

Shoalhaven High School - Newsletter

Respect, Responsibility, Safety and Participation



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2020 Term 4 Week 4

Friday 6 November 2020

COMING EVENTS

- 12 November – Year 12 Formal
- 12 November – Year 7 Vaccinations
- 18 November – ADF Information Session

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Term 4 has commenced and the school has been moving at a fast and furious pace. Our Year 12 students have started their HSC Examinations and they are now drawing to a close. All students need to be congratulated on their effort, attitude and application for these exams. The end of Term 3 was an extremely busy time for all our Year 12 students and they did amazing things around the school. This year we will be holding our Year 12 Formal after their examinations on Thursday 12 November at Nowra Golf Club under strict COVID Protocols. A huge congratulations is extended to Mrs Carson (their dedicated Year Adviser) for all her organisation and effort in getting the night up and running. I would also like to acknowledge and congratulate all our Year 12 award winners who were presented at our Year 12 Final Assembly. All your hard work has paid off and you deserve your success. While I am still talking about Year 12, a few of our students have been to University Early Entry interviews in the last holidays and I am pleased to announce that some were successful in gaining entry into University prior to the commencement of their HSC examinations.

We are all busy writing reports for our students. These reports will be distributed to students during Week 9 and published online via the Sentral Parent Portal. The reports will give parents/carers an insight into their child's progress over the whole year. As always parents are welcome to arrange interviews with staff to discuss their child's report once it has been distributed.

Our COVID guidelines have also been updated and reflect current health advice. From 12 November, **Respect, Responsibility, Safety & Participation**

students are now able to participate in excursions and overnight camps within our local community. Ms Bailey is organising a canoe camp for Stage 5 (Year 9 and 10) students to take place at the end of year. Interschool sport can now also continue with mixed rugby touch the first Gala Day being organised. Interested student are to see Mr McNeil if they wish to play.

As the Term progresses, the executive staff and all teachers are undergoing work on developing Shoalhaven High School's new Strategic Improvement Plan. We will consult with the community later in the term about the school's new strategic directions and how we, as a school, can help all students improve every year and reach their academic, sporting and cultural potential.

As always, Shoalhaven High School would like to thank all our wonderful students, parents and carers for their continued support throughout a difficult year.

Damian Rees
Principal



YEAR 12 FINAL ASSEMBLY

The Year 12 Final Assembly was held on Thursday 24 September. It was quite a different affair to previous years with a limited audience and live streaming. The absence of family and friends was keenly felt and yet the students were able to enjoy each other's accomplishments and the enormity of the occasion was not lost.

Our school captains, Charlotte Walker and Grady O'Shea, spoke eloquently summarising the adventures and challenges of the past 6 years. All students were celebrated and many awards were presented to acknowledge individual achievements.



We extend our thanks to the local families and businesses who sponsor a variety of awards acknowledging leadership, academic, sporting and creative excellence; Australian Defence Force, RMB Lawyers, Reuben F Scarf, Caltex, and the Pollock, Clarke, Chard and Cleary families.



Thanks to Mr Michael Dolby for being our Master of Ceremonies. Thank you also to Mr Corey Barker and Mr Shawn Gorsoski for mastering the challenges of sound, lighting and live streaming.

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Special thanks goes to Mrs Jennifer McDonald, Year 12 Deputy Principal, for all her hard work in organising this Final Assembly. Her dedication to, and guidance of, this cohort throughout the past six years has been exceptional and greatly appreciated by staff, students and families.



The class of 2020 commenced at Shoalhaven High School in 2015 with an enrolment in excess of 130. In the interim years there has been much movement, with students leaving and new students arriving. Many students have left in recent years to wonderful work and training opportunities. While in the end it is a small cohort of 54 graduating students, they have all completed their studies under exceptional circumstances and many have overcome great personal challenges to do so. This is an extraordinary group of young men and women who will go on to further adventures and achievements.

Congratulations, Year 12.

Mrs Tanya Carson, Year Adviser



SCHOOL UNIFORM

Shoalhaven High School has a school uniform that has been endorsed by the schools P & C. It is an expectation that all students present to school in their full school uniform. Students in full school uniform ensure that staff can monitor the safety of all students, and easily identify any persons that are not meant to be on the school site. Research indicates that wearing school uniform helps students build an attachment to the school and can increase engagement in their education.

From Monday 15th June Shoalhaven High School will begin implementing the schools uniform policy. All students have been spoken to about the schools' expectations and the procedures that will be commencing from Monday. Each day students will be marked regarding their uniform during daily lessons as staff members mark the roll. This information will be collated by Ms Wood (HT Wellbeing).

