

QUAKERS HILL HIGH SCHOOL

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26 OCTOBER 2023 CALENDAR DATES FOR TERM 4 2023

Wednesday 11 October—Friday 3 November—HSC exams

Mon. 23 Oct.	Newsletter issued
Tues. 24 & 31 Oct.	Debating Club
Fri 27 Oct.	TAFE Start your Future Program—Support Unit (until 1 Dec.)
Mon. 30 Oct	Year 10 NSW Schools Volleyball Cup, Support Unit Work Experience (all week)
Monday 6 Nov.	Newsletter issued
Tues. 7 Nov.	Debating Club
Wed. 8 Nov.	Nirimba Collegiate Year 12 formal @ Rosehill Gardens 5.30pm—10.30pm
Mon. 13 Nov.	P&C Meeting 7pm, Year 11 2024 Transition Program to Wyndham College (select students)
Tues. 14 Nov.	Debating Club, Blacktown Cup Gala Day Girls Volleyball
Wed. 15 Nov.	Blacktown Cup Gala Day Boys Volleyball and Girls Netball
Thurs. 16 Nov.	Peer Support training, Year 8 + Support Unit Camp Information Evening via Zoom 7pm—8pm
Friday 17 Nov.	Year 7 Vaccinations + catch up,

Monday 20—Wednesday 22 November— Year 8 + Support Unit Camp

Monday 20 Nov.	Newsletter issued
Tues. 21 Nov.	Debating Club, QHHS Year 10 into Year 11 2024 Senior Preparation Day, Year 11 2024 Wyndham College Orientation
Thurs. 23 Nov.	Year 6 into 7 2024 Orientation Evening, Year 7 HSIE excursion, Music/Dance Performance rehearsal
Mon. 27 Nov.	Blacktown Cup Gala Day Boys and Girls Football
Tues. 28 Nov.	Year 6 into 7 2024 Orientation Day, Debating Club, Year 7 Gala Day

**UNIFORM SHOP OPEN EVERY
MONDAY 8.10AM—9.30AM**



IMPORTANT NEWS FOR STUDENTS & PARENTS

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

NEVER A DULL MOMENT

Schools are busy and vibrant places. This week sees us pass the halfway mark with HSC exams, though some students have already finished and others finish up in the coming days. This is an exciting time for our Year 12s and signifies a time to rest, celebrate, and prepare for next steps and pathways.

At the end of last term we held the Year 12 Formal and Picnic Day. These were wonderful events and a great opportunity for students and staff to join together in celebration. I appreciate the effort and involvement of all staff in organising these events, and in particular to Mrs McCure and Mrs Maricic for leading the way.

Term 4 means our Year 11 students start the HSC course content and are already well underway in their studies. This time of year also sees a riot of colour with spring blooms signifying exam time for everyone else. I wish all our students success in this final exam and assessment period for the year. As always, the recipe for success is hard work and determination.

A CONSTRUCTION SITE

Some days it feels like we're working and learning on a construction site. Phase one of the ceiling replacement project is almost complete, as is phase one of the painting works. This week also saw the demolition and replacement of the first two Science labs. They are looking great and very modern, and well worth the disruption and temporary room changes.

In yet more activity, the final phase of the senior area began this week, with more landscaping, turf laid and preparations for the creation of a giant chess set.

I acknowledge these improvements mean students may need to be more mindful of moving around the school and may result in room changes, but I am very proud to say that staff and students have adapted very well and the feedback on the improvements has been overwhelmingly positive. We will have further work over the summer holidays to minimise disruption.

PHONES AND SMART WATCHES

The state-wide ban on mobile devices is working well at Quakers, mainly due to the foresight of our school leaders a few years ago in committing to Yondr as an early-adopter school. I acknowledge that while Yondr may not work perfectly – not much in life does – it has had a noticeable positive impact on student learning, social skills and physical activity. A huge win for all! Thank you all for your support in helping us manage this issue for the benefit of our students.

Jason White, Principal

PASSWORD SAFETY

October is 'Cybersecurity Awareness Month', a great time to focus on keeping our online accounts safe from cyber threats by making our passwords secure.

