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Issue 1, 2021

THE WAY NORTH

*Kingsgrove North High School
2 St Albans Rd, Kingsgrove, 2208
T 02 9502 3933*



OFFICIAL COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER



PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

WELCOME BACK MS BARDOUH

I would like to welcome back Ms Bardouh who has returned in her role as Deputy Principal.

Welcome back to 2021 and we are all hoping for a much better and smoother school year. While there are still a few restrictions in place in terms of the maximum number of people we can have at the school at any one time, I can at least report that we are slowly moving towards what you may call a “normal” school operation.

There are several staff that are either new to the school or returning after the year away.

Kenny Kuang - PDHPE	Stacey Axougas - PDHPE
Hannah Reid - English	Maria Magiros - Mathematics
Nazih El Masri - Computers	Gerard Reardon - Science
Marianna Brigden - Head Teacher HSIE	

We have also expanded the school executive with Ms Cveta Grackoska (Head Teacher Learning Support) and Mrs Athena Varvaressos (Head Teacher Future Focus) who have now taken up their respective roles for the year.

As we go to print, we are in the middle of developing a new four year school plan. The new plan is being led by Mr McKeown who has been working with staff since last year to develop a situational analysis, which is basically a report across the school that covers several areas (such as finance and various programs). Following on from this there are three strategic areas (one compulsory from the Department) that the team is now finalizing. The school plan will also involve consultation from all staff, students, and the community. It must be completed by the end of this term.

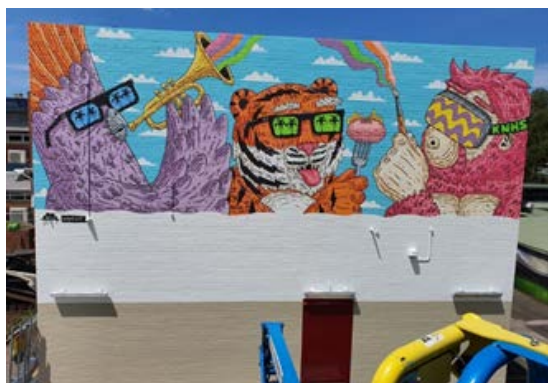
On Monday February 22 we held our annual open night which was organized a little differently this year. There were two sessions (one hour each) with a modified presentation by me. Parents were given the opportunity to talk to staff and have a tour of the school. Unfortunately, COVID restrictions meant we could only have 100 people per session, and both sessions were completely full. I did highlight to parents that they can go onto the school website and view the school with the virtual tour that now covers 21 different areas. This will be expanded next term to 30 areas, with a drone fly through the school.



PRINCIPAL'S REPORT



During the holidays there were several new and upgraded facilities completed. The three staff toilets in J block were renovated, and we are in the process of upgrading the final toilet in E Block. A new mural facing the oval was completed by the well-known artist Mulga, and the first of four new pergolas were installed on the St Albans Rd side.



The lights in the hall have also been upgraded to new LED lights. They are computer controlled and not only will save on energy costs but can produce a variety of colours and at the same time move around in any direction. A laser light and smoke machine have also been added and this will provide our students with the latest in technology for showcases, concerts, plays and drama. The recording studio is also nearing completion and the new CAPA STEAM technology room is now up and running.



The innovation Hub has been built and is ready to be installed. The weather has unfortunately delayed installation, as the hub comes in four sections and needs to be placed together by a crane.

The oval renovations will continue in term 2 when Padstow TAFE return to complete concrete works on the St Albans Rd side, and the installation of the two mini soccer fields will also be completed. At present we have 26 rooms with coloured/printed blinds, and these will be slowly increased to 30. Finally, a new mathematics room has also been completed that will complement the Mathematics centre already in operation.



During the holidays there were several new and upgraded facilities completed, including staff toilets, a new mural, and new pergolas.

Angelo Stasos - Principal

DEPUTY PRINCIPAL MR McKEOWN'S REPORT



Welcome back to another year at Kingsgrove North.

Year 12

Year 12 are now well into the final stage of their schooling with 25 weeks remaining until they sit for the Higher School Certificate Exams. Students need to ensure that they remain committed to their studies and HSC right up to the last examination in Term 4. It is expected that all Year 12 students have developed and implemented a study/revision plan to ensure they are as successful as possible. Students should also start thinking about what they want to do after they finish year 12 and start talking to key people such as the careers advisor.

Edrolo

Students in Years 11 and 12 have access to an online resource called Edrolo. Edrolo is a curriculum-focused resource with video lessons, exam practice, and more. Whilst this is not available for every subject, it is an extremely valuable resource for students at our school. Edrolo is a great way for students to revise content, practice responses and prepare for examinations. Students should speak to their teachers if they have not yet accessed this resource.

School uniform

It is a timely reminder to parents of the need for all students to wear full school uniform. Some students have been wearing runners to school which is in breach of our uniform policy. School shoes need to be black leather. This is a Departmental requirement due to WHS requirements for our school site. Please do not let your child wear incorrect footwear to school. Sports uniform is only to be worn on Wednesdays. For PE, student change at school. Uniforms can be purchased from the uniform shop. ***Students who are out of uniform MUST bring a note from their parents. Students who do not bring a note will be placed on a lunch time detention. Failure to attend, or frequent detentions for non-compliance may result in further consequences.***

St Albans Road and Student Safety

The busiest times for St Albans Road are at the start and end of the school day. The most important priority for us is that students are safe as they enter and leave the school. Parents please note that the School Zone is 40km/h and is in operation from 8:00am to 9:30am in the morning and from 2:30 to 4:00pm in the afternoon, and that council rangers have been active in the area. Please ensure you follow the road rules and speed limits during these times.

Students are frequently putting their lives at risk by ignoring basic safety instructions and crossing the road through the busy morning and afternoon traffic. Can you please encourage your child to cross at the lights or at the pedestrian crossing.

Adam McKeown - Deputy Principal



Your guide to driving and parking safely near schools

The beginning and end of the school day are busy times for pedestrians and vehicles outside the school. That's why you need to take extra care in 40km/h school zones.

- Park safely and legally, even if it means walking further to the school gate. Parking signs are planned with children's safety in mind.
- Slow down to 40km/h in the school zone and stay aware of crossings.
- Always park and turn legally around the school.
- Never double park as it puts children at risk.
- Manoeuvres such as U-turns and three-point turns are dangerous.
- Never park in a bus zone or in the school bus bay.
- Make sure your children use the Safety Door (rear footpath side door) to get in and out of the car.
- At a supervised crossing, observe the directions of the school crossing supervisor.
- Model safe and considerate behaviour for your child – they will learn from you.

Remember to always give way to pedestrians particularly when entering and leaving driveways. Don't park across the school driveway or the entrance to the school car park. It's always a good idea to use the drop off and pick up area suggested by your school. This will help keep all children as safe as possible during the busiest times of the school day.

For more information on keeping our kids safe around schools visit the parents section on safetytown.com.au

DEPUTY PRINCIPAL Ms BARDOUH'S REPORT



It is great to be back at this fantastic comprehensive high school working with staff, students and parents to ensure students achieve their potential and develop productive relationships with students and staff.

