



HEATHCOTE HIGH NEWS

Term 1, Week 8, 2024

You may have noticed a change of title. 'From the Principal' is now called 'Heathcote High News' to reflect the contributions of faculties and students.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

OPEN NIGHT

We proudly welcomed prospective students and their families to our Open Night on Tuesday 5 May. Our guests got to hear about the great teaching and learning opportunities on offer at Heathcote High School, chat with students and staff and participate in activities.



I would like to thank our passionate teachers who worked hard to make the event a success. We also had an impressive group of talented students speaking at the presentation, helping in various faculties, providing guided tours and hospitality. I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to the following students for their time and spirited promotion of our school.

Ty W, Anthony K, Neil M, Skyla H, Year 7; Liam J, Zane G, Toby M, Lucas H, Jordan P, Cameron W, Ruby M, Tyler M, Olivia W, Year 8; Erin H, Grace S, Sally C, Abbigail H, Fearn W, Darcy M, Sienna L, Olivia T, Gemma S, Tahlia C, Jake S, Malia B, Ellie C, Hannah F, Catriona B, Bella E, Year 9; Matilda M, Matisse C, Lily R, Rohan H, Charlize C, Charlotte H, Gemma H, Eve S, Maya W, Cheyenne B, Shelby T, Arabella T, Aliana K, Dante P, Rachel T, Alexis C, Oliver A, Xanthya L, Julian J, Kai C, Luke C, Grace S, Year 10; Emmalee J, Aleisha B, Annabella W, Sarah J, Ayla S, Bonnie B, Jessica F, Baxter G, Sienna H, Lola T, Kiara S, Madison D, Holly S, Keira G, Jessica P, Brianna L, Eilidh S, Cody F, Evie K, Toby W, Jack Y, Year 11; Kathleen R, Mia F, Charlotte C, Isabel Y, Tia J, Lucy R, Maddie P, Emily C, Jack S, Harry N, Kadie C-P, Ashton F, Maddison B, Rhett L, Matthew B, Julia H, Anthony V, Year 12.

If you have a neighbour or friend who is interested in Heathcote High School and was unable to attend the Open Night, please let them know that they are always welcome to contact me for further information or to arrange a visit.

P&C MEETING

The next meeting of the P&C will be held on Wednesday 27 March commencing at 7pm in the Common Room, 1st floor C Block. Vehicle entry is via The Avenue.

The evening will commence with the Annual General Meeting, where office bearers for the next twelve months will be elected. The General Meeting will follow.

P&C meetings are a great opportunity to have input into the school, meet other parents and hear of new developments within the school.

New members will be warmly welcomed.

RECOGNITION ASSEMBLIES

Every term we look forward to our Recognition Assemblies. Term 1 Recognition Assemblies were held on 13 March. This is where we publicly recognize our students' efforts and achievements as part of our merit system. Merit certificates can be issued for classroom performance; service and leadership; and participation and representation. The merit certificates accumulate and lead to Principal, Bronze, Silver and Gold awards. Attendance certificates were also presented.

Gold Award: Lathika V, Year 12

Silver Award: Nicole L, Year 9; Gemma H, Year 10

Bronze Award: Eliza S, Isabella D, Year 9; Emma S, Year 10; Taylor B, Year 12

Principal Awards:

Year 7: Neil M

Year 8: Jackson B, Zara B, Logan D, Zach G, Lee H, Amelia M, Aiden M, Toby M, Ryan O, Charlie P, Jade R, Chevelle T, Cameron W

Year 9: Sally C, Isabella D, Zac G, Nicole L, Chris M, Daisy P, Eliza S, Aimee W

Year 10: Charlize C, Lukas C, Blake E, Charlotte H, Tilly M, Emma S
 Year 11: Brodie B-M, Reid B, Hayley G
 Year 12: Taylor B, Ava H, Lucy R, Ruby W



All awards received are included in the school's merit system and are added to each student's individual Achievement Portfolio throughout their time at Heathcote High.

Awards also contribute to House Points. Below is the latest tally. The overall leading house for the year will win the Heathcote High 2024 House Cup.



NAPLAN

Years 7 and 9 completed NAPLAN this week. This is the second year that students have sat the test in Term 1. The earlier testing allows teachers to understand the learning needs of their students and to plan accordingly. NAPLAN is a 'point in time' assessment of literacy and numeracy skills and only one tool we use.