It's tempting to use easy-to-remember passwords, and sometimes we even use the same one for multiple accounts. But that's risky because if someone else finds out your password, they can pretend to be you online. This can be a big problem if that person does something wrong or illegal, and it could affect your reputation and future opportunities. You can learn more about your online presence on the NSW Department of Education's [Leaving a digital footprint](#) page.

How can someone figure out my password?

There are several ways your password might become known:

- **Watching:** Someone might watch you type your password.
- **Listening:** They could overhear you saying it out loud.
- **Guessing:** People can try different combinations until they get it right (brute force).
- **Secret questions:** If someone knows the answers to your secret questions, they might get in.
- **Using someone else's device:** If you sign in on someone else's computer or phone, they can use your account.

What can I do to stay safe?

Here are some simple tips:

- **Use a passphrase:** Instead of a single word, use a short group of unusual words. For example, something like "Batman's-pottery-class-123" is strong and memorable.
- **Mix it up:** Use a combination of upper and lower case letters, numbers, and symbols in your passphrase for extra security.
- **Avoid personal info:** Don't use information that others know about you, like pet names or birthdays.
- **Password manager:** Consider using a password manager to store and generate strong passwords. Google Chrome has a free one, and services like DashLane and LastPass are also good options.
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What if my password is leaked?

If you think someone knows your password, change it right away using the tips above. Password managers can help you identify weak passwords and check if they've been leaked.

Saved passwords

When you save your password on a device, it's convenient, but it can be a problem if others use that device. Check which devices have your school/Google account saved and sign out if you see one you don't recognize or trust. Visit myaccount.google.com and signing in with your school account. Select **Security** and scroll down to **Your devices**. If you see a device that you do not recognise or trust, you should sign out of that device.

In conclusion

If you're curious about your password's security, you can test it on Security.org's [How secure is my password?](#) site.

Learn more about password security on the NSW Department of Education's [What makes a good password?](#) site. And remember, if you need help with passwords or anything related to cybersecurity, talk to your teacher. Stay safe online!

COMING SOON

QHHS SENIOR PREPARATION DAY

YEAR 10 INTO YEAR 11, 2024

Tuesday 21st November 2023

Preparing our students continuing their Stage 6 studies at QHHS



BBQ LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED TO STUDENTS

The school has organised a Senior Preparation Day for our Year 10 students who are continuing their Stage 6 curriculum at QHHS. This event is designed to further prepare students for senior studies with a variety of workshops and information sessions catered to achieving a successful Stage 6 journey.

The day has been scheduled on the same day as Wyndham College's Year 11 Orientation Day and will be held here at QHHS. Students will be provided a BBQ lunch on the day.

A letter with further information will be issued to students and their families closer to the date.

Delvene Ahn
Head Teacher Secondary Studies (rel.)

GOLD AWARDS

Congratulations to the following students on receiving their Gold Principal's Award:

Charlotte Collins—Year 7

Victoria Lin—Year 7

William Porter—Year 8

Charlotte Sutton—Year 10



TOP TIPS FOR STUDYING FOR TESTS

Studying effectively for tests and exams is a SKILL that can be developed and make a significant difference in your academic success. Here's a checklist to help students identify and improve their study habits:

- **Make Notes Regularly:**
Instead of cramming all your studying into the last-minute rush, make it a habit to make study notes regularly. This will help you understand the material better as you go along, making studying for tests less overwhelming.
- **Plan Ahead:**
Don't wait until the last moment to finish your study notes. Start early, ideally weeks before the exam, so you have ample time to review and understand the material thoroughly. Avoid last-minute stress by planning ahead.
- **Create Organised Study Notes:**
Create structured and easily digestible study notes. Use headings, bullet points, and diagrams to make your notes visually appealing and comprehensible. This will make it easier to review and memorise key information.
- **Use Active Learning:**
Don't just passively read your notes. Test yourself on the material to gauge your understanding. Use flashcards, quizzes, or teaching the topic to someone else. Active learning reinforces your memory and comprehension.
- **Use Diverse Study Techniques:**
Don't rely on a single study technique. Experiment with various methods like mind maps, mnemonic devices, or group study sessions. Explore what works best for you and adapt your study routine accordingly.



