



## Term 4 Week 6

### PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

#### Sydney Southeast Symphonic Winds – Showcase Performance

Congratulations to Lauren K (Year 8) on your performance at the Sydney Southeast Symphonic Winds Showcase. I had the privilege of attending the Showcase on Sunday 2 November at Verbruggen Hall - Sydney Conservatorium of Music and was most impressed with the talent, energy, passion and musicianship on display.

This is Lauren's second year as a member of the Sydney Southeast Symphonic Winds convened by the Arts Unit. After a busy year of camp, rehearsals and performances, including the Cantabile Festival at the Sydney Opera House, their final performance of 2025, the Showcase, featured 112 students from 44 Public Primary and Secondary Schools.

If you play any of the following instruments and are in Years 7 and 8, keep your eye out early next year for information about the 2026 Sydney Southeast Symphonic Winds: Flute, Oboe, Bassoon, Clarinet, Bass Clarinet, Saxophone (Alto, Tenor or Baritone), Trumpet/Cornet, French Horn, Trombone, Baritone/Euphonium, Tuba, Bass Guitar, Keyboard, and Percussion (tuned and/or untuned). It is a marvellous opportunity to advance your music education and performance opportunities.



## Class of 2025

The final HSC exam was held on 7 November – the culmination of 13 years of schooling. Reaching this milestone is a huge achievement and a testament to their hard work, resilience, and commitment.

Students and staff celebrated at the Year 12 Formal at L'Aqua, Cockle Bay on Wednesday 12 November.

We look forward to welcoming the students back to school on Thursday 18 December for a morning tea and to celebrate their results.

## Year 5 – A Taste of High School

It was great to have Year 5 students from Engadine West, Heathcote, Heathcote East, and Waterfall on 30 October and Helensburgh on 13 November join us to get a 'taste' of high school. The students were introduced to some of our practical classes and teachers in drama, industrial technology, food technology, science and visual arts. Our student volunteers from Year 9 and 10 did such a beautiful job that we might have some future colleagues amongst them.

Thank you to our primary partners for coming along, to our staff who conducted the lessons and to our student helpers.



## Years 7 – 10 Assessments

Years 7 to 10 have completed their Yearly Exams and the teachers are now marking and writing reports to be published on 15 December.

## P&C Meeting

The final P&C Meeting of the year will be held on Wednesday 26 November at 7 pm in the Common Room, 1<sup>st</sup> floor, C Block. Vehicle entry is via The Avenue.

Please join us. Everyone is welcome.

## Peer Support

This term we have selected and trained our 2026 Year 10 Peer Support Leaders. Peer Support Leaders have an important role in helping our 2026 Year 7 students feel welcome, confident, and connected as they begin high school.

The Peer Support Program pairs trained Year 10 leaders with small groups of Year 7s, creating a friendly space where younger students can ask questions, build friendships, and settle into school life. Leaders guide activities that promote teamwork, resilience, and positive relationships—all while acting as approachable role models.

For Year 7s, these sessions make a big difference. Having older students to look up to helps ease nerves and builds a strong sense of belonging. And for our Year 10 leaders, it's a chance to grow their communication and leadership skills while making a meaningful impact.

Thank you to Mr Dorrington and Mrs Allsopp for coordinating the Peer Support program and preparing 31 students for their roles starting with .Orientation Day on Tuesday 2 December.

## School Counsellor and School Psychologist Recognition Day

On 9 November, we celebrated the unique role school counsellors and school psychologists play in supporting students, families and teachers in schools. This year's theme is 'Together we grow'.

On behalf of the Heathcote High School Community, I would like to express my gratitude for the work done by our school counsellors in supporting students in their health and wellbeing and to reach their full potential. Huge thanks to Sally Williams, Ran Shi and Heidi Jarvis for your care, support and commitment to our students, families and teachers.

## Remembrance Day

On Tuesday 11 November, as a school community, we paused to observe Remembrance Day. Our school captains Eve and Matthew spoke about the importance of remembering those who died or suffered for Australian causes in all wars, conflicts and peace operations. It was also a time to reflect on the values of peace, service, courage, bravery and mateship. Their words were followed by a minute's silence.

I would like to thank Mr Bourke (HSIE) for coordinating the event.



## Social Media Age Restrictions

From 10 December, age restricted social media platforms will not be allowed to let under 16-year olds create or keep an account. To assist parents in understanding these changes and supporting their under-16 children during this transition, we have prepared an information sheet (see towards the end of the newsletter). The eSafety Commissioner's website has comprehensive information about these changes. <https://www.esafety.gov.au/about-us/industry-regulation/social-media-age-restrictions-hub>

The aim is to help protect young users from online pressures and risks, which can include platform features which encourage excessive screen time through constant notifications and disappearing content, as well as algorithms which may expose children to negative or manipulative content. These features have been associated with negative impacts on health and well-being – including

increased stress levels, and reduced sleep and concentration. Young people can also be exposed to harmful conduct such as cyberbullying, harmful content and online predators.