NAPLAN testing was conducted completely online and comprised Writing, Reading, Conventions of Language and Numeracy tests. Thankfully our network upgrade meant increased Wi-Fi reliability and the smooth running of the tests. Thank you to Mrs Sheaff and Mr Katehos for your careful planning and organisation of NAPLAN this year. Thanks also to our students for your positive engagement with the process.

SOMETIMES YOU JUST NEED A LEG UP



Sometimes we all need a leg up. Have you ever had to do something new and didn't know where to begin and someone showed you how and got you started? Or someone told you 'you're doing well' when you were wavering with doubt? Or someone explained things in a way you could understand?

Whether you are a teacher, parent, carer, student, counsellor, peer or friend, never underestimate the power of giving someone a leg up. If the person you are helping is still struggling, reach out to someone. Together we can access resources and other support.

We may not be able to help every time, but feeling supported and connected is most important.

Steve Waser
Principal

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Throughout the year we have featured some of the many extracurricular activities on offer at Heathcote High School. In this edition, there is Mountain Biking, Concert Band and Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme as well as a link to Students' Website Guide for the Premier's Reading Challenge.

Australian MTB Interschools

The Australian MTB Interschools competition at Thredbo is an event our MTB riders look forward to each year. The 2024 events were held 4-8 March.

HHS had 21 competitors:

Division 1 (Years 11-12): Hamish B, Anders S, Leeroy G, Bradford B, Alex M

Division 2 (Years 9-10): Lukas C, Ty P, Nate J, Jake J, Luca T, Stuart K, Adam B, Riley C, Caleb L

Division 3 (Years 7-8): Sonny P, Jamie S, Jarrah C, Ben H, Max W, Jasper D, Rhys M

Congratulations to our Division 2 team of Ty P, Lucas C and Nate J who came 2nd in both Pump Track and Flow, and to HHS top point scorer Hamish B. Well done to all our students who competed and proudly represented Heathcote High School.

Thank you to our parents, Mr Somerville, and sponsors for your support of the team.



Concert Band

The Heathcote High School Concert Band is open to all instrumentalists with skills ranging from beginner to advance. The band will perform on various occasions throughout the year.

For further information, please see Mrs Smith or Mr Torday-Smith in the CAPA staff room.

Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme

The Duke of Edinburgh Award is a popular extracurricular activity offered at Heathcote High School. The Duke of Edinburgh Award provides every young person with the opportunity to thrive; build resilience, explore opportunities, and be recognised in preparation for life and work in a rapidly changing world.

Students commence their bronze awards in Year 9 and have the opportunity to achieve their silver and gold levels in the following years. Students must complete four sections in order to gain an award including Physical Recreation, Skills, Voluntary Service, and an Adventurous Journey.

Adventurous journeys are organised each year in nearby national parks. Any student aged 14 years or over is able to access the program.

For more information, please see Mrs Penny in the Maths staff room or Mr Moon in the Industrial Arts staff room.

Premier's Reading Challenge

For students participating in the Premier's Reading Challenge below is a link to a video of the Premier's Reading Challenge - Student Website Guide.

<https://vimeo.com/264540639>

It is not too late to sign up. Please see our Librarian, Ms Cook if you have any questions.

FACULTY NEWS

We will feature different faculties in editions of Heathcote High News.

ENGLISH/ DRAMA FACULTY - TERM 1

The English/Drama Faculty has had a great start to Term 1. We have welcomed Mr M. Baker into the faculty and welcomed back Mr T. Baker. 2024 marks the start of a new English Syllabus for Years 7 and 9 (Years 8 and 10 will be rolled out in 2025) meaning that our students have had the opportunity to engage in some new units designed to engage them in reading, extend their writing skills and elicit critical thinking skills.

We have continued the Wide Reading program in English for 2024. Students have been reading a text (novel, autobiography, non-fiction text, etc.) for 10 minutes every lesson.

Research shows that good readers become good writers so we are keen to continue to encourage our students to follow their interests in reading.

