

Shoalhaven High School - Newsletter

Respect, Responsibility, Safety and Participation



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2020 Term 4 Week 8

Friday 4 December 2020

COMING EVENTS

- 7 December – Dentist Visit
- 10 December – Awards Day
- 18 December – HSC Results Breakfast

2021

- 27 and 28 January – Staff Development Days
- 29 January – Year 7 First Day at school
- 29 January – Year 7 Swim Test
- 29 January – Years 11 and 12 return to school
- 1 February – Years 8, 9 and 10 return to school
- 3 February – Swimming Carnival
- 15 February – Jamberoo Excursion
- 18 February – School Photos

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

The 2020 school year is drawing to a close and what a year it has been. As we reflect on the year that has just passed, I wish to thank all our community members for their ongoing support of Shoalhaven High School. As a community we have been exposed to many things this year, things that have changed our perceptions, our organisational and operational structures. Throughout all these changes, our wider school community has supported the school to ensure that our students' educational outcomes have not been adversely affected. From fires that commenced late December and continued through to mid-January, followed by floods and storms and then COVID-19, we as a school community have worked together, have been resilient and dedicated to ensure we continued to provide a quality education in a supportive environment for all our students. This was a challenge as restrictions grew tighter, remote learning was introduced, phased return to school happened and finally a full time return to on campus learning. This challenge was accepted by our staff, our students and our community and as a team we came out the other side stronger and more determined to make 2021 as successful as it can be. Once again to the SHS staff, students, parents/carers and the wider community,

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thank you for all your efforts and dedication to make 2020 a successful school year.

On Tuesday 1 December, we welcomed our new 2021 Year 7 cohort to our school as we held our Transition Day. All the students had a fantastic time and a special thank you to Ms Talbert and Ms Rosskelly for their organisation and to our staff who delivered lessons to our new students and kept them engaged for the day. We look forward to seeing them return in 2021.



With the thank you at the start of the newsletter, it is time for some forward thinking. As we draw to a close of 2020, there are a few key dates to keep in our diaries:

Week 9

All school reports will be published to the Sentral parent portal and those families who request printed copies, these will be handed to students. All year groups will also have merit assemblies to acknowledge the achievements of their peers. Awards Day will be held on Thursday 10 December, during this week as well. Due to COVID restrictions this year Awards Day will be open to award recipients only. The event will be livestreamed and a link posted to our Facebook page and website.

Week 10 - Monday to Wednesday

Monday and Tuesday of Week 10 will be End of Year Activities for our students. Students have selected either 2 full day activities or half day activities to participate in on these days. Please note that the canteen will be open but they will only have a minimal amount of items for purchase. The canteen will be non-operational on Wednesday 16 December as it is the last day of school. The school will operate on Wednesday as normal except for sport which will be modified and be restricted to in-school only.

The start of 2021 will also be different compared to other years. The school year will commence with two Staff Development Days. Staff will return on the 27 and 28 January for these days. Years 7, 11 and 12 will return to school Friday 29 January. Years 8,9,10 will return on Monday 1 February. We will also communicate further organisational structures as COVID restrictions ease early in the 2021 school year.



Thanks again for all your ongoing support of our school and have a Merry Christmas and a safe and relaxing break and we welcome everybody back in 2021.

Damian Rees
Principal



LANCOM

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Our Literacy and Numeracy Committee (LANCOM) are working together to complete training in the use of data through Harvardx online! The skills we are learning in the Datawise course will help us analyse student achievement data in literacy and numeracy and make decisions to uplift student performance. This is why the Best Start, Check-in, NAPLAN, VALID and other assessments are so important. We use the data gathered to help us help our students.



SHARE THE DIGNITY

On Friday 11 December, International Studies are raising awareness to end period poverty. This will be a mufti day and students are asked to dress in pink, purple or red and bring a donation of a gold coin or sanitary products. The sanitary products will be donated to the "Share the Dignity" campaign.

For more information on this campaign go to:

<https://www.sharethedignity.org.au/>



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'.

END OF YEAR ACTIVITIES

Students from Shoalhaven High School will be participating in end of year activities again this year on Monday 14 and Tuesday 15 of December.

Full school uniform must be worn for both days and for every activity.

End of year activities will not run on normal school times but instead be split into the following format:

Roll call: as normal 830 am - 8.40am

Session 1: 8.40am -11.20am

Break: 11.20am - 12.05pm

Session 2: 12.05pm – 2.46pm

Please note that some activities have special requirements and a cost associated.