Parents, Students and Staff,

Welcome Back

Welcome back to the 2021 school year at Kingsgrove North High School. The year commences in a similar manner to how 2020 finished with restrictions and guidelines in place that are aimed to keep all members of our school community safe.

In 2021 I will oversee years 7, 9 and 11 and work closely with Mr Rozario on the wellbeing needs of students in years 7 and 9. As always if you have any questions regarding classes please raise these with the year advisor in the first instance.

Year Advisors 2021

	Year Advisor	Assistant Year Advisor
7	Dioni Karpathakis	Tarik Celenk
8	Peter Vu	Cveta Grackoska
9	Beth Miller	Costa D'Addona
10	Angela Faros	Michael Elakis
11	Steven Poulos	Tara Stamenkovic
12	Patricia Spyridis	Jess Spyridis
	Girls Advisor	Boys Advisor
	Alamira Ayoubi	Tarik Celenk

Attendance and Punctuality

All students at KNHS are expected to arrive to school on time and in circumstances where this isn't possible to provide a note explaining the reason for being late. It is imperative that students attend class on a regular basis and are engaged in their learning. It is a departmental rule that all students attend school at least 85% of the time or more.



DEPUTY PRINCIPAL Ms BARDOUH'S REPORT

Year 7 2021

Year 7 have had an event filled 4 weeks of high school. All students participated in Operation Welcome where they completed an orientation to KNHS, literacy and numeracy testing, Peer Support sessions, guest speakers on various areas including the local police liaison officer on cyber safety, healthy relationships, boys and girls talk and many more. A unique and successful initiative that continues to transform each year. Many thanks to Mr Rozario for his organisation of this program.

Year 7 Camp

A highly successful and enjoyable 3 day camp was had by all Year 7 students that attended and the six fantastic staff who supported this event. A huge thanks to Ms Karpathakis and Ms Conidaris for their organisation and for Mr Vu, Mr Makki, Mr Elakis and Ms Cheng for their efforts. I was fortunate enough to attend for two days and I witnessed the students working as part of a team, having fun, challenging themselves and in some cases conquering fears. Well done to all.



Year 9 2021

Year 9 have settled in well and have had an opportunity to apply for a change to electives at the end of week 3. Unfortunately, due to the large number of students in Year 9, it is not always possible for the change to be approved. I urge Year 9 students to begin the planning process to develop a timetable for work to be completed, to avoid feeling overwhelmed at peak times of the year.

Year 11 2021

Year 11 are in their final 2 years of schooling, before they spread their wings and reach life beyond the gates of KNHS. Year 11 is a milestone and then working towards the HSC/ATAR and planning a future. I recommend that Year 11 listen carefully to teachers, start any work issued as early as possible to avoid procrastination. Time management and organisation skills are essential to success in Year 11 and beyond. The year will go extremely quickly, as a matter of fact, as you read this newsletter 16% of Year 11 has passed. The first assessment tasks for most subjects have now been distributed, begin as soon as you receive them to allow as much time to do your best and achieve to your potential.

Fadia Bardouh - Deputy Principal

Compulsory School Attendance

Information for parents

Education for your child is important and regular attendance at school is essential for your child to achieve their educational best and increase their career and life options. NSW public schools work in partnership with parents to encourage and support regular attendance of children and young people. When your child attends school every day, learning becomes easier and your child will build and maintain friendships with other children.

What are my legal responsibilities? What if my child has to be away from school?

Education in New South Wales is compulsory for all children between the ages of six years and below the minimum school leaving age. The *Education Act 1990* requires that parents ensure their children of compulsory school age are enrolled at, and regularly attend school, or, are registered with the Board of Studies, Teaching and Educational Standards for homeschooling.

Once enrolled, children are required to attend school each day it is open for students.

The importance of arriving on time

Arriving at school and class on time

- ensures that students do not miss out on important learning activities scheduled early in the day
- helps students learn the importance of punctuality and routine
- gives students time to greet their friends before class
- reduces classroom disruption.

Lateness is recorded as a partial absence and must be explained by parents.

On occasion, your child may need to be absent from school. Justified reasons for student absences may include

- being sick, or having an infectious disease
- having an unavoidable medical appointment
- being required to attend a recognised religious holiday
- exceptional or urgent family circumstance e.g. attending a funeral.

Following an absence from school you must ensure that within 7 days you provide your child's school with a verbal or written explanation for the absence. However, if the school has not received an explanation from you within 2 days, the school may contact you to discuss the absence.

Principals may decline to accept an explanation that you have provided if they do not believe the absence is in the best interest of your child. In these circumstances your child's absence would be recorded as unjustified. When this happens the principal will discuss their decision with you and the reasons why.

Principals may request medical certificates or other documentation when frequent or long term absences are explained as being due to illness. Principals may also seek parental permission to speak with medical specialists to obtain information to collaboratively develop a health care plan to support your child. If the request is denied, the principal can record the absences as unjustified.

Travel

Families are encouraged to travel during school holidays. If travel during school term is necessary, discuss this with your child's school principal. An *Application for Extended Leave* may need to be completed. Absences relating to travel will be marked as leave on the roll and therefore contribute to your child's total absences for the year.

In some circumstances students may be eligible to enrol in distance education for travel periods over 50 school days. This should be discussed with your child's school principal.





If a student misses as little as 8 days in a school term, by the end of primary school they'll have missed over a year of school.

My child won't go to school. What should I do?

You should contact the principal as soon as possible to discuss the issue and ask for help. Strategies to help improve attendance may include a referral to the school's learning and support team or linking your child with appropriate support networks. The principal may seek further support from the Home School Liaison Program to develop an Attendance Improvement Plan.

What might happen if my child continues to have unacceptable absences?

It is important to understand that the Department of Education and may be required to take further action where children of compulsory school age have recurring numbers of unexplained or unjustified absences from school.

Some of the following actions may be undertaken:

- **Compulsory Schooling Conferences**
You may be asked, along with your child, to attend a Compulsory Schooling Conference. The conference will help to identify the supports your child may need to have in place so they attend school regularly. The school, parents and agencies will work together to develop an agreed plan (known as Undertakings) to support your child's attendance at school.
- **Application to the Children's Court**
- Compulsory Schooling Order

If your child's attendance at school remains unsatisfactory the Department may apply to the Children's Court for a *Compulsory Schooling Order*.

The Children's Court magistrate may order a Compulsory Schooling Conference to be convened.

- **Prosecution in the Local Court**
School and Department staff remain committed to working in partnership with you to address the issues which are preventing your child's full participation at school. In circumstances where a breach of compulsory schooling orders occurs further action may be taken against a parent in the Local Court. The result of court action can be the imposition of a community service order or a fine.

What age can my child leave school?

All New South Wales students must complete Year 10 or its equivalent. After Year 10, and up until they reach 17 years of age, there are a range of flexible options for students to complete their schooling.

Working in Partnership

The Department of Education recognises that working collaboratively with students and their families is the best way to support the regular attendance of students at school.

We look forward to working in partnership with you to support your child to fulfil their life opportunities.

