

QUAKERS HILL HIGH SCHOOL

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5 FEBRUARY 2021 CALENDAR DATES FOR TERM 1 2021

Monday 8 Feb	Year 7 SRC Nominations due	Thursday 11 March	Selective High School Placement Test—8-2.30pm
Tuesday 9 Feb	Year 11 Assessment Evening 6.30-7.30pm	Friday 12 March	Bell Shakespeare incursion 9-10am
Monday 15 Feb	Year 7 Meet & Greet		Exec Conference
Friday 19 Feb	Newsletter issued	Monday 15 March—Thursday 1 April	Careers Program
Monday 22 Feb	P&C Meeting @ 7pm	Tuesday 16 March	Year 5/6 Information Evening 6-8pm
Tuesday 23 Feb	School Photo Day	Friday 19 March	Newsletter issued
Monday 1 March	Leadership Induction Assembly	Monday 22 March—Friday 26 March	Life Ready Program
Thursday 8 March	Year 8 Incursion—Smashed Live 2-3pm	Tuesday 23 March	Year 5 & 6 GAT Information Presentation
Friday 5 March	Newsletter issued	Wednesday 24—Friday 26 March	Year 7 Camp
	School Photo catch up	Tuesday 30 March	Year 7 & 8 Vaccination Day
Monday 8 March	AGM P&C Meeting	Thursday 1 April	Last Day Term 1
	Senior Course Guide released		
	Year 10 Year meeting		

SPORTS CALENDAR

11 February School Swimming Carnival



SMART Focus for Weeks 3 & 4: Properly organised bookwork

IMPORTANT NEWS FOR STUDENTS & PARENTS

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

It is with great pleasure that I welcome all students, staff and families back to another year at Quakers Hill High School. I hope that the break time was both restful and enjoyable, and that everyone feels rejuvenated for the year ahead.

WELCOME BACK TO ALL STUDENTS

A particular highlight was welcoming our Year 7 cohort on their first day of high school last Friday. Year 7 are quickly learning their way around the school and have made a great start. On the same day, our first Year 11 cohort in many years commenced their senior school journey at Quakers Hill High School. This was an historic moment in the history of the school and the Nirimba Collegiate. Year 11 have begun extremely well and are wearing their new uniforms with pride.

Of course, it was wonderful to see Years 8-10 as they returned on Monday Week 2. Our students have certainly made a positive start to the year.

WELCOME TO NEW STAFF

I would like to welcome the following staff members to our Quakers Hill High School community. Their names and subject areas are as follows:

Ms Chanlina Lam – Japanese

Ms Maria Talaeai – Student Services Officer (Monday, Wednesday and Thursday)

Ms Nancy Tahtouh – Mathematics

Ms Valerie Rodriguez – CAPA

Ms Jazmin Doyle – CAPA

We wish these staff members all the very best as they join our wonderful school.

MANAGEMENT OF COVID 19

Please follow the link below to view the latest updates from the Department of Education on the management of Covid 19. Please note references to school attendance, physical distancing and the use of masks on public transport.

<https://education.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/advice-for-families>

THE 2021-2024 SCHOOL PLAN

As mentioned in issues of *Contact* last year, we are in the midst of preparing the school plan for the next planning cycle, 2021-2024. A thorough Situational Analysis was conducted in 2020, which has provided masses of valuable data and evidence to guide the strategic direction of the school for the next 4 years. Of particular importance in the upcoming plan is to continue making progress on student literacy, numeracy and wellbeing targets, as well as on enhancing the classroom practice of teachers and deepening our partnerships across the school community.

Parents and caregivers are welcome to contribute their ideas to the process at any stage or through our regular P&C meetings.

OUR REFURBISHED KITCHEN

Throughout the latter stages of Term 4 and in the school holidays, work was carried out at our school to convert one of our original domestic kitchens into a fully functioning commercial standard kitchen. This allows us to run the VET Hospitality course (Food and Beverage) on the Quakers Hill High School site, and will also be open to junior Food Technology classes. The kitchen was handed over to the school in Week 1 and looks absolutely fantastic. To complement the kitchen, we are currently constructing an outdoor deck which will serve as a café space, enabling Hospitality students to be assessed in the service competencies of their course. This is an outstanding resource which we are thrilled to start using.

LIBRARY

At the end of last term our library refurbishment was completed. This has totally transformed the look and function of our school library. It is now a fresh, modern and flexible learning space that will serve the students of Quakers Hill High School well in the years to come. My sincere thanks to Mr Head, Ms Mahon, Ms Lachevre, Ms Ridge, Ms Pearce & Ms Hegarty whose excellent work saw the project progress from an idea to a reality.

STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY

This year saw a change to staff development day programs in schools, with the first two days of the school year dedicated to staff professional learning. This additional day has been moved from the end of Term 4. Staff at Quakers Hill High School engaged in a rigorous program of professional learning, which covered topics such as literacy, numeracy, advanced use of electronic teaching platforms, the school planning process and a range of sessions related to school operations. These high quality sessions saw our year get off to a very positive start.

ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE OF STUDENTS

A reminder that all students are to use the footpath gates to enter and leave the school premises. At no stage should any student use the vehicle gates for this purpose, for obvious safety reasons. If parents drop off or collect students in cars, it is essential that they do so at a safe location outside the school gates – **not in the school car park or bus bay area**. Safety is our top priority during arrival and departure times.

If students would like to make a purchase at the 7-Eleven, they are to do so as quickly as possible and move on from the area. It is very dangerous to congregate outside the store and we encourage students to avoid the area unless necessary. Students who catch buses are to wait in the COLA area until their bus arrives. If buses are late, a member of staff will wait with the students until the bus arrives. In the event that a bus is cancelled and students are unable to contact their parents/carers, the school will make contact to arrange collection.

Mr Andrew Skehan

Principal

LIGHTING THE WAY IN LITERACY IN TERM 1

After a tumultuous year in 2020, we are overjoyed to have our students return to us last week, well-rested and with positive attitudes, ready for learning. We particularly welcome our Year 7 students and their families into our school community and wish them every success in their school career as they begin their journey with us at Quakers Hill High School.

To help support all of our students in this journey, we offer a number of different literacy and numeracy programs aimed at building upon students' skills in these areas.

LIT UP: QUAKERS HILL HIGH SCHOOL'S EXTRACURRICULAR LITERACY PROGRAM

In 2020, we began a free online extracurricular literacy program for students in Years 7-10, known as 'Lit Up.' Lit Up provides weekly lessons through Google classroom targeting areas in literacy including reading, comprehension, spelling and grammar. It also provides guidance and activities aimed to build students' confidence in NAPLAN and Minimum Standards Testing.

I invite all students in Years 7-10 at QHHS to become a 'Lit Up Legend' in 2021. Lessons go live on the Google classroom on Wednesday and students have a week to complete the activities, providing the teacher with time to give feedback before the following week. Mrs Neylan will be online from 3.30-4.30 on Wednesday to provide feedback and offer support to students completing activities.

To participate, please fill in the permission note distributed in roll call and return to Mrs Neylan or see her in the History staffroom for more information. Once your permission note has been submitted, you will be given a class code to enter the Stage 4 or Stage 5 Lit Up Google classroom.

Lit Up Lessons will begin in Week 3 on Wednesday, 10 February where Mrs Neylan will be online from 3.30-4.30 supervising the Google classroom to offer her support to students.

I look forward to meeting all our Lit Up Legends this year.

HSC MINIMUM STANDARDS TESTING

To ensure New South Wales students leave school ready for future learning and life, they are required to meet a minimum standard of literacy and numeracy to receive the HSC.

This year, our Year 10 students will undergo the online HSC Minimum Standards Tests in the areas of reading, writing and numeracy. Students will need to achieve a Level 3 or 4 to meet this minimum standard and will have up to four opportunities in the year to sit each test.

To find out more about what each test involves, students and their parents and carers are encouraged to visit NESA's website at the following link, where it provides details on the requirements of each test, samples and practise activities for students. You can visit the website at: [HSC Minimum Standards Online Tests](#).

To help our students prepare for this, they will participate in a series of practise tests in class to better understand the requirements of each test.

Further information and practise activities will also be delivered in class to support students and I encourage all Year 10 to sign up to Lit Up, where further information and practise activities will be delivered to promote our students' success.

Any Year 11 student who is yet to meet the HSC Minimum Standard in reading, writing and numeracy will also be given the opportunity to participate in these revision activities and practise tests prior to resitting the HSC Minimum Standard Test.

Please see Mrs Critchley or Mrs Neylan in the History staffroom for more information.



Quakers Hill High School

SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHS WILL BE TAKEN ON:

Tuesday 23 February 2021 and Friday 5 March 2021

**ORDER NOW go to www.advancedlife.com.au and enter the code
XZR MHV ZLF**

Dear Parents,

School photographs are scheduled to be taken by *advancedlife*. Whilst an envelope and flyer will be distributed shortly, if possible it is our preference that ordering be completed online to reduce administration and potential security issues related to the return of cash and envelopes on photo day.

Orders for packages and sibling photographs can be placed securely online at www.advancedlife.com.au using our school's unique 9 digit **advancedorder** code. Portrait and group package orders are due by photography day.

Should you wish to purchase a sibling photograph online, the order must be placed no later than the day before photography day. Sibling photographs will only be taken if an order has been placed.

Should you have any queries concerning school photographs or online ordering, please contact us at www.advancedlife.com.au/contact