The monitoring process and consequences are outlined below:

1. Students out of uniform will be recorded each lesson by the staff member.
2. A tally is collated on a 2 week cycle.
3. Each time a student hits a threshold of six (6) times out of uniform they are placed on the uniform list.
4. When a student has been marked out of uniform twelve (12) times the Year Adviser will make contact with students and family to offer support or assistance in acquiring uniform.
5. When a student is marked out of uniform eighteen (18) times the Deputy Principal will make contact with the students and families and the issue will be considered as defiance. Further non-wearing of school uniform will result in students being asked to go home and change or be placed in the Reflection Room for the day for persistent defiance and complete their studies.

Acceptable uniform can include: navy jumpers (with no logos), navy tracksuit pants and undershirts that Respect, Responsibility, Safety & Participation

are the same colour as our school uniform (white or navy blue).

If a student is out of uniform and has a note to explain the reasons why, they present the note to their roll call teacher who will sign the note and return to the student. Students are then required to present the note to their class teachers and will **NOT** be marked out of uniform for that day.

If any financial assistance is required with uniform please do not hesitate to contact the school and speak with the Principal, Deputy Principal or Year Adviser so arrangements can be made. Families on eligible pension and health care cards are entitled to a one off \$80 payment to spend on uniform through our uniform shop. The uniform shop is located on site and is open Mondays and Thursdays from 9:00am-1:00pm

We thank you for your support in ensuring all our students attend each day in full school uniform.

Damian Rees
Principal

PHONES OFF AND AWAY

Shoalhaven High School has updated its rules for student use of mobile phones. Students have been given several weeks of advance notice by the Principal Mr Rees and staff, so compliance is expected from students.



This information ties in with the school's 'Bring Your Own Technology' policy and its focus on negative and positive choices for mobile use.

Posters have been placed around the school to remind students about 'Phones Off and Away'.

LIBRARY NEWS

Did you know our school Library has an Instagram page?

Head on over [to https://instagram.com/shoalibrary/](https://instagram.com/shoalibrary/), scan the QR code attached or search up shoalibrary and give it a follow.

Keep up to date with great reads and library events.



HALLOWEEN ANTICS


With Horror the most popular genre in our fiction collection, the spooky season is always a favourite among our students. This year they enjoyed a fantastically terrifying display created by Laura, our Library Technician and terrifying treats given out to borrowers.



READY FOR YEAR 7 2021?

Shoalhaven High School

READY FOR YEAR 7 2021



AIMING HIGHER

Participation, Respect, Responsibility, Safety

INFORMATION NIGHT

Tuesday 24th November 2020 **5.30pm—7.00pm**

For Year 6 students and families

5.30pm Sausage Sizzle
6.00pm—7.00pm Information

Year 6 ORIENTATION DAY

Tuesday 1st December, 2020 **9am—2.30pm**

For Year 6 students

Students will experience a day at high school
Students will explore three subjects in different learning environments

For more information, please contact the school 44218022

SHS offers a variety of valuable learning opportunities:

- ASPIRE Program
- Talented Sports Program
- Professional Hospitality Training
- Innovative Industrial Arts
- Creative and Performing Arts
- All-Inclusive Support Faculty
- Aboriginal Programs

STAFF HALLOWEEN

What an incredible day! A massive thank you to all of our freaks, goblins, ghouls and creatures of the night who participated in a spook-tacular celebration! 🎃 On World Teacher's Day we took the opportunity to celebrate the second best holiday of the year (Christmas is always our fave with a little Halloween spirit!

We'd love to take this opportunity to thank our staff for the incredible job they do, helping to shape the young minds of the future! Thanks also to our students, families and community for the crucial roles they play in making our lives meaningful

Check out our fa-ghoulties in their frightful best and send some love through for your teachers on this special day!





MATHEMATICS

We are trying to encourage all students to prepare for tests and exams by creating a summary sheet, or cheat sheet. Students are allowed to bring a single piece of A4 paper (written on both sides) into all of their tests apart from NAPLAN, the final in-school Year 11 and Year 12 Examinations and the actual HSC Examination. The logic behind this is that while the students are looking through their notes and trying to work out what is worthwhile including, they are actually studying and rehearsing information they have been previously taught. The limit to one piece of paper means that students MUST make decisions about what to include or drop from their sheet.

What we have noticed in the past, particularly with the old General Mathematics HSC, in which a four page reference sheet was supplied, was that a student who thoroughly understood the contents of the supplied reference sheet, didn't use it. Whereas, the students who knew that they had a reference sheet available and who made little effort to study it, could rarely make use of it anyway.