Further information regarding school attendance can be obtained from the following websites

Policy, information and brochures

<http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/studentsupport/programs/attendance.php>

The school leaving age

<http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/leavingschool/index.php>

For further advice contact

Educational services

T 131 536

Learning and Engagement

Student Engagement and Interagency Partnerships

T 9244 5356

www.dec.nsw.gov.au

Do you need an interpreter?

If you need help with English and would like further information please call the Telephone Interpreter Service on **131 450** and ask for an interpreter in your language. The operator will get an interpreter on the line to assist you with your conversation. You will not be charged for this service.

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NSW Department of Education

DEPUTY PRINCIPAL MR ROZARIO'S REPORT



UNIFORM POLICY

I would like to remind all parents/guardians and students that the correct school uniform must be worn each day.

Welcome back to all of our students and community. I trust you all had a well-deserved break and are refreshed and ready for an exciting year ahead. It has been a wonderful start to the 2021 school year. I have been impressed by the focus and enthusiasm of the students since returning to school. It seems they are pleased to be at school, and back into their familiar learning routine.

We are fortunate to have many events returning this term including the zone swimming carnival, Year 8 Swim School program and various other excursions. Best of luck to all students participating in these events.

I would like to remind all parents/guardians and students that the school uniform must be worn each day. In the colder weather students are permitted to wear a plain WHITE top underneath their uniform. Please ensure no other colour is worn underneath the school uniform.

On Wednesday's if students would like to wear tights they must be worn underneath the school sport shorts. If you have any questions regarding the school's uniform policy feel free to contact me at the school. The uniform shop is open on Tuesdays (11:30am – 3:30pm) and Thursdays (8:00am – 12:00pm). A second hand uniform shop is also available. Please contact the office to arrange a time for this.

It has been a wonderful start to the 2021 school year. I have been impressed by the focus and enthusiasm of the students since returning to school.

DEPUTY PRINCIPAL MR ROZARIO'S REPORT



Responsible Mobile Phone Use for Children and Teenagers

It's a good idea to discuss and agree on mobile phone rules with your child. These might be rules about what your child can use their phone for, where and when they can use it, and how much they can spend on usage.

Here are some examples of mobile phone rules for your child:

- **What:** your child must answer your calls and texts. Your child can also use their phone to contact friends and listen to music. Your child can't use the phone to watch movies online. Depending on your child's age, they must ask you before downloading new apps.
- **Where:** your child can use their phone on the way to Grandma's, but it must stay in their bag at her house.
- **When:** your child can use their phone during the day and early evening, but not between 9pm and 7am.
- **How much:** your child can use the plan's monthly allowance, but there won't be any extra payments if they run out of minutes or data.

Here are some examples of mobile phone rules for the whole family:

- Mobile phones are either switched off or not used during family meals.
- Mobile phones stay out of bedrooms after a time you agree on.
- Mobile phones and other devices are charged in a family area overnight.
- Mobile phones are put down when you're talking face to face with each other.

You might find it helps to create an agreement that both you and your child sign. You could make this part of a family media plan covering all types of devices and media use. If you choose to have a formal agreement, it's a good idea to revise it together regularly to make sure it still meets your needs and your child's needs as they get older. You might also want to talk about and agree on consequences if your family's mobile phone rules are broken – by your child, or by you. For more information go to: <https://raisingchildren.net.au/pre-teens/entertainment-technology/digital-life/responsible-phone-use>

Jason Rozario - Deputy Principal

WELFARE NEWS



There are dedicated school personnel to look after the welfare of our students. This year's team includes year advisors and specialist staff.

Name	Position	Days	Location
Helen Conidaris	Head Teacher Welfare	M, T, W, T, F	Library
Naomi Asakawa	Counsellor	M, F	Counsellor's Office
Lydia Gullotta	HSC Study Hub Co-ordinator	M, T, Th, F	Library
My Dung Nguyen	Vietnamese CLO	Mondays	Library
Paul Mystakidis	Counsellor	T, W, Th	Counsellor's Office
Najah Zoabi	Student Support Officer	M, T, W, Th, F	Library
Margot Thomas	Family Referral Service	Thursdays mainly	Library
Serena Mourad	Youth Worker	Mondays and Tuesdays	Library

Attendance

Congratulations to the 97 students with 100% attendance in Term 4 2020. If your child is absent, please send a note or doctor's certificate with him or her to the school office. In cases of excessive absence, the school may request a medical certificate for each day absent. The graphics on the next page show the effects of missing school on students' learning.

WELFARE NEWS



NSW Department of Education

Why attendance matters

When your child misses school they miss important opportunities to...



Learn



Build friendships



Develop life skills

Minutes lost = days lost per year

A couple of minutes here and there doesn't seem like much, but...

When your child misses just...	they miss days per year
5 mins per day	= 3 days
30 mins per day	= 18 days

Patterns of lateness can have a serious impact on your child's education.

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

education.nsw.gov.au

LIBRARY NEWS



The library welcomes you back for 2021! We are so pleased to see familiar faces here and ready for another year, and to welcome our new students to the school. A huge thank you to our new and returning library monitors for their hard work to keep the library running smoothly.

This year is off to a great start! We celebrated Valentine's Day with a "Love Your Library" theme and were delighted by the student turnout to our "Hearts and Crafts" lunchtime craft activity. We hope students enjoyed creating origami hearts for their loved ones. We will be holding many more events throughout the term, so please visit the library often and see what we have going on.

The Library is home to a number of special events and weekly activities, including LEGO club, creative writing club, knitting club and the homework centre. Our weekly activity schedule is now available and we would love for students to check it out and come along!



Celebrate International Women's Day 2021

You are invited to Kingsgrove North High's International Women's Day Breakfast

Monday, 8th of March At 8am

In the KNHS Library

RSVP



All Mothers, Grandmothers, Sisters, Aunties, Female Guardians and Girls Welcome



International Women's Day

#IWD2021 #ChooseToChallenge



LIBRARY NEWS



| NSW Department of Education

2021 NSW Premier's Reading Challenge

Start reading now!

www.premiersreadingchallenge.nsw.edu.au

Key dates for students in K-10:

Challenge opens Monday March 1

Challenge closes for student entries Friday August 20

Artwork by Dr Bronwyn Bancroft



Finally, March 1st will mark the start of the Premier's Reading Challenge (PRC) for 2021. For students in Years 7-10, this is a wonderful opportunity to participate in our state's biggest reading program, and broaden their horizons by reading a diverse range of books. We are always adding new PRC-approved books to our library collection. These books are marked with blue stickers to make them easy to find. Students can speak with Ms Conidaris or Ms Catsanos about signing up for the challenge.

Helen Conidaris - Head Teacher Welfare

NAPLAN ANNOUNCEMENT



NAPLAN DATES

Naplan dates for
years 7 and 9 (2021):

11-21 May

For year 7 students
KNHS will run a
NAPLAN practice test
during the test window

22 March – 30 April

NAPLAN

You can practice for Naplan from home on the Public demonstration site that is available all year round.

(<https://www.nap.edu.au/online-assessment/public-demonstration-site>).

