of activities including cultural dance activities. In fact
Hussein joined the girls in a “Dabkeh”, a Lebanese cultural dance. The day was full of learning, fun and food. Students came back with lots of positive feedback, but what the boys enjoyed most was spending the day with lots of girls around.

Paulo Tomasi
Yr 12 Prefect.

Ms Ramadan
Deputy Principal Administration

Deputy Principal
Assessment and Reporting

Term two is always a very busy term with assessments and reporting. All students will have completed their testing and examinations, students in years 9, 10, 11 and 12 sat for formal examinations. We follow strict Board of Studies Teaching & Educational Standards NSW (BOSTES) guidelines and this allows our students to practise the expectations for their Higher School Certificate examinations, which are supervised, by external supervisors.

Parent and Teacher Night

Our Parent and Teacher night is scheduled for Tuesday 24th June, from 4-7 pm in our school hall. The students have been given a booking sheet to arrange a time with their teachers. This is a valuable time for both the parent/care givers and teachers to reflect on the outcomes and to discuss how to better work together to achieve the best for all. We urge all parents/care givers to attend to meet teachers to discuss the progress of their son. The Semester One report will be distributed on the night.

2014 HSC Students

Students sitting their HSC in 2014 have access to their HSC timetable, students will be able to access personalised timetables using their student number and PIN in My Details. Students should note the timetable will only be available online in 2014. It is crucial that they continue to plan and organise themselves for this final exam of their schooling.

Practical Advice for the Whole Family

If your child is studying for the HSC, you’re probably feeling the stress too. Many parents want to help but don’t want to interfere.

As well as pre-exam tension, there are other common factors that can make life seem even more challenging for the whole family.

Year 12 is often the year when kids:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BBHS Upcoming Events to Remember</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Parent Meeting 9:30am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Last day of Term 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First day of Term 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parent Meeting 9:30am</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
• lose interest in school
• have no plans for after the HSC
• develop an intense relationship with a boyfriend or girlfriend
• get their driver’s licence
• experiment with legal or illegal drugs
• have a part-time job
• are a member of a sporting team
• develop an eating disorder
• suffer from depression.

If any of these concerns sound familiar, don’t despair. You’re not alone - and this won't last forever.

How You Can help

Richard Cracknell, counsellor and district guidance officer at Inverell High School advises that "the most obvious forms of support parents can offer are the practical, physical things," and recommends parents:
• Provide a good place to study, that's quiet, comfortable, with good ventilation, good lighting, adequate desk or table space and free from distractions such as TV, noise, a telephone, interesting conversations, little brothers and sisters.
• Provide healthy, balanced meals.
• Encourage sleep and regular exercise.
• Encourage them to avoid late night parties and alcohol consumption.

Less obvious, but just as important, is giving your child the support they need in the lead-up to exams, which can be hard when emotions run high.

Tips To Remember
• Be supportive and encouraging.
• Highlight strengths and successes. Encourage your child not to dwell on failures, but to see them as "mistakes", which can actually be something they can learn and benefit from.
• Appreciate your child maybe feeling very stressed, even if it's not obvious to you. Many kids fear letting their family down so beware of setting unrealistic expectations. Some worry they can't do as well as a sibling, or friend. Many Year 12 kids are feeling overwhelmed about what lies ahead: leaving home, leaving lifelong friends, the prospect of having to live in a new city.
• Understand people under pressure become supersensitive and explosive from time to time. Family members are usually the first targets. Try not to overreact.
• Be realistic in your expectations as to where the HSC leads. Not all HSC students will go on to university – but they can still have a wealth of excellent and satisfying career options. If they don't get the HSC marks they needed and still really want to go on to tertiary education later, there are many other pathways. Interestingly, the success rate of mature age students is much higher than for those who go straight from school.
• Encourage your child to seek help from teachers or the school counsellor if they are having any difficulty with subjects, study organisation, stress or anxiety about examinations.
• Encourage a healthy balance between work and leisure. Sometimes kids need a total break from everything for a weekend or so, to recharge their batteries.
• Take an interest in what your child is doing, if they’ll allow you to (some won’t). This can include the subjects or topics being studied, how their study timetables and programs have been organised and their leisure pursuits. (Note: "Taking an interest in" does not mean interfering.)
• Remember the occasional hug and "I love you" don't go astray, even when they are 18 years old.
• Encourage and allow your child to be as independent as you can possibly stand. The more independent your child is in meeting the demands of Year 12, the better prepared they will be to succeed at a tertiary level or in the workforce.