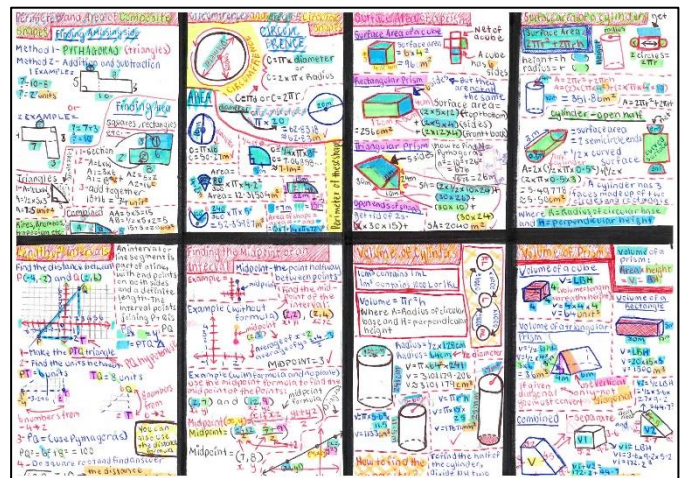
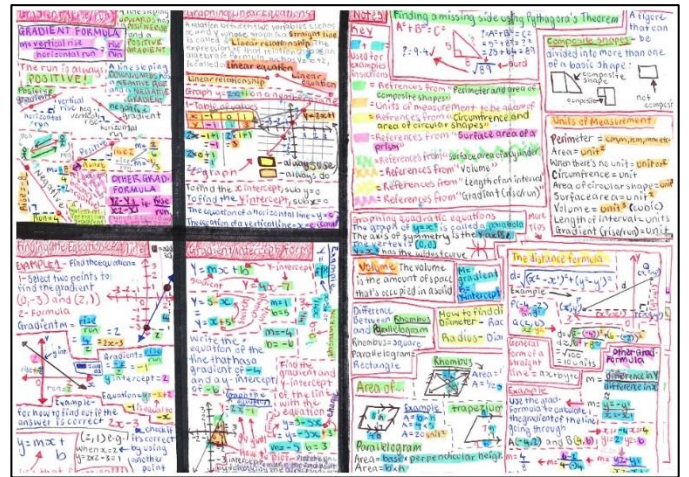
This applies also to situations in which the students can bring their own reference sheet into tests. A student who just copies information out of a text without making the effort to understand it won't gain any benefit. A student who goes back over their notes regularly, with a view to making the most effective cheat sheet they can, is actively studying and ends up with a highly effective resource.

The actual value of a cheat sheet in the exam isn't that it is available, it is that the student must have engaged in some study in order to make it an effective document. And, bizarrely, the process of making it an effective document in turn reduces its effectiveness because the student is less likely to need it in the exam. We tell the students that we call it a cheat sheet, not because it allows them to cheat in an exam but because we are cheating them into studying!

What we are currently seeing in Maths tests, is a distinct correlation between the amount of preparation and care a student puts into their reference sheet and the marks they receive in a test *when compared to their peers*. Of course we still see students who have made a great deal of effort and don't feel it paid off when they see their mark, but as part of the bigger picture, we can see the difference between them and the rest of their class because we can see that they have improved in relation to the class.

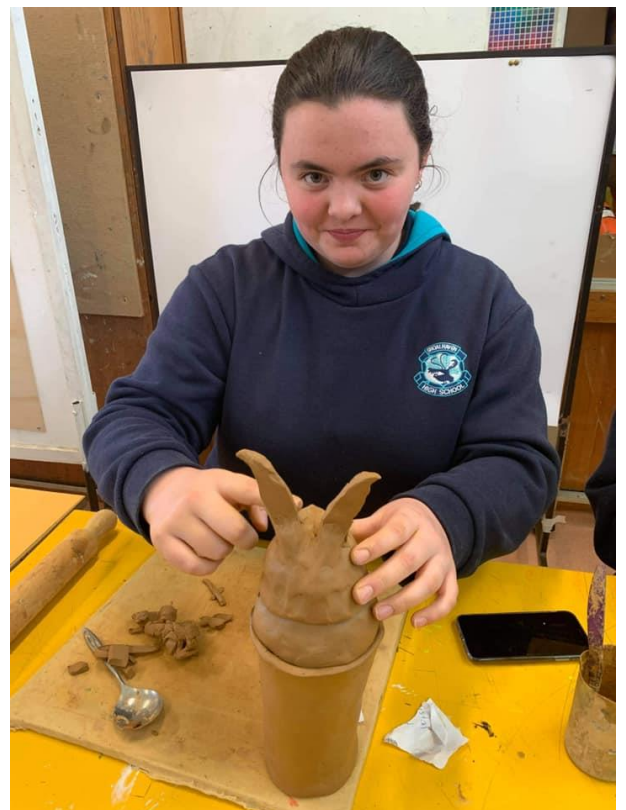
In this situation, the mark and ranks themselves are as important as the change in rank that a student gains as a result in studying. A student who receives 70% and maintains their third-place position has not done as well as a student who gets only 40% but moves from 15th place to 8th! The second student might feel that the effort hasn't resulted in a better mark, but their rank is the important feature here as they are showing a distinct improvement in comparison to their peers.

Sadly, many students are still not taking advantage of this way of improving their understanding and their results. We always tell students what sort of content will be included in tests so that they can prepare. Many students will go over their books and maybe do some questions but they still are not prepared to put pen to paper and create the one resource that appears to have the biggest impact on their progress. Please encourage your child to have a go at preparing their cheat sheet. The effort will pay off in the long term.



