Principal’s Message

BBHS School Expectations
Welcome back to our students, parents and local community. I hope that the end of year break was relaxing and enjoyable.

As you might know, Mr Stevens is currently on leave.

As Relieving Principal, my priority is the learning and welfare of all staff and students. I am committed to providing a safe and effective learning environment for our boys. Hence I will be working closely with students and parents to ensure that students are safe and are provided with sound learning experiences. I will also be working with staff on curriculum implementation and will be providing our staff with support and appropriate professional development which caters to their needs.

Celebrating High Achievement
The school hosts a High Achievers’ morning tea each year. On Thursday 12 February 2015 we had our 2014 high achievers turn up for a wonderful morning. The aim of this gathering is to celebrate the achievement of our Year 12 students of the previous year who implemented the school Motto “From each his best” and achieved excellent results in the HSC. Students from the 2015 ATAR group gained enrolments in university courses such as Construction Management, Science and Engineering.

Your Child’s Health is Important
We welcome information from parents about your son’s health, even if you are not requesting specific support from our school.

We ask for medical information when you enrol your child. It is also important, however, that you let us know if your son’s health care needs to be changed, updated, or if a new health condition develops.

Details about allergies, medical conditions such as asthma and diabetes and other health care related issues (including prior conditions such as medical procedures in the last 12 months) should be provided to the school by parents/carers.

Please provide this information in writing to the principal. This will assist us in planning to support your son’s health and wellbeing.

Please also remember to notify staff in the school office of any changes to your contact details or to the contact details of other people nominated as emergency contacts.
We appreciate your assistance in this regard and assure you that any information you provide the school will be stored securely and will only be used or disclosed in order to support your son’s health needs or as otherwise required by law.

I look forward to working with our students, teachers, parents/carers and our local community to ensure the best possible learning experience for our boys.

Yr 12 students are Half way through their HSC
Students in Yr 12 will be sitting for their Half Yearly exams in Week 9 (23 – 27 March) of this term. It is important that parents work closely with their sons to ensure extensive preparation for exams and maximum achievement. Students can also access support from all their teachers in addition to HSC tutoring and the homework centre.

A message from Bankstown City Council
On behalf of Bankstown City Council, I would like to remind parents to exercise great caution and abide by road rules especially when driving in school zones.

Last year, 963 fines were issued to drivers for breaches of school zones in Bankstown. Council officers will be out to ensure that drivers are not placing the lives of young children in danger. Fines will be issued to motorists who are in breach of parking and driving rules.

It is important that we work together as a community to ensure that our children’s safety is kept as our highest priority.

If you have any concerns regarding the learning or welfare of your child, please do not hesitate to contact the school on 9644 5200 between 8.30am and 3.15pm
Have a great term.

Ms Ramadan
Relieving Principal

Deputy Principal

A Warm Welcome to the Birrong Boys High School Community
I am currently relieving as Deputy Administration while Ms Ramadan steps in for Mr Stevens.

May I warmly welcome back our students, parents and local community. I hope that the end of year break was relaxing and enjoyable.

A special welcome goes to our new students, their parents and our new staff. I hope that your experience at Birrong Boys High School is rewarding.

Give your Son the Best Start to the Day
We are targeting a number of areas to support the learning of our students. Lateness is one of these areas. I urge you as parents to support our boys by ensuring that they arrive to school before 8:45am. I am well aware that as a school, we share a common goal with our parents which is the learning of our students. Hence I am very keen on communicating school expectations to our boys and to you.

Uniform is another area of focus. In addition to uniform being a significant part of school attitude, it is also about belonging, pride and school image. Our school image is the responsibility of every staff member and every student. Consequently, students are expected to be in uniform every day and are expected to demonstrate positive behaviour at school and in the community. We are encouraging the boys to wear the school tie as a way of further showing pride in their school.

Celebrating student achievement is another school priority. The majority of our boys demonstrate positive behaviour and are learning a range of skills that are preparing them for life beyond their school years. As a result, I urge students to continue to follow the school rules as outlined by the Best of Birrong code – Learn, Be Safe and Show Respect. I would like to encourage parents to challenge their children’s misbehaviour and support them and the school in implementing the school rules.
As I said earlier, the staff at Birrong Boys High School are keen to support students with their learning needs. There is a range of services available at the school such as the Homework Centre, HSC tutoring, Mentoring programs such as Sky High and Rock and Water and a range of rewards excursions.

**Parent / Teacher Night**
Year 12 and Year 7 students and their parents are invited to a parent/teacher night on **Tuesday, 10 March from 4:00 to 6:00pm**. On the night, parents will be able to view some of the Year 7 works and speak to the teachers about their child's progress.