Just Before Exams:
- **Don't stress about the little things** like leaving lights on, leaving the lid off the toothpaste and not doing chores.
- **Don't panic** when they announce on the evening before the examination that they know nothing. (Reassure them, even if you think they could be right. "Just do the best you can. We know you're giving it your best shot." is a good standby.)
- **Avoid nagging**, which doesn't mean you can't give a nudge or gentle reminder from time to time.
- **Encourage confidence** by reassuring your child. If you have doubts, keep them to yourself.

According to Richard Cracknell, all parents make mistakes, and we need to bear in mind that we're human too.

Don't feel too badly when you forget not to nag, when you get picky, and complain bitterly that your child has the time to attend the 18th birthday party of every Year 12 student, but doesn't have time to help with the washing up.

As parents we sometimes can't help being over-involved and from time to time we also feel the pressure of Year 12.

Know this is a temporary stage, just like the newborn, toddler and adolescent stages you've already negotiated together.

**Free Assistance**  
We have a Homework Centre operating at school on Mondays and Tuesday between 3.10pm and 4.10pm free to all students. Students at the Home work Centre can be assisted with studying, completing homework, assistance with assessments, assignments, they also have access to the internet and photocopying.

**Our Welfare Policy and Procedures**  
We believe in developing an environment that focuses on positive relationships within a structured and responsive setting that both rewards and sanctions behaviours. 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. Suspension is not intended as a punishment, it is only one strategy for managing inappropriate behaviour within our school's welfare policy. It is most effective when it highlights the parents' responsibility for taking an active role, in partnership with the school, to modify the inappropriate behaviour of their child.

**Please assist us by following the guidelines below:**
- Updating personal details, in particular home address and contact numbers.
- Making sure that your son arrives at school before 8.50am each morning
- Ensuring that your son is attending school with proper school uniform, this includes a white school shirt, black school jumper/jacket (no hooded tops) and black shoes.
- Send a note the next school day explaining student absences
- If special appointments need to be made during school hours and an **early leaver's pass** is required, send a note from home indicating:-
  - the reason;
  - date and time your son is to leave;
  - your signature; and
  - contact number.
  
  **These requests must be presented to the Deputy Principal upon arrival at school.**

  - If your son brings a mobile phone to school, he needs to have the phone off at all times whilst in any building.
  - If you have any concerns contact us to make an appointment. This may include talking to the class room teacher, Head Teacher, Year Adviser, Counsellor, Deputy Principal and Principal, with notice interpreters can be arranged.

Mr M Derbas  
Deputy Principal
English Report

Spellodrome
All students in years 7-10 have access to the online spelling program Spellodrome. While students utilize this program during allocated class times in their English lessons, I would encourage the boys to log on at home as this is available at no cost to the students.

Each student has been given their Spellodrome login details.

Year 7 Spelling Bee
This is the second year of the Spelling Bee, with Ms Tsanidis in the coordinator role this year.

The Finals will take place in term 3.

Ms G Tsopanos
Head Teacher English, ESL & Languages

Debating
Birrong Boys’ Debating Team has had an enthusiastic start to the debating year. The first and second round between Birrong Girls’ High School went well for the boys. Our Year 9 and 10 teams include: Zac Hannouf, Mouhamed Hawa, Adam El Cheikh, Ramzy Kork, Jimmy Nguyen, Omar Jebara, Omar Yousri and Haseeb Ahmed. The boys put in a strong effort during both the debates they participated in and narrowly lost to Birrong Girls’ on both occasions. The first debate was themed around issues in education and the second issues in sport. Birrong Boys now need to practise their rebuttal skills to ensure we win the next debate against Strathfield Girls’ High.

Debra Good
Debating Coordinator

Birrong Boys High School
The Year 10 students had the opportunity to participate in the BURN workshop on Thursday 5 June 2014.

BURN is a major Legal Aid NSW crime prevention project for young people about group offending. It aims to prevent young people from getting caught up in serious group assaults and robberies. Burn was made primarily to educate young people about how the criminal law ascribes responsibility in a group offence situation. The core objective is to reduce the risk of offending, and prevent crime, through legal education. The film also provides a vehicle for discussion about the various risk factors associated with juvenile crime. As such, the film has a high level of relevance for any crime prevention or community legal education initiatives.

Ms S Sharma
Head Teacher Social Science/Welfare

Links to Learning Program
Aspiring to New Heights
During week 7 Lawrence Kpaka, Nathan Blas, Mohammed Zoobi, Rabeeh Ghany and Taha El Baf spent 3 days at the University of NSW as part of the ASPIRE program.

