



Principals Message

As we reach the conclusion of another outstanding school year, I would like to take this opportunity to reflect on our collective achievements and extend my sincere gratitude to everyone who has contributed to such a positive, productive, and inspiring year at our school.

This year has once again demonstrated what is possible when a committed staff, engaged students, and a supportive community come together with a shared purpose. We have continued to deliver a broad range of educational programs, initiatives, and enrichment opportunities designed to challenge, support, and empower our students. From academic extension and wellbeing programs to cultural, sporting, and leadership initiatives, our school has ensured that every young person is equipped with the skills and experiences they need to thrive.

One of the standout moments of the year has undoubtedly been our exceptional academic success. We were immensely proud to be recognised across NSW for being ranked number one in the state for the most improved HSC results over the past 10 years. This remarkable achievement has attracted significant media attention and has placed a spotlight on the dedication and perseverance of our students and staff. It is an accomplishment built on years of hard work and a consistent commitment to high expectations and quality teaching.

Featured

- Principals Message
- What is been happening in Science
- Wellbeing update
- Sports report
- TAS end of year wrap up
- Term 4 in the CAPA corner
- Year 10 review
- Keeping up with PDHPE



Principals Message

Continued

None of this would be possible without our extraordinary staff. We are blessed with teachers and support staff who consistently go above and beyond for our students. Their professionalism, dedication, and deep care for our students is evident on a daily basis.

I extend my heartfelt thanks to each member of our staff for the enthusiasm and commitment they bring to our school community every single day.

Equally important is the partnership we maintain with our parents, carers, and families. The relationship between home and school is pivotal to student success, and we are deeply grateful for your unwavering support. Thank you for working alongside us, communicating openly, and trusting us with your children's educational journey. Together, we have created an environment where students feel supported, valued, and inspired to achieve their personal best.

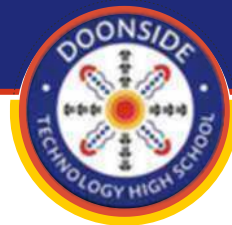
As we approach the holiday period, I encourage all families to take the time to rest and enjoy a well-deserved break.

May the coming weeks be filled with joy, safety, and moments of celebration.

We look forward to welcoming everyone back in the new year, refreshed and ready to embrace another great year for our school.

Mr. Colin Campbell

Principal



What has been happening in Science?

Year 7

This term, Year 7 explored some of the predictable patterns we see on Earth—such as day and night, the seasons, and eclipses. Students used models to help them make sense of how these events occur within our solar system. They also looked at how advances in technology have improved our understanding of space and the world around us.

Year 8

In Science this term, Year 8 investigated the structure of the Earth and the different types of rocks that make up our planet. Students explored how rocks change over time through the rock cycle and considered why Earth's resources are so important in our everyday lives. They also discussed how these resources are formed and the ways we use them responsibly.

Year 9

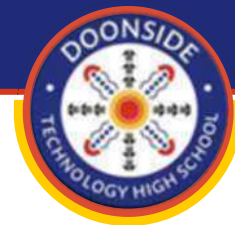
Students began exploring the universe and the technologies that help us study it, including the Hubble Space Telescope, radio telescopes, and optical telescopes. They learned how astronomers measure vast distances in space using units such as astronomical units, light-years, and parsecs. Students also investigated key ideas about the origins and evolution of the universe, including the Big Bang theory, the life cycle of stars, black holes, and galaxies. Their learning was enriched by examining Aboriginal perspectives on the creation of the universe and the knowledge systems that have been passed down over generations.

Year 10

This term, students learned about the nervous system, the endocrine system, the sense organs, homeostasis, and how the body responds to different stimuli. This helped them build a clearer understanding of how the body's systems communicate and work together to keep us healthy and functioning. Students were also able to make connections to real-life situations, strengthening their awareness of how these processes support everyday living.

Year 12

Chemistry In Term 4, Year 12 students examined the principles of chemical synthesis in organic chemistry. They investigated how chemists create new substances—like medicines, fuels, and polymers—and discussed both current and emerging technologies that help meet the needs of modern society.



What has been happening in Science?

Continued

Year 12 Physics

Year 12 Physics students have been exploring the Advanced Mechanics module. They investigated projectile motion by analysing how horizontal and vertical components work together to predict an object's path. Students also studied circular motion, learning about the forces needed to keep objects moving in curved paths and how these ideas apply in real-world contexts. Their work continued with an examination of gravity and the laws that describe the attraction between masses. These topics form an important foundation for understanding motion and have helped students deepen their appreciation of the principles that shape the physical world.

Year 12 Biology

In Biology this term, our students have started their HSC Biology coursework by investigating infectious diseases, pathogens, transmission patterns, the way in which the body's immune system works to fight against infection and how to prevent or control disease. Students have conducted tests on water samples as part of this module to explore how pathogens are identified in real-world contexts. Students have begun working on their Depth Study Assessment Task, becoming an expert on a named disease of their choice and learning about its nature, transmission, effect on the human body and society as a whole.

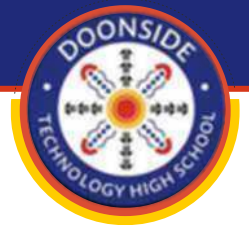
iSTEM

In iSTEM this term, students have learned about sustainable transport and how the transport industry is moving away from traditional combustion engines toward cleaner, low-emission technologies. They explored battery electric vehicles, the role of governments in managing future-focused transport systems, and the role of manufacturers in meeting their moral, ethical, and legal responsibilities within the transport industry. Students were then able to demonstrate their critical thinking skills by making an evidence-based judgement on whether the advantages of sustainable transport outweigh its shortcomings when compared to traditional transport options.