The public demonstration site helps students understand the types of questions and tools available in the NAPLAN Online tests. It also provides an opportunity for students to experience the interactive navigation of the online test, and trial the online tools. Students should be aware that browser features, such as grammar and spell-check, are disabled during NAPLAN testing. Touch-typing is not a requirement but a great advantage to successfully complete the NAPLAN Online writing test.

Test	Scheduling requirements	Duration	Test description
Writing	Years 7 and 9 must start on day 2 (schools must prioritise completion of writing across days 2 and 3 only)	Year 7: 42 minutes Year 9: 42 minutes	Students are provided with a 'writing stimulus' (sometimes called a 'prompt' – an idea or topic) and asked to write a response in persuasive writing.
Reading	To ensure online schools are able to complete NAPLAN tests within the nine-day testing window, Years 7 and 9 students can start with reading on day 1; however, writing must start on day 2 as the writing test takes priority.	Year 7: 65 minutes Year 9: 65 minutes	Students read a range of informative, imaginative and persuasive texts and then answer related questions.
Conventions of Language	To be completed after the reading test	Year 7 & 9: 45 minutes	This test assesses spelling, grammar and punctuation.
Numeracy	To be completed after the conventions of language test	Year 7 & 9: 65 minutes	This test assesses number and algebra, measurement and geometry, and statistics and probability.

Dr Roger Bourne – Learning Support Team

SPORT NEWS



Great news – Grade Sport is back on! We had our first competition last week and it was great to see our Year 9 and 10 students enthusiastic and eager to commence their competitive rounds against other schools. The students were able to work on their skills during sport last year, but we are all happy and excited to see what the 2021 competition has in store for Kingsgrove North High School.

Integrated sport has commenced, and students are thoroughly enjoying enhancing their skills in a variety of sports, as well as getting to know other students in their year group.

A select few of our students will be competing against other schools on Friday 26th and Monday 1st March in the Zone Swimming Carnival, and we wish them all the best, and cannot wait to see some great results.

Year 8 will be partaking in Swim School in week 7, where they will learn how to stay safe in the water, as well as learning the vital First Aid and CPR current procedures.



Wishing our students a successful and a happy year ahead in sport.

Costa D'Addona - Relieving Head Teacher PE



YEAR 7 REPORT

Firstly, congratulations to year 7 2021 for successfully making it through Operation Welcome, Camp and the first half of term 1 as High School Students! It has been a productive and busy half a term for Year 7 with entering high school, school photos, Operation Welcome, Year 7 camp, and learning and adapting to new routines, timetables and subjects.



Operation Welcome presented Year 7 with the opportunity to grow as Kingsgrove North students. They were presented with their timetables, subjects, buildings and the new friendships. The 6 day program was designed to allow the students to get to know each other, and learn about our KNHS school policies, uniform, the importance of goal setting, prevention of cyberbullying and so much more! Year 7 behaved extremely well and I am proud of every one of the students for giving their full dedication and commitment to adapting to their new environment.

Year 7 camp was held on Monday 15th to Wednesday 17th February at Adventureland Camp Forster, and was a huge success.

Students were given opportunities to team build, conquer fears, grow friendships, adapt to nature and learn new skills. With 128 students and 7 staff, we all made our way to Forster with the 3 days passing by so quickly! I would like to thank all the students. They were amazing! Everyone behaved themselves with respect, responsibly and a safe attitude. Thank you to Ms Conidararis, Mrs Bardouh, Ms Cheng, Mr Vu, Mr Elakis and Mr Makki for being a part of making the camp run so smoothly.



Dioni Karpathakis - Yr 7 Advisor

YEAR 10 REPORT



Welcome back!!! 2021 is going to be an important year! Our Year 10 students are working towards achieving their ROSA (Record of Student Achievement). This significant step in their education will test their resilience, discipline and determination.

Organisation is key! Regular private study, the composition of summary notes and a consistent approach will make life easier.

Attendance this year is especially important. It is vital for a student's success that they are attending school regularly and getting the most out of every period. Being prepared for lessons and displaying a positive approach towards all subjects and class content will ensure that the students can actively participate in their education and achieve their ROSA.

Finally, I would like to address the issue of sleep. Over tiredness can affect a student's ability to tackle the trials and tribulations of the school day. A lack of sleep can also lead to an inability to regulate behaviour in the classroom. While it is quite normal for teenagers to connect with their friends on social media, my concern is that the constant use of technology comes at the expense of sleep. Having enough sleep means that a student is more alert during the school day which then leads to a higher chance of achievement at school.

So I ask that you have a conversation at home about responsible device use but also to remind your children that mobile phone use in the classroom is banned (unless expressly allowed by the teacher for particular activities). Students have been asked to keep their phones in their bags during lessons.

If there are any concerns or issues that you would like to discuss, please call the school and ask for me or for the Year assistant, Mr Elakis. We are always happy to speak to parents and help in any way that we can.

Angela Faros - Yr 10 Advisor

ROSA

By now, Year 10 have received their assessment booklets, outlining all requirements, due dates etc. This will allow them to start planning and preparing.

ENGLISH NEWS



Firstly, I would like to warmly welcome two new members to the English Faculty, Hannah Reid and Linda Ma. Ms Reid is taking classes across Years 7-10 and is also focused on the Year 7 Literacy classes. Ms Ma is focused on Year 7-8 EAL/D students across all subject areas, ensuring those students are supported in developing their English language skills.

This term all students across the junior years are enjoying reading a novel for study. Year 11 are completing a module entitled 'Reading to Write' and Year 12 are completing a 'Close Study of Text'. Year 7 are also completing separate literacy lessons, focused on teaching explicit reading skills.

But what makes a good reader? Becoming a confident reader is a challenging task that requires more than just understanding each individual word in a sentence. The challenge is to become an active reader- one that interprets, infers and appreciates broader meanings across extended texts.

Becoming an active and contemplative reader allows us to explore worlds beyond our own experience – to become part of (at least for a period of time) different cultures and centuries. It allows us to gain profound insights into the human condition that compels us to question and reflect on our own actions. But, perhaps most importantly reading requires us to be empathetic and understand the perspectives of others – as Miedema suggests, “reading is the making of a deeper self.”

At KNHS we ensure that all students have the opportunity to become active and contemplative readers by explicitly teaching seven (often unconscious) strategies and processes that good readers employ:

1. Determining importance – Identifying the main idea of the text.
2. Asking questions – Before, during and after reading.
3. Making connections – Relating to the text personally.
4. Summarising – Reducing the text to its main points.
5. Visualising – Creating pictures in your mind as you read.
6. Inferring – Reading between the lines
7. Synthesising – Combining new information with things you already know to create new understandings.

With all this in mind, the English Faculty encourages all students to pick up a book whenever possible and find the most comfortable position to begin reading. As the author Italo Calvino says that might be “seated, stretched out, curled up, or lying flat. Flat on your back, on your side, on your stomach. In an easy chair, on the sofa, in the rocker, the deck chair, on the hassock. In the hammock, if you have a hammock. On top of your bed, of course, or in the bed. You can even stand on your hands, head down, in the yoga position. With the book upside down, naturally.”