Currently, the age restricted social media platforms are: Facebook, Instagram, Kick, Reddit, Snapchat, Threads, TikTok, Twitch, X (formerly Twitter) and YouTube.

### Congratulations to...

- Lauren K (Year 8) on your selection in the 2025 Sydney Southeast Symphony Winds, participation in the camp and your performances throughout the year including the Showcase at the Verbruggen Hall.
- Archer A (Year 9) on your selection as a Featured Dancer in the 2025 School Spectacular.
- Charli S (Year 9) and Isaac B (Year 10) on being invited to participate in the Department of Education's Art Smart Workshop over 4 days.
- Kelsie B (Year 7) and her recent casting in Rockdale Musical Society's upcoming production 'Dare To Dream'.
- Our students participating in our upcoming MADD (Music, Art and photography, Dance and Drama) night. We appreciate your talent and dedication. I would also like to acknowledge our teachers who have worked hard alongside the students, supporting and guiding them.
- Class of 2025 on completion of your final school exams. We wish you all the best for your futures.
- Our teachers for providing practical lessons and our Year 9 and 10 student volunteers for their assistance with "A Taste of High School" for our Primary Partner Year 5 students.
- Our 2026 Peer Support Leaders. Thank you for taking the initiative, undertaking training and your role in creating a safe, welcoming, and supportive school environment. Thank you to Mr Dorrington and Mrs Allsopp for the wonderful job you do as Peer Support Coordinators.
- Our students who volunteered for Exam Support. Your time and support of others as a reader or writer is most appreciated.
- Jen S (Class of 2025) on being offered the prestigious Ramsay Scholarship at the University of Wollongong.
- Karissa R (Class of 2025) who has secured a competitive engineering traineeship with Qantas.
- Our students on Work Experience, including Eve S, Sophie J, Alexis C, Luca T, Lucas C (featured in the Careers Report) for proudly representing HHS.
- Our SRC and staff who proudly represented HHS at the Walk for Respectful Relationships.
- Our U14 Girls League Tag team who are in the semi-finals of the Port Hacking Zone League Cup. Good luck for your game on Monday.
- Our alumni, Rear Admiral Matthew Buckley, Daniel Michel and Taj Lynch on your stellar career and sporting achievements.

Steve Waser  
Principal



## CREATIVE AND PERFORMING ARTS

### Schools Spectacular

We are so proud of Archer A (Year 9) and the hard work he's put in all these years. Congratulations on the Featured Dancer selection and chookas for the huge rehearsal process you are undertaking. We can't wait to cheer you on at the end of this month. Go Archer!

The 2025 Schools Spectacular with the theme 'Remarkable' will be held at Qudos Bank Arena, Sydney Olympic Park:

Friday 28 November: 11 am and 7 pm

Saturday 29 November: 1 pm and 7 pm

Grab your tickets now via Ticketek

<https://premier.ticketek.com.au/shows/show.aspx?sh=SCHOOLSS25>



### Art Smart Workshop

Two of our Stage 5 Visual Arts students were invited to participate in the Department of Education's Art Smart Workshop, which involves a 4-day artmaking workshop for public school students who demonstrate high potential and gifted (HPGE) in the creative domain of visual arts. Isaac B (Year 10) was in the sculpture and wearable art group and Charli S (Year 9) was in the painting group. Overall about 60 students attended.

Students were tutored by experienced art practitioners in a studio environment offering them the opportunity to gain new skills to extend their artmaking practice across a range of mediums and techniques.

Day 1, Friday 24 October, involved an excursion to the Art Gallery of NSW, and the Botanical Gardens.

Days 2-4, Monday to Wednesday 27-29 October, comprised workshops at the Campbelltown Arts Centre. The exhibition of students work was on Wednesday 29 October, 3-4 pm.