Agriculture

Year 10 Agriculture Excursion

This term, Year 10 Agriculture students visited the Camden Open Day at the University of Sydney. They explored careers in agriculture, learned about new technologies, and took part in hands-on workshops — including growing mushrooms, emasculating weeds, and pollinating plants. Students brought their mushroom packs back to school to watch them grow until harvest, turning classroom learning into an exciting, real-life experience!



What Has Been Happening In Science?

Continued

New additions to the farm!

The farm welcomed two new ewes this term, and they've quickly settled in and made Doonside their home. Students have enjoyed watching them explore their new surroundings and become part of the daily routine. Their names, Oreo and Cocoa, were selected through a school-wide naming competition, which created plenty of excitement and great suggestions from across the grades. The ewes have already become a favourite stop for students visiting the farm and will play an exciting role in our agricultural learning program moving forward.

Amy Taylor

Head Teacher Science



What Has Been Happening In Science?

Continued





Wellbeing update

SRC

This term our SRC Coordinators Ms Atai and Ms Ali, with the help of the 2025 Senior Leaders, ran try-outs to determine our SRC representatives for 2025. This was a successful day with all students demonstrating excellent participation and our senior leaders doing a wonderful job facilitating the day. Our 2025 SRC members will be recognised through a badge ceremony next year.



Scholarships

We have had two students receive scholarships this term. Shelby Lemon (Year 9) and Jasper Peric (Year 10) were successful in receiving Michael Vassili scholarships. Both students received the Outstanding Achiever Award of \$1000 and will attend the awards ceremony early next year. All students are to be commended on this excellent achievement!

Programs

It has been another incredibly successful term for our Wellbeing team. Throughout Term 4, we delivered a diverse range of programs designed to strengthen students' social and emotional wellbeing, build resilience and self-efficacy, and deepen cultural awareness.

Some of our programs included:

- Inner Canvas - our Year 8 girls' art therapy program
- Play Our Way - the Creating Chances coaching program for female students
- Ignite - a targeted program supporting male students
- Pasifika Programs with Meta - deepening understanding of cultural heritage
- Aboriginal Cultural Boys Group with Police Liaison Officer Dennis
- ConnectEd - Year 7 girls' friendship and relationship program
- Drive for Life - Salvation Army assisting students with getting their drivers license

Students have shared overwhelmingly positive feedback about their experiences, and we're excited to continue offering these valuable programs in 2026.



Wellbeing update

Continued

Highlight: Run Beyond Project

Mr Gerard accompanied our Run Beyond students to Huskisson, where they successfully completed a 10km run - an inspiring milestone they worked towards throughout the year. Students trained consistently with Mr Gerard, Miss Takache, and Mrs Awad, showing remarkable commitment and growth. Along the way, they learned many valuable lessons, with resilience and dedication standing out above all. We are incredibly proud of their hard work and perseverance, and it was a joy to cheer them on as they crossed the finish line.



Highlight: Pride Girls Community Work

It has been a huge and inspiring term for our PRIDE Girls! The group proudly delivered a Year 7 Body Confidence Workshop, teaching younger students about self-love, positive relationships, and building one another up. After completing a series of learning workshops in Term 3, the PRIDE Girls adapted the activities and confidently led the session with maturity and care.

In addition to their school-based leadership, the PRIDE Girls also expanded their community impact. Alongside the Year 8 GROW Girls, They travelled into the city for a Salvation Army homelessness workshop and city tour, deepening their understanding of social issues and the importance of community support. The group then organised a large donation drive of non-perishable items for the Salvation Army, showing impressive initiative and compassion.

To finish the term, the PRIDE Girls continued their service work by baking Christmas desserts and preparing gift boxes for women and children in a local refuge. The recipients were extremely grateful for the thoughtful and heartfelt contribution. We are incredibly proud of their leadership, empathy, and commitment to making a difference.



Wellbeing update

Continued



Meet our 2026 Year 7 Advisor



Mrs Pauline Tofa

We are delighted to welcome Mrs Tofa as our 2026 Year 7 Year Advisor! Mrs Tofa is a warm, caring, and approachable leader who ensures everyone feels safe and supported - what a perfect person to guide our Year 7 cohort in their first year of high school!

Having previously worked with other year groups as an Assistant Year Advisor, Mrs Tofa brings experience, dedication, and a strong commitment to student wellbeing. We are confident she will do an excellent job supporting the needs of all her students.

It's wonderful to reflect on the many positive initiatives happening in the Wellbeing space at DTHS. This year has been incredibly rewarding, and we are so proud of the growth, leadership, and contributions of our students. I wish everyone in our community a joyful and restful festive season, and I look forward to all that 2026 will bring.

Alexandra Kelly
Rel. Head Teacher Wellbeing



Sports report

2026 SEASON SYDNEY WEST VOLLEYBALL TRIALS

Across the 17th of November, DTHS sent 3 students to the Sydney West Volleyball trials. Each student was eager and determined to make their respective teams. Over the last few years, the school's student numbers have increased regarding the trials and as a school community, we could not be more proud of each of them. Well done to Aiyasha Sison, Nathan Lopez and Dexter Batula on their amazing sportsmanship.

INDOOR CRICKET

On 26 November, our students from the support unit participated in an inclusive indoor cricket match against Chifley College Bidwill. Our Doonside team emerged willingly to formulate friendships, share stories, and the opportunity to enjoy a meal together.

We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to the staff at St Marys Indoor Sports and the Chifley College Bidwill Support Unit community for making this event possible. Thank you for your support and for fostering such a wonderful spirit of inclusion.

COACHES: Miss Peppas, Bay Ayling & Miss Adrienne



Sports report

Continued

BASKETBALL

Congratulations to our Support Unit basketball team!