Nicholas Kennedy - Head Teacher English

THE 7 PROCESSES OF READING

EMPLOYED BY GOOD READERS

The processes we undergo when reading are very complex, and when we understand what we read, we have successfully employed many different skills.

DETERMINING IMPORTANCE

Identifying the main idea and key points within a text.
Knowing the purpose for reading helps determine what's important.
Good readers can determine the most important themes and ideas.

ASKING QUESTIONS

Approaching a text with questions, and developing new questions as readers read on.
Using this strategy before, during and after reading helps to deepen your understanding.

MAKING CONNECTIONS

Relating to the text personally, understanding its relevance in the real world, and comparing it to other texts.

SUMMARISING

Taking a large section of text and reducing it to its main points and key ideas.
A trick is to write 1 sentence for each of the 5 Ws (Who, What, When, Where, Why) and 1 H (How).

VISUALISING

Creating pictures in your mind while you read. You can include sights, sounds and smells. Visualising helps you to recall events and to strengthen your understanding of the text.

INFERRING

Using clues from the text and your own prior knowledge (schema).
Inferring is like reading between the lines. The author's words + your schema = your inference.

SYNTHESISING

Taking new information and combining it with things you already know to create a new understanding or perspective of the text.
Think of synthesising like baking a cake; all the different ingredients mixed together make a whole new thing.
Information from the text + Information from your head = Deeper understanding.

CAPA NEWS



We began with the Year 7 introduction to Visual Arts through the Creative Arts workshop transition project within the school's 'Operation Welcome' program. Students were able to participate in art making practices through the creation of boomerangs inspired by Indigenous Aboriginal art. The students said they enjoyed the art making activity and said they were looking forward to experiencing art in high school.



With the commencement of our CAPA subjects, we have seen the majority of students transition into their classes. In Year 7 Visual Arts, students explored the topics of 'Introduction to Art' and 'Portraiture'. In Music, students are beginning to learn about music notation and keyboard in their practical lessons. Students in Year 8 Visual Arts have begun their study on 'Still Life' focusing on drawing techniques. They have been enjoying using the CAPA outdoor classroom while creating their tonal still life arrangement drawings. Year 7 students are being introduced to the subject of Music. They are learning to play The Simpsons theme on keyboard. Year 8 students have started learning how to play some different riffs and chords on the guitar.



Since returning, the school band has reconvened after an uneventful 2020. Students who are interested in joining should see Mr O'Connell. Our music classrooms have had an update. DGLC now has a working studio with professional recording and production technologies. The CAPA tech room is stocked with MIDI keyboards for composing lessons. All the students in CAPA elective courses have started their learning in their respective subjects. Students are engaging in the key competencies within their specific subjects, both in the practical and theoretical avenues. Year 9 students have started their topic "Music for Small Ensembles", which will require them to "band" together in groups to perform a song and compose a short piece on the computer. Year 10 Music classes are learning about the diversity of Australian music and are learning to perform songs by Yothu Yindi, AC/DC and Gotye.

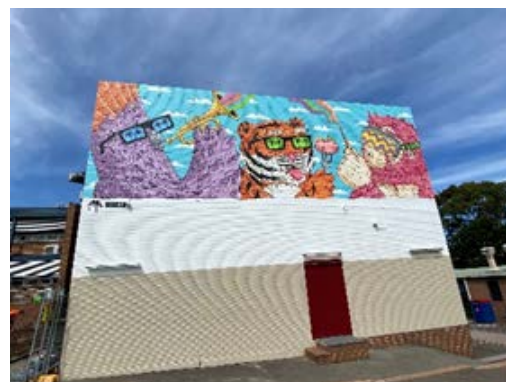


CAPA NEWS



It was an exciting start to the term for Year 9 Visual Arts as they set out looking at their surrounding Urban Environment. Year 9 went down to Clempton Park to take photographs exploring different perspectives, tonal values and textures of their local environment. Students had an enjoyable time looking for detailed and interesting areas of mundane objects and scenes. Students will use their own photos to create pen and ink drawings of the Urban Environment.

Year 10 have been working hard on their German Expressionist inspired portraits. They used the green screen in the photography room to take self portraits using light and contrast to create emotional angst in their portraits. Students will continue to work towards making their self-portraits into a German Expressionist Lino print. This term, we were honoured and very excited to have had Sydney based artist Mulga create a mural, much to the delight of students and teachers, Mulga created a beautiful mural near our oval. Our CAPA students were very excited to see Mulga at our school creating the artwork, as he is one of the key artists our students learn about in year 7 during semester two. Mulga was wonderful with our students, taking photos and having conversations about his artmaking practise. Thank you to Mrs Noulas and Mr Stasos for organising and making this once in a lifetime opportunity available.



Year 11 Music students have begun their preliminary year by exploring different musical notation methods used for composition. Year 12 Music students are inching closer to their HSC. Students are busy in class practising their performance repertoire and developing their aural analysis skills.

Thank you to all the CAPA staff who continually demonstrate commitment and productivity in all that they do within our faculty.

With the remainder of the term being productivity and creativity packed, we look forward to seeing all the students' progression.

Dioni Karpathakis - Rel. Head Teacher CAPA

MATHS NEWS



HOMWORK CENTRE

The Homework Centre is available to all students until 4:30pm on a Thursday

Welcome to a new year at KNHS. Our Mathematics staff continues the tradition of being committed to the education of all students and ensuring students are given the opportunity to not only excel, but also be inspired to continue to seek knowledge in the Mathematics area. Remember the Mathematics staff are approachable and students are encouraged to ask their teacher questions to clarify understanding, during recess and lunchtimes. The Homework Centre is also available to all students until 4.30 pm on a Thursday afternoon.

We have had a few changes in the Mathematics faculty. We have a new staff member, Ms Maria Magiros replacing Mrs Helen Sarlas, who is now the Head Teacher of Mathematics and Ms Jessica Li who replaced Ms Selwains who is on leave this year. The ever-versatile Mrs Rogers is still with us on a casual basis.

Welcome to all our new Year 7 students and the new enrolments in other years.

I hope that over the holidays all students have checked that their calculator works, or have purchased a new Casio fx82 plus II 2nd Edition calculator (See Photos). Having a CASIO means that only one set of instructions are necessary in class. The calculator is a mandatory piece of equipment, along with their rulers, pens and geometry sets.

Students need more than one pen in their pencil case, especially for exams. Please check around the house for school texts as we are not issuing the new texts unless previous texts are returned or paid for.

Year 7 and 9 are reminded that they need to know their Times tables as they still have to sit for NAPLAN exams in Year 7 and 9, both with and without a calculator. Parents can help by occasionally asking questions like “how many nines in forty-five?”

Year 7 started the Year with Integers (Positive and Negative Numbers and are moving into Fractions and Decimals, a continuation from Stage 3.



MATHS NEWS



Year 8 started the year with Percentages and are moving on to Algebra.

Year 9 have started with Data Analysis (see article below). They will also sit the NAPLAN exams next term in both calculator and non-calculator Numeracy tests.