**Primary Links – Young Scientist Forums at BBHS**
Birrong Boys are hosting several primary schools again this year and the focus is on Science. Students will be participating in experiments and hands on activities such as creating circuits. Thank you to Mr Papanikolaou and his team (Mr Mohamed and Mr Aboucham) for their efforts in showcasing our school once again.

**Ms Tsopanos**
Relieving Deputy Principal Administration

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### BBHS Upcoming Events to Remember

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Swimming Carnival</td>
<td>Tuesday 24 February</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Young Scientist Forum (Regents Park PS visiting)</td>
<td>Thursday 26 February</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Young Scientist Forum (Yagoona PS visiting)</td>
<td>Tuesday 3 March</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Open Day/Night 4pm-6pm</td>
<td>Tuesday 3 March</td>
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<tr>
<td>Years 7 &amp; 12 Parent/Teacher Night</td>
<td>Tuesday 10 March</td>
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<tr>
<td>Community Breakfast</td>
<td>Tuesday 17 March</td>
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<tr>
<td>School Photo Day</td>
<td>Thursday 19 March</td>
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<tr>
<td>Parent Meeting 9:30am</td>
<td>Friday 27 February</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Years 7 &amp; 12 Parent/Teacher Night</td>
<td>Tuesday 10 March</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 12 Exams Start</td>
<td>Monday 23 March</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catch Up Photo Day</td>
<td>Tuesday 24 March</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parent Meeting 9:30am</td>
<td>Friday 27 March</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 7 Vaccination</td>
<td>Tuesday 31 March</td>
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<tr>
<td>NAPLAN Years 7 &amp; 9</td>
<td>Tues-Fri 12-15 May</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**Deputy Principal**

**Welcome Back**
Welcome back to our parents, community and students, and a special welcome to our new students and their parents in 2015.

At Birrong Boys' High School we have a united approach where students, parents, teachers and the community work to achieve our school motto “from each his best”.

As Deputy I look after years 7, 9 and 11 in terms of their welfare and academic needs, please do not hesitate to contact me if you wish to discuss any matter related to this.

When students in Years 11 and 12 have a study period in the morning they are permitted to arrive at school 9.45am, however, they must not arrive any later and sign in at the front office. Students also have the option to use this time in the library for studying.

I require your assistance with the following if your son:

- is late to school could you please provide him with a note with the reason, date and time.
- needs to leave school early for an emergency reason (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 not wearing the full school uniform, he must also have a note from home with a reason and during roll call present the note to his teacher to obtain a uniform pass. Students are no longer required to wear yellow, yellow tops are only to be worn during PE or sport time.
- arrives early to school, they are required to remain inside preferably in the Quad area and not to be around the front or around the train station.
- is absent from school he needs to present his roll call teacher a note from home indicating dates absent, reason, parent/carers signature and date.

**Homework Centre**

Why: to assist with homework, studying, assignments, research and access to internet.
No Knives at School
Knives are not allowed at school under any circumstances. NSW now has the toughest knife laws in Australia. As a parent, you need to be aware of these laws, as you can also be charged if you allow your child to carry a knife. An important brochure from the Department of Education is attached to this newsletter.

I'm looking forward to a successful year where each student demonstrates his best in a variety of areas be academic, sporting or community involvement. As well working with all to achieve our goal of improving the social and academic well being of our students by providing a high quality education.

Mr M Derbas
Deputy Principal Curriculum

English Report

Preparing 21st Century Learners
English faculty, as a team, kick started 2015 Term 1 by not only welcoming Year 7 students who turned out to be eager and enthusiastic learners but also by incorporating 21st century teaching strategies in to teaching programs with the intention of catering to the varied needs of students of all year groups in the mainstream classes as educational practices of the traditional classrooms are no longer effective.

Being facilitators of learning in our modern classrooms, we not only use computers but also the latest models of iPad Air 2 to enhance learning opportunities for students and to enable them to discover and master new concepts in English. Educational research bears testimony to the fact that by preparing students to be 21st century learners we are increasing their likelihood of retaining the knowledge they have acquired.

Teamwork being essential for the successes achieved and celebrated, we the English Faculty, within a short duration of five weeks have effectively imparted skills that are expedient for students to excel in school and in their careers such as critical thinking, problem solving, creative thinking, communication and research skills, using technology productively and making informed decisions whether it be choosing related texts or reliable sources of information.

I would like to seize this opportunity to acknowledge the contributions of three casual/temporary teachers Ms. Saheli, Ms. Clancy, and Ms. Lampe who joined us since the beginning of this term and to extend my gratitude to them for not only creating positive learning environments for our students but for also supporting me in shouldering additional responsibilities successfully.

Ms N Joseph
Relieving Head Teacher English

Above are some Teacher Created Resources and Student Samples

ATTENTION YEAR 10 ENGLISH
Record of School Achievement (ROSA) assessment portfolios are worth 40%.
Community Liaison Officer

Welcome to New Students & Parents
I extend a particularly warm welcome to parents of all our new students and especially our new 2015 Year 7 students. I look forward to working with all Year 7 parents to help the school 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 to parents/caregivers, encouraging parent/caregiver partnerships and participation in schools 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 positives 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. Find out who the staff are at the school who can help if they need it on issues such as medication.

