Next Parent Meeting:
Friday 6 November 2015 9:30am
in the School Library. All Welcome!

Principal’s Message

Aspiring Principals Program
I am constantly amazed at the high level of young educational leaders that are emerging in this part of Sydney. On Thursday 15 October I was invited to attend an event that showcased the work and the talent of the young leaders who have emerged in South Western Sydney, at Campbelltown High School. I was privileged to see the showcase of work that these individuals have been doing in their schools in support of maximising the education of our young people. Ms Ramadan was one of the leaders chosen to participate in this important program in support of ensuring Public Education has a secure future with the development of outstanding leadership. She impressed all with her presentation regarding the implementation of a successful teacher professional development at our school. It is comforting to know that the future of public education is in good hands.

Celebration of Innovation
On 29 October I was invited, along with Year 9 Adviser and Science Teacher Mr Mohamed, to an event at Mt Pritchard Community Club hosted by the Bankstown, Fairfield, Glenfield and Liverpool Principals’ Networks. At this event schools were able to share a success story that has had tremendous impact at their school during 2015. Here I was able to discuss the welfare program implemented by Mr Mohamed and replicated by Mr Karam and Mr Ewen. To some this may appear as just a lunchtime sport program but to me it has had far greater implications including; increased rates of attendance, a reduction in discipline referrals and a general improvement in the level of engagement with the school. Mr Mohamed received an award for his dedication to the boys to whom he has become a mentor.

At this event our Executive Director, Mr Dizdar, spoke of the important role our teachers play in the development of our students and the impact all teachers can have on these young lives.

Auburn North Public School Community Day
I was recently invited by Principal, Mr Harris, to attend the Community Day at Auburn North Public School. Here I was impressed with the vibrant nature of the community that exists in this thriving multicultural Primary School. Mr Harris has truly created a community that is inclusive and proud; we hope to forge stronger links with this amazing school.
New Positions for 2016
Our funding has enabled us to establish some new, key positions aimed at improving educational outcomes aligned closely with the Strategic Directions of our School Plan 2015-2017.

Teaching and Learning Coordinator - Ms Tsanidis
Ms Tsanidis will be responsible for; the implementation of Project Based Learning, a cross faculty initiative that will foster independent learners equipped with a variety of 21st century learning skills, Lesson Study, a collegial approach to sharing classroom success and professionally developing all staff as we strive for continual improvement.

Wellbeing Coordinator - Mr Mohamed
Mr Mohamed will be responsible for the implementation of Positive Behaviour for Learning at our school as well as the coordination of our Year Advisers.

Transition Adviser - Ms Khelladi
Ms Khelladi will work closely with our Careers Adviser, Ms Krnjaic, to support students with particular needs to plan for their transition from school.

Literacy Coordinators - Ms Tsopanos & Ms Tsanidis
Ms Tsopanos and Ms Tsanidis will work to ensure that our school has a consistent approach to improving student literacy and that the literacy needs of all our boys are met in the most suitable manner.

Technology Coordinator - Mr Hill
Mr Hill will coordinate our efforts to ensure that the technological needs of our school in terms of teaching and learning and administration are met. That our school is equipped and our teachers ready, to utilise the most up to date educational technology.

VET Coordinator - Mr Livermore
Mr Livermore will work hard to meet the demands that VET places upon schools and ensure that our students enjoy the benefits provided by these courses. At Birrong we will be offering three VET frameworks in 2016; Construction, Retail and Hospitality, all of these courses provides challenges as well as significant rewards for students in terms of external credentials/qualifications that can be used for further tertiary studies.

Mr D Stevens
Principal

Deputy Principal

Year 6 Students Get a Taste of High School
The Year 6 to Year 7 Orientation Day will be on Thursday 3 December 2015. Students from local primary schools will visit the school to become familiar with the teachers, school systems and facilities.

Students will also meet their Year Adviser, Mr Hill, and their student mentors who will be introducing the incoming Year 7 students to the rest of the school community.

