

Dear Parents,

Although this year has been one of many challenges, I am, however, extremely proud, not just of the students, but of the entire school community and the way that everyone ensured that the learning and welfare needs of our students was paramount and continuous.

We are very privileged to have access to and support from the outstanding staff at Asquith Boys High School. They too have completed an incredible year of teaching that has been challenging and at times overwhelming. Their professionalism and unwavering desire to ensure that your son's learning was maximised has been extraordinary in 2020.

### **60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Asquith Boys High School**

The activities and many events that were planned for the celebration of the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Asquith Boys High School have been postponed to 2021. These events will be published on the school calendar early in the new year.

The students in Years 7 – 9 did receive their school caps which have added that extra touch to the school's uniform, and Year 10 -12 students received their Portable Power banks as a gift from the school to mark this special anniversary occasion.

### **Presentation Day – Monday 14 December**

Congratulations in advance to all of our award winners who will receive their awards at the ceremony on Monday. Parents are invited to live stream the Presentation Ceremony via the following link: <https://youtu.be/h9WNsAu9k5o>

The Presentation Ceremony will commence from 1pm, with the official party taking the stage just after 1pm. Periods 1-3 and Recess will be as per normal for all students, however period 4 will be shortened, followed by an early lunch to allow the ceremony to commence at 1pm and finish before the end of the regular school day.

### **Colleen Sweeney – Breakfast Club Coordinator and Youth Worker**

Our Youth Worker and Breakfast Club coordinator for the past 8 years, Colleen Sweeney has been offered a full time position in 2021 at another school. As a school and community, I would like to take this opportunity to thank her for her contribution to the school and the many students with whom she has worked and supported at Asquith Boys High School.

Colleen's important legacies of the Breakfast Club and the Games Club for the students will continue. The Breakfast Club will continue every morning, and Games Club will be taken on by Mr Bonser in 2021.

### **School Reports**

School reports for Year 7 – 10 have been emailed home today. If you do not receive your son's report, please contact the school and confirm that we have your correct email address.

Please ensure that you take quality time to reflect on the constructive feedback provided in the report. I am always surprised to interview many of our students to find out that they have not read their school report, let alone reflected with their parents.

### **2021 – Return to School dates**

School will resume in 2021 after two Staff Development Days on Wednesday 27 and Thursday 28 January. The additional Staff Development Day has been implemented by the Department. The result is that there will only be one Staff Development Day at the end of Term 4, where there usually have been two.

## The following dates for your 2021 calendars:

**Years 7, 11 and 12** – Return on Friday 29 January 2021

**Year 8, 9, and 10** – Return on Monday 1 February 2021

**Last day of School** – Thursday 16 December 2021

I hope that these dates will assist you in your planning in 2021.

## New Daily Timetable/Structure for 2021

With the COVID lockdown and suspended time on class during the year, it allowed the school the opportunity to reflect on our daily structure and investigate the best available options for our students.

Also, the phased to return to school in Term 2, enabled us the opportunity to trial, review and then discuss the positive and negatives of some alternative daily structures.

After extensive deliberation and debate we have developed the following daily timetable/structure which incorporates the following features:

- two week cycle with a 21 period week, and a 42 period cycle,
- all periods will be the same length- 64 minutes,
- earlier finish to the school days for Monday, Thursday and Fridays at 2.54 pm (to allow students to safely transition to the station and catch the earlier 3.04pm train home, rather than wait for the 3.34 pm train)
- Recess (10.48 – 11.08 am) and Lunch Time (1.16 – 1.50 pm) are the same every day of the week, except for Wednesday Sport – where Lunch is from 11.40 am – 12.20 pm,
- Tuesday's will finish early, for ABHS staff meetings, at 2.22 pm (allowing students to safely transition to the station and catch the 2.34 pm train),
- Wednesday's Sport day remains a 2.20 pm finish time, and
- Literacy and Numeracy periods have been retained, and will now be conducted on Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

	Monday Thursday Friday	Tuesday	Wednesday
Period 1	8:40 – 9:44 (64)	8:40 – 9:44 (64)	8:40 – 9:44 (64)
Period 2	9:44 – 10:48 (64)	9:44 – 10:48 (64)	9:44 – 10:48 (64)
Recess	10:48 – 11:08 (20)	10:48 – 11:08 (20)	10:48 – 11:08 (20)
Period 3	11:08 – 12:12 (64)	11:08 – 11:40 (32) <b>Literacy &amp; Numeracy</b>	11:08 – 11:40 (32) <b>Literacy &amp; Numeracy</b>
Period 4	12:12 – 1:16 (64)	11:40 – 12:44 (64)	
Lunch	1:16 – 1:50 (34)	12:44 – 1:18 (34)	11:40 – 12:20 (40)
Period 5	1:50 – 2:54 (64)	1:18 – 2:22 (64)	12:20 – 2:20 (120) <b>SPORT</b>
School Ends	2:54	2:22	2:20

We are well aware that this is another change, after implementing a new structure at the beginning of 2020. However, COVID provided us with the perfect time to reassess and review, and we strongly believe this to be a more consistent daily structure for the students to follow, and more importantly, more educationally sound for their learning. All students will receive their new timetables on return to school in 2021, and it will follow this structure. The Student Planners that students receive includes this new daily structure for you to view and incorporate into your day to day planning.