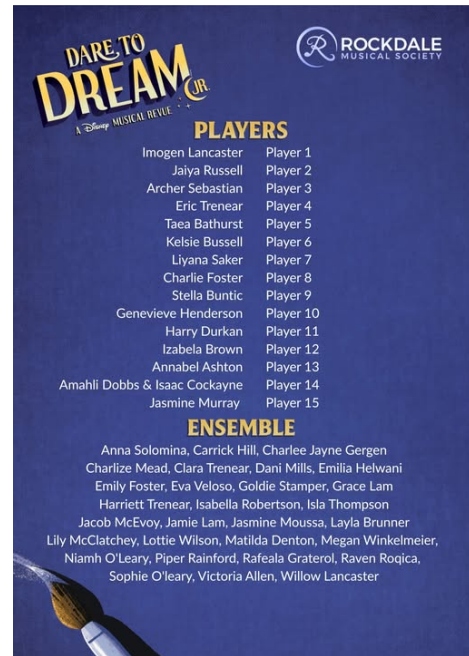


## Dare to Dream

Congratulations to our talented Kelsie B (Year 7) on her recent casting in Rockdale Musical Society's upcoming concert, 'Dare To Dream'.

Kelsie has been performing in local musicals for years now and we love watching her star rise.

Kelsie is also performing a solo song in our upcoming MADD Night from the musical, 'Dear Evan Hansen'.



## MADD Night

We are all looking forward to our annual MADD Night.

What to expect? An evening dedicated to our creative and performing arts students. There will be cabaret style seating, with the option of charcuterie boards and drinks served by our amazing Hospitality students, by pre booking only.

Tickets are available now.



Mrs B Keating

Head Teacher Creative Arts, Performing Arts and Languages

## WALK FOR RESPECTFUL RELATIONSHIPS

Our school's student leadership team were proud to join the community on 19 November at the 'Walk for Respectful Relationships' at Cronulla, walking alongside local schools and community groups to take a stand for respect, safety and healthy relationships.

Together we commit to: "Have the Courage to Call Out! Speak Out! Help Out!"

Thank you to our leaders for representing our school with such integrity and to everyone walking today. Every step counts in building a respectful, safe community.

Thank you to Mr Barnes and Mr Hatch for organising our involvement and accompanying the students.



## SPORT

### Port Hacking Zone League Cup

Heathcote High played Cronulla High in the Port Hacking Zone League Cup on Friday 31 October.

The results are as follows:

14 Girls League Tag:	Cronulla 40 - Heathcote 4
14 Boys Rugby League:	Heathcote forfeit
16 Girls League Tag:	Cronulla 18 - Heathcote 22
16 Boys Rugby League:	Heathcote forfeit

The U14 Girls League Tag team will play in the semi-finals next Monday 24 November.

Miss S Turner

Sports Organiser



## ALUMNI CONGRATULATIONS

### Rear Admiral Matthew Buckley – Deputy Chief of Navy

Our students, who recently attended the Navy Life Expo, had the pleasure of meeting a Heathcote High alumnus, RADM Matt Buckley. He took the time to speak with our students and Careers Adviser, share his journey, and reminisce fondly about his school days at HHS.

RADM Buckley joined the Royal Australian Navy in 1990 and graduated from the Australian Defence Force Academy in 1992. He spent the tactical phase of his career as a submariner serving in Oberon and Collins class submarines. He also spent two years on exchange in a Canadian Submarine based in Halifax Nova Scotia, and serving in the commissioning crew of HMAS Rankin.

Following Command training, RADM Buckley commanded the Submarine HMAS Collins and later served as the Commander of the Australian Submarine Force.

RADM Buckley has served in a number of senior staff appointments including as Director Submarine Capability, Director General Navy Operations, Director General Navy People and Head of Nuclear Submarine Capability. He is a graduate of the Australian Defence and Strategic Studies course where he received the Secretary of Defence - Chief of Defence Force prize. RADM Buckley commenced as Deputy Chief of Navy in January 2025.

RADM Buckley was awarded the Conspicuous Service Cross (CSC) in 2015 for his contribution to the Submarine Capability, and in 2024 was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) for exceptional service in senior leadership roles within the Royal Australian Navy.

RADM Buckley's career is a powerful reminder to our students that great things can start right here at HHS. His dedication, leadership, and lifelong learning, earning multiple degrees, including , Bachelor of Arts and a Masters of Strategy and Policy from the University of New South Wales, and a Masters of International Relations from Deakin University,. shows that with passion and perseverance, anything is possible.

[Reference: <https://www.navy.gov.au/about-navy/leaders/deputy-chief-navy-0> ]





## Daniel Michel

Congratulations, Dan on winning two gold medals at the Canberra 2025 World Boccia Challenger November 3 – 11. Dan and his ramp operator Ash Maddern won gold in the men's BC3 Individual Boccia and together with Jamieson Leeson and her ramp operator Jasmine Haydon won gold in the BC3 mixed pairs.



Canberra 2025 World Boccia Challenger was Australia's first international boccia tournament in 13 years.

As Patron-in-chief of the Paralympics Australia, the Governor-General, Her Excellency the Honourable Ms Sam Mostyn AC attended the Opening Ceremony, presented medals and hosted a Closing Reception at Government House.