YEAR 7 ASPIRE

Our Year 7 ASPIRE class are currently working on a cross-curricular creative project to produce their very own Ancient Egyptian canopic jars. Thank you for your expertise Mrs Macdonell! Stay tuned for the end results. These clever kids have got skills!





R U OK DAY - 10 September 2020

The year of "2020" has been a difficult time for many in the Shoalhaven community. We felt it was more important than ever to connect with each other and ask "Are You OK?". To celebrate the day of kindness, our students got together for an afternoon of fun at the R U OK Day celebrations.

Friendship bands, handmade by the SRC, proved a popular choice - but not as popular as those \$1 Ice cream cones! Ms Woods was spotted exhibiting some fine juggling skills with the stressballs, also on offer by the SRC. Students played a friendly game of League Tag and even the three-legged race provided a few well-needed laughs.

Many thanks to all students and staff for donating their time and effort to care for the wellbeing of others.



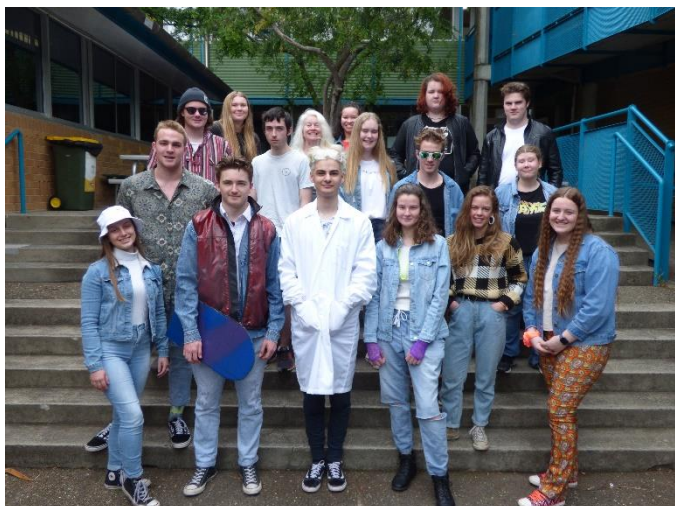
DECADE DAY

Staff and students dressed up in their best costumes for "Decade Day" late in Term 3. Stage 4 were given a 90's theme, Stage 5 were tasked with the 70's and Stage 6 with the 80's.

Participation was high and students embraced the chance to dress up. Staff seemed especially enthusiastic about re-living their favourite decade in full costume. Canteen voucher prizes went to the amazing "Spice Girls" from Year 7 and to Will Atkinson-Reynolds in Year 8 for his ultra-cool '90's get-up.



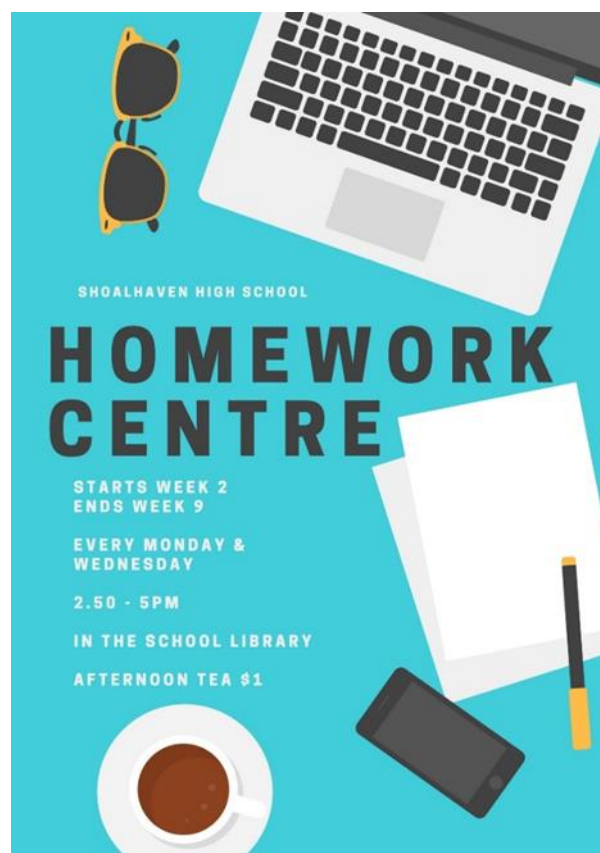
Mr Dolby and Mr McNeil even made a special performance of their latest Tik Tok dance steps. Something we all hope to see more often. Mrs McDonald also participated in a Wham! dance with Charlotte Walker and Nicola Boyle.



Money raised went to support the upcoming Year 12 Formal. Thanks to all staff and students for a fun and uplifting day.



HOMEWORK CENTRE



NEWS FROM CAREERS

Year 9 Work Experience

30 November to 4 December 2020

All Year 9 students are encouraged to participate in work experience during Week 8 Term 4.

