

RICHMOND HIGH SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

WEEK 2 • TERM 3 • 2025

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Providing quality education where all can reach their potential as a life-long learner.



PRINCIPAL'S UPDATE

Dear RHS Community,

Welcome back to Term 3! I hope everyone enjoyed the Winter break and had some time to soak up some of the beautiful sunshine we experienced over the holidays. It was truly wonderful to see our students return yesterday, full of energy and enthusiasm. Term 3 is one of our busiest yet, and we have many exciting events lined up on the calendar.

I am thrilled to introduce Mrs. Rachael Reading as our new substantive Deputy Principal. Mrs. Reading joins us from Mt Annan High School and has recently moved into the local Hawkesbury community. With her wealth of knowledge and experience, we are confident that she will be a fantastic addition to the RHS team. You will hear more from her later in this newsletter, and I encourage you all to extend a warm welcome to her.

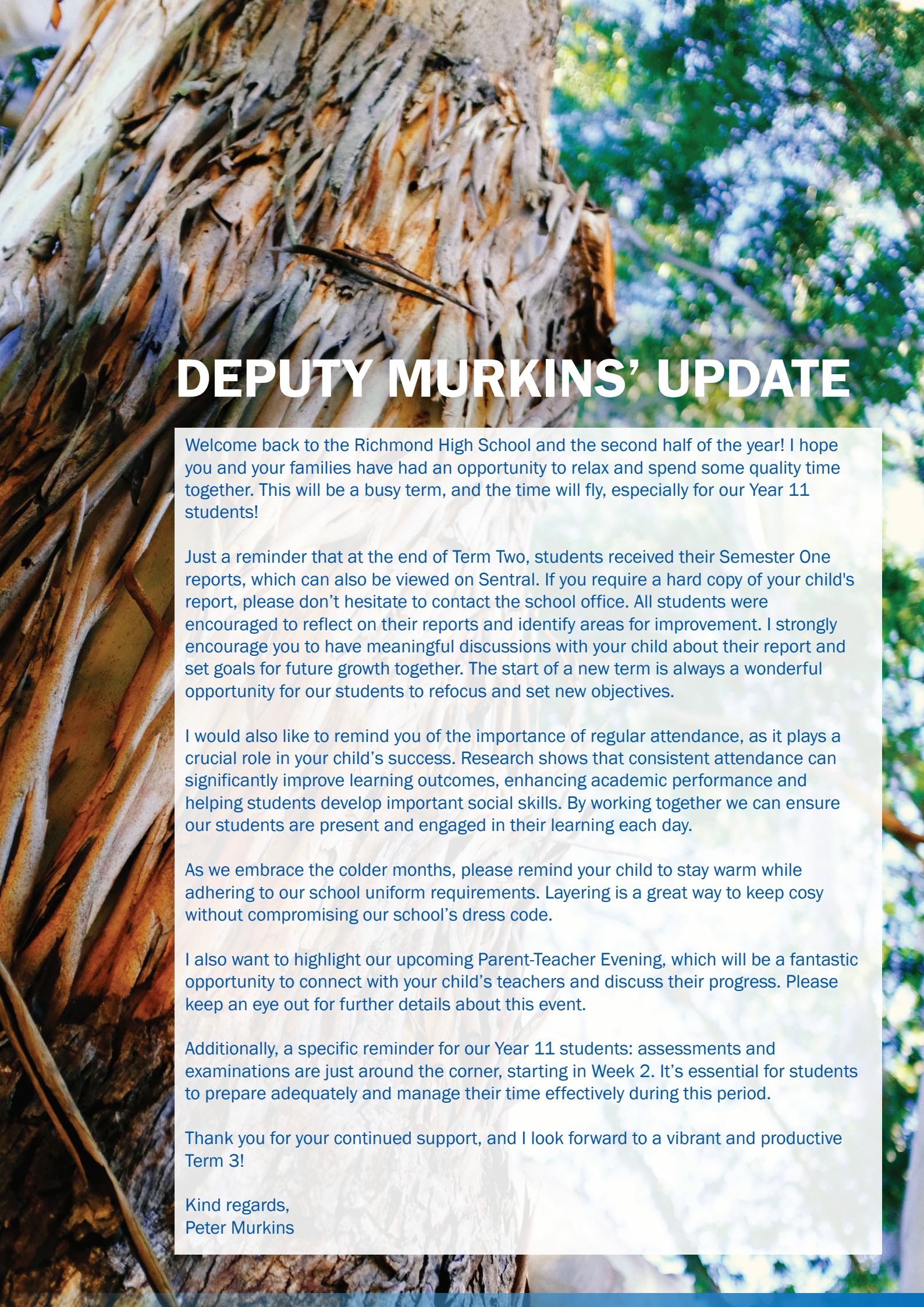
This week, our dedicated staff continued their Explicit Teaching Professional Learning, focusing on explicitly teaching academic writing. This vital skill will not only support our students in completing their Record of School Achievement (ROSA) but is also crucial for their success in the Higher School Certificate (HSC). Over the next term, we will be measuring our progress through student writing samples, and we anticipate that this focused approach will translate into stronger HSC results in the coming years.