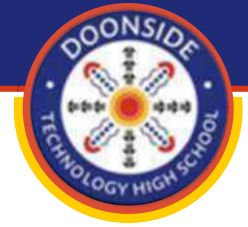
Our students proudly represented Doonside Technology High School at the BNSW Support Units Schools Basketball Competition, showing incredible teamwork, determination and sportsmanship.

They played their hearts out in 7 hard fought games and finished as runners-up in a tough and exciting competition.

We are so proud of their effort, attitude and the way they represented our school!

COACHES: Miss Peppas & Miss Adrienne





Sports report

Continued

HOUSE CAPTAINS, 2026

We are thrilled to announce the Sport House Captains for 2026! These outstanding students were elected by their peers for their dedication, leadership, and commitment to their houses.

BRUCE: Syeda Abbas, Abbie Hinkley, Ronrietta Piti and Mikaere Rangi

CRAWFORD: Ronaldo Amen, Iyla Jowaheer and London Riki

STUART: Ibrahim Kerdi, Pyper Nowland and Rachna Prasad

WALLACE: Shelby Lemon, Sienna Thompson and

These captains have already embarked on their leadership journey, participating in a comprehensive training and induction session. They explored ways to inspire and support their housemates, foster teamwork, and promote school spirit throughout the year.

We are excited to see how their energy and creativity will shape house events, sports carnivals, and other school activities. Congratulations to our new leaders—we know they will make their houses proud!



Sports report

Continued



2026 HOUSE CAPTAIN SPEECHES

ABBIE HINKLEY

Good morning everyone! I'm Abbie, and I'd love to be your Sports Captain for Bruce in 2026.

I've always loved being active and getting involved in sport, whether it's a game, a race, or just for some fun. I play netball and Volley, enjoy running, and I've completed two Ironmans. I'm looking forward to competing in 2026. I'm always ready to join in with any sport we do at school.

I believe sport brings people together and pushes us to be our best. Sport isn't just about winning, but about having fun, giving things a go, and supporting each other along the way. It's about teamwork, effort, and how to keep going even when things get tough.

If I become Sports Captain, I'd want to bring that same energy to our House. I'd encourage everyone to give things a go, even if it's something new or something you're not sure about. You never know what you might end up loving, or being really good at, and you'll!

I'm always cheering for my friends and peers, and I love seeing people try their best, no matter what place they come. As Sports Captain, I promise to lead by example, cheer loudly, work hard, and help make sport something everyone looks forward to.

Thank you for listening, and remember it's not about being perfect. It's about giving it a go and doing your best. Vote for me for your House Captain in 2026. Thank you!

LONDON RIKI

Good afternoon/ morning Crawford

As announced to almost here before you all today and run to be your House Captain for 2026. Before I get into anything else, I've been learning across heaps of new faces, so for those I haven't met yet, my name is London, and I'm a proud Māori/Pasifika Islander student here at Doonside. Starting at DTHS has encouraged me to make the most of the time I have left in high school, which is why I've decided to go for this leadership opportunity. Although I've only been attending Doonside since the start of this year, I hope you will consider me for this position. There are many reasons I want to be your House Captain, and no, it's not for the aesthetics of wearing a badge on my chest. It's because I hold so much passion and dedication for sport, especially for women in sport.

For the past eight years, I've been playing in the Penrith junior rugby league competition and have taken out the Grand final twice. This year, I was also invited to meet with the Penrith committee and received an invitation to trial for the Panthers development team. Alongside club trials, last year I headed to New Zealand and played in the Tainui Rugby tournament, representing of Waikato in NZ. Switching from rugby to also playing Volley, I've completed in State Cup for Newcastle Eagles, Regional for Wrens Tigers, and internationally, two years above my own age - representing New Zealand. I've travelled to Coffs Harbour with all of these teams, holding the best of the best in the Australian Volley scene. Although Rugby league and Volley have been my main focus, still enjoy participating in any sport I can get involved in.

You might be thinking why does any of this make me a good House Captain? Well, every sport I play is a team sport - and team sports require working together, problem-solving and most importantly, leadership. As a leader myself, I promise to commit fully and work to any extent required of me as your Crawford House Captain. Your expectations will always motivate me to care, encourage, and push you all of every sporting event at school, from swimming carnivals to athletics carnivals and all of the competitions still to come.

I'm ready to give the same support you've shown me today, for every interaction we'll have in the future.

So please vote for me, London Riki, to be your Crawford House Captain for 2026.

RACHNA PRASAD

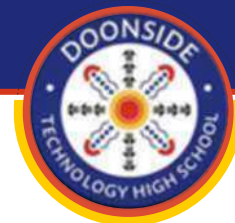
Good afternoon staff and students of Stuart. My name is Rachna, and I'm standing here today not as the fastest runner or the strongest player, but as someone who genuinely wants to see our House grow, work together, and win as a team.

I'll be honest with you all, I don't play many sports, and I may not have won as many medals as the other contestants I'm standing with today. But what I do bring is commitment, positivity, and the willingness to try. And sometimes, trying is where real leadership begins.

Being a House Captain isn't about being the best athlete; it's about encouraging everyone to get involved, no matter their ability. It's about helping someone pick themselves up after a loss, cheering the loudest on the sidelines, and making sure everyone feels part of the team.

I want to be the kind of captain who leads with energy, with heart, and with respect. So whether you're a top performer or just finding your confidence, I'll be there supporting you every step of the way.

So please vote for me, Rachna, as your 2026 Stuart House Captain!