Year 12 English Advanced Excursion

Our Year 12 English Advanced class had the opportunity to see a production of William Shakespeare's "Richard III" at the Seymour Centre on Friday 15th March. Students are currently studying this play as part of their prescribed texts for Module A: Textual Conversations, and the ability to see the play performed live assists their understanding of the text to further help them achieve in the HSC. According to Mrs Roberts, the students were thoroughly impressed with the staging of the play and were excellent audience members.



Calling all Public Speakers and Debaters

HHS will once again participate in the Premiers' Debating Challenge for Years 7, 8 and 9. Teams will be selected and debates will occur from Term 2 so if you are interested, please see your English teacher to register your interest.

We have also entered the Plain Speaking Awards which is a public speaking competition for Year 10 students. Again, if you are in Year 10 and would like to be involved, please see your English teacher for more information.

HHS Production 2024 – Treasure Island



HHS is proud to introduce our Production for 2024 Treasure Island.

Our illustrious Drama Teacher, Mrs Keating, is currently running Drama Sport to prepare students for the staging which will take place at the end of Term 2.

Treasure Island will feature the best of HHS' drama, dance and music talents. Students in all Years are participating and we are already excited for opening night!

State Drama Camp

Year 10 students, Isabelle M and Channing P have been accepted to attend the Arts Unit's State Drama Camp. This is a wonderful opportunity to develop their drama training and work with excellent tutors and other drama students from all over NSW. Congratulations, Isabelle and Channing.

Senior Drama Workshop for HSC Drama students

The Arts Unit runs a selective Senior Drama Workshop for HSC Drama students that focuses on the Group Devised module and play building. Our school was one of eleven schools selected for this opportunity.

Southern Stars Arena Spectacular

Heathcote High School has applied to take part in the Southern Stars Arena Spectacular this year, with both a Drama team and a Dance team. Students will perform with other schools at WIN Stadium in August this year. More details to come later.

Mrs Ford
Head Teacher, English

SUPPORT UNIT - TERM 1

Assistance Dogs Australia

Our Special Education teachers and Student Learning Support Officers (SLSOs) have teamed up with Assistance Dogs Australia for the Junior Dog Training Program. In this program, our students learn to train puppies and dogs in their journey to becoming an assistance dog.

Heathcote High School was the first school to run this program in 2019 and it is always a school highlight for students within the Support Unit.

Throughout this program, we have observed various students who had a fear of dogs make unbelievable connections and improve their communication skills. This is an extremely beneficial occupational therapy program for students with disabilities where students build on goals such as social skills, communication, teamwork, turn taking and improve their motor skills all while learning to be junior dog trainers!



Collaborative Sports Program

This term, we have combined with Lucas Heights Community School to run a collaborative sports program for students in Support Units. This has allowed students with disabilities the opportunity to meet new peers and represent Heathcote High School in inter-school sport.

Each week, students were able to choose from a variety of inclusive sports activities which allowed them to build skills in various areas and discover new interests and strengths. This partnership with Lucas Heights Community School will continue in term 2, building friendships and social skills amongst peers in the local community.



Mrs Petroulakis
Head Teacher, Support

SPORT

Gold Medal Performance – Congratulations Finlay

Congratulations to Finlay T of Year 7 who won the Gold medal in the male U13s Surf Life Saving Inclusive State Championships in Manly.

Such an amazing achievement, made even better by the fact that it was his first ever competition. Great work, Finlay.



Zone Swimming Carnival

The Sutherland Zone Swimming Carnival was held on Monday 4 March at the Sutherland Leisure Centre.

Congratulations to all our swimmers who proudly represented our school and did their best. Thank you to the families and teachers, Miss Turner, Mrs Mercer and Mr Hearnden, who supported the students at this event.

HHS Team comprised:

Girls 12 year: Maya B, Mackenzie B, Kyla R, Matilda A, Grace A

Boys 12 years: Ty C, Cooper N

Girls 13 years: Abigail R, Sian J, Ava C, Mia C, Indiana Y

Boys 13 years: Kodi M, Jax H, Ollie G, Aiden M, Sam T, Harvey M

Girls 14 years: Marli H, Addi O

Boys 14 years: Cash P, Finlay N, Mason S, Ryan O

Girls 15 years: Evie M, Charli B, Poppy C, Maddi D

Boys 15 years: James W, Jenson M

Girls 16 years: Tilly M, Catriona B

Boys 17-19 years: Brodie M, Lachie H, Daniel J, Jacob S

Sydney East Swimming Championships

There was a short turn-around with our qualifying swimmers competing the following Monday, 11 March, at the Sydney East Swimming Championships at Sydney Olympic Park Aquatic Centre.