As we move through this term, our Year 12 students will be busy finishing their coursework, preparing for their major works, and undertaking their trial HSC examinations. We are excited to celebrate their achievements during the Year 12 Presentation and Celebration Week at the end of the term. This is a significant milestone for our students, and we look forward to honouring their hard work and dedication.

Year 10 also has an important task ahead of them this term as they begin the process of selecting their Stage 6 subjects. We will be hosting a subject selection evening on Wednesday the 23rd July, and I strongly encourage all Year 10 parents to attend. Senior education is accessible to everyone, with diverse pathways and patterns of study available in the modern HSC. Your involvement in this process will be invaluable for your child's future success.

As we embark on this new term, I want to express my gratitude for the continued support and commitment of our entire school community. Working together, we can ensure that our students thrive academically, socially, and emotionally. Welcome back, everyone! Here's to a productive and enjoyable term ahead.

Warm regards,
Hayley



DEPUTY MURKINS' UPDATE

Welcome back to the Richmond High School and the second half of the year! I hope you and your families have had an opportunity to relax and spend some quality time together. This will be a busy term, and the time will fly, especially for our Year 11 students!

Just a reminder that at the end of Term Two, students received their Semester One reports, which can also be viewed on Sentral. If you require a hard copy of your child's report, please don't hesitate to contact the school office. All students were encouraged to reflect on their reports and identify areas for improvement. I strongly encourage you to have meaningful discussions with your child about their report and set goals for future growth together. The start of a new term is always a wonderful opportunity for our students to refocus and set new objectives.

I would also like to remind you of the importance of regular attendance, as it plays a crucial role in your child's success. Research shows that consistent attendance can significantly improve learning outcomes, enhancing academic performance and helping students develop important social skills. By working together we can ensure our students are present and engaged in their learning each day.