Sports report

Continued

COLEBEE ZONE SPORTS PRESENTATION

On the 21st of November, a number of very proud students attended the Colebee Zone Sports Presentation at Melonba High School. Students were presented with several medals and awards to acknowledge their exemplary display of sporting ability and admirable sportsmanship across the year. Awards received include:

Zone Age Swimming Champion

- William Jones, 13 Years Boys Second Place
- Jordan Sleaman, 14 Years Boys Second Place
- Pyper Nowland, 14 Years Girls First Place
- Nellie-Ann Reid, 15 Years Girls Second Place
- Riley Sleaman, 16 Years Boys First Place
- Connor Hewitt, 16 Years Boys Second Place
- Ethan Szlavits, 16+ yrs Boys MC First Place
- Lilly Calder, 17+ Years Girls Third Place

Zone Age Cross Country Champion

- Rane Tu, 14 Years Boys Second Place
- Zahra Calder, 14 Years Girls First Place
- Abbie Hinkley, 15 Years Girls Second Place
- Mathew Ayuob, 17 Years Boys Third Place
- Josh Guballa, 18+ Years Boys First Place
- Lilly Calder, 18+ Years Girls First Place
- Shaylah-Jaide Gauci, 12-15 yrs Girls MC First Place
- Esoufa Saibou, 16+ yrs Boys MC First Place
- Anjelica Miller, 16+ yrs Girls MC First Place



Zone Age Athletics Age Champion

- Zahra Calder, 14 Years Girls Third Place
- Josh Guballa, 17+ Years Boys First Place
- Giovanni German Delgado, 12-15yrs Boys MC First Place
- Shaylah-Jaide Gauci, 12-15yrs Girls MC First Place
- Esoufa Saibou, 16+ yrs Boys MC First Place
- Anjelica Miller, 16+ yrs Girls MC First Place

All students should be incredibly proud of their achievements and are to be congratulated on representing not only our school but also the Colebee Zone. A special thank you to all parents and carers who were present to support their children.



Sports report

Continued

DTHS SPORTS PRESENTATION

On Friday, December 5, Doonside Technology High School hosted its Annual Sports Presentation Assembly. This is a momentous occasion where we come together to celebrate not only the achievements of our outstanding athletes but also the spirit of sportsmanship and camaraderie that defines our school community.

We extend our heartfelt congratulations to all our award recipients. **Esoufa Saibou** and **Anjelica Miller** were recognised for their excellence and resilience as Multiclass Sportspeople. Junior Sportspeople **Ibrahim Kerdi** and **Zahra Calder**, along with Senior Sportspeople **Josh Guballa** and **Lilly Calder**, were celebrated for their remarkable contributions to school sports.

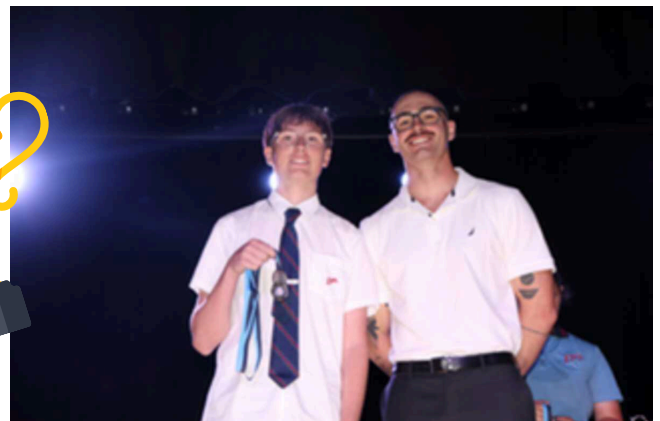
The prestigious **Aina Gibbons Service to Sport Award** was presented to Lilly Calder, of Year 12, in recognition of her unwavering dedication and service to the school's sporting programs. Her efforts embody the values of commitment and selflessness that inspire us all.

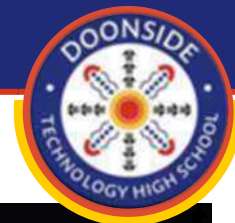
An exciting highlight of the assembly was the announcement of the **House Cup** winners. Congratulations to **Crawford House**, whose teamwork and determination earned them a well-deserved victory with an impressive 9,063 points.

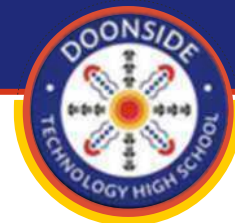
The Annual Sports Presentation Assembly is not only a celebration of individual and team achievements but also a testament to the collective effort that makes them possible. We extend our gratitude to parents and carers for their ongoing support and encouragement throughout the year.

As we reflect on a remarkable year of sporting achievements, we look forward with great excitement to what the future holds for our sports community. Together, we will continue to strive for excellence, sportsmanship, and unity in the years to come.

