



The first 5 weeks of Term 1 have been very busy and our school calendar is overflowing with upcoming activities that are all exciting and engaging for our students.

We are currently reviewing the finish of day time for Tuesdays in an effort to manage students leaving earlier to ensure they can catch the 2.37pm from Asquith to Berowra and/or the 2.52pm from Hornsby to the Central Coast. A communicator will be forthcoming next week, however it is most likely to come after next Tuesday unfortunately. This would mean that any change to the finish of day time would commence the following week, from 16th March.

Open Night – Tuesday 10th March

Importantly, next Tuesday 10th March is Asquith Boys High School's Open Evening, and is when we invite future prospective students and their parents to visit and see the school. Asquith Boys High School presents an excellent and well organised display of all of the schools amazing facilities and the wonderful staff demonstrate their passion for boys education.

Many of your sons have received permission notes requesting them to participate in demonstrations in classroom activities on the evening, and I appreciate your support with allowing them to partake in the event.

Enrolment at Asquith Boys High School

Often at this time of the year, after and around Open Night, there are lots of questions in the local community concerning enrolment at Asquith Boys High School, especially with regard to whether they are considered to be **'in or out of area'**. If this is a concern for you, or someone you know, please do not hesitate to contact myself or Ms Lauren Simms, the school enrolment officer, to discuss your concerns.

It is important to reassure the community, that as the Principal of Asquith Boys High School I am able to continue to honour the long tradition of accepting students from the **'non-local or out of area'** community, which includes but is not necessarily limited to Berowra, Cowan and Brooklyn, especially if you wish for your son to attend a boys' educational setting.

If, you are unsure about school boundaries, they can be found through the link below:

<https://education.nsw.gov.au/school-finder>

Asquith Boys High School is yet to reach its designated enrolment cap and /or local enrolment buffer, so for 2021 and the foreseeable future, we are able to continue to enrol and accommodate **non-local enrolment applicants**. If you seek further clarification with regard to the policy and the guidelines please see the attached document or go to the links identified below.

<https://education.nsw.gov.au/policy-library/policies/enrolment-of-students-in-nsw-government-schools>

Year 12 Snap Examinations – Week 8

Throughout Week 8, Year 12 classes will be conducting a series of small snap examinations. This is a new initiative with the purpose of these snap examinations to provide Year 12 with exam practise for the HSC Examinations and experience the school hall environment as their formal examination setting. Snap examinations will target a particular area that teachers have identified that may require further revision or focus, as well as examination time management technique.

They will be conducted in the hall under examination conditions during normal class allocated periods.

Examinations will only take around 40 minutes of the period, with students to attend all class lessons before and after these tests.

Parent Pick up and Year 11/12 Drivers

Thank you to all the parents who collect their sons after school from the school side of Peats Ferry Rd. If you park on the opposite side please be advised that your son **must** cross at the pedestrian crossing located approximately 100 metres from the school gate. Some students are still taking the unwarranted risk of running across the road, rather than making their way to the pedestrian crossing. With myself and the deputies patrolling the crossing of an afternoon, students who are caught repeatedly not complying with this request will receive detentions. To assist with this request please park in the side street, Hyacinth St, where many of the senior students park. This will ensure that your sons cross safely of an afternoon.

Congratulations to:

- **James Burt** (Year 7) for breaking 4 long standing Asquith Boys High School Swimming records at the recent carnival as well as excelling at the Zone Carnival.
- **Benjamin Mackie** (Year 7) for being identified to represent Asquith Boys High School at the State Mountain Bike Championships in Thredbo next week.
- The **School Swimming Team** for finishing fourth overall at the recent Zone Carnival.

Mr Bryce Grant
Principal

MESSAGE FROM THE DEPARTMENT RE COVID-19

The school is working closely with the Department and NSW Health to ensure the best possible management of this issue. We recommend that you watch for signs and symptoms of your child becoming unwell. If they become unwell you should seek medical treatment. At this time it is important that, if your child is currently unwell, you should seek medical advice from your GP. Please call ahead and advise your doctor's office of the situation and they will make the appropriate arrangements to have you seen. Consistent with the department's current guidelines, staff and students unwell with respiratory illness should remain at home until symptoms resolve.

If any student becomes unwell, our infection control guidelines will be implemented and as appropriate the department will follow the advice provided by the NSW Ministry of Health. If they become unwell, all staff and students are required to self-isolate until they receive advice from NSW Health as to when they can resume their normal daily activities and return to school or work or if they need to continue to self-isolate for a further period of time. Self-isolation and other relevant information on COVID 19 can be obtained from the NSW health website <https://www.health.nsw.gov.au>

While there are other schools impacted at this time, we are obviously unable to provide you with any details related to this for privacy reasons. Please do not contact the school to make enquiry related to other students or families as we are unable to make comment or provide information about anyone other than your child(ren).