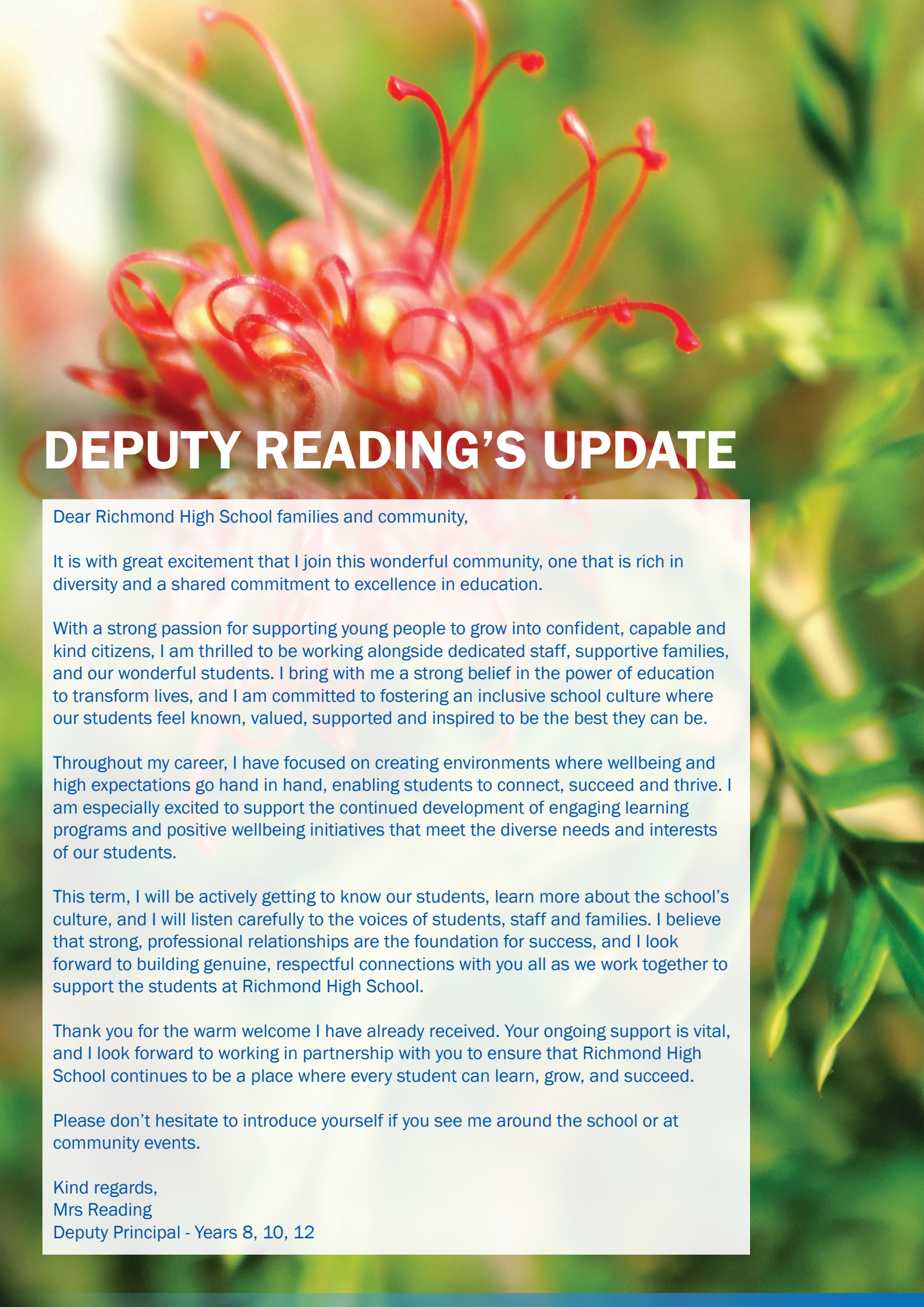
As we embrace the colder months, please remind your child to stay warm while adhering to our school uniform requirements. Layering is a great way to keep cosy without compromising our school's dress code.

I also want to highlight our upcoming Parent-Teacher Evening, which will be a fantastic opportunity to connect with your child's teachers and discuss their progress. Please keep an eye out for further details about this event.

Additionally, a specific reminder for our Year 11 students: assessments and examinations are just around the corner, starting in Week 2. It's essential for students to prepare adequately and manage their time effectively during this period.

Thank you for your continued support, and I look forward to a vibrant and productive Term 3!

Kind regards,
Peter Murkins



DEPUTY READING'S UPDATE

Dear Richmond High School families and community,

It is with great excitement that I join this wonderful community, one that is rich in diversity and a shared commitment to excellence in education.

With a strong passion for supporting young people to grow into confident, capable and kind citizens, I am thrilled to be working alongside dedicated staff, supportive families, and our wonderful students. I bring with me a strong belief in the power of education to transform lives, and I am committed to fostering an inclusive school culture where our students feel known, valued, supported and inspired to be the best they can be.