Orientation Day is a chance for parents to sort out school requirements, such as uniform, fees and equipment. Students will be engaged in a variety of fun lessons on the day and morning tea and lunch will be organised.

Exams and Reports
Students from Years 7 to 10 have major assessments due throughout this term. While students have been given notification about their assessments, here is another reminder:

Assessment Weeks
Year 7 – beginning 16 November (Week 7)
Year 8 – beginning 2 November (Week 5)
Year 9 – beginning 16 November (Week 7)
Year 10 – beginning 9 November (Week 6)

Reports will be mailed to parents at the end of the term. Please ensure your address and contact details are updated with the office.
Pacific Islander Students Make Their Mark

Every Wednesday, our Pacific Islander students work with Youth Workers from Fusion in a program called “Make Your Mark”. Students from Years 9 and 10 work closely with Youth Workers on skills that would allow them to create 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. The program engages students in a variety of skills, including leadership, problem solving and communication skills.

Ms H Ramadan
Deputy Principal Administration

Deputy Principal

Best Wishes to Our Class of 2015

Our Year 12 have finished their HSC exams and I wish them all the very best in their future career pathways. Some will continue on with their studies at university or TAFE and others will go into their chosen employment. All were recognised for their achievement at the graduation ceremony last term.

Year 11 Embark on their HSC Journey

All current Year 11 students have been issued with their HSC Assessment Booklet for 2015-16. In this booklet are key essential information regarding; assessment policy, appeal process, how to obtain the HSC, rights and responsibilities, plagiarism, Advice to parents, motivation and goals, and how to manage stress. Students have also been provided with the BOSTES 2016 Higher School certificate rules and procedures.

Assessments and Reporting

Term 4 is also a time for assessments and reporting as students will be assessed in a variety of ways. Students are constantly reminded that our teachers have an open door policy where they can talk to them in any matter related to their learning. Students should be working towards their exams/test and assessments with a commitment to revision and home study. Students will receive their yearly reports in the mail at the end of term.

Year 7 and 8 Attend the Footy

A group of Year 7 and 8 along with their Year Advisers Mr Ewen, Mr Karam and myself attended the football match at Alliance stadium last term. We caught the train from Birrong along with some parents and returned very late. The atmosphere was great and the students were well behaved and all had a great time. Thanks to Mr Ewen and Mr Karam for organising such an event that displayed a positive school spirit.

Mr M Derbas
Deputy Principal Curriculum

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Community Liaison Officer

Top 10 Revision Tips for Your End of Year Exam

Hundreds of thousands of students across the country start panicking about the fact that very little revision has been done so far, in the run up to the exams that now seem just around the corner. But don’t panic: it’s never too late to start revising. Here are 10 winning revision tips that will get you off a flying start.

Draw up a Revision Timetable

Research shows that shorter 20-30 minute spells work best, because your concentration is much higher. We therefore recommend taking short, frequent breaks. We also advise to mix the order of the subjects. Take a look at the proposed timetable:

- 9.00-9.30 Subject 1
- Break 5 mins
- 9.35-10.05 Subject 1
- Break 5 mins
- 10.10-10.40 Subject 2
- Break 5 mins
- 10.45-11.15 Subject 2
- Break 30 mins
- 11.45-12.15 Subject 3
- Break 5 mins
- 12.20-12.50 Subject 3
- Break 1 hour
- 13.50-14.20 Subject 1
- Break 5 mins
- 14.25-14.55 Subject 2
- Break 5 mins
- 15.00-15.30 Subject 3
- Break 5 mins
- 15.35-16.05 Subject 1

Exercise

Physical activity is very important, in particular during intense study time. Even going for a small 30 minute jog after a day of revision will make a huge difference to your wellbeing. Physical activity increases heart rate which makes the blood circulate faster. This in turn ensures that brain gets more oxygen which increases productivity whilst reducing tiredness and stress.