### **Counsellors in 2021**

In 2021 we will have a new format for the school counsellors.

Lauren Clarke has been with us on Mondays and her days have been increased to include Tuesday's. On Wednesday we will welcome Libby Egerton, with Dorothy Wakelin continuing on Thursdays and Fridays. If your son, yourself or someone you know requires assistance or support over the holidays, please access the links below.

Kidshelpline	1800 551 800	<a href="http://www.kidshelpline.com.au">www.kidshelpline.com.au</a>
Youth Beyond Blue	1300 224 630	<a href="http://beyondblue-youngpeople.org.au">beyondblue - young people</a>
Headspace	1800 650 890	<a href="http://headspace.org.au">headspace.org.au</a>

### **Paperless in 2021**

Our aim in 2021 is to significantly reduce the amount of paper that we distribute to parents, students and the broader community. To enable this to occur it is essential that you support us in this area by ensuring that you have access to the **Parent Portal** as this will become the schools main communication mechanism.

If you require your access key code to be emailed to you, please contact the school and request this information be sent to you.

The school **sms** communication tool will be phased out in the last few weeks of 2020, however, the Sentral email system will continue to be used.

We appreciate you supporting our initiative as a school to reduce and conserve paper.

### **Parent Survey – School Planning for 2021-2024**

Thank you to the families/parents who completed the online survey, your feedback will be reviewed and incorporated into our school planning for 2021 and beyond. There will be further opportunities for you to be involved, or provide valuable feedback by participating in focus groups. Please check emails and future Backchat in Brief's for details regarding registering for these opportunities.

I would like to take this opportunity, in this final "Backchat in Brief" for 2020, to thank everyone for their efforts in 2020, and wish you all a restful, safe and wonderful Christmas holidays with your family and friends.

**Bryce Grant**

**Principal**

*11 December, 2020*

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## **BREAKFAST CLUB HELPERS NEEDED**

We require Volunteers for Monday and Tuesday mornings in 2021 to replace the outgoing Year 12 parents. Your support for this invaluable program is greatly appreciated.

If you are available to help (from 7.45 - 8.5am) please email the school, attention Mr Grant.

# ABHS P&C ASSOCIATION

2020 has been a difficult year for all, and the ABHS P&C Association would like to thank Mr Grant and the staff for all their efforts this year.

On behalf of Michelle, Kate, Kathy, Sacha and myself, we would like to wish every family a safe holiday and a Happy New Year.

Looking forward to 2021, the year we can celebrate the schools belated 60th anniversary milestone.

Thank you to the committee for their hard work and support during the year. This year we say farewell to Michelle, Kathy and Sacha on the Executive committee.

Hope to see lots of new faces at our next meeting, which will be held Tuesday 23 February 2021. This is also our AGM where we welcome you to join the committee, all help is greatly appreciated.

Stay well

Dawn Kilkelly

P&C President 2020



Year 9 Principal Reward Day - Surf lessons at Collaroy Beach

## DRAMA WORKSHOPS

NORTH RYDE, HORNSBY, BELROSE, GORDON, KILLARA AND CHATSWOOD



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DECEMBER AND JANUARY

WE TAKE CREATIVE KIDS VOUCHERS

**MSTYP** MARIAN ST  
THEATRE  
FOR YOUNG  
PEOPLE

## FUSION SYDNEY NORTH PRESENTS... SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAM FOR YOUNG PEOPLE AGED 12 - 18 YEARS JANUARY 2021

### WEDNESDAY 13/1/2020

Provide First Aid Course - 9am - 4pm  
(HLTAID003 Provide First Aid & HLTAID001 Provide CPR)  
\$85 per person (venue TBA)



### THURSDAY 14/1/2020

Beach Outing - Palm Beach - 12 - 4.30pm  
\$15 per person (includes transport)  
Meet @ Fusion Community Centre



### FRIDAY 15/1/2020

Foot Golf @ Northbridge Golf Club - 3 - 6.30pm  
\$25 per person (includes Transport)  
Meet @ Fusion Community Centre



### THURSDAY 21/1/2020

Pool & Table Tennis Competitions - 10 - 2 pm  
FREE  
Meet @ Fusion Community Centre



### FRIDAY 22/1/2020

Games afternoon - Nintendo Switch, Boardgames & more - 1 - 4pm  
FREE but bring some change for milkshakes and snacks  
Meet @ Fusion Community Centre



### BOOKING & OTHER INFORMATION

"At Fusion, we don't want cost to be a barrier to participation. If this is the case for your family, please contact us and let us know what you can afford."

For enquiries and further information please contact the Fusion office on 94771110 or email [sydneynorth@fusion.org.au](mailto:sydneynorth@fusion.org.au). To register, go to [www.sydneynorth.org.au/youth-work](http://www.sydneynorth.org.au/youth-work)

**fusion**