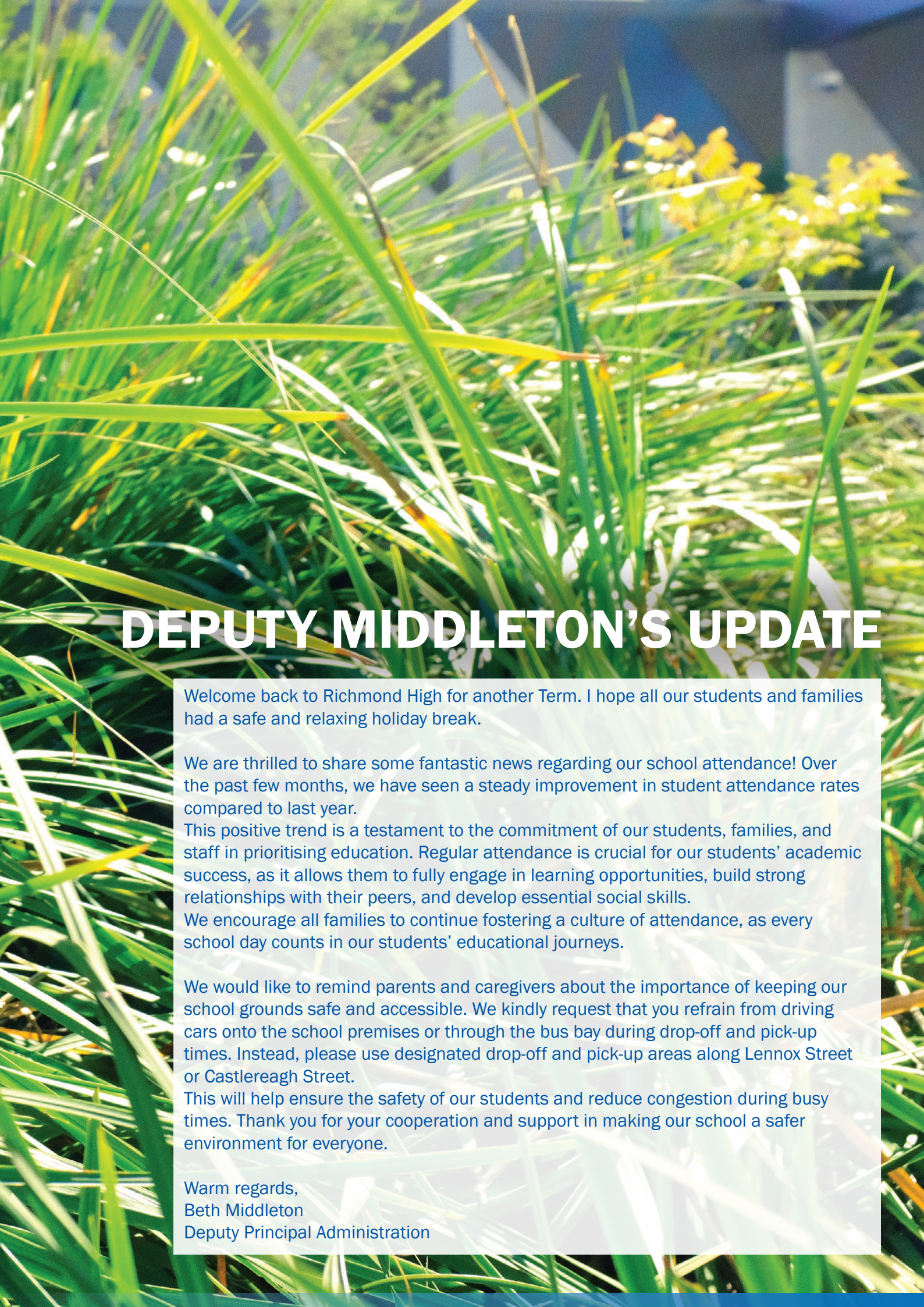
Throughout my career, I have focused on creating environments where wellbeing and high expectations go hand in hand, enabling students to connect, succeed and thrive. I am especially excited to support the continued development of engaging learning programs and positive wellbeing initiatives that meet the diverse needs and interests of our students.