Find a Quiet Space

This is a pretty straightforward one: you desperately need a place where you can be uninterrupted for a few hours. Your room, local or your school/university library will do.

Get Down to it in the Morning

You have to make a start at some point and doing it sooner rather than later is a very good idea. Try to stick to the draft revision schedule and start revising in the morning - research shows that you are more likely to do all the planned work if you start early, because as it gets closer to the evening, there is a bigger tendency to get outside.

Spice Up Your Revision Use a Bit Of Colour!

Drawing colourful learning maps will help you to memorise facts. What is even more interesting is the fact that colourful notes are easier to memorise than plain black and white ones. Give it a go!

Do Plenty of Past Papers

Ask your teacher for some past papers or Google them yourself. Most exam boards nowadays put a lot of emphasis on exam technique and simply familiarising yourself with it before the exam can often save you time and help to earn marks at the exam. A lot of examiners do not bother with inventing terribly innovative questions once you have done three or four past papers chances are that some of questions that come on the day will look familiar.

Make Summary Notes

Making notes is by far the best way to memorise lots of information. We all have
been there, sat down reading a textbook and lying to ourselves that the time is being used productively - it is not! The best way to memorise information is by making notes over and over again. It may be incredibly tedious but the thing is that the most successful candidates often make as many as three sets of the same notes in a run up to the exams which help them to memorise the required information.

**Reward Yourself**
It is not all about the work; you need good breaks too. People who manage to find the right balance between study and leisure are the ones who get the top marks. For instance go to a cinema with friends after a productive day of revision or treat yourself to something sweet. Work hard, play not-quite-as-hard is the motto here.

**Use your Family and Friends**
Ask people around you to test you and give you feedback. You should already have made handy revision notes. For example, why not give notes of key dates covering Henry VIII’s reign to your mum and ask her to test you? This is not only a good way to revise but also a good way to have a break from the hard work.

**Think Positive!**
At the end of the day, it’s not all about studying. There are plenty of people who did well in life without 100 per cent in every single exam, or who were actually pretty useless at school and university. Your life isn’t over if you don’t ace the exams, so take the pressure off yourself. Following these tips you will get loads of work done, feel great about yourself and still have plenty of time to relax with your friends and family. Good luck, now get down to those notes!

**Successful Youth Engagement Program (YEP) at Birrong Boys**
In collaboration with Bankstown Multicultural Youth Service (BMYS) and Program facilitator Ms Zizi Chardia from Community Minds, Birrong Boys’ High ran an eight week interactive program for Year 10 students. The YEP programs aim is to engage students in developing personal skills that allow them to affect positive change in their lives, in the home, in school and their community. Students need to reconnect with themselves in regards to their values, their identity, their sense of self in relation to culture and community. In gaining more in depth understanding of their values, students are then able to channel their goals to specific areas that they would want to see change in, be it personal self-development and more broadly changes within school and community.

To celebrate the end of a successful program, a meet and greet style excursion was developed and our students had the opportunity to meet local community and government organisations such as PCYC, Bankstown Arts Centre, Bankstown Council Community and Youth workers, Bankstown Multicultural Youth Services Youth Hub.
The students also enjoyed a lunch at Peppertree Café which is a Youth Community Social enterprise. Students also had the opportunity to register for a free Barista training program offered by BMYS and at the end of the day, students completing the program received a certificate of participation.

I take this opportunity to thank BMYS and Ms Chardia for their amazing work and commitment to youth, and congratulations to all the students for showing great initiative throughout the program.

DON’T MISS OUT – FEW SPOTS LEFT End of Year Camp Years 9 & 10 Birrong Boys
There are still a few spots left for those in Year 9 and 10 students who are interested in attending the school camp at the Milson Island Sport and Recreation Centre. The camp will be held over the last three days of school during term four commencing on Monday the 14 December with students returning to school on Wednesday the 16th of December.