Dan Michel and Ash Maddern presented the Governor-General with the Golden Jack.



## Taj Lynch

Congratulations, Taj on your first time as Captain of the Pararoos in a game against Japan in the 2025 IFCPF Asia-Oceania Cup in Surakarta, Indonesia. The team drew 1-1 and secured a spot in the semi-finals.

Taj a defender/midfielder has been a member of the Pararoos for 8 years. The Pararoos are Australia's national football team for athletes with cerebral palsy, acquired brain injury or symptoms acquired from stroke.

We are immensely proud of Taj who embodies that grit, focus on solid communication, and ability to lead under pressure that we value so highly.



Stop Press: Taj also captained the Pararoos in their bronze medal play off against Thailand, winning on penalties (3-1) after finishing extra time at 2-2. Congratulations on winning Bronze.

## GEM GIRLS

Our year 9 GEM girls are helping collect items, and making up bags for this year's Share the Dignity Christmas campaign 'It's in the Bag'.

Share the Dignity helps woman and girls who are facing hardship by providing them with essential toiletry and sanitary items.

Heathcote High students and staff are donating items to help with this worthy cause and would also love donations from our wider community if anyone is in a position to be able to help.

If you would like to donate, please drop any items to our school office by Wednesday 26 November.



### A quick guide to your **it'sinthebag** donation

Donate at Bunnings 14 November - 30 November 2025

Make Christmas special for someone living in crisis this year by donating an Adult, Teen or Mum & Bub bag. Fill a new bag or a pre-loved one (in excellent condition) with life's essentials and a few luxury items to help someone in need.

If you are creating a Teen or Mum & Bub bag, please tag your bag using a ribbon or a downloadable tag from our website. This tag will show the type of bag you have created. Teen bags should have a yellow tag/ribbon, and Mum & Bub bags a purple tag/ribbon.

#### Bag Essentials

- ♥ shampoo & conditioner
- ♥ toothbrush & toothpaste
- ♥ body wash or soap
- ♥ roll on deodorant
- ♥ sealed packet of pads &/or tampons

All items included in the bag *must be new* and in *sealed packaging* for health and safety reasons.

#### Additional

##### Mum & Bub Bag Essentials

- ♥ maternity pads
- ♥ breast pads
- ♥ baby wipes
- ♥ dummies
- ♥ new born nappies
- ♥ baby shampoo
- ♥ baby wash
- ♥ nappy rash cream
- ♥ disposable nappy bags

#### Optional Luxury Items

- ♥ make up
  - ♥ face wipes
  - ♥ stationery
  - ♥ jewellery
  - ♥ books
  - ♥ gift vouchers
  - ♥ undies
  - ♥ mask or sanitiser
  - ♥ tissues
  - ♥ towel
  - ♥ socks
  - ♥ small umbrella
  - ♥ wet wipes
  - ♥ scrunchies
  - ♥ ear phones
  - ♥ lip gloss
  - ♥ movie ticket
- ♥ A handwritten note or card to give a personal touch to your special donation!

#### Teens might also like...

#### Please do not include:

Pharmaceutical items (condoms, throat lozenges, paracetamol etc) | Razors/knives/scissors  
Food or drinks | Spray deodorant/shampoo and other aerosols  
Loose tampons and pads or unsealed menstrual cups

  
**sharethe**dignity

For more information, please visit  
[www.sharethedignity.org.au](http://www.sharethedignity.org.au)



## EXCURSIONS AND INCURSIONS

### Year 10 – Marine Studies

Year 10 Marine Studies made a splash at Sutherland Leisure Centre on Friday 21 November, fine-tuning their snorkelling skills in preparation for our upcoming trip to Lady Elliot Island. They were lucky enough to enjoy the heated water polo pool while the weather held out nicely.

A big shout-out to our Year 11 Marine students, who stepped up to offer pointers and assess the Year 10s at the end of the session. Great leadership! The countdown is officially on—we are counting down the sleeps until we hit the reef.



### Year 9 – Food Technology

Year 9 Food Technology students have been learning about food native to Australia. On 19 November, students attended Botanic Gardens of Sydney Education Centre where they had a hands-on learning experience.

The sun was shining and we were lucky enough to see a few rare native animals including the Eastern Longneck Turtle and the Powerful Owl.

Well done Year 9 on sharing your knowledge from HHS with team leader, Lachlan.