Lawrence Kpaka reported “it was an exciting experience as we got a very insightful look into the life of University. We first of all got to break the ice with our fellow students as everyone was very tense and nervous at the beginning but that was straight away taken care of because of the way it was handled. We got put into groups from all of the schools and from the beginning the nervousness was broken instead of leaving it until later.

We got to sit in lectures from different teachers, got to hear the experience of students about coping at university and got to do workshops where we received a very detailed insight into possible career choices for us. We also got to do a group project on stage where we overcame our fears and told a story.

In all it was an excellent program and we truly appreciate the teachers for giving us this opportunity and I will strongly advise any student thinking about this to take it with both hands if the school ever offers another chance such as this.”

Lawrence Kpaka
Yr 11

Students at the Summit

On Friday 13th June, 8 year 11 students were invited by Bankstown Council to give a 10 minute presentation on our school Mentoring program at the 2014 Bankstown Youth Summit. Ibrahim Aslam, Raymond Tran, Musa Kan, Reda Alkinany, Aryan Yaseen, Shariq Waseem, Feerass Taggedine and Muhannad Abdel-Qader spoke about the program and showed a video clip on mentoring which was put together by the students. The presentation was well received by the audience of about 100 local students with a big round of applause and cheering at the end. During the day the boys split up into groups and met with students from other Western Suburbs schools to talk about Youth Issues in this area.
MAKING YOUTUBE FILMS in SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

Would you like to get involved with creating and launching a new YouTube channel for young people? Learn about script writing, producing, filming, editing, event management, PR and media work from film, TV and media professionals. Get work experience and make friends. Free workshops in the July school holidays 30th June – 4th July 2014 from 10am to 4pm at Bankstown Arts Centre. Lunch provided. FOR 13-16 YEAR OLDS

Pick up an application form from the student window or from Mr Hobbs.

Student Work Samples

From 8.1 English Students for the Unit ‘Poetry: Multicultural Perspective’

AUSTRALIA

As I think of what to wear
Upon a cool and rainy autumn day
Something triggers in my mind
To remember those who serve our land
Real or not it does seem painful
Allowing those who served, to come on home
Leaving us to worry of what could be
In countries near and far
Adversity from war torn countries

Daily courage of youthful spirit
And not to worry of what could be
Yesterday brought pain and suffering
Today will bring peace for all mankind

LEBANON

Oh Lebanon your beauty makes me cry
With passion and with pride,
Your flower blossom like a butterfly
Launching from its cocoon,
You are so beautiful,
I love you.

We have been through a lot
Experiencing laughter and cries,
War attacking you and making you cry,
You are a little girl so weak and shy,
You are so offering you would never even reject a fly,
But one day, oh, one sad devastating day
daring they came.
Boom, boom gunshot can be heard
Israel attacks like buffaloes in herds
They kill, kidnap and bring thrill;
They bomb and strike you in the heart.
We finally defeat them and
They ran out like girls giving a shout.
They try to invade you four times
But fail massively each and every time.

Oh Lebanon, we still face war against terror
But we all love you and
We will sacrifice our lives
So our children can live in you.
We will protect you,
Love and be with you.

By Naim Merhi

FIJI

My family were born in Fiji
Hotels are quiet to sleep in
Beaches are calming to swim in.
Weather is hot
It rains every day.
It gets flooded frequently.

Women wear traditional dresses,
Saris and skirts
Men wear shorts
They speak in English and Hindustani.
The flag is blue, red and white.
Trees and swords are on the flag.

People pray to Christian, Hindu and Muslim gods.
God gave them food money and houses.
Folk music is dominant.
Vocal church music is beautiful to listen to.
Characterised by rich harmony
and the beat of the drum.
I love my Fijian culture.

By Christopher Collinson
IRAQ
I'm an Iraqi
Although I live in Australia
My heart beats the word “Iraq”.
Iraq is a Muslim country which means
We pray five times a week
Back in Iraq, we visit all our neighbours
and friends on special occasions
such as Ramadan and Eid.
Ramadan is when we don’t eat for a full day
to pay our respects to the poor and
it is the month that God made the Holy Quran.
We make food and share it with our relatives
on Ramadan.
Eid has many different special occasions
Eid is where we have fun with our family
Wear our new clothes and have delicious food
to celebrate the end of Ramadan.

By Mahdi Bohreh

Ms Neetha Joseph
English

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.