This term, I will be actively getting to know our students, learn more about the school's culture, and I will listen carefully to the voices of students, staff and families. I believe that strong, professional relationships are the foundation for success, and I look forward to building genuine, respectful connections with you all as we work together to support the students at Richmond High School.

Thank you for the warm welcome I have already received. Your ongoing support is vital, and I look forward to working in partnership with you to ensure that Richmond High School continues to be a place where every student can learn, grow, and succeed.

Please don't hesitate to introduce yourself if you see me around the school or at community events.

Kind regards,
Mrs Reading
Deputy Principal - Years 8, 10, 12



DEPUTY MIDDLETON'S UPDATE

Welcome back to Richmond High for another Term. I hope all our students and families had a safe and relaxing holiday break.

We are thrilled to share some fantastic news regarding our school attendance! Over the past few months, we have seen a steady improvement in student attendance rates compared to last year.

This positive trend is a testament to the commitment of our students, families, and staff in prioritising education. Regular attendance is crucial for our students' academic success, as it allows them to fully engage in learning opportunities, build strong relationships with their peers, and develop essential social skills.

We encourage all families to continue fostering a culture of attendance, as every school day counts in our students' educational journeys.

We would like to remind parents and caregivers about the importance of keeping our school grounds safe and accessible. We kindly request that you refrain from driving cars onto the school premises or through the bus bay during drop-off and pick-up times. Instead, please use designated drop-off and pick-up areas along Lennox Street or Castlereagh Street.

This will help ensure the safety of our students and reduce congestion during busy times. Thank you for your cooperation and support in making our school a safer environment for everyone.

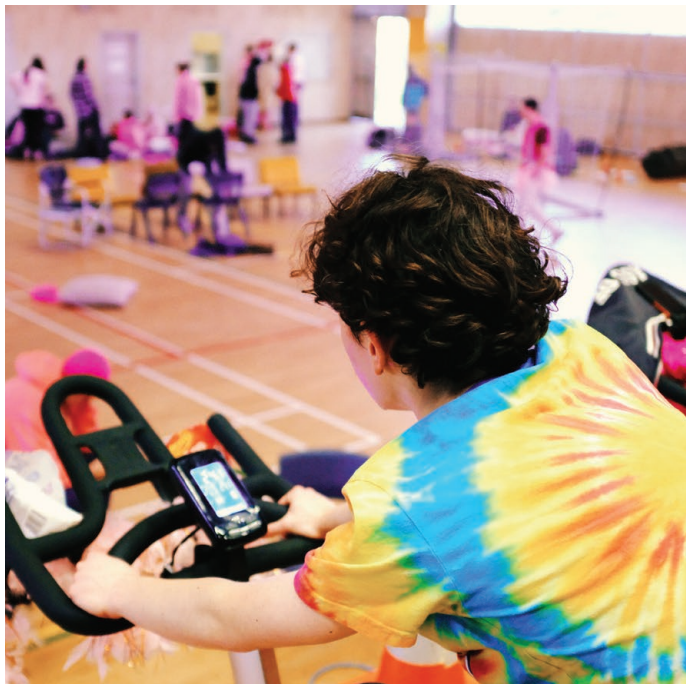
Warm regards,
Beth Middleton
Deputy Principal Administration

PINK DAY WRAP-UP



On the final day of Term 2, our school community came together for Pink Day, a vibrant and meaningful event dedicated to raising awareness about all types of cancer and supporting those affected. The day was not only about education and empathy—it was also a powerful fundraiser for Pink Finss, a local charity that supports individuals and families experiencing cancer. Thanks to the enthusiasm and generosity of our students, families and local community, we proudly raised over \$3,500 for Pink Finss. This incredible result is not only a reflection of Richmond High School, but of the broader community. We would like to thank all those who supported Pink Day in 2025.