### Other Excursions and Incursions to Date this Term

- Year 10 History excursion to the Jewish Museum

- Year 12 SLR Walk, covered in the Term 4 Week 2 newsletter
- Year 12 Biology excursion to the UNSW Museum of Human Diseases
- Woronora River First Nations Students Council at Tharawal Public School
- Year 10 'My Strengths' Workshop
- Year 9 & 10 Photography excursion to the Australian Museum

## SUPPORT UNIT

### Sutherland Police Citizens Youth Club

The Support Unit had a great day visiting the Police Citizens Youth Club at Sutherland on Friday 7 November. The students learnt all about the amazing programs they offer people in the Sutherland Shire - from boxing and basketball to gymnastics, martial arts and more.

Huge thanks to the Youth Engagement Officer Deb Wilson, who went above and beyond (and even 'arrested' a few students - all in good fun, of course!) to ensure our visit was fun, engaging and informative. We are grateful for your time.



### Gunnamatta Park

On 14 November, our Support Unit spent a meaningful morning at Gunnamatta Park participating in a yarning circle with our Aboriginal Education Officer, Amy Cousins.

Students enjoyed a time of sharing, listening, and learning from one another as Amy guided them through traditional weaving. Students even created their own woven earrings - perfect for loved ones or an early Christmas gift.

A big thank you to Amy for sharing her knowledge, time and patience on a beautiful day together.





## IN OUR CLASSROOMS

### Year 7 Science

Science Never Tasted So Good! For one lesson only, 7H suspended the "no eating or drinking in the laboratory" rule.

They used food-grade equipment to test different concentrations and find the optimum cordial flavour. It was a fantastic way to learn about solutions and concentration. Mr. Dorrington hopes that the sugar rush didn't last too long into their Maths lesson.



### Year 11 Physics

Physics in Practice - Optimum Angle Achieved! Our Year 11 Physics students are studying projectile motion at the moment and have been conducting experiments, testing the optimal launch angle among others. They followed a very strict risk assessment and did a fantastic job applying those formulas and handling the splash zone.



## Year 10 Drama

Our Year 10 Drama students recently completed a Set Design module for the play, “The Lord of the Flies”. Students were asked to design and construct a set model reflecting the mood of the play and a range of structural techniques using recycled materials.



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## CAREERS REPORT

### Outstanding Achievement - \$60k Scholarship Success for Jen

We are incredibly proud to congratulate Jen S. on being offered the prestigious \$60 000 Ramsay Scholarship at the University of Wollongong. Jen's exceptional academic achievement, intellectual curiosity, and leadership potential, combined with her dedication, passion, and commitment to excellence, have earned her a place in the Bachelor of Arts in Western Civilisation / Bachelor of Education (Secondary) double degree.

In addition to this remarkable achievement, Jen has also progressed to the final round of a highly competitive teaching scholarship and is currently awaiting the outcomes, further showcasing her drive to pursue a career in education and her passion for inspiring future generations.

Jen is the second HHS student to receive this prestigious Ramsay Scholarship in recent years, a testament to the incredible preparation, support, and opportunities available to our students.

Congratulations, Jen, we wish you every success in your future studies and look forward to perhaps one day welcoming you back as a teacher at HHS!



### \$300k in Scholarships for HHS Students over the past four years

Over the past four years, HHS students have received \$300 000 in university scholarships, highlighting the dedication, ambition, and excellence of our senior students. This incredible achievement reflects not only students' hard work and success beyond the classroom, but also the strong preparation, personalised guidance, and support offered through our Careers and Transition programs. These initiatives help students explore post-school pathways, prepare for scholarship opportunities, and connect with universities and industry mentors, all of which play a key role in their success. We're so proud to see our students being recognised and supported as they pursue their goals beyond school, and we love hearing updates about their continued achievements!

### UNSW STEM Round Table

Our HPGE Coordinator, Mrs Quinlan and I had the privilege of attending the UNSW STEM Roundtable meeting at Cecil Hills High School, joining other Gateway schools to discuss STEM outreach initiatives.

This event brought together educators and UNSW representatives, to explore strategies for inspiring students in science technology, engineering, and mathematics through hands-on learning and collaborative programs.

As the only school in the Sutherland Shire with access to the UNSW Gateway Admission Pathway, HHS is uniquely positioned to provide students with pathways to tertiary study and enrichment opportunities that are not available elsewhere locally. We are excited to be a part of this outreach program, and look forward to bringing the ideas and strategies from this roundtable back to HHS and continue delivering STEM experiences that inspire and empower our students.

<https://www.unsw.edu.au/study/how-to-apply/undergraduate/admission-pathways/Gateway/admission-pathway>

## Celebrating Student Success - Karissa R secures Qantas Engineering Traineeship.

We are thrilled to share the amazing achievement of our Year 12 student, Karissa R, who has secured a competitive engineering traineeship with Qantas.

Karissa's success reflects her dedication, passion, and perseverance in pursuing a career in engineering. I am proud to have witnessed and supported Karissa through her transition, exploring opportunities, organising work experience, and taking proactive steps towards her goal.