Year 9 Single Variable Data Analysis

This week students were collecting data in the classroom after a lesson of classifying data. We collected both categorical and numerical data including students' heights, the number of siblings in their families, their natural hair colour and students rated their holidays as either terrible, not bad, good or excellent.

Each student recorded their results/answers onto the whiteboard into frequency tables, ready to use for the following lessons. In those lessons, we analysed the data that we had collected and calculated either the mean, mode or median for each data set to determine the best measure of centre for our class in each area. The students enjoyed collecting their own data rather than using irrelevant data from the textbook.



Ms Maria Magiros (Mathematics Teacher)

Year 10 are completing Length, Area, Surface Area and Volume and are now moving to Geometry.

Seniors have come back this year, refreshed and ready to apply themselves diligently to their classwork and homework to achieve their best results in the HSC. Once Year 11 settle into their correct level of Mathematics, they too will apply themselves consistently. A large number of students selected Mathematics Advanced and have sat class tests to determine their suitability for this course. It is imperative that students are placed in the right level of Mathematics as the Algebra they have reviewed is pre-requisite knowledge and they may not be able to change level and will require an enormous amount of catching up.

The Mathematics Faculty would like to wish everyone a successful 2021.

Helen Sarlas - Head Teacher Maths

VET NEWS



The Benefits of Studying a VET Course

Vocational Education and Training (VET) refers to education and training that focuses on delivering skills and knowledge required for specific industries. It is a learning option for young people in the senior phase of learning. The role VET courses play in helping students prepare for further education, training, employment and lifelong learning is widely recognised by key stakeholders in education.

For NSW school students in Years 10–12, VET is 'dual accredited'. Students receive recognition towards their school qualification (Record of School Achievement or HSC), as well as a nationally recognised VET qualification (Certificate or Statement of Attainment).

The other benefits of participating in VET include (but are not limited to):

- obtaining practical experience from work
- gaining familiarity on how workplaces operate
- developing employability skills
- developing and improving interpersonal skills
- allowing students to explore the potential career path they would like to pursue.

Course Fees and Uniform Requirements

VET course fees cover the cost of consumables such as food ingredients used in Hospitality and other necessary resources for practical lessons. We try to keep costs as low as possible and at the same time make the projects interesting. We therefore would appreciate prompt payment of these fees to allow us to meet our costs.

Some courses such as Hospitality, Construction and Manufacturing & Engineering also have specific uniform and personal protection equipment (PPE) requirements as stipulated by industry standards. Students will be required to wear enclosed leather footwear and uniforms during all practical lessons and during work placement. Further information is available from your teacher or by contacting Mr P Smith - Head Teacher VET.



VET NEWS



VET Student Induction Seminar

Year 11 VET students are required to attend a student information and induction seminar on Friday 26th March 2021 during class time P1 or P2. Students will be informed of what to expect in their studies of Hospitality and Construction. Students are also required to complete a VET Student Enrolment Agreement – 2021 form. This form contains information about the USI and Privacy notice which requires students to sign the declaration and consent form. Parent/guardians are also required to sign this form. Please ensure these forms are returned to Mr P. Smith to enable the school to complete your enrolment in these courses.

Unique Student Identifier (USI)

As of the 1st of January 2015 all students undertaking a VET program must have a Unique Student Identifier (USI). The Unique Student Identifier or USI is a reference number made up of 10 numbers and letters that:

- creates a secure online record of your recognised training and qualifications gained in Australia, even from different training organisations
- will give you access to your training records and transcripts
- can be accessed online, anytime and anywhere
- is free and easy to create and
- stays with you for life

A Registered Training Organisation cannot issue a student with a credential unless the student has provided them with their USI. To create a USI, students should visit the website below. They will require a form of identification such as their Medicare card to complete the registration form.

Once completed, the student will receive an email confirming their USI. It is recommended that students use their Department of Education email account.

To register for a USI go to: www.usi.gov.au

Further information is available from your teacher or by contacting me.

Paul Smith - Head Teacher VET

HSIE NEWS



Welcome to our new HSIE faculty members. Amanda Cole was with KNHS last year in a casual capacity and will now be joining us for the year, teaching Geography and History. Hassan Makki will be working across the HSIE curriculum, teaching Geography, Commerce and Business Studies. They are both innovative, creative and passionate teachers who bring new ideas and enthusiasm to the HSIE faculty. Marianna Bridgen is our new HSIE Head Teacher. She has broad experience in a range of educational contexts and is excited to join the KNHS team.

We have some exciting experiences coming for our students in HSIE this year. Some of our students in Years 9 and 10 Geography will be learning through Project Based Learning this semester for their topics on Changing Places and Human Wellbeing. Students work on a project over an extended period of time, that engages them in solving a real world problem. They will work in teams to develop deep content knowledge, critical thinking, creativity and communication skills to enhance their learning.



These photos show our students in a team building exercise designed to build collaboration and communication skills. These projects are off to a great start!


Marianna Bridgen - Head Teacher HSIE

CAREERS



On Tuesday 25th February all Year 9 and Year 10 students participated in the SURVIVOR SKILLS WORKSHOP presented by Howard Smith from The Business Concierge. The workshops allowed students a fantastic opportunity to examine fundamental life skills such as; - Introduction to Resumes and Getting Your First Part-time Job - Budgeting for Life- Interview Skills and Techniques

Did you know Kingsgrove North High School has its own CAREERS Facebook page?

Please LIKE  our page and follow along for information regarding Apprenticeships & Traineeships // Career related excursions // Industry placement opportunities // University programs and all things careers.

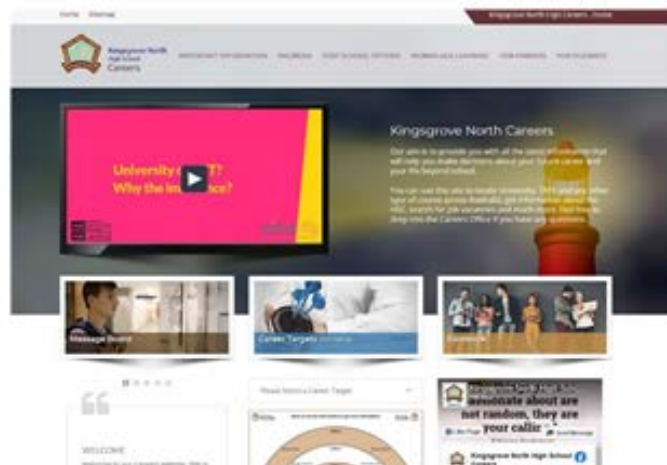
Search for us on Facebook: **Kingsgrove North High School Careers**

See you on the page!



<https://www.kingsgrovenorthcareers.com/>

Our website will provide you with all the latest careers information that will help you make decisions about your future career and life beyond school. You can use this site for get information about Work Experience, search for job vacancies, upcoming careers and study events and much more.



CAREERS



Our careers program is utilising the services of Job Jump to provide students with a more personalised transition planning journey.

All students are encouraged to create a profile on Job Jump, which will be used in our one on one transition (Year 12) meetings to discuss future school to work plans. Job Jump follows students' right through until Year 13 – post school.

