

HPGE AT DTHS

HPGE at DTHS Creative



THE HEARTS PROJECT

A cross-disciplinary wellbeing initiative connecting artistic expression with empathy and gratitude. HPGE students created artworks and hand-written letters sent to educators across NSW, offering encouragement and appreciation. The initiative strengthened students' emotional literacy and sense of purpose and developed students' ability to communicate with authenticity and empathy. This is a bi-annual initiative that targets different community groups. The next will be children in Westmead Children's Hospital.



LUNCHTIME CONCERTS

A student-led performance initiative providing HPGE music students with regular opportunities to showcase their skills in an informal, supportive environment. Held during lunchtime in high-traffic areas of the school (such as the quad or hall foyer), these concerts allow students to experiment with solo and ensemble work, original compositions, and performance techniques in front of live audiences. This initiative provides an authentic, low-stakes performance outlet that develops confidence and stage presence. It has also cultivated a vibrant and inclusive school culture by embedding music performance into the daily life of the school community. Additionally, it has enabled formative feedback and performance reflection, preparing students for more formal public events, competitions, and HSC performance assessments.



HUMANS OF DOONSIDE

Inspired by Humans of New York, this interdisciplinary, student-led documentary and art installation project celebrates influential women and community members through portraiture, storytelling, song, and dance. Each year will focus on a different community group. The Humans of Doonside project has empowered students to explore identity, resilience, and social connection, fostered empathy, and projected to grow into a feature-length film and published book, building a lasting cultural archive.



THE CURATORIAL TEAM AND ARTBEATS

A student-led initiative providing HPGE students with real-world curatorial experience, from exhibition planning and installation to promotional writing and public engagement. Central to the annual ArtBeats showcase, which celebrates student work across CAPA. This initiative supports student leadership, organisational, and critical thinking skills, enhanced students' confidence and professional communication, and promotes authentic ownership and pride in the school's creative identity.



HPGE ART CAMP

A multi-day immersive experience for Years 8–11, hosted yearly at the Bundanon Trust. Students participated in intensive workshops, conceptual development, and collaborative installations within a culturally rich environment. Initially funded by a Minister's Grant, it continues with philanthropic support. This initiative has led to elevated student creativity, independence, and self-efficacy. It has deepened cultural engagement and community connection and resulted in significant growth in student artistic practice and wellbeing.



REAL-WORLD CREATIVE TASKS

HPGE students participate in authentic, industry-inspired projects including:

- Pop Art T-shirt Store (entrepreneurial design)
- Visual Design Short Films (entered into "Made in the West" festival)
- Exhibition curation and collaborative installations

These initiatives have supported students in developing transferable skills such as project management, teamwork, critical thinking. It has also fostered student agency through meaningful outcomes and connected creative learning to professional pathways and public audiences.