Activities include the flying fox, canoeing, obstacle and challenge ropes course, archery and raft building. This is a two night three day camp that is organised by the NSW Government Office of Sport and Recreation. All of the camp activities are run by specially trained NSW Government staff who are fully recognised professionals in the field. Halal food will be properly prepared by a qualified catering team who ensure your child never goes hungry at camp.

The fees and charges for this two night/three day Outdoor Education Program, which includes instruction and activities, two nights’ accommodation, all meals and travel costs comes to a total of $295.00 per student.

If you would like your son to attend this camp feel free to contact myself (Arabic speaking) or Ms Good on 9644 5200. We look forward to your son’s participation.

Next Parent P & C Meetings
Friday 6 November and 4 December 2015 @ 9.30am.

Ms S Harris
Community Liaison Officer
A warm welcome back to the school community for term 4.

Firstly I would like to thank Ms Tsanidis for relieving in my position while I was on leave. She did a wonderful job in my absence.

Year 12
Term 4 sees the start of the HSC examinations and this also heralds the first term for the current HSC cohort who will sit their exams in 2016. May I remind parents that this is a wonderful opportunity for your sons to set a regular home study program which will serve them well as they progress through Year 12.

Students should be accessing the Board of Studies website to view past English papers. Their teachers are more than happy to mark practice papers and provide feedback however, students must take the initiative. Getting started early will help to prepare them thoroughly.

Each year the English faculty offers students the opportunity to attend HSC study days conducted at various venues. Although a small cost is required, it is a very useful series of lectures that can benefit students greatly.

Students are aware that if work is not completed by the set date, an N award will be sent home and this requires the student to complete the work within two weeks. It is very important that this work is completed as to avoid a second N Award being sent home.

If students fall behind in English, this may contribute to them being removed from the course if they fail to complete course requirements. As English is a compulsory course, further study in Year 12 cannot occur without a student being enrolled in English.

If you would like to discuss your son's progress and/or to clarify course requirements, please contact me at the school on 9644 5200.

Ms G Tsopanos
Head Teacher English/ESL/Languages

HSIE Faculty

During week 8 of term 3, the Year 9 Commerce students had the opportunity to experience life as a budding entrepreneur! Throughout this week students spent time designing and preparing their business plan and ran promotional campaign around the school. On 1 September 2015 students ran a business selling food items that varied from sausage rolls to mouth-watering pizzas, cookies and soft drinks.

All students gained profits and also received gratitude for their efforts from the rest of the school community. 30% of their profit has been donated to the students chosen charity at school, The Cancer Council.

Not only did the students gain large profits but they gained a lifetime of knowledge and valuable experience in such areas as teamwork, risk-taking, and professionalism. This will no doubt aid them in their journey of life after school in whatever field they may choose.

This class would like to publicly thank the whole school community (students, teachers, administrative staff, executive staff and the parents) for their support and encouragement in completing this assessment task. A special thanks to our school’s SRC committee to offer their support on the day to run the business venture smoothly.

Ms U Ramani
Commerce Teacher
Project Based Learning

This term 8.1 students have been involved in the Project Based Learning (PBL) program. PBL is a teaching method in which students gain knowledge and skills by working for an extended period of time to investigate and respond to an engaging and complex idea.

During their English (with Ms Tsanidis), Maths (with Ms Navrozoglou) and Science (with Mr Mohamed) lessons students have been working on their project - Climate Change. This project involves students creating and building their own sustainable suburb using energy efficient resources. In class, students have looked at various energy sources and are now in the process of building their suburb, using the information they researched during class time.

In their groups, students are enjoying the designing and building process. They have already created many buildings to include in their suburb. At the end of the project students will present their sustainable suburb as well as a report outlining the methods they used during this process.