- **Simulate Exam Conditions:**
To prepare for the pressure of exam day, practice under realistic conditions. Set a timer at home when doing questions, avoid looking at your notes, and simulate the exam environment as closely as possible. This helps build your confidence and adapt to time constraints.
- **Use Varied Sources:**
Don't limit your study materials to just one source. Diversify your resources by using textbooks, online materials, practice exams, and teacher-provided resources. This broadens your understanding and exposes you to different perspectives.

By incorporating these study habits into your routine, you can significantly enhance your preparation for tests and exams. Remember that consistency and early planning are key to success in high school and beyond.

Our school's subscription details to www.studyskillshandbook.com.au are –

Username:

Password:

School Student Travel

Term 4 2023

2024 school travel applications are now open

Students who need a new or replacement School Opal card or travel pass for 2024 can [apply](#) now. A new application will need to be submitted if they are applying for the first time, or if they are requesting an additional travel entitlement because of a new shared parental arrangement (e.g. joint custody).

Students who change address, school, campus location, have repeated a year or received an expiry notification for their school travel entitlement should [renew or update](#) their details **before the end of term 4**. This will ensure that schools can endorse applications, and travel passes remain valid for the start of the 2024 school year. School Opal card holders will have the changes applied to their existing card.

If a student's distance eligibility has changed based on their grade (i.e. grade two to grade three), the system will automatically update their entitlement if they meet the new criteria. If they do not meet the new [eligibility criteria](#), we will send an expiry notification via email.

Students who have an entitlement approved under a medical condition that is due to expire will receive a notification advising them to re-apply.

[Term Bus Pass](#) holders will receive a notification to re-apply.

Students in the Opal network applying for an Opal card (including a Term Bus Pass) for the first time will receive their Student Opal card at their nominated postal address. Cards will be mailed out from January 2024.

Students living in rural and regional (R&R) areas should receive their travel pass at the start of the new school year from their nominated transport operator. It may come via the school or be sent directly to them at home. **Note:** some R&R operators do not issue travel passes.

Students/parents should confirm with their nominated operator if they do not receive a pass.

Changes to your bus service provider

Within Greater Sydney, a number of bus service providers have changed their names.

Parents intending to lodge an application for a School Opal card will need to visit [transportnsw.info trip planner](#) to obtain the correct bus operator name servicing your area prior to lodging an application.

Travel from Term 1 2024

We ask that parents plan ahead and make sure their child knows which service/s to use and has a valid ticket to travel; either a School Opal card or Child/Youth Opal card (within Greater Sydney) or a School Travel Pass (outside Greater Sydney), from the start of the school year.

Applications for 2024 School Student Transport Scheme (SSTS) travel open at the start of Term 4 2023, so parents/students can [apply](#) or [update](#) details early and be ready for the start of the new school year.

Most students using the Opal network will not need a new Opal card and can continue travelling on their existing card each year.

The start of the year is a busy period for local transport operators, and students travelling without a valid ticket make service planning and operations difficult.

We recognise that for some families last minute changes to school enrolments mean they may not have a School Opal card or Travel Pass for the start of term. In the Opal network, we strongly encourage these families to have their children travel with a Child/Youth Opal card until they receive their valid School Opal card. If outside Greater Sydney, parents should contact their [local bus operator](#) to discuss their travel needs.

Bus operators are flexible and understanding, particularly at the start of the school year, and will ensure students can travel safely to and from school. But to best support our operators we encourage all students to have a valid ticket, as early as possible, from the start of the school year.

Students using School Opal cards are also reminded that they must tap on and tap off in line with the [Student code of conduct](#) and [Opal terms of use](#).



Further information can be found at [Plan your trip to school | transportnsw.info](#)

Enquiries can be submitted at [Fares, concessions, tickets & top-up feedback | transportnsw.info](#)