7. Finally, let your child know that you trust them and that they can trust you. Keep communication open about all your child’s experiences, and make sure they know you’re available if things go wrong.

Parent Meeting
I encourage all parents to join us for our first parent meeting for this year which will be held on Friday 27 February 2015 @ 9.30am. The school holds parent meetings twice a term usually held in weeks 5 and 9. This will be a great opportunity for you to meet with me one on one and to introduce yourself. I will be discussing ways we can work together to ensure your child is successful in is education and does well throughout the year. I will also be consulting with you on your needs as a parent. I do hope you attend, however if you are unable to do so, please feel free to contact me on 9644 5200 (ext. 235). I will be available two days a week every Thursday and Friday from 9am to 3pm.

Make use of school facilities
The school offers many support programs to ensure their students’ educational and vocational needs are met. I encourage you to support you child in utilising the Homework Centre which is available every Monday and Tuesday from 3.10pm to 4.10pm. Please ensure a permission slip is submitted to the school prior to joining.

Counselling services
The school counsellor can assist when families undergo trauma or big changes. Contact the school to make an appointment.
Ms S Harris
Community Liaison Officer

Sports Report
As 2015 moves into full swing, so too does the sporting calendar. The school swimming carnival was held on Tuesday 24 February 2015 at Birrong Pool. The carnival will cater for both elite swimmers wishing to qualify for the Bankstown zone carnival and it will also cater for the less proficient swimmer wishing to get in the water and complete a lap of the pool. I encourage all students to attend the carnival and participate as it is a fun day for all.

The Sydney South West knockouts are also commencing with Birrong Boys having entered in a range of sports. Basketball, Rugby League and Soccer are some of the sports the school has entered in. I encourage senior boys in years 10, 11 and 12 to sign up and represent their school. It can be a very rewarding experience.

The Bankstown Zone this year is holding Zone trial days for zone representation at Sydney South West area. They are providing complimentary transport to and from the trials in a bid to strengthen the quality of the teams and provide all students an opportunity to trial for these sports. This is a great pathway for the elite performers to move through the different levels of representation at school level.

Mr G Roukanas
Sport Organiser

Basketball - Birrong Boys Strong Victory in Preliminary Round
The Birrong Boys Open basketball team have begun the tournament with a strong performance and victory over Bankstown Senior College – 37-6. The whole team put in 100 percent effort whilst maintaining excellent sportsmanship. Sila racked up many points by driving strong inside and our big man Irshaad was dominant in the middle grabbing the rebounds.

Great effort to all our boys! Looking forward to our next challenge against Strathfield South High School.

Mr M Karam
PD/H/PE & Year 7 Adviser

Year 7 Vaccination
Attention parents/guardians of Year 7 students. This year your child will be offered free vaccinations to protect them from Human Papilloma Virus, Varicella (chicken pox) and Tetanus, Diphtheria and Pertussis (whooping cough). Registered nurses will visit the school three times over the course of the year to provide this vital service.

It is important that the parent information pack provided and sign the consent card for each vaccine that you would like your child to receive.

If you have any queries the Immunisation Team at SWSLHD Public Health Unit will be happy to take your call on 8778 0855.

Mr M Karam
Year 7 Adviser
High Achievers Morning Tea

Photographs of our 2014 Year 12 at our recent high achievers morning tea:
The Premiers 2015 Reading Challenge will run this year from 2 March until 28 August but books that students have read from 1 September 2014 can count towards their 2015 tally. Students in Years 7 to 9 are encouraged to participate in the challenge which has been running now for over ten years. The Premiers Reading Challenge is an excellent way to encourage students to read more. It will improve students literacy skills and should have a positive effect on their overall school outcomes. The Premiers Reading Challenge encourages all students to achieve their best. Permission notes will go home with students shortly. Parents and students are invited to discuss this challenge with the librarian if they have any questions.

Ms D Good
Librarian
SRC
Errol Blas was one of the 27 outstanding local primary and high school students receiving and representing the School Citizenship Award 2014 for Birrong Boys' High School. Errol's face popped up on The Citizenship Award 2014.

Errol Blas is now a Year 11 student and President of the Student Representative Council team, Errol has been involved with lots of charity events, such as Legacy Day and Footy Colours Day. With his years of hard work and dedication strongly recognised, Errol has demonstrated responsibility towards his fellow students and most importantly, the community. The citizenship award requires having thorough positive attitudes which he demonstrates as well as his school motto – from each his best, always trying his best with everything and seeking himself on the road to success in whatever he is doing. Congratulations Errol Blas!