Congratulations to Maya B, Mackenzie B, Kyla R, Matilda A, Cooper N, Abigail R, Marli H, Addi O, Evie M, Charli B, Poppy C, Maddi D, Tilly M, Catriona B, Brodie M, Lachie H, Daniel J, Jacob S on your selection for this carnival. Thanks also to the families and teachers for cheering-on our swimmers.

Huge congratulations to Evie M and Brodie M for some fantastic results and selection to the Combined High School (CHS) Swimming Championships on 13-15 May.

Grade Sport – Summer Grand Finals

Congratulations to the Year 9 Boys Volleyball team on winning the Grand Final against Cronulla HS 3-0.

Our Year 10 Girls Beach Volley Ball team B lost to Woolooware HS 2-1. Well done on reaching the Grand Final.

Open Boys Touch Football Knockout

Well done to the Heathcote High School Boys Touch Football team after their convincing 6-1 win over Belmore Boys High School at home on 7 March.



Open Boys Cricket Knockout

The HHS team is through to the second round of the knockout. Good luck for your next game.

Tenpin Bowling Triple Strike

Well done Levi on your triple strike at Bowling.



Miss Turner
Sports Organiser

EXCURSIONS AND INCURSIONS

White Card Course

A white card (or general construction induction card) is a mandatory requirement for workers who want to carry out construction work, including work experience.

A white card course was held on 6 March where students gained knowledge of Work Health Safety laws, the common hazards and risks likely to be encountered on construction sites and how these risks should be controlled.



International Women's Day events at HHS

Heathcote High School has provided our female students with opportunities to engage in events to help them access opportunities and overcome obstacles so that their skills, talents and expertise can be developed, nurtured and valued.

International Women's Day events for HHS students:

- Young Women's Leadership Seminar at Parliament House (see below)
- Women Pilot Scholarship Presentation

- Women in STEM webinar

HHS also offers programs year round to help our female students develop resilience and become empowered to work towards achieving their goals (Positive Lifestyle Program, GEM girls, and Flourish).

Hospitality students made cookies for our female staff in celebration of International Women's Day.

Young Women's Leadership Seminar

To celebrate 2024 International Women's Day, Year 11 students Maddie D and Evie K participated online in the Young Women's Leadership Seminar at NSW Parliament House. There were 130 young women in attendance and 800 participating online throughout NSW. The theme for IWD 2024 is #InspireInclusion.



The keynote speaker was Associate Professor Lisa Williams, Associate Dean, Equity Diversity and Inclusion in the UNSW Faculty of Science and Chief Investigator of the Women in STEM Ambassador grants. She spoke about her career path, leadership, gendered stereotypes and research and strategies followed by a Q&A. There was also a panel discussion with female members of parliament.

Year 11 – Gateway Leaders Program at UNSW

Some Year 11 students attended the Gateway Leaders Program, a one day on-campus experience.

The students:

- Discovered how personal strengths and values can be harnessed for leadership purposes
- Learned to communicate with influence through a practical workshop
- Develop leadership goals and strategies to make an impact in their schools and communities.
- Participated in networking opportunities with other Year 11 students and University Ambassadors.



Year 11 – Textiles and Design

Year 11 Textiles and Design students have been learning new fabric decoration techniques as part of their study on the elements and principles of design. These techniques include marbling, dyeing, fabric painting, applique, machine embroidery and hand embroidery.

To further this learning and gain some inspiration for their up-cycling project, students visited Reverse Garbage, a not-for-profit creative reuse centre.

Students then visited TexStyle a showcase of exemplary major works by 2023 HSC Textiles and Design students. While there, they also participated in an embroidery workshop conducted by the Embroiderers' Guild NSW.



Year 12 Advanced English – Richard III at the Seymour Centre

Years 10, 11 & 12 Music – ‘Behind the Gig’ at the Metro theatre

Years 10, 11 & 12 Music students got some hands-on experience in sound and lighting at Sydney's Metro Theatre.