Ms A Tsanidis
English Teacher
Alfarok AL RAHMANI
Year 7

Favourite Sport
Soccer

Favourite Food
Butter Chicken

Favourite Subject
Maths

What I like about BBHS
Students and staff

When I leave school I want to be
A doctor

Ahmad AL KHAZAALY
Year 11

Favourite Sport
Soccer

Favourite Food
Pizza

Favourite Subject
Biology

What I like about BBHS
How open the teachers are

When I leave school I want to be
A dentist
Office & Community News

Outstanding Fees
Payment of outstanding student fees and invoices must be paid before the end of Term 4 2015. Your cooperation would be appreciated.

EFTpos is available at Birrong Boys’ High
EFTpos payments are available at the front office for parents, carers and students. EFTpos may be used for payments of school fees, uniform, equipment and excursions. No cash out available.

Student Family Contact Details
Please ensure student family contact details, correspondence address and emergency contact details are up to date. This is essential especially if your son is involved in an emergency situation and to receive important school correspondence such as student reports.

Homework Centre
The Homework Centre is closed Term 4. Please contact Mr Derbas for further information.

School’s Website
Have a look at our school’s website. Here you’ll find useful information about our school including upcoming events, school holidays, school start times and end times, public holidays etc. on the calendar section. http://www.birrongboy-h.schools.nsw.edu.au/en/home

Year 6 to Year 7 Orientation Day
Our Year 6 to Year 7 2016 Orientation Day will be held on Thursday 3 December 2015. Save the date for your diary if your son has a sibling attending next year, or please remind any family or friends that have their son coming to Birrong Boys’ High in 2016.

School Opal Card
From 1 January 2016 Transport for NSW will no longer be issuing paper tickets. School transport cards will be replaced with a School Opal Card.

Students with school travel passes this year will not need to apply for a School Opal Card unless they are:

- changing schools;
- changing home address;
- changing names;
- moving from Year 2 to 3;
- moving from Year 6 to Year 7.

Application can be made at: https://apps.transport.nsw.gov.au/ssts/howToApply

Students who do not need to apply will have a School Opal Card sent to school for the beginning of Term 1 in 2016.
Whooping Cough (Pertussis)

Last updated: 30 March 2015

What is whooping cough?
Whooping cough can be a life threatening infection in babies. Whooping cough in babies can lead to apnoea (pauses in normal breathing), pneumonia, feeding problems and weight loss, seizures, brain damage and, in some cases, death. Older children and adults can get whooping cough too and pass it on to babies.

What are the symptoms?
- Whooping cough usually begins like a cold with a blocked or runny nose, tiredness, mild fever and a cough.
- The cough gets worse and severe bouts of uncontrollable coughing can develop. Coughing bouts can be followed by vomiting, choking or taking a big gasping breath which causes a “whooping” sound. The cough can last for many weeks and can be worse at night.
- Some newborns may not cough at all but they can stop breathing and turn blue. Some babies have difficulties feeding and can choke or gag.
- Older children and adults may just have a cough that lasts for many weeks. They may not have the whoop.

How is it spread?
- Whooping cough is spread when an infectious person coughs bacteria into the air which can be inhaled by people nearby. If they are not treated early, people with whooping cough are infectious in the first three weeks of their illness.
- Whooping cough spreads easily through families, childcare centres and at school.

Who is at risk?
- Anyone can get whooping cough. People living in the same household as someone with whooping cough are especially at risk.
- Immunisation reduces the risk of infection but immunity fades over time. You can still get whooping cough even if you’ve been immunised.

How is it prevented?
Whooping cough vaccines provide good protection from infection but immunity fades which means that boosters are needed.

Immunisation for babies
- Babies need to be immunised at 2 months, 4 months and 6 months. The first dose can be given as early as 6 weeks of age.
- Getting your baby vaccinated on time gives them some protection when they are most at risk of severe illness.
- If your baby’s vaccines are overdue, see your GP now to catch up.
Immunisation for older children

- A whooping cough booster is needed at 4 years of age.
- Check if your child has been vaccinated. Look at their Blue Book, speak to your GP or ring the Australian Childhood Immunisation Register on 1800 653 809.
- A second whooping cough booster is given in high school through the NSW School-based Vaccination Program.