Office News

EFTPOS
EFTPOS is now available at the office to make payments for school fees, uniforms, equipment and excursions. Please note that we have no cash out facilities.

For Parents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HOME WORK CENTRE</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>When:</strong> Mondays and Tuesdays 3:10 to 4:10pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Where:</strong> School Library</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Who:</strong> All students welcome</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research and Reading</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Help with assessments / assignments / Internet access</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A quiet place to finish school tasks</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**IT’S FREE!**

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

2015 Homework Planner
Kids and families run more smoothly when there’s a plan. The 2015 homework and study calendar includes key dates and school holidays. You can print it out month by month, or by the whole year. Find out more

Doing Well in Class
Our expert panel shares tips about how parents can help their younger and older kids reach their full potential at school and motivate them for learning. Watch the video.

Benefits of Team Sports
If you want your child to grow up to be a confident and well-adjusted adult, then team sports may well be the answer. Benefits include learning how to be more resilient, and being less likely to feel isolated.

Technology talks
Find out about all the technologies your child could be using at school, at home and on the go. Scan the A-Z list for overall knowledge, find out how gadgets work, what their good points are and other usages you may need to be aware of.
http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/technology

Vocational education
Many kids now use Year 11 and 12 to get a head start on a traineeship or an apprenticeship, or gain other valuable industry experience.

Avoiding injuries
Have you ever wondered if your child may be suffering physically from using a computer for schoolwork? Or if carrying their school bag may be causing them pain? Experts discuss and give tips on what to watch out for.
Student Profiles

Rami IAALI
Year 8

Favourite Sport
Soccer

Favourite Food
Pizza

Favourite Subject
Sport

What I like about BBHS
Learning lots

When I leave school I want to be
Carpenter

Samir IAALI
Year 10

Favourite Sport
Rugby League

Favourite Food
Oporto

Favourite Subject
Maths

What I like about BBHS
The great staff

When I leave school I want to be
Carpenter
There is no good reason to bring a knife to school.

NSW now has the toughest knife laws in Australia. As a parent, you need to be aware of these laws, as you can also be charged if you allow your child to carry a knife.

No knives allowed at school under any circumstances.

- If a student has a knife at school the principal may call the police.
- The student may be expelled or suspended immediately. Possessing a knife includes your child simply having one in their bag or locker. Having a knife for self-protection is also illegal. If you are concerned about your child’s wellbeing or safety, contact the principal.
- Tough penalties apply for children convicted of knife offences, including gaol sentences of up to 25 years if someone is injured with a knife during an assault.
- Flick knives, ballistic knives, sheath knives, push daggers, trench knives, butterfly knives and star knives are all prohibited.
- Your child cannot bring to school any item that can be used as a weapon (such as a chisel).
- In lessons requiring the use of knives, for example cooking or trades, your child’s teacher will supply and supervise the use of the tools.
- There are some senior subjects, such as hospitality, where children may be required to have their own knives.

What kind of knives are prohibited?

As school policy is designed to keep all students safe, no type of knife is allowed at school. No type of knife is allowed at school. That means no butter knives or fruit knives in lunchboxes, or knife tools for craft purposes.

- Flick knives, ballistic knives, sheath knives, push daggers, trench knives, butterfly knives and star knives are all prohibited.
- Your child cannot bring to school any item that can be used as a weapon (such as a chisel).
- In lessons requiring the use of knives, for example cooking or trades, your child’s teacher will supply and supervise the use of the tools.
- There are some senior subjects, such as hospitality, where children may be required to have their own knives.

The law makes parents responsible

You need to make certain your child is aware of the school’s rules and the State laws about knives.

If you allow your child to carry or possess a knife at school or in a public place, you can be charged.

- The police can search any child they suspect of having a knife. They can confiscate any dangerous object they might find during the search.
- Your child must comply with such a police search, or they may be arrested and charged.
- It is also illegal for anyone to sell a knife to anyone who is less than 16 years old.
Dear Parent or Carer

The test dates for the National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy for all students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 will be as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Test name</th>
<th>Includes</th>
<th>Date of test</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Language Conventions test</td>
<td>Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar</td>
<td>Tuesday 12 May 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing test</td>
<td>Writing task</td>
<td>Tuesday 12 May 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reading test</td>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>Wednesday 13 May 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Numeracy test (Years 3 and 5)</td>
<td>Number, Algebra, Function and pattern, Measurement, chance and data, and Space. (No calculator allowed.)</td>
<td>Thursday 14 May 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Numeracy tests (Years 7 and 9)</td>
<td>Number, Algebra, Function and pattern, Measurement, chance and data, and Space. (Calculator allowed followed by non-calculator.)</td>
<td>Thursday 14 May 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catch-up day</td>
<td>For students who missed a section of the test or were absent on a particular day.</td>
<td>Friday 15 May 2015</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>