Sports Organiser: Mrs Awad







Sports report

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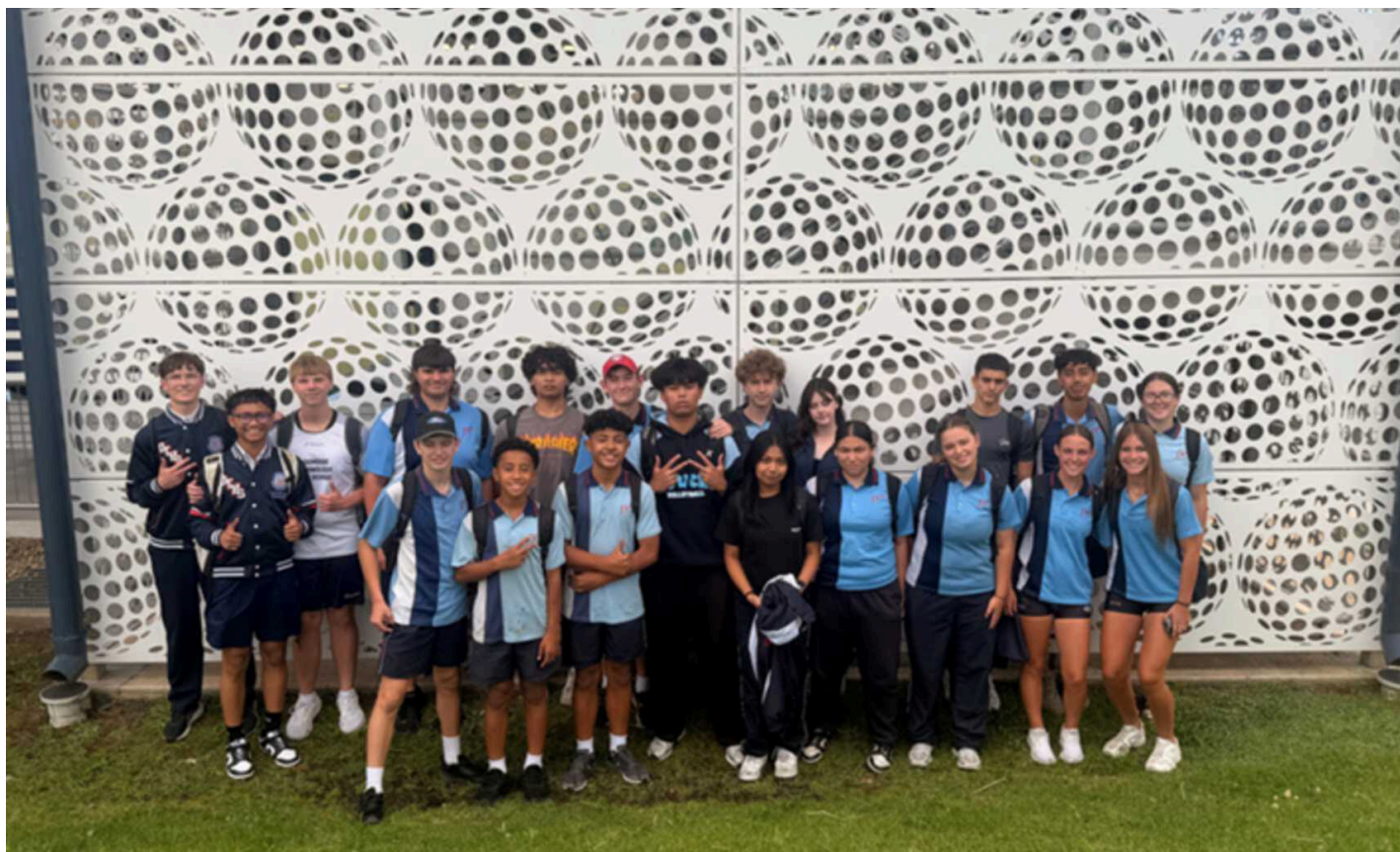
DTHS SPORTS REWARDS EXCURSION

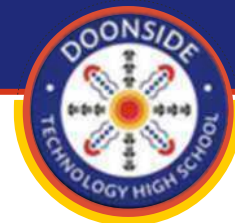
A group of our most dedicated student athletes enjoyed an exciting day out at Swing City as part of our Sports Awards celebrations. The excursion offered students the chance to step outside their comfort zones and take on fun, unfamiliar sporting challenges that tested their coordination, teamwork, and resilience.

From promising Year 7 athletes to our experienced House Captains and senior students, everyone embraced the activities with enthusiasm. The day was filled with laughter, friendly competition, and plenty of moments that showcased the incredible sporting spirit we are so proud of at DTHS.

It was a fantastic opportunity for our award recipients to bond, celebrate their achievements, and enjoy a well-earned reward for their hard work throughout the year. We congratulate all students who attended and look forward to seeing their continued growth and success both on and off the field

Sports Organiser: Mrs Awad





Dates for 2026

CARNIVAL DATES

SPORT @ DTHS



SWIMMING CARNIVAL

Term 1, Week 3 - Thursday
Blacktown Aquatic Centre

FEB
12



**CROSS COUNTRY +
COLOUR RUN**

Term 1, Week 9 - Thursday
Doonside Technology High
School

MAR
26

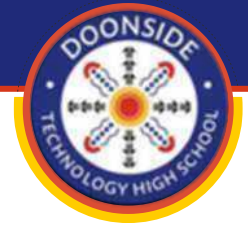


ATHLETICS CARNIVAL

Term 2, Week 6 - Tuesday
Blacktown International
Sports Park

MAY
26

2026



TAS - End of year wrap up

As we wrap up another dynamic and hands-on year in the TAS Faculty, we are excited to share the wonderful learning, creativity, and innovation that has taken place across our department. Our staff have worked tirelessly to create engaging, practical, and meaningful learning experiences for students from Year 7 to Year 12, and we are proud to celebrate their achievements.

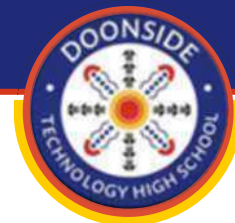
This term, **Mr Smith** played a key role during Orientation Day, transforming the TAS space into a warm, friendly, and inviting environment for our incoming Year 6 students. His friendship bracelet workshop was one of the highlights of the day, giving students the opportunity to connect, create, and settle their nerves through a fun and hands-on activity. His calm, welcoming approach helped ensure our newest cohort felt comfortable and excited about beginning high school next year.

In **Engineering, Mr Griffiths** guided his Year 9 class through an impressive design-and-build challenge. Students researched, planned, constructed, and finally tested their own cardboard chairs—an activity that required problem-solving, collaboration, and resilience. Watching students proudly sit in their completed chairs (some more successfully than others!) was a testament to the skills and perseverance developed throughout the project.

Over in **Computing Applications, Mr Yu** encouraged creativity and technical skill as his students dived into the world of animation. The class developed storyboards, built characters, and produced short animated videos using digital tools. This project allowed students to express their ideas through technology while strengthening their understanding of sequencing, coding logic, and multimedia production.