PINK DAY WRAP-UP



As part of Pink Day, our Year 12 cohort created the “1000k in a Day” challenge, an overnight fundraiser where students continuously rode 2 exercise bikes, with the aim of reaching a combined distance of 1000 kilometers in 24 hours. Students camped overnight in our MPC, braving the cold to ensure they reached their goal. We are happy to report that Year 12 completed a total of 1067 kilometers and raised over \$1000 towards our Pink Finss donations. Well done to all students who participated, and thankyou to our tireless staff for their outstanding organisation of the event.



RHS NAIDOC WEEK



National NAIDOC Week celebrations are held across Australia in July each year, to celebrate and recognise the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. NAIDOC Week is an opportunity for all Australians to learn about First Nations cultures and histories and participate in celebrations of the oldest, continuous living cultures on earth. Throughout the first week of Term 3, Richmond High School celebrated NAIDOC with an array of activities and functions.

Koori Cafe, a fantastic market of Australian and Indigenous foods, serving to all staff and students. **Cultural Art Session**, a culturally focused workshop, resulting in a beautiful art installation that promotes inclusivity and unity.

Support Family Morning Tea, a wonderful gathering of families and a celebration of our hard-working Support Unit students.

NAIDOC Assembly and Concert, exciting festivities following a whole-school meeting.



RHS NAIDOC WEEK

The celebrations came to an exciting end with our NAIDOC assembly and concert. Students had the privilege of hearing from guest speakers and participating in a whole-school smoking ceremony. Thankyou to Windsor High School's digeridoo players, Western Sydney University, Headspace Richmond and our own RHS Music students for contributing so positively towards the day. And of course, a special thanks to our AEO and indigenous students for their hard organisational work, ensuring such a successful week.