The work experience document should be returned to the Careers Hub by Friday 20 November 2020.

Please contact Sue Rosskelly or Ev O'Neile at our Careers Hub if there are any questions or issues relating to work experience.

Year 10 Work Experience

Year 10 Work Experience is available from Week 6 this term

Due to the difficulties in placements in Term 3, we now have the opportunity for interested Year 10 students to apply for a work experience position from Week 6 this term.

See Careers Advisors for information

Upskill Activities for Shoalhaven High students

Why upskill?

1. To learn new skills that can be useful in life
2. To "have a GO" and gain more confidence in your abilities
3. To gain a qualification or certificate for your portfolio
4. To build your network, meet new people, go to new places and understand other organisations.

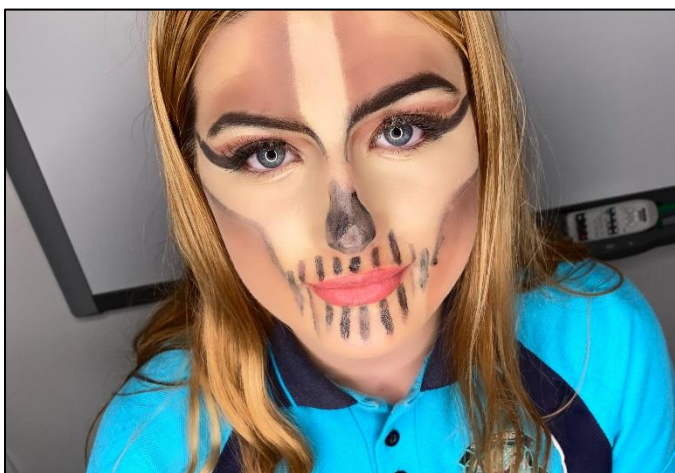
TAFE YES Program

Café Skills, Make Up and Beauty

22 students from Years 9 and 10 have commenced their four Thursdays at TAFE. TAFE provides free training and we are very fortunate to have our school bus and staff drivers to transport most students to TAFE and back to school. Thank you Mrs Johnstone and Lisa Horgan.

Week One - Café Skills students made amazing iced chocolate drinks, learned safe food handling practices and the basics of coffee machine operation. In Make Up, students experimented with and created Halloween design.





WHS Construction Induction (white card)

\$80 Friday 13 November 2020

This is the compulsory course for students doing work or work experience on a construction site. Cost \$80 (This includes a \$20 subsidy from SHS funds). A few positions are available.

SALT - Girls in Trades Workshops Day -no cost and at our school on Friday 20 November 2020 for girls from Years 5 to 11.

Girls have the opportunity to participate in a workshop day with qualified tradespeople and equipment while exploring careers in various trades. Only 15 places are available.

Financial Literacy Years 9 to 12 Cert 1 qualification for no cost
Friday 27 November and Friday 4 December 2020

First Aid Year 9 to 12 \$65 Monday and Tuesday 10 and 11 December 2020

Making Coffee@ School - date to be confirmed

Typing Skills and certificate - date to be confirmed

Careers In Defence Force

Wednesday 18 November Period 6

ADF Recruiting will be visiting our school to provide information and pathways to Careers in Defence. The number of students will be limited so please register in Careers Hub.

Shoalhaven Paper Plane Challenge

Nowra Show Society and Shoalhaven Defence Industry Group and Regional Development Australia are conducting an inter-school competition with prize money for individuals and school teams. This year the competition cannot be at the Shoalhaven Basketball Stadium but will be conducted within the schools with a judge from the organizations.

School Teams Competition – we can enter more than one team.

Group 1 - Years 7, 8 and 9

Group 2 - Years 10 and 11

The Categories

1. Distance

For the distance category, each team must throw their paper plane whilst spotters record distances in metres. All distances must be measured from the start line to the point where the plane first touches the ground (not the final resting place if it slides). Each student has up to three chances to get their best distance.

2. Time in Air

For the time-in-air category, each team must attempt to keep their plane in flight for the longest time, whilst spotters record each flight attempt with an accurate digital stopwatch. Report the time accurately e.g. 2.45 seconds. Each student has up to three chances to get their longest 'flight time'.

Flight Plan

1. Create teams made up of 2 – 3 students
2. Design and build paper planes all using standard 80gsm A4 paper
3. Name each group and test prototypes at school
4. Register up to 2 teams per category by Friday 15 November
5. Conduct the competition at school with judges form the organisation before 4th December.

Please see Mr Newport or the Careers Hub for further information.

UOW Summer Master Class for HSC 2021

Complete a university subject in three weeks over the Summer school holidays in January 2021 in a subject that aligns with your interests and potential future degree. Students get to know the UOW campus, student mentors and staff to really get a sense of what it's like to be a uni student. Subjects are offered in a blended environment, which means students can study online and at the Wollongong UOW campus.