Mr Navarro's Year 10 class explored the rapidly growing field of renewable energy. Through research and hands-on experimentation, students investigated alternative energy sources, focusing particularly on wind power. They designed and built their own working windmills, testing blade shapes, angles, and efficiency. This project not only deepened their understanding of sustainable technologies but also showed the importance of innovation in addressing real-world challenges.

The Food Technology rooms were as busy and aromatic as ever. **Mrs Dickson** led her Year 9 students through a "choose your own burrito" practical that encouraged creativity, flavour exploration, and decision-making. Students prepared fresh ingredients, experimented with combinations, and showcased their food styling flair as they plated their final creations. Her classroom continues to be a space where skills, confidence, and enthusiasm flourish.



TAS – End of year wrap up

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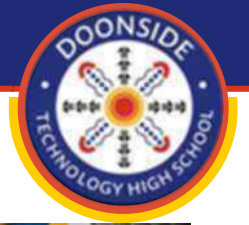
Meanwhile, **Mrs Malouf** worked closely with the Cookery class, supporting students as they planned, prepared, and packaged a diverse range of foods. From organisation and hygiene to teamwork and presentation, students strengthened essential hospitality skills that will serve them well in future studies and industry opportunities.

A major milestone for the TAS department this year was the successful completion of the **inaugural Certificate I in Baking**. Students immersed themselves in the foundations of baking, producing a range of breads, pastries, and baked goods while developing industry-standard skills. Their dedication paid off as they proudly received their certificates—an achievement that reflects their hard work and the strong support provided by their teachers.

And of course, none of this would run as smoothly as it does without the incredible efforts of **Mrs Nikki**. From managing equipment and ingredients to ensuring the kitchens are organised and ready for learning, her consistent support is the backbone of our practical classes. We are deeply grateful for her commitment, care, and reliability.

The TAS department wishes all students, families, and staff a safe, restful, and joyful break. We look forward to another year of creativity, innovation, and hands-on learning in 2026!





A Creative and Inspiring Term 4 and year in CAPA

This term has been a vibrant and rewarding one for the Creative and Performing Arts (CAPA) faculty, with students engaging in rich learning experiences across Music, Dance, Visual Arts, Visual Design, and VET Entertainment. Their achievements reflect remarkable talent, dedication, and the strong community culture that CAPA continues to build at Doonside Technology High School.

MUSIC

This year in Music, students explored a diverse range of topics—from Hip Hop, Orchestral Music, Blues, and Film Music in Stage 4, to Australian music and our MTV Unplugged-style lunchtime gigs in Stage 5. Students also participated in mini orientation concerts for our feeder primary schools, helping strengthen confidence and community engagement. Stage 6 students further expanded their musical understanding by exploring genres through musicology presentations and presenting their HSC performance programs with maturity and artistry.

Across all stages, our Gig-Based Learning approach continued to offer authentic, real-world industry experiences that helped shape our young musicians into capable and connected performers.



A Creative and Inspiring Term 4 and year in CAPA

Continued

Visual Design

This year was an outstanding one for both Visual Arts and Visual Design.

Our Year 12 Visual Design (2025) students premiered their collaborative music video "Gratefully" at the CLIPPED Music Video Festival, proudly representing the only school featured at this industry-level event. Meanwhile, our Year 12 Visual Design (2026) students launched a vibrant pop-up store at the ArtBeats exhibition, showcasing their own screen-printed T-shirt designs inspired by musical artists.

In addition, students completed a striking mural project designed by Nikita Tisic, which was voted on by staff and students.



A Creative and Inspiring Term 4 and year in CAPA

Continued

Visual Arts

This term, Year 7 students have been investigating Pop Art, exploring artists such as Andy Warhol and Claes Oldenburg and how they drew inspiration from everyday objects. Across multiple classes, students developed their skills in creating 3D sculptures based on food items, while others assisted with the installation, set-up, and pack-down of our annual Artbeats showcase.

Year 8 Students this term have been studying a unit titled Reef Revival, creating sculptures that represent how scientists and environmentalists work to restore the reef after damage caused by pollution and coral bleaching.

In Year 10, students have been finalising their text portraits in preparation for Artbeats, examining social issues and creating portraits of political and social activists who stand for causes important to them.

Our new Year 12 Visual Arts students have begun planning and developing ideas for their Body of Work, which they will continue to refine over the next 12 months.

We also welcomed HPGE Art students from each of our four theatre primary schools, who worked alongside some of our senior Visual Arts students to develop their own Frida Kahlo-inspired portraits. It was wonderful to see our student leaders guiding and supporting students from Years 4, 5, and 6 throughout the process. Several of these primary artworks were selected by the curatorial team for inclusion in our Artbeats exhibition. The results were outstanding and stand as a testament to the talent and dedication of the primary students, their teachers, and our own leaders who nurtured them through this creative experience.

Additionally, our dedicated Visual Arts curatorial team has worked tirelessly every Tuesday afternoon until 5pm to prepare, select, frame, and transport artworks, as well as set up the exhibition space and display boards in readiness for the Artbeats installation. Their commitment has been instrumental in bringing this year's showcase to life.



A Creative and Inspiring Term 4 and year in CAPA

Continued

Dance

Dance students have demonstrated exceptional creativity and focus this term. Year 10 Dance explored Indigenous Dance, studying works from leading First Nations artists and companies, deepening their understanding of culture, storytelling, and identity in contemporary movement practice.

Practical lessons centred on refining their Term 1 Core Performance for ArtBeats, while also completing and polishing their original compositions developed earlier in the year. Their commitment saw them confidently perform a mix of set and self-choreographed works on stage, with impressive artistic maturity.