Congratulations, Karissa, we are excited to follow your career in engineering.



## Careers Program Takes to the Sea: Insights from the Navy Life Expo

HHS students had an unforgettable day at the Navy Life Expo, diving into the world of Defence careers and exploring everything from engineering and logistics to medicine and technology.

They got hands-on with interactive displays, met Navy personnel, and even cruised aboard a Landing Craft to board the mighty HMAS Canberra. We were also incredibly proud to meet former HHS graduate Rear Admiral Matt Buckley, now the Deputy Chief of Navy, who is a true inspiration showing just how far HHS students can go.

Special shout-outs to Chris M, who smashed the record for the most pull-ups of the day, and Chris M and Ryder S, who took out second and third place for the fastest puzzle completions among all students at the event.









## From Classroom to Careers - Work Experience Highlights

### Allens Law Experience - Exclusive Opportunity for HHS Students

Through an exclusive partnership between HHS and the global law firm Allens, Eve S., Sophie J., and Alexis C, had the incredible opportunity to complete a work experience program available only to HHS students.

During their placements, our students attended court sessions, observed bail hearings, and witnessed the intricacies of cross-examinations in real trials. Beyond the courtroom, they gained valuable insights into the legal profession, learning what it takes to become a lawyer and the path to university. They also honed their skills in mock interviews and elevator pitches, and tackled a mock case briefing, diving deep into legal research and case analysis.

As part of their experience, our students also visited the Inner-City Legal Centre (ICLC) to observe pro bono cases in action, gaining insights into community legal work and the impact of accessible legal services on individuals and families. This visit provided a unique perspective on the broader role lawyers play beyond high-profile trials.

This immersive experience not only further ignited their passion for law, but also equipped them with the knowledge, confidence, and skills to plan their transitions from school into the workplace.

HHS's Careers program and teaching staff are always working hard to connect with industries and professionals to generate amazing opportunities such as this, and we are proud to have established this exclusive partnership with Allens, giving our students access to explore future pathways and prepare for success beyond school.



### Digging Into Work Experience - Landscaping for Luca T

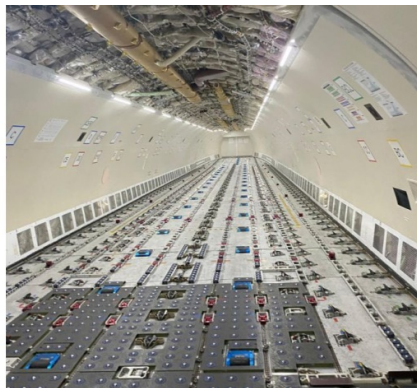
Year 10 student, Luca T, recently completed a work experience placement with Townsend Landscaping, gaining practical hands-on experience in one of Sydney's most prestigious areas, Point Piper and Darling Point.

During his placement, Luca assisted in installing drainage materials into planter boxes, filled them with soil, planted greenery, and helped set up irrigation systems. Despite the early starts, Luca thoroughly enjoyed the experience, learning valuable industry skills, teamwork, and the effort required to manage high-end landscaping projects. We're proud to see HHS students like Luca exploring career opportunities and developing practical skills that prepare them for the future beyond school.



### **Flying High - Lucas C Gains Airside Experience with Qantas**

Lucas C had an incredible opportunity to work airside at Sydney International Airport, gaining hands-on experience in a fast-paced and highly regulated environment. During his placement, Lucas learned about airport operations, safety procedures, and the essential teamwork required to keep both passengers and aircraft safe. Lucas was proud to develop his skills and fit in with the Qantas team, and we're proud to see him and so many other students taking the initiative to explore diverse career pathways and gain real-world experience.



### **Building Skills Safely: HHS's Fourth White Card Course for 2025**

HHS proudly delivered our fourth White Card course for 2025, with another 16 students gaining their General Construction Induction Card and meeting the WHS requirements needed to work on construction sites.

Throughout the day, students developed a strong understanding of workplace hazard identification, risk management strategies, safety legislation, emergency procedures, and essential on-site safety practices. The enthusiasm from this cohort was outstanding. Students asked thoughtful questions, engaged in practical demonstrations, and showed a genuine commitment to understanding what it means to work safely and responsibly in real-world environments. Their efforts reflect the growing interest in construction, trades, and related industries among our students.

We're thrilled to see our students taking proactive steps to build their knowledge, practical skills, and confidence as they prepare for further pathways. HHS remains committed to expanding these

opportunities, and we look forward to offering further White Card courses in 2026 to meet the continued demand from our students.