The Summer Master class is free to students of Shoalhaven High.

A link for further information and application: <https://www.uow.edu.au/engage/outreach-pathways/year-12/year-12-summer/>

Applications close 8 November.

HSC updates from Careers

As exams are finishing, we continue to be available to assist with student's future planning and applications. Information will also be posted on Year 12 students' school emails and Google classroom.

University Related Applications

EAS Equity Access Scheme

Application for course consideration if you experienced difficulties during school years
Closes 20 November (See Mrs McDonald)

ES Equity Scholarship

Financial assistance if you have experienced difficulties during school years including Job Seeker, Job Keeper
Closes 17 November

SCHOLARSHIPS For Students Working Or Studying In 2021

Shoalhaven Education Fund Scholarships

Shoalhaven Education Fund provides financial assistance up to \$3000 for young people requiring assistance to go to work, TAFE or university. If you require financial assistance, a smart move would be to make an application. It is not too difficult. Applications online at:

<http://engage.cef.org.au/directory/foundation/32/shoalhaven>

Scholarships for most universities
check the university site.

Scholarship For Young People (15-25 Years) Directly Impacted By The Bushfire

Youth Education and Workplace Employment Grants

Assist young people (15-25 years) in fire impacted communities to support education and workplace aspirations. Up to \$3000

<https://www.bendigobank.com.au/community/community-funding/disaster-recovery/relief/education-and-workplace-grants/>

Many scholarships do not have an applicant and it is not always the smartest students who get scholarships. HAVE A GO!

APPRENTICESHIPS TRAINEESHIPS JOBS

Many positions are currently available in the Shoalhaven

Register and check daily with ADZUNA and SEEK apps if you are looking for work.

APPRENTICESHIPS and TRAINEESHIPS

6 x Mechanic Apprenticeships plus more positions - Palmira Holding (Nowra Mazda)

Civil Construction Traineeship (Shoal City Council)- HVTC <https://www.hvtc.com.au/jobs>

- * Business Administration traineeship - Sanokil (Bomaderry)
- * Real Estate Apprenticeship - Callala Bay
- * Baking traineeship - Bakers Delight Nowra
- * 2 x Baking traineeships - East Nowra Bakery
- * Barbering Apprenticeship - Barber Theory Co (Nowra)

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EMPLOYMENT

- * barista (Nowra) –
resume ninetyonejunction@bigpond.com
- * V and C Foods -
resume - 11 Norfolk Ave South Nowra
- * Best and Less (Nowra)
- * Bishops (South Nowra)
resume - Bishops
- * Kohlis Indian Restaurant
resume - kohlis.nowra@outlook.com
- * Industrial Cleaning
resume - Sparkly Dimes
- * McDonalds –
apply - <https://mcdonalds.com.au/>
- * Hungry Jacks
resume to South Nowra
- * Coles
apply - <https://careers.colesgroup.com.au/>

2020 NATIONAL ADOLESCENT VACCINATION PROGRAM

Year 7

Year 7 students (boys and girls) have the opportunity to participate in a free vaccination program at school and conducted by NSW Public Health Unit over 2 visits. Due to COVID interruption the first session was postponed to -

Visit 1 Thursday 12 November 2020

Visit 2 Thursday 25 March 2021

Permission notes and information available to students who did not receive the forms at the beginning of 2020.

Year 10

Year 10 students who did not receive Meningococcal vaccination this term will also have vaccination available on 12 November 2020.

Further information available from Mrs Rosskelly (Careers Hub) or Lisa Horgan (Student Support officer)



Rural Fire Training

Ten Year 10 students completed the Basic Rural Fire Training Certificate this week. This year's training was a combination of online learning and three days at the Shoalhaven Emergency Centre.

Thank you to Shoalhaven RFS for the training and Regional Development Australia for the funding and organisation.

Students have the knowledge and skills required to become members of their local fire brigades. Some are keen to join immediately to assist their local community.



BRING YOUR OWN TECHNOLOGY (BYOT)

Please have a read of the BYOT Policy/Guidelines on our website (Under Our school then BYOT) or click on the link below, for the expectations on how technology and mobile phones are used at our school, and the consequences for misuse of the technology.

[BYOT Policy](#)

BRING YOUR OWN TECHNOLOGY

Positive Choices

1. Students putting phones on silent and putting them away in bags or in the facility provided by teachers, if they are not required for the lesson. Other devices are also put away, if this is requested.
2. Students following teacher instructions, so that they are using devices appropriately during the lesson.
3. Students showing staff their work if they are using devices, whenever they are asked to do so during the course of the lesson.

The following are examples of positive uses for devices in lessons that your teachers may access in classes:

- research activities which involve the use of internet access.
- note taking, video making for projects and assessments.
- photographing notifications of tasks and work not completed on boards.
- recording the progress of work in practical classes.
- using the calendar to create homework / due date entries/ excursion/ test notifications – student diary/ organiser.
- timekeeping/ stop watch for speeches/calculator.
- using SRN, One Note, Kahoot or other appropriate software to allow student responses/ organise tasks.
- teacher directed quizzes.
- dictionary/ thesaurus work.
- recording and storage for multimedia tasks.
- submission of tasks via email.
- accessing ABC iView, educational apps.
- recording information whilst on excursions.