Students approached their end-of-year examination with enthusiasm and a deep understanding of the concepts taught. It has been an absolute pleasure teaching them, learning alongside them, and watching their work shine so brightly.

Thank you, Year 10 Dance, for your determination, growth, and the pride you brought to your final performances and classwork. — Mrs Maher



A Creative and Inspiring Term 4 and year in CAPA

Continued

Our VET Entertainment students have had an incredibly active term, supporting numerous major school events including ArtBeats, Sports Presentation, Strengths Assemblies, Presentation Evening, and Doonie's Got Talent.

Throughout these events, students refined their technical production skills—managing bump-ins and bump-outs, operating audio and lighting systems, and coordinating stage management roles with growing confidence and professionalism.

A special acknowledgement goes to ex-student Angus McKinder, a VET Entertainment graduate who is now working professionally with TEK Electronics. His success is a testament to the strong pathways the course offers and the industry-relevant skills our students develop.

Congratulations to Year 11 for their dedication and commitment throughout a demanding term - Mr Pilason



A Creative and Inspiring Term 4 and year in CAPA

Continued

ArtBeats

A Celebration of Creativity, Community, and Collaboration

ArtBeats 2025 was a truly spectacular event, bringing together students, staff, families, and community members for an evening that celebrated the heart of CAPA at Doonside. The night featured outstanding live performances, captivating dance works, visual art exhibitions, screenings, music items, and interactive displays that filled the hall and library with energy and pride.

Visual Design students presented their screen-printed apparel in a pop-up store; Visual Arts students showcased their carefully curated artworks in a beautiful library exhibition; and Dance students performed both their class choreography and original compositions. Music students entertained audiences with polished performances including slam poetry, group items, Year 7 ensembles, and student-led rap pieces. All performances were supported by our skilled VET Entertainment crew, who delivered professional-level audio, lighting, staging, and event coordination.

The success of ArtBeats was made possible through the combined efforts of many people—including but not limited to, our Senior Executive Team, our curatorial team, VET Entertainment students, performers and artists, office staff and the many teachers who gave their time, assistance and encouragement.

The community response was exceptionally positive, with many praising the professionalism, inclusivity, and atmosphere of the evening through our survey/google form. Over 200 tickets sold this year! A special thank you goes to our beautifully talented CAPA team for your passion, dedication, and relentless support of our students. ArtBeats 2025 was a joyful celebration of creativity, connection, and student achievement—and a powerful reminder of the importance of the arts in shaping confident, expressive young people.



A Creative and Inspiring Term 4 and year in CAPA

Continued



A Creative and Inspiring Term 4 and year in CAPA

Continued



Year 10: Showcasing Strengths in Term 4!

This term, Year 10 students have shown the school's core values through their achievements, contributions, and leadership. Whether supporting others, taking responsibility for their learning, or celebrating personal and collective success, students have finished the year strongly.

Community was at the heart of many experiences this term. The **Roots & Shoots** team made a lasting environmental impact by planting over 600 trees on the back field to help offset heat from the astroturf. Over five days, students worked alongside **Mr Culhane and Greening Australia**, demonstrating teamwork, commitment, and a strong sense of responsibility toward sustainability. Year 10 students also played an important role in **Year 7 2026 Orientation Day**, confidently leading school tours, assisting with classroom activities, and providing peer support to help incoming students feel welcomed and prepared. Additionally, 15 students participated in the **Growing Great Teachers program**, part of the Teacher Cadet Program, gaining valuable insight into teaching as a future career and the role educators play in shaping communities.

Ownership was evident during **work experience** in Weeks 9-10. Students independently sourced placements, demonstrated professionalism by arriving on time and engaging positively in their workplaces, and applied their skills in real-world environments. Several students received excellent feedback and were even offered part-time employment as a result - a testament to their initiative, responsibility, and work ethic.

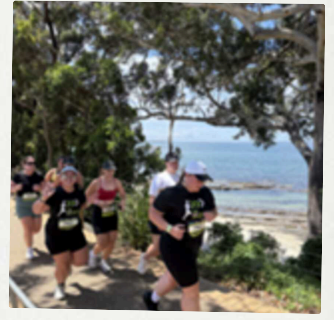
Resilience and empowerment were exemplified by **Isabella Irinco**, a member of the Run Beyond Project, who completed her first 10km race in Huskisson this term. This remarkable achievement reflects Isabella's determination, perseverance, and courage, and her success has inspired other female students to challenge themselves, set ambitious goals, and believe in their own capabilities.

Strengths were celebrated through a variety of experiences and recognitions. Select students attended **Manly Surf School** as part of a rewards excursion, where they collaborated, supported each other, and showcased leadership, teamwork, and personal courage - a memorable way to finish the term.

Strengths were also highlighted at the **Sports Presentation Assembly**, where many Year 10 students were recognised for their sporting achievements: **Nellie-Ann and Lillian** (Swimming Age Champions), **Megan** (Cross Country Age Champion & Open Girls Futsal Spirit Award), **Benjamin** (Athletics Age Champion), **Mia** (Athletics Age Champion & Open Girls Soccer Spirit Award), **Esoufa** (Zone Cross Country & Athletics Age Champion, Inclusion Basketball MVP, Crawford House Hero, Multiclass Sportsperson of the Year), **Hayden H** (Inclusion AFL & Cricket MVP, Inclusion Soccer Spirit Award), **Nathan** (Open Boys Volleyball MVP), and **Jason** (Indigenous All Stars MVP).

As Year 10 students prepare to transition into senior school in Year 11, they are encouraged to continue building independence, effective study habits, and a willingness to seek support when needed. Senior school brings increased responsibility and opportunity, and this cohort has shown they are well prepared to approach the next stage of their learning with confidence, resilience, and purpose.