### Year 10 Careers and Transition (CaT) Program

Our annual Year 10 Careers and Transition (CaT) Program will be held in Week 7, offering students a rich and engaging series of activities designed to help them explore future study, training, and career pathways.

Throughout the week, students will rotate through Speed Career sessions, fully funded AI Avatar Mock Interview simulations, and face-to-face Mock Interviews with industry representatives. They will also hear practical transition advice from senior students who are eager to share their experiences and insights about life beyond Year 10.

Thanks to HHS's strong community partnerships, we're excited to welcome a diverse group of guests from a wide range of industries and professions. Their expertise and guidance will support students as they explore potential pathways and prepare for life beyond school. Students are encouraged to begin planning appropriate mock interview attire, as well as preparing thoughtful questions to ask during Speed Career sessions. This preparation will help them make the most of the expertise and generosity offered by our volunteer guests.

This year, we are pleased to welcome representatives from:

- PwC
- Shangri-La
- The Harbour Heathcote
- UOW Nursing
- UOW Engagement
- Kore Property
- ADF - Royal Australian Navy
- Fire & Rescue NSW
- RFS
- NSW Police
- NSW Ambulance
- Sutherland Shire Council
- Teach NSW
- Transport NSW



- MAS National Apprenticeships
- Apprenticeship Careers Australia
- Bold Caravan and Trailer Repair
- Master Builders Association
- National Electrical and Communications Association
- Reece Plumbing
- And many others.

We look forward to another successful CaT Program and to seeing our Year 10 students make the most of these valuable opportunities as they begin shaping their future pathways.

Mrs K Keats  
Career Adviser

## UPCOMING EVENTS

24 November	Year 7 Maths incursion – Escape Room
25-27 November & 1 December	Year 7 & 8 Interdisciplinary Project (IDP)
26 November	Recognition Assemblies
26 November	P&C Meeting
2 December	Orientation Day for incoming 2025 Year 7 students
2, 3 & 5 December	Year 7 Aquatics Program
4 December	MADD (Music, Art, Dance & Drama) Night
8-11 December	Year 10 Marine – Lady Elliott Island
12 December	Presentation Day
16 December	Colour Run
16 December	Year 10 Picnic
17 December	Rewards Day – Jamberoo
18 December	Class of 2025 Morning Tea
19 December	Last day of Term 4



## NSW Department of Education

Dear Parents/Carers/Guardians,

All public schools in New South Wales have the opportunity to take part in an exciting initiative run by the Department of Education. We are excited to share that all students in years 5 to 12 will soon be able to use NSW EduChat, a cutting-edge generative Artificial Intelligence chat tool operated by the department. Unlike ChatGPT and other tools, NSW EduChat has been designed to respond to students with guidance and by asking open-ended questions. NSW EduChat can answer questions and provide information, acting as a useful learning aid for your child. While NSW EduChat is sophisticated, it does not replace human teachers or tutors. Instead, it offers additional support, helping to reinforce understanding and encourage students to explore and share their thoughts and reasoning.

NSW EduChat may also be incorporated into lessons by your child's teachers, helping them learn how to use NSW EduChat in various subjects, about the potential implications of generative AI, and highlighting its capacity to create content that may require thoughtful and responsible use.

NSW EduChat is a powerful tool, but it can provide incorrect or incomplete responses.

### What personal information will be collected?

The NSW EduChat AI tool collects data that includes the record of all interactions your child has with the tool, encompassing every question asked and the corresponding responses provided. Additionally, some basic user identifiers, such as your child's name or a unique user identifier assigned by the system, are also collected to enhance the personalisation of the learning experience. These measures help ensure that your child has a seamless, supportive and unique learning journey with NSW EduChat.

In-app surveys may appear which are optional for students to complete. The purpose of these surveys is to inform potential future activities such as monitoring, research, and evaluation.

### How will the department use the information?

The information collected during the use of this tool will be used for the following purposes:

- **For your child** – The conversation data collected may be used by NSW EduChat to create personalised experiences for your child, by incorporating characteristics of the conversation in future conversations.
- **In the school** – Your child's teacher may be able to review conversations between NSW EduChat and your child for safety, quality and training purposes. The tool's content filter may trigger disclosures related to self-harm concerns to the school to ensure your child's safety. These staff will know the identity of your child.
- **Within the department** – Both combined and de-identified data will be used by teams to improve the delivery of public education. Where analysis requires looking at individual questions and responses, those interactions will be de-identified so that anyone seeing the question or response will not know which student was involved. Where appropriate, information will be grouped together so that the staff can see overall patterns in the information, not individual student information. These staff will **not** know the identity of your child.

Within the department, staff members responsible for managing the process of de-identifying and combining the data will be the only additional persons who will know the identity of your child. These staff may combine the NSW EduChat data with other data held by the department prior to the de-identifying and combining of the data where it may assist with improving public education.