They ran lighting designs and set up microphones for a concert by a professional band and at the end of the day watched the performance with some students managing sound and lighting for the concert.

Year 11 Geography – Minnamurra River Fieldwork

Duke of Edinburgh – Twilight walk to Karloo Pools, Heathcote National Park

Year 11 & 12 Marine Studies – Ocean Lovers Festival

Year 11 & 12 Marine Studies students attended the Ocean Lovers Festival at Bondi Beach to listen to talks on inspiring ocean science and innovation, meet marine scientists, find out about courses offered by universities and other marine institutions and see art displays.

Year 12 Marine Studies – Bonnie Vale, Royal National Park

WORLD'S GREATEST SHAVE



Heathcote High School is again participating in the World's Greatest Shave to raise money for the Leukaemia Foundation.

There are 140,000 Australian families facing blood cancer right now and it takes the lives of 16 Australians every day. Blood cancer is the most commonly diagnosed cancer in Australian children.

Every dollar we raise will fund blood cancer research and provide families with practical and emotional support to get them through the many challenges that blood cancer can bring.

‘Shave. Cut. Colour. Join the World's Greatest Shave community and make a life-changing difference.’

If you are unable to participate personally, you can donate to your fellow peers or to the school account. The event is taking place on Wednesday 10 April. To donate please use the following link:

<https://secure.leukaemiafoundation.org.au/regisrant/TeamFundraisingPage.aspx?teamID=144768&langPref=en-CA&fbclid=IwAR2KTYCTMnVWDGHc02EvFXzH5JpwVfpBRH9YKQ-Zy9x-uVxVnUu4RO4ddwU>

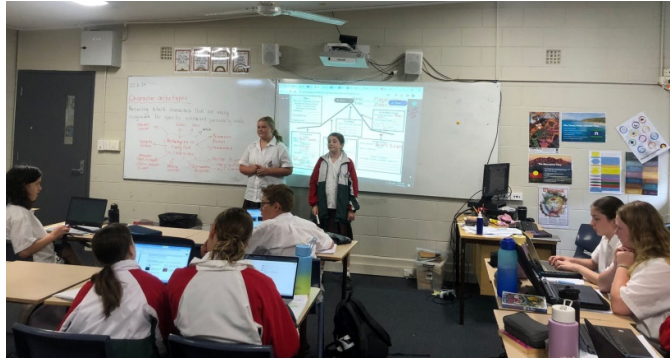
Last year we raised over \$12,000 for this great cause and this year we hope to do the same or even better.

If you would like to sign up for the World's Greatest Shave, go to the English staff room or speak to the event organiser, our Vice Captain Maddie B, or SRC Coordinator, Ms Roberts.

IN OUR CLASSROOMS

7H ENGLISH – FRACTURED FAIRY TALES

7H are currently studying Fractured Fairy Tales. In this lesson Sian and Libby assumed the role of teachers and deconstructed Roald Dahl's version of 'The Three Little Pigs' using Freytag's Pyramid. The class engaged in a sophisticated discussion on how Dahl has reimaged and appropriated the traditional text, noting how the moral has been changed in his twisted tale.



YEAR 8 – PASTRY AND CHOCOLATE DESIGNS

Year 8 in their Home Economics class demonstrated their mastery in pastry and chocolate design. We hope they further practise at home for their lucky families.



HARMONY WEEK

We celebrated Harmony Week (18-24 March) on Thursday 21st March. Harmony Week is about inclusiveness, respect and a sense of belonging for all. The overarching message of Harmony Week is to promote understanding, acceptance and appreciation of the diverse

cultures that make up our school. The colour orange is associated with Harmony Day, symbolizing social harmony and mutual respect. This year's theme is 'Everyone Belongs'.



UPCOMING EVENTS

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| 27 March (Wednesday): | P&C Meeting – 7-9pm, Common Room, 1 st floor C Block |
| 29 March – 1 April: | Easter Break |
| 5 April (Friday): | School Cross Country |
| 10 April (Wednesday): | World's Greatest Shave |
| 12 April (Friday): | Last Day of Term 1 |
| 30 April (Tuesday): | Students commence Term 2 |
| 3 May (Friday): | School Athletics Carnival |