Warm regards,
Kimberley Twaddle
Year 10 Advisor



Keeping up with PDHPE

Year 7 PDHPE

This term, our Year 7 students have taken important steps towards keeping themselves safe in a variety of environments. During their PDHPE lessons, they focused on the importance of water safety, especially as summer approaches, and took part in a practical two-day "Swim and Survive" workshop. This hands-on experience helped them learn vital skills for staying safe while enjoying aquatic activities at pools, beaches, and rivers. Additionally, students gained valuable knowledge about road safety, including tips for navigating roads as pedestrians and cyclists. We are proud of their enthusiasm and the responsible attitudes they displayed, setting a strong foundation for future safe behaviours.

Year 8 PDHPE

Year 8 have embraced a holistic approach to health and wellbeing, engaging with the "Eat Sleep Train Repeat" unit. Throughout this term, they explored national guidelines for physical activity and healthy eating, learning how these are essential for maintaining lifelong health. The unit also examined the different dimensions of health—physical, social, emotional, and mental—and encouraged students to reflect on their own habits. Enthusiastically, students participated in practical gym and fitness sessions, giving them a chance to build confidence in a supportive environment. We are impressed by their motivation to develop healthy routines and work together towards positive wellbeing.

Year 9 PDHPE

This term in PDHPE, Year 9 students considered the benefits of lifelong physical activity and the potential barriers that can prevent people from staying active. Through thoughtful discussions and collaborative activities, students learned strategies to overcome obstacles such as lack of time, motivation, or resources. Their assessment encouraged them to act as advocates for healthy lifestyles, designing creative initiatives to promote physical activity within the broader community. We have been delighted to see students take the lead in supporting others, and their commitment to encouraging active living is contributing positively both in and outside of school.

Year 10 PDHPE

Last term Year 10 students worked collaboratively to explore the best way to be road safety advocates. Together they considered the data, information and resources that exist already and offered their creative solutions to health promotion. This culminated in our annual Health Expo where students delivered their information stalls to Year 9 as an authentic audience. Year 9 were able to explore road safety issues such as passenger safety, car maintenance, distracted driving and driving while fatigued to name a few.

Keeping up with PDHPE

Continued

Year 10 students have focused on building essential life skills to support their transition into adulthood. Lessons this term included practical learning about job preparation, writing resumes, and understanding the basics of Medicare and tax. These topics are helping students feel empowered and more confident about the future, as they develop practical knowledge for entering the workforce. We also introduced them to the process of work experience, giving everyone a chance to explore potential career interests. We wish them all the best as they embark on this new journey, knowing they are well equipped and ready to make the most of the opportunity.

PASS

Students in the PASS program have made great strides this term in understanding how leisure, lifestyle, and recreation can enrich their lives. They discovered the many ways these activities contribute to personal wellbeing and community connection. Through research and exploration, they identified the variety of career options available within the sport and recreation industry, expanding their horizons for the future. Using social media, students creatively promoted physical activity opportunities within the local community, highlighting the positive impacts on health and social engagement. We congratulate everyone for their initiative and positive influence in promoting active living.

Stage 6

Congratulations to our outgoing graduates of 2025. It has been a pleasure to guide you through SLR, Sports Coaching, CAFS and PDHPE over the past two years and we are grateful for your ongoing commitment to our subject areas. We look forward to seeing the next athletes, coaches, health promotion officers and physical activity advocates of the future!

Stage 6 Sport Coaching

Our Stage 6 Sport Coaching students have shown tremendous achievement, especially as they finished the refereeing cluster of their course this term. They applied their coaching and leadership skills during the Year 7 Orientation, supporting younger students in their transition to high school. Their willingness to share knowledge and skills demonstrates the positive culture our senior students are creating within the school. Looking ahead, they have begun their strength and conditioning unit, which will provide further opportunities to develop expertise and confidence both as athletes and coaches. We are proud of their leadership and commitment to personal growth.

Stage 6 SLR

Students in Stage 6 SLR were introduced to Mixed Martial Arts (MMA) as an individual sport this term. Through learning the history, rules, and a mixture of techniques, they developed a strong understanding of the diverse skills involved. Practical sessions

Keeping up with PDHPE

Continued

allowed students not only to acquire introductory MMA skills but also to consider how these could be taught and coached to others. Their positive attitudes and enthusiasm created a collaborative and supportive learning environment. We are pleased with their dedication and look forward to seeing them continue to expand their practical and coaching abilities.

Stage 6 CAFS

The Stage 6 CAFS students have made excellent progress in developing their research skills, which are essential for their Individual Research Project. Throughout the term, they focused on research processes, including creating and administering a survey that explores the impact of employment on families. These experiences helped students understand real-world research methods and appreciate the challenges and rewards of conducting research with people in their community. We commend their critical thinking, communication, and teamwork skills and are excited to see how they will apply these strengths in their major projects next term.

Stage 6 HMS

Stage 6 HMS students have started Year 12 with curiosity and commitment, diving into the study of major health conditions impacting Australians today. A highlight was their in-depth visit to the NSW Museum of Human Disease, where they consolidated classroom learning with real-world exploration. Students compared Australia's health status with other OECD countries, using data analysis to understand what practices and policies support better health outcomes. Their positive engagement and thoughtful insights will help inform their studies as they seek ways to promote and support health for all Australians. We look forward to continued growth in their understanding next term





School Information

Stay Connected with DTHS



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Office Hours:

Monday – Friday (Excl. School Holidays) 8:00am – 3:30pm

Dates for your Calendar

Friday 19th December 2025 – **Last Day of Term 4 2025**

Tuesday 27th January 2026 – **Staff Development Day**

Monday 2nd February 2026 – **First day of Term 1 (All Students Return)**

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