For the latest information about any student exclusions due to Australian travel bans please go to <https://education.nsw.gov.au/public-schools/schoolsafety/novel-coronavirus>

Current advice from the NSW Government for parents and affected staff is:

- Any student or staff member who has left, or transited through mainland China since 1 February, Iran since 1 March or the Republic of Korea (South Korea) since 5 March, is excluded from child care services, school or work for 14 days from the date they left mainland China, Iran or the Republic of Korea (South Korea)
- Any confirmed case of COVID-19 will be excluded until they are medically cleared to return.
- Close contacts of a confirmed case of COVID-19 will be excluded for 14 days since last contact with the confirmed case
- Students and staff who have returned to Australia and have shown no symptoms during the 14-day self-isolation period are able to return to child care services, school or work. website homepage <https://education.nsw.gov.au/>
- Effective of 5 March 2020, the Federal Government has issued updated advice on travel restrictions on Foreign nationals (excluding permanent residents of Australia) coming to Australia from the Republic of Korea (South Korea). NSW Health have advised, given the early start to the flu season and to minimise the risk of transmission of influenza or other respiratory illness, students should not be attending age care facilities until further notice.

This is obviously a time when things will develop quickly. Some parents have contacted the school and advised that they are keeping their student at home until further notice. Some parents have also advised that they do not wish for their student to attend particular excursions. At this time we do not believe that there is sufficient risk to students to warrant these responses. The only ban currently in place relates to overseas excursions. Should any development occur where there is a change to the risk to students we will work with the Department and NSW Ministry of Health to ensure appropriate communication and action is undertaken quickly. As a school we will continue to communicate information to you to ensure the appropriate management of this matter when and as it is appropriate to do so. Please have faith that we are being provided with expert and timely advice to ensure the best outcome for everyone in our community.

Kind regards,
Mark Anderson
Director Educational Leadership
Metropolitan North Operational Directorate



Education

PEER MEDIATION TRAINING 2020

On Monday 24th February ten Year 11 boys trained to become Peer Mediators for 2020, with the help of ten Year 8 actors.

Peer Mediation is problem-solving program led by students, for students. Peer Mediation is a process that allows two or more students who have been involved in a dispute to meet in a safe and confidential setting to work out their problems with the assistance of a trained mediator.

This program is very successful in building relationships between senior and junior students and encourages boys to take responsibility for their actions in a safe environment.

It was wonderful to see such responsible students demonstrate their communication and citizenship skills, to help others in such a positive way. Thank you also to the Year 8 actors who so convincingly played the role of students in need of peer mediation, helping to train the mediators in how to run a session.

Peer Mediators for 2020:

1. Lachlan Baker
2. Ethan Boyle
3. Ryan Brooks
4. Ben Duff
5. Zach Gordon
6. Cameron Hay
7. Josh Jones-Blair
8. Conor Ryan
9. Dominic Tonu-Jiare
10. Ben Tudor



Katherine Howe and Bianca Temple
Peer Mediation Coordinators

ABHS SWIMMING CARNIVAL

Our 60th Anniversary Annual Swimming Carnival was scheduled for Friday 21st February. This year, the weather was kind to us considering the very unsettled summer of bushfires and then, torrential rain that has blasted so many parts of NSW. Full credit to our students on the day who still showed up in large numbers to enjoy one of the great events on the Annual Asquith Calendar.

Once again, we made our way back to Hornsby Aquatic Centre - the spiritual home of swimming for Asquith Boys and all those long standing memories. Our Junior boys continue to make some memories of their own at this great facility. Participation in the pool was once again as good as it always has been in recent years – and this was very pleasing for all concerned. The Juniors also took the initiative in blitzing the pool in record time over a few different events

The Senior turn out this year was the biggest in recent memory and they thoroughly enjoyed their private outdoor space on the northern lawn. Costumes were again a focus of the carnival for them, and there is no doubt they enjoyed the opportunity to keep the annual tradition going strong – photos of some of their magical and not so magical outfits are there for all to see. There was, however, a group who dressed themselves like a hopeless, luckless, geriatrics who had clearly lost their fashion sense many years earlier – this was indeed, a rather disturbing image, but either way, it is clear the boys had enormous fun and engaged in the spirit of the day in the way we expect them too! As in previous years, H.A.C. was an absolute delight – 1st class in every way including the Pool Staff who could not have been more helpful on the day.

Despite the brave efforts of our teaching staff, for the first time in many years the students proved to be too good as they dispatched our staff team to the swimming gallows with consummate ease. Well done to the students in the schools 60th anniversary year. The staff, however, will be back better and stronger in 2021 – their maturing efforts will not just go away.



The battle for **Age Champions**, as always, was fierce but when all was 'said and done', we had 6 clear winners. Congratulations to our 2020 Swimming Age Champions:

- 12 years – James BURT
- 13 years – Damien SPETER
- 14 years – Jenson GOODCHILD
- 15 years – Daniel HATCH
- 16 years – Lucas ROGENCAMP
- 17+years – Allochia JENNIANS

As always, the competition between the Houses was passionate and the Team Points ended up being a very close finish on the day:

- 4th – Cooba (278)
- 3rd – Kurrajong (328)
- 2nd – Myall (331)

.....and congratulations to Wandoo on 347 winning points for the 2020 Swimming Carnival.

Yours in Swimming
Mr G Corbitt
Carnival Co-ordinator