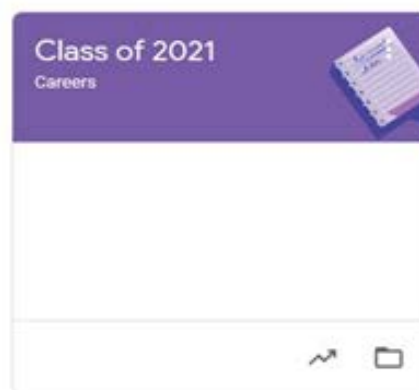
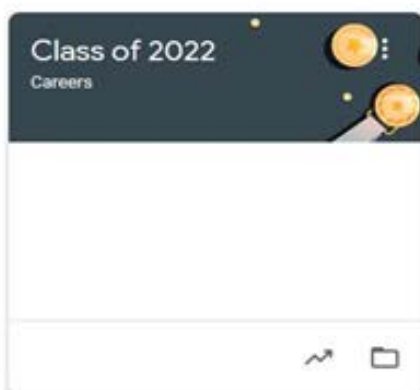
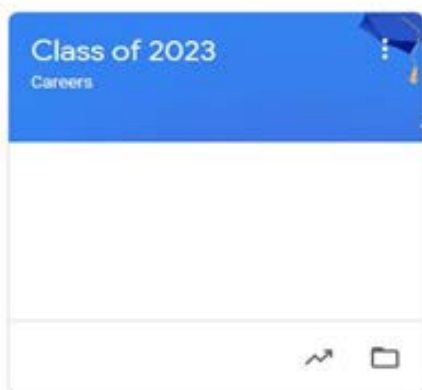
Start creating your personalised profile now by clicking:

I'M NEW at - <https://jobjump.com.au/>

Password: see CAREERS STAFF FOR PASSWORD

☰ Google Classroom

📁 To review 📅 Calendar



Google Classroom

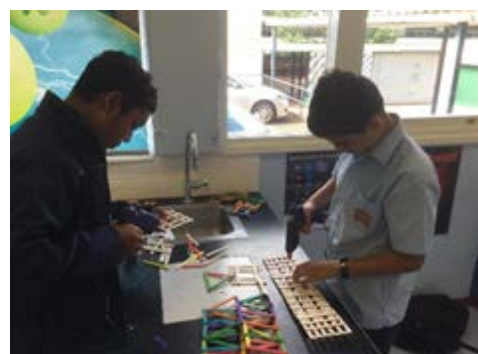
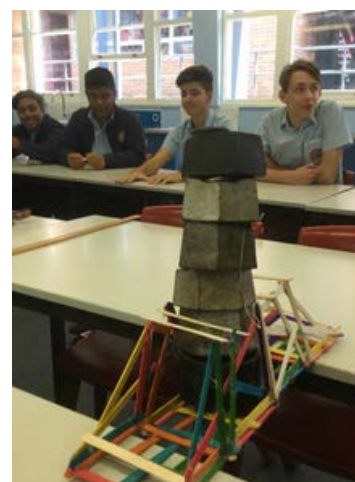
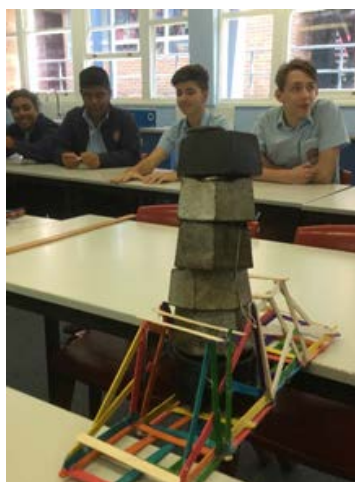
Years 10, 11 and 12 now have their own Careers Google Classroom page where we communicate all things careers and pathway planning. Most students would have already joined the Careers Google Classroom page. If you have not, please contact the Careers staff for your unique year group log in code.

Lisa Shineberg & Mirna Kabbar – Careers Advisors

STEM FUTURE FOCUS NEWS



The Year 9 Stem class has settled in well this year as they have completed their first Stem challenge, “Building Bridges”. This class activity challenged the students to build a bridge that could withstand the objective target of 10kg and a span of 30cm.

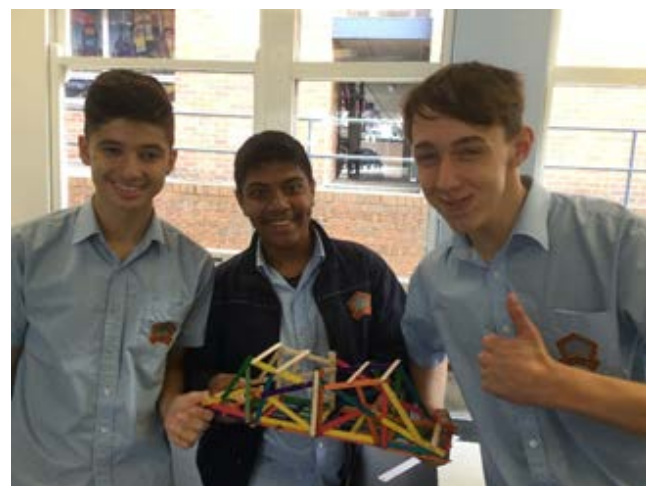


This challenge encouraged students to be creative, use problem solving skills, initiative and concentrated team work. But the best part of the challenge was watching the excitement on their faces, the enthusiasm and their streak of competitiveness when testing the weights on the bridge.

Welcome Year 9 Stem to an enjoyable new year.



**The winning team's bridge held 13kg.
Great Work!!**



Athena Varvaressos – Head Teacher Stem future Focus



HSIE: MODEL MAKING & POLITICAL SCIENCE CLUBS



Model Making Club

The model club is back! The club will meet after school on Thursdays in KF4. This year we are planning to build a Roman fort diorama, complete with Roman heavy weapons. We will also build an aircraft shelter with an F15 in it, and a display showing the M48 Patton tank. Bring your friends and come along!

Political Science Club

The Political Science Club is back, and we're looking for new members! If you like discussing all things government and political, join us at recess on Wednesdays in JG8. The first topic up for discussion is the Capitol Riots in the United States. We'll be watching a documentary over two sessions called "Downfall: The Last Days of President Trump", followed by a group discussion. We look forward to seeing you there!



The Model Making and Political Science Clubs are back! We look forward to welcoming new members.

Beth Miller - Industrial Arts/HSIE



E-CIGARETTES (VAPING)

Recently we have seen an increase in reports that students may be using e-cigarettes (otherwise known as ‘vaping’) across local schools and in the community. We take this issue seriously due to the negative health effects vaping can have on young people, who are often unaware of the risks associated with the practice.

Vaping is the act of inhaling a vapour produced by an e-cigarette or electronic vaporizer. The vapour can contain nicotine and other substances and may expose users to chemicals and toxins which are harmful to health. The devices are small and can be easily hidden in a pocket or bag. The most popular disposable vapes resemble large USB sticks or highlighter pens.



VAPING

Consistent with DET and school policy - vaping, selling or being in the possession of e-cigarettes will result in disciplinary action that may lead to a student being suspended from school.