Negative Choices

1. Students not putting phones in bags, the facility which may be provided by staff in classes or in a place acceptable to staff, and not turning them off, if they are not being used for the lesson.
2. Students not having "lids ajar" on laptops, or not removing earphones when requested to do so by staff.
3. Students refusing to use technology in accordance with teacher instructions.

This includes:

- Students texting or calling others on mobiles during class time.
- Students refusing to show staff their work on the technology.
- Students failing to make a reasonable effort with the technology to complete work.
- Students passing mobiles to others for inappropriate use or not handing phones to staff before going to the toilet.
- Students playing games on their device during lessons.
- Students using technology to bully, harass, offend or threaten others – includes illegal filming/ photography = serious offence!

Being able to use technology in class is the teacher's choice, not the student's choice! There are consequences for any student who breaks the rules.

UNIFORM POLICY

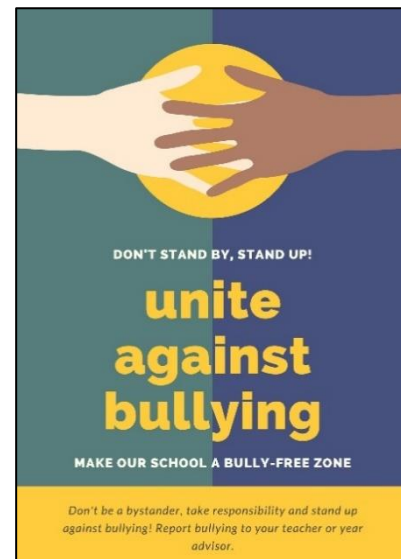
The Shoalhaven High School Uniform Policy is found on our School website under 'Our School' or click on the link

[2018 Uniform Policy](#)

ANTI-BULLYING PLAN

The Shoalhaven High School Anti-bullying Plan is found on our School website under 'Our School' or click on the link

[Anti-bullying Plan](#)



STUDENT TIMETABLES

Students now have access to view their timetable for 2020 online via the Student/Parent Sentral Portal.

To access, please visit

<https://shoalhavenhs.sentral.com.au/portal/> then log in with your DoE username and

Shoalhaven High School Student and Parent Portal login screen. Fields for Username and Password, Sign In button, and Forgot Password link.

password.

Stay informed with the SkoolBag App

The SkoolBag app is the easiest way to stay up-to-date with school events, last minutes notices, newsletters and all school communications.

- 1 Download the app**
Search for the free SkoolBag app in the Apple App or Google Play Store
- 2 Create an account**
Sign up in seconds with your email address
- 3 Add your school**
Search for your school and add your subscription groups

SkoolBag

NSW Health is ensuring that students are safely vaccinated at school during COVID-19

- Information for parents/guardians

NSW Health has been working with education authorities to implement additional measures to ensure that students in Year 7 and 10 can be safely vaccinated during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Program background

In 2020 NSW Health is offering the following vaccines:

YEAR	VACCINE	NUMBER OF DOSES
Year 7	Human papillomavirus (HPV)	2 doses at least 6 months apart
	Diphtheria, Tetanus and Pertussis (dTpa)	1 dose
Year 10	Meningococcal ACWY	1 dose

While the school vaccination program has been disrupted due to low student attendance, students are progressively returning to school over the coming months.

Additional measures

NSW Health has implemented additional measures based on expert clinical advice to reduce the likelihood of COVID-19 transmission in school clinics, including:

- health screening of nurses before clinics
- pre-vaccination screening of students
- physical distancing restrictions at the clinic entrance & observation area
- ensuring the number of students and nurses at the clinic does not exceed the maximum allowed
- enhanced hand hygiene by nurses and students
- enhanced environmental cleaning of all surfaces

What parents/guardians should do

Parents/guardians should ensure that students with influenza-like symptoms do not attend school and are tested as soon as possible (www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/symptoms-and-testing). There is no need for parents/guardians who have given consent for their child to receive vaccinations at school to take any action. Parents/guardians who have not provided consent can contact their local public health unit on 1300 066 055 or their school for advice on how to provide consent for vaccination.

When students will be vaccinated

Public health units are arranging clinics with schools so that vaccinations can be given to students as soon as possible.

More information

Information about school vaccination during COVID-19 is available at www.health.nsw.gov.au/schoolvaccination



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?

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.

What if my child has to be away from school?

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

COMMUNITY NEWS



PCYC POLICE CITIZENS YOUTH CLUBS NSW
SAFER DRIVERS COURSE

REDUCE YOUR LOG BOOK BY 20 HOURS WITH PCYC NSW
PCYC IS AN ACCREDITED PROVIDER OF THE TRANSPORT FOR NSW SAFER DRIVERS COURSE.