KOKODA EXPEDITION

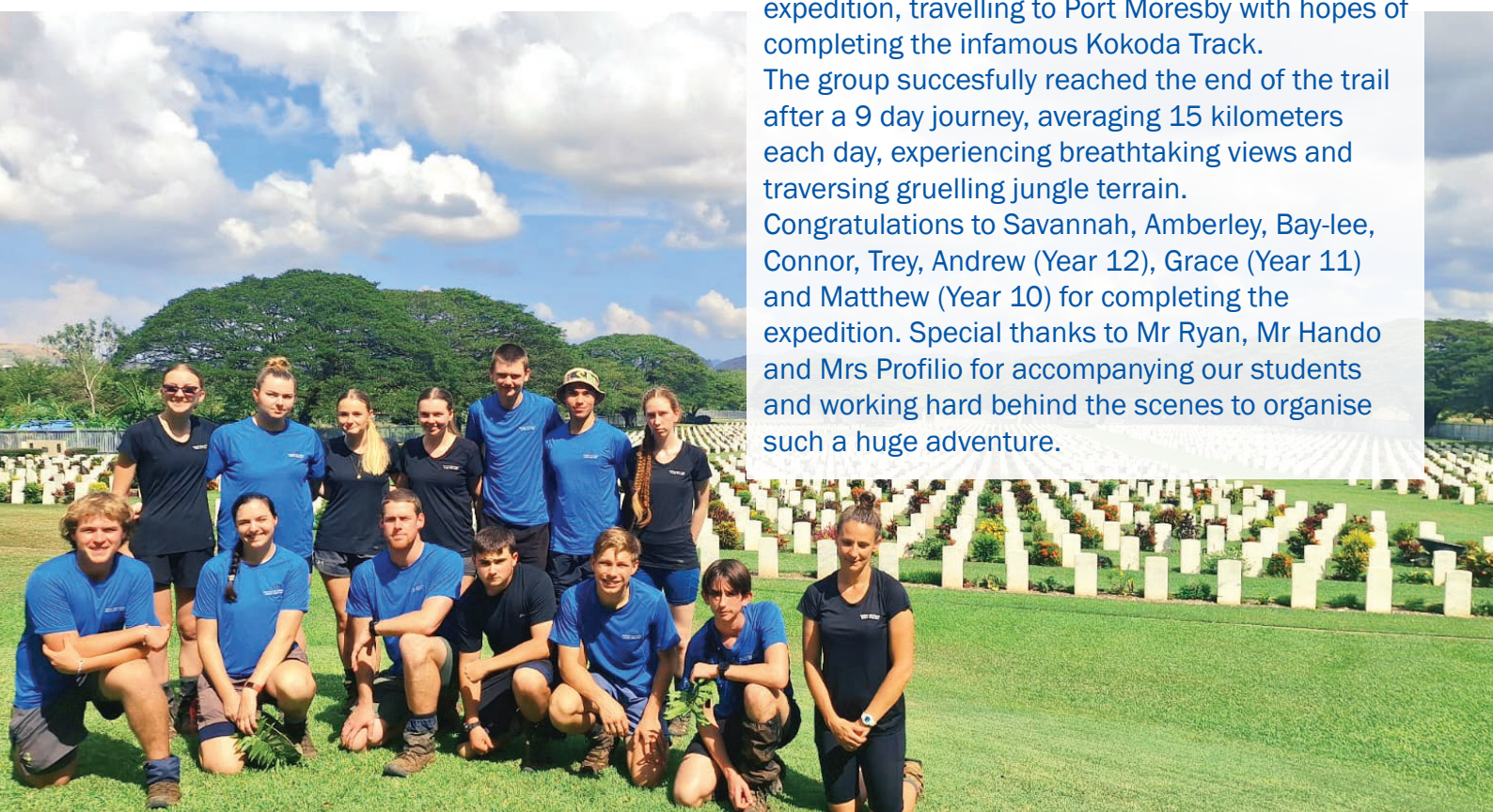


The Kokoda Track is a 96 kilometer walking trail which runs through remote areas of Papua New Guinea. The track is known for its rugged and challenging terrain, making the journey a physically and mentally demanding experience.

During the winter school holidays, 8 Duke of Edinburgh students, 3 staff members and 4 ex-RHS students undertook this massive expedition, travelling to Port Moresby with hopes of completing the infamous Kokoda Track.

The group successfully reached the end of the trail after a 9 day journey, averaging 15 kilometers each day, experiencing breathtaking views and traversing gruelling jungle terrain.

Congratulations to Savannah, Amberley, Bay-lee, Connor, Trey, Andrew (Year 12), Grace (Year 11) and Matthew (Year 10) for completing the expedition. Special thanks to Mr Ryan, Mr Hando and Mrs Profilio for accompanying our students and working hard behind the scenes to organise such a huge adventure.



NSW RFS CADET PROGRAM

The NSW Rural Fire Service Secondary School Cadet Program has been running since Term 2. It is a program for Year 9 and 10 students that provides an introduction to fire safety, fire-fighting skills and community service through a practical, hands-on approach. Our select RHS students are now halfway through their cadet program and engaging well in all aspects. Keep up the great work guys!



STUDENT ATTENDANCE



Improving overall student attendance is part of Richmond High's School Improvement Plan. This year, attendance has been a focal point across all areas of school life. Whole-school statistics can be difficult to change, but thanks to our RHS community, these numbers are beginning to make a positive shift. Thankyou to our students, staff and most importantly our parents, families and carers. Your hard work is greatly appreciated and crucial to making positive change. Let's continue to improve attendance in Term 3.

2023

**WHOLE
SCHOOL
AVERAGE**
83%
term 3

2025

**WHOLE
SCHOOL
AVERAGE**
85%
year to date

2027 GOAL

**WHOLE
SCHOOL
AVERAGE**
87%
full year

Why attendance matters

When your child misses school they miss important opportunities to:



Learn



Build friendships



Develop life skills



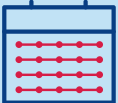
Days missed = years lost

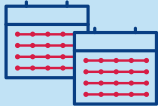
A day here and there doesn't seem like much, but...

When your child misses just...

they miss weeks per year

and years over their school life

1 day per fortnight
 = **4** weeks  = Over **1** year missed

1 day per week
 = **8** weeks  = Over **2.5** years missed



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