Immunisation for adults

A booster for adults is recommended for:

- Women who are in the third trimester of pregnancy, preferably at 28 weeks. Free vaccine is provided in NSW through GPs and hospital antenatal clinics.
- Other adult household members, grandparents and carers of infants under 12 months of age.
- Adults working with young children, especially health care and child care workers.

If you are a close contact of someone with whooping cough:

- If you have been exposed to someone with whooping cough early in their illness while they are infectious, watch out for symptoms and see your doctor if you get a new cough.
- Some babies and some pregnant women need antibiotics to prevent whooping cough infection if they have had significant contact with an infectious person.

How is it diagnosed?

Your doctor may ask about your symptoms and whether there you’ve had any contact with whooping cough. If your doctor thinks you have whooping cough, a swab from the back of the nose or throat can confirm the diagnosis.

How is it treated?

- Some babies may need treatment in hospital or in intensive care.
- Antibiotics are used to treat whooping cough in the early stages and can help prevent spreading whooping cough to others. People who are not treated early with the right antibiotics can spread the infection in the first 3 weeks of their illness. After 5 days of antibiotics, you are normally no longer infectious.
- The cough often continues for many weeks, despite antibiotics.

What is the public health response?

Doctors and laboratories must confidentially notify cases of pertussis to the local Public Health Unit. Public Health Unit staff can advise on the best way to stop further spread.

Infectious children are restricted from going to pre-school and school. Unimmunised contacts may be excluded from child care unless they take the special antibiotics.

Identify – Protect – Prevent


For further information please call your local Public Health Unit on 1300 066 055 or visit the New South Wales Health website [www.health.nsw.gov.au](http://www.health.nsw.gov.au)
NSW public schools are committed to providing safe, supportive and responsive learning environments for everyone. We teach and model the behaviours we value in our students.

In NSW public schools students are expected to:

- Respect other students, their teachers and school staff and community members
- Follow school and class rules and follow the directions of their teachers
- Strive for the highest standards in learning
- Respect all members of the school community and show courtesy to all students, teachers and community members
- Resolve conflict respectfully, calmly and fairly
- Comply with the school’s uniform policy or dress code
- Attend school every day (unless legally excused)
- Respect all property
- Not be violent or bring weapons, illegal drugs, alcohol or tobacco into our schools
- Not bully, harass, intimidate or discriminate against anyone in our schools

Schools take strong action in response to behaviour that is detrimental to self or others or to the achievement of high quality teaching and learning.
Behaviour Code for Students: Actions

Promoting the learning, wellbeing and safety of all students in NSW Public Schools is a high priority for the Department of Education and Communities.

We implement teaching and learning approaches to support the development of skills needed by students to meet our high standards for respectful, safe and engaged behaviour.

Respect

☐ Treat one another with dignity
☐ Speak and behave courteously
☐ Cooperate with others
☐ Develop positive and respectful relationships and think about the effect on relationships before acting
☐ Value the interests, ability and culture of others
☐ Dress appropriately by complying with the school uniform or dress code
☐ Take care with property

Safety

☐ Model and follow departmental, school and/or class codes of behaviour and conduct
☐ Negotiate and resolve conflict with empathy
☐ Take personal responsibility for behaviour and actions
☐ Care for self and others
☐ Avoid dangerous behavior and encourage others to avoid dangerous behaviour

Engagement

☐ Attend school every day (unless legally excused)
☐ Arrive at school and class on time
☐ Be prepared for every lesson
☐ Actively participate in learning
☐ Aspire and strive to achieve the highest standards of learning

The principal and school staff, using their professional judgment, are best placed to maintain discipline and provide safe, supportive and responsive learning environments. The department provides a policy framework and resources such as Legal Issues Bulletins, access to specialist advice, and professional learning to guide principals and their staff in exercising their professional judgment. In this context the NSW Government and the Department of Education and Communities will back the authority and judgment of principals and school staff at the local level.
Learn
Be Safe
Show Respect