Sky High Excursion
Visiting Powerhouse Museum

On the 12th of June 2014 our Sky High
group went to the big museum in New
South Wales which of course is the
powerhouse museum, the home of
Science and Technology. We reached
there at about 10:35 am where we met all
the teachers and students of the other
schools .The main person from the Sky
High program (Nicola) told us the rules
about the event of what’s going to
happen.

At first, we got instructions by the teacher
of the museum whose name is Bob. He
took us in a class with cords hanging
above each table with a little stove we all
knew it’s an experiment with some weird
stuff on the table .Bob gave us an speech
about the planet earth and how it gets
polluted by plastic and Styrofoam.

Afterwards Bod placed us in different
groups of five and told one person from

Ibrahim Aslam
Year 11
each table to come up and get the ingredients that are required. Everyone got corn starch, water, vinegar and another weird substance. We turned the stove on and poured the mixture into a saucepan. Bob then told us to keep it in liquid form so we mixed it around a couple of times until it began to form a new substance which was squishy and like gelatine it was bio plastic a plastic that can be broken down.

After a great study we had lunch and a tour of the museum we saw the trains of the American Indian times and micro lights that actually are different types of planes. At about 2:50 pm we made our way to the railway station and caught the Birrong service. We reached Birrong at 3:20 pm. What a tiring day all of us had. Mr Hobbs was half a sleep and many more as well!!

Rithik Chand
Yr 8
Khodr GHANTOUS
Year 7

Favourite Sport
Football

Favourite Food
Pizza

Favourite Subject
Sport

What I like about BBHS
Everyone gets along with each other

When I leave school I want to be
Carpenter

Tamim ALLAM
Year 12

Favourite Sport
Muay Thai (kick boxing)

Favourite Food
Whatever's on the menu!

Favourite Subject
Maths

What I like about BBHS
Staff and students

When I leave school I want to be
Professional fighter &
successful businessman
# Is University for your Child?

**University visits for Parents**

Come and experience university life for yourself!
Have your questions answered and enjoy a free lunch and campus tour.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>University</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Contact Information</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Australian Catholic University, Mount St Mary Campus</strong></td>
<td>22nd July 2014</td>
<td>10:00am to 2:00pm</td>
<td>Nicola Cull&lt;br&gt;02 9701 4566&lt;br&gt;<a href="mailto:nicola.cull@acu.edu.au">nicola.cull@acu.edu.au</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Venue: Reception Building 25A Barker Road Strathfield</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>University of Sydney</strong></td>
<td>31st July 2014</td>
<td>10:00am - 1:30pm</td>
<td>Susan Parker&lt;br&gt;02 8627 8515&lt;br&gt;<a href="mailto:compass.admin@sydney.edu.au">compass.admin@sydney.edu.au</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Venue: The Maclaren Hall Manning Road, Camperdown</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Macquarie University</strong></td>
<td>4th September 2014</td>
<td>10:00am - 2:00pm</td>
<td>Donna Heemi&lt;br&gt;02 9850 7335&lt;br&gt;<a href="mailto:donna.heemi@mq.edu.au">donna.heemi@mq.edu.au</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Venue: The Campus Hub Building C10A, L3 Balaclava Rd North Ryde</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>University of Technology, Sydney</strong></td>
<td>10th September 2014</td>
<td>10:00am - 2:00pm</td>
<td>Bilquis Ghani&lt;br&gt;02 9514 7277&lt;br&gt;<a href="mailto:bilquis.ghani@uts.edu.au">bilquis.ghani@uts.edu.au</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Venue: Aerial Function Centre Building 10, L7 235 Jones st Sydney</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>University of Western Sydney, Parramatta Campus</strong></td>
<td>17th October 2014</td>
<td>10:00am - 2:00pm</td>
<td>Crystal Claridge&lt;br&gt;1300 854 224&lt;br&gt;<a href="mailto:forschool@uws.edu.au">forschool@uws.edu.au</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Venue: Cnr James Ruse Drive and Victoria Rd Rydalmere</td>
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</table>

Transport can be organised for large groups.

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Information about university will be provided including:

- Courses available
- Financial support
- Pathways to university
- Student support/housing

Bridges to Higher Education is a partnership of the University of Technology, Sydney, Macquarie University, University of Western Sydney, University of Sydney and the Australian Catholic University which aims to boost the participation of communities underrepresented in higher education. This program is funded by the Commonwealth Government’s Higher Education Participation and Partnerships Program.