The vapes pictured above contain 5% nicotine, which is the equivalent of a strong pack of cigarettes. Nicotine is addictive and can harm brain development and impact learning, memory, and attention.

The Public Health (Tobacco) Act 2008 was amended in 2015 to define e-cigarettes and e-cigarette accessories to be separate from tobacco products. The Act makes many of the provisions that apply to tobacco products also apply to e-cigarettes and e-cigarette accessories. The Act makes it an offence:

- to sell e-cigarettes and e-cigarette accessories to persons aged under 18
- for adults to buy e-cigarettes and e-cigarette accessories on behalf of persons aged under 18

The NSW Department of Education has advised schools that students should not bring e-cigarettes or e-cigarette accessories onto school premises or use them during school-based activities.

We are asking parents to be informed about this ongoing concern and to speak to their children about making positive decisions. Additional information to support parents and students can be found at <https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/tobacco/Pages/electronic-cigarettes.aspx>

E-Cigarettes



What you need to know as parents.

If you, or a parent you know, is concerned about the risks of electronic cigarette use in teenagers, the following information provides you with the facts.

WHAT ARE E-CIGARETTES?

Also known as cuvies, stigs and vapes an e-cigarette is in simple terms a device that heats a flavoured liquid (popular flavours include; strawberry, watermelon, peach and creme brulee) to an aerosol which can be inhaled. The device can be disposable (often allowing for up to 600 inhalations) or it can be reusable by refilling the device with e-liquid or a pod (containing e-liquid). Recent data shows an increase in use of e-cigarettes over the past three years, with one in five students aged 16–17, trying e-cigarettes.

HOW DO THEY WORK?

E-cigarettes produce an aerosol by using a battery to heat a liquid. This liquid is sometimes called “e-juice,” “e-liquid,” “vape juice,” or “vape liquid.” The liquid used in e-cigarettes is made up of flavours, chemicals and often contains nicotine.

Users inhale e-cigarette aerosol into their lungs. Bystanders can also breathe in this aerosol when the user exhales it into the air.

WHAT DO THEY LOOK LIKE?

E-cigarettes come in a variety of shapes and sizes. They can be as small as a USB and even look like one, they can also look like pens, highlighters or cigarettes.



WHY ARE THEY UNSAFE/RISKY/DANGEROUS?

E-cigarette liquid is made up of different chemicals. These chemicals can include:

- Nicotine (although illegal without a prescription in Australia, many disposable devices that youth are using contain nicotine.)
- Flavorings such as diacetyl, a chemical linked to a serious lung disease
- Volatile organic compounds
- Cancer-causing chemicals
- Heavy metals such as nickel, tin, and lead

Studies have also shown that kids who use e-cigarettes are more likely than their peers to go on to smoke cigarettes.

Effects of nicotine on youth:

- Nicotine can harm the developing teenage brain.¹ The brain keeps developing until about age 25.
- Using nicotine as a teenager can harm the parts of the brain that control attention, learning, mood, and impulse control.¹
- Each time a new memory is created or a new skill is learned, stronger connections – or synapses – are built between brain cells. Young people’s brains build synapses faster than adult brains. Nicotine changes the way these synapses are formed.
- Using nicotine as a teenager may also increase risk for future addiction to other drugs.¹

WHAT CAN I DO AS A PARENT?

The KEY is talking about e-cigarettes with your child, preparing yourself with the facts and role modelling with a smoke and e-cigarette free environment. KEY considerations for talking about e-cigarettes:

K: Know the facts or where to find them from a reputable source

E: Engage on the topic in a relaxed and easy way. Use the cues around you, a note home from the school, a person using a device, a story on the news as the way into the conversation and the way to keep talking about it ongoing.

Y: You know your child, communicate with them in ways that work for you and allow you to provide them with the right information to make healthy decisions.

Important note – if you are concerned that your child may be experiencing nicotine withdrawal please speak to your pediatrician or doctor.

For advice on existing evidence based methods to quit call the Quitline on 13 7848 or find online support here: www.cancerCouncil.com.au/cancer-prevention/smoking/quitting-smoking/

More information on e-cigarettes can be found here:

www.cancerCouncil.com.au/cancer-prevention/smoking/electronic-cigarettes/



THE CRITICS' CHOICE

The health effects of tobacco smoking and e-cigarette use

Effect of tobacco smoking on your health:

- Smoking is the main cause of **preventable** death and disease in Australia!
- Smoking is linked to **40+ diseases**, including lung cancer, liver cancer, emphysema and eye and mouth diseases.
- When you smoke, extremely harmful chemicals enter your body and can reach your heart, brain and go everywhere your blood flows.
- Smoking affects how you look and feel.

Effects of e-cigarette use on your health:

- E-cigarettes contain chemicals that **haven't been tested for safety** when inhaled into the lungs.
- E-cigarette makers don't list all their ingredients and it can be hard to find out what they are. Some e-cigarettes contain nicotine even when they are labelled "nicotine free".
- Nicotine is **highly addictive** and can harm your brain development.
- Studies have shown that young people who use e-cigarettes are **more likely to smoke** and become addicted to cigarettes in adulthood.

Smoking can:

- Stop your lungs growing properly and make you less fit.
- Give you tooth decay and sore or bleeding gums.
- Make you wheeze or trigger an asthma attack.
- Cause addiction to the drug nicotine.

Using e-cigarettes can:

- Make you wheeze or trigger an asthma attack.
- Make you moody, anxious and irritable.
- Expose your lungs, body and brain to harmful chemicals.
- Cause addiction to the drug nicotine.

Smoking and e-cigarettes affect your brain:

Your brain is particularly sensitive to the effects of nicotine. Your brain is still developing until you are about 25 years old, so if you use nicotine your brain may not be able to properly develop. This means that you are more likely to develop anxiety and mood disorders.

What does all this mean for you?

Smoking or using e-cigarettes:

- is bad for the health of your body, lungs and brain
- costs a lot of money and can mean you miss out on doing fun activities
- exposes you to addictive and unknown substances
- gives you yellow teeth and unhealthy gums.

By choosing not to smoke or use e-cigarettes you are setting yourself up for a healthier and happier life!

SPONSORS



Kingsgrove North High School is proudly sponsored by the following organisations. We thank and acknowledge our sponsors for their continued support of our school.



We would also like to thank and acknowledge the following local businesses that have sponsored and supported our classroom calendar for 2021.

1. Sporting Dreams	www.sportingdreams.com
2. Beyond Blue	www.beyondblue.com
3. Wires	www.wires.org.au
4. Heartbreak Ridge Paintball	www.paintball.net.au
5. Jackies Floral Gallery Kingsgrove	www.jackiesfloralgallery.com.au
6. Barnardos Australia	www.barnardos.org.au
7. Blue Cross Pharmacy Kingsgrove	www.bluecrosspharmacy.com.au
8. Blue Cros Medical Centre	www.ipn.com.au/gp/bluecross
9. The Office of the Hon Linda Burney MP	www.lindaburney.com.au
10. Classroom Calendars	www.classroomcalendars.com.au