**Will the information be disclosed to anyone outside the department?**

The information will not be disclosed to anyone outside the department unless it is consistent with the privacy legislation or as permitted or required by any other law.

One possible exception will occur in very rare circumstances whereby the department is required to submit a mandatory report to the Department of Communities & Justice. This will occur if the tool's content filter triggers disclosures related to self-harm concerns, the school is contacted, and it is deemed that there is a significant risk to your child's safety or wellbeing.

Staff responsible for supporting your child may have access to information and know your child's identity.

**Is participation voluntary?**

Yes. Although your child will be provided access to NSWeduChat, it is entirely optional for them to use it. They may choose not to use it at all, or only when they wish to.

At the point of enrolment, the department provides information about the use of online services and obtained parental consent for their use. NSWeduChat is included as part of that agreement.

**Where is the information held and how can it be accessed?**

NSWeduChat will be delivered electronically to your child's Department of Education student portal.

When your child uses NSWeduChat the 'chat' conversation is encrypted and transmitted over the internet to a department server with a token that identifies your child.

Only when the answer arrives at the department server can it be re-combined with your child's identity.

All information collected by NSWeduChat is stored in Australia using department-owned services.

The department endeavours to ensure that the personal and health information it collects and holds is accurate, complete and up to date by encouraging families to regularly update the information if there are changes and by allowing access to and alteration of the information.

Requests to access and update personal and health information should be made directly to the school.

The department's [privacy management plan](#) has information about how requests are handled.

If you wish to discuss any aspect of this tool, please contact your school principal.

Yours sincerely,

Jacky Hodges  
Chief Data Officer

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Last updated: 3 September 2025



# SOCIAL MEDIA MINIMUM AGE

## Coming Monday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2025

### **Get Ready for the New Social Media Minimum Age**

The Australian Government is taking world-leading action to reduce online harms experienced by young Australians by introducing a minimum age to access social media. From 10 December 2025, social media platforms will need to take reasonable steps to prevent Australians under 16 from having a social media account. Importantly, the responsibility will be on the social media platforms, not parents, carers or children, to follow this law. Delaying access to social media will help protect the health and wellbeing of young people and give them extra time to develop real world connections and digital literacy skills before they join global platforms.

This change will reduce access for young people to some of the harmful aspects of social media, such as algorithms that recommend content, infinite scrolling, and other features designed to keep users continuously engaged. The law is intended to capture social media platforms such as; TikTok, Instagram, Snapchat, X, Facebook and Youtube.

But it won't stop young people from staying in touch with friends online, playing games, learning new things and being entertained. In fact, they will be able to access messaging apps, online gaming, professional networking and development services, and services that are primarily for the purpose of education and health support.

This delay to social media will give young Australians more time to develop real world connections and digital literacy skills before they join global platforms. For more information, and tips on helping under 16s prepare for the change, visit the eSafety website.

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# SOCIAL MEDIA MINIMUM AGE

## Coming Monday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2025

### What Can Parents Do?

- Talk with your young person about the social media minimum age. Ask how they feel about its benefits and impacts. Use conversation guides available on the Headspace website. Discuss possible alternative activities together.
- Encourage connecting with friends and family through in-person meetings, online games, or messaging apps.
- Remind them they can download data, photos, and videos from their social media accounts by following instructions from major platforms or links on the eSafety website.
- Review the eSafety Social Media Age Restrictions: Get-Ready Guide for under-16s with your young person.
- Visit the eSafety page for FAQs, advice on managing conflict about the change, family support tools, and helpful resources.

No matter how old a student is, if they have a harmful experience online, they should reach out for support – even if they are under 16 and it happens on an age-restricted social media platform. eSafety's "I need help" page for young people has more detailed information and guidance on what they can do if something goes wrong online.

### FURTHER RESOURCES

- **eSafety Commioner website**
- eheadspace: 1800 650 890 or [eheadspace.org.au](https://eheadspace.org.au)
- Kids helpline: 1800 55 1800 or [kidshelpline.com.au](https://kidshelpline.com.au)
- ReachOut: [au.reachout.com](https://au.reachout.com)
- 13YARN: 13 92 76 or [13yarn.org.au](https://13yarn.org.au)

Parents can also contact Parentline for support with this and other parenting questions:

- Parentline: 1300 130 052

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## COMMUNITY NOTICES



YARRAWARRAH PUBLIC SCHOOL'S

# Christmas Night Markets

Fri, 28 Nov at 17:00

**YPS Christmas Night Markets 2025 Sponsored by McGrath**

Yarrawarra, Sydney

☆ Interested