THE SAFER DRIVERS COURSE INVOLVES TWO MODULES

MODULE ONE:
A three-hour facilitated group discussion on how to manage risks on the road.
This will involve a maximum of 12 participants and will be delivered by a facilitator.

MODULE TWO:
A two-hour, in-vehicle coaching session to develop low-risk driving strategies.
This will involve two participants and a coach.


LEARNER DRIVERS WHO COMPLETE THE COURSE WILL RECEIVE 20 HOURS OFF THEIR LOG BOOK. **\$140**

NEXT COURSE DATE: SATURDAY 17th October 8AM

Book online TODAY at pcycdrivereducation.org.au


PCYC POLICE CITIZENS YOUTH CLUBS NSW

The Safer Drivers Course logo is a trade mark of Transport for NSW of 18 Lee St Chippendale NSW Australia



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COMMUNITY RESILIENCE INFORMATION SESSIONS

Come along to an information session and hear from presenters across a range of topics, to assist our community in recovery and resilience. Sessions will be held across the Shoalhaven, with no booking required. COVID-19 safety measures will be in place.

For further information please contact Natalie Galea, Service NSW 0448 556 429 or Natalie.Galea@service.nsw.gov.au

Service NSW




SESSION PROGRAM

- 10:00am-11:00am Fire Preparedness/Recovery Red Cross
- 11:30am-12:30pm Early Childhood/Youth Support – Bushfire Response Be You Early Childhood Australia
- 1:00pm-2:00pm Land Management Local Land Services
- 2:30pm-3:30pm Mind, Body, Spirit Catholic Care
- 4:00pm-5:00pm Financial Management Womens Health Service
- 5:30pm-6:30pm Building/Compliance Shoalhaven City Council

DATES & VENUES

- 20 October Kangaroo Valley - RFS 5 Broughton St, Kangaroo Valley
- 27 October Wandandian - RFS Princes Hwy, Wandandian
- 03 November West Nowra - RFS 92 Albatross Rd, Nowra
- 10 November Cambewarra Village 1021 Ilkaroo Rd Tapitallee
- 17 November Sussex Inlet Bendigo Bank community rooms, 4/168 Jacobs Drive, Sussex Inlet





After School Social Group



The Disability Trust offer age appropriate social and recreational activities after school for children with special needs in a fun and safe environment. Our trained and experienced staff support all participants based on their individual needs.

Days: Monday - Friday (School Terms)
 Ages: 12 - 18 year olds
 Venue: 122 Plunkett Street Nowra
 Times: 2:45pm - 5:45pm
 Activities: Arts & craft, sporting activities, games, cooking and activities etc.
 Pick up from school is available
 NDIS Approved: All participants must have an NDIS plan to attend. Daily supports provided with your plan.

Costs:

Ratio	NDIS Support Item	Cost
Group Supports	Community, social and recreational activities	\$95/day
High Support	Community, social and recreational activities	\$180/day

If you would like more information about this program or you would like to join, please call 4403 9633 or email our team at sportandrec@disabilitytrust.org.au



www.disabilitytrust.org.au *...creating an inclusive world*





School Holiday Social Group



The Disability Trust offers a fun and inclusive after school social group. As a part of the group you would participate in exciting outings and your choice of activities at the centre. The group focusses on building life skills, independence and friendships while having fun.

Days: Monday - Friday (School Holidays)
 Ages: 12 - 18 year olds
 Venue: Wesley Centre - Cnr Berry and Junction St Nowra
 Times: 8:30am - 4:30pm
 Activities: Cooking, craft, music, games and community based activities/ outings, etc
 Pick up from school is available
 NDIS Approved: All participants must have an NDIS plan to attend. Daily supports provided with your plan.

Costs:

Ratio	NDIS Support Item	Cost
Group Supports	Community, social and recreational activities	\$240/day
High Support	Community, social and recreational activities	\$475/day

If you would like more information about this program or you would like to join please call 4403 9633 or email our team at sportandrec@disabilitytrust.org.au



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PCYC POLICE CITIZENS YOUTH CLUBS NSW

FITFORLIFE

Proudly supported by the New South Wales Police Force




FREE Boxing Fitness Class

FREE Breaky

FREE Pick up & drop off to school

7.20am every Tuesday at Shoalhaven PCYC

Pick up times/locations:

- 7am Bomo Maccas
- 7.10am Nowra High
- 7.15am East Nowra Shops

Proudly supported by:











For more info, contact:
 PCYC Shoalhaven
 72 Park Road, Nowra NSW 2541
 (02) 4421 8555
shoalhaven@pcycnsw.org.au

Shoalhaven High School will, as a service to parents, advertise community news which may be of interest. SHS does not necessarily endorse or sponsor the events and accepts no responsibility to the management or organisation.