Activities will range from horse riding, craft activities, Golf/Putty Putt, Minecraft, Beach Activities, Music Jamming Sessions, Dolphin Watch Cruise and Bushwalking, with many other activities as well



YEAR 6 - 7 TRANSITION

It has been an exciting time for Year 6 students attending Shoalhaven High School in 2021.

The transition process has been heavily interrupted due to COVID restrictions, however, we are so thrilled to share the Year 6 - 7 information video that was posted to our school website and Facebook in Week 7. If you didn't get a chance to see it, follow the link:

<https://www.facebook.com/shoalhavenhigh/videos/2880237058876309>

We were also thrilled to have the Year 6 Orientation Day on Tuesday 1 December. A number of our primary school students attended Shoalhaven High School and engaged in various activities involving subject areas including Art, Food Tech, Maths, English, Science, HSIE and many more. On the day, students met their Year Advisor, Deputy Principal and a number of important teachers who will assist them with their journey once they commence high school in 2021. Staff were so impressed with the effort a number of students put into each activity they were involved in. It was a fantastic day and we look forward to sharing the journey further on the first day of Year 7 in 2021.

IMPORTANT INFO FOR FUTURE YEAR 6 STUDENTS 2021:

First Day: Friday 29 January 2021

You will need to arrive to school and be in the hall no later than 8:30am.

An info pack was distributed to students on Orientation Day with information regarding the swim test that will happen periods 4 and 5 of the First Day of school. Please make sure you bring your permission note, money, swimmers, towel and a change of clothes. You must complete the swim test to swim in the swimming carnival the following week.

School uniform shop opening hours and prices were also sent home with students in the information pack on Orientation Day. Please read the information carefully and contact the school if you have any questions.

YEAR 8 OWLS

Year 8 Owls class having fun with the STEMShare lego robotic kits the school has borrowed for the term.



LIBRARY NEWS

Did you know our school Library has an Instagram page?

Head on over to:

<https://www.instagram.com/shoalibrary/>

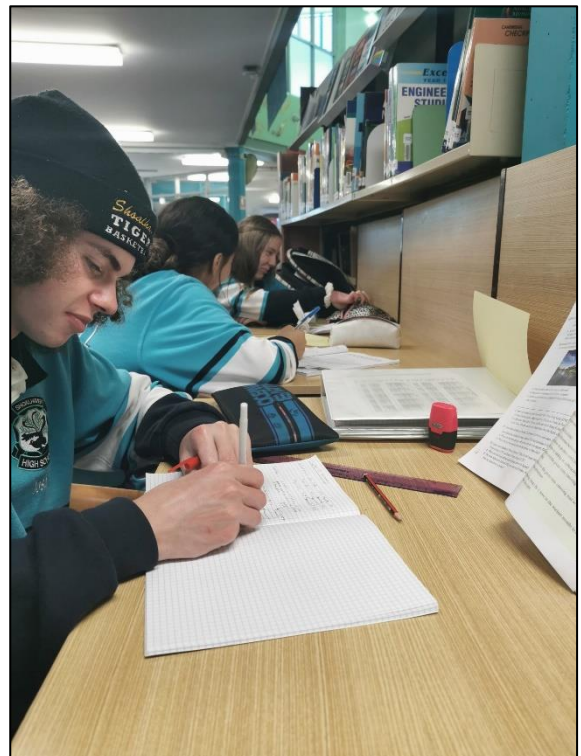
or scan the QR code attached or search up shoalibrary and give it a follow.

Keep up to date with great reads and library events.



YEAR 12 TUTORIALS

Every week our Year 12 cohort participate in tutorials to help build study skills to maximise their success in the HSC. Students learn the skills they need to achieve their best result in Year 12, have opportunities to meet with staff from universities, complete applications and work on revision and assessments. They are able to access the full resources of the library, including study guides, computers, printing, our full resource collections and the librarian for one on one research and study assistance.



NAIDOC WEEK

Always Was, Always Will Be.

These beautiful artworks celebrate the theme of NAIDOC Week 2020. They have been created by elective Visual Arts and Photography classes over the past couple of weeks.



INDIGENOUS ART TUTORIALS



NAIDOC WEEK TREE PLANTING

Students from years 7, 9 and 10 were involved in a special tree planting activity for NAIDOC week. The critically endangered Glossy Black Cockatoo feeds on the seed cones of a single species of Allocasuarina (she oak). Once common throughout Eastern Australia, the Glossy Black, the smallest of our black cockatoos, has come under increasing pressure due to habitat destruction from land clearing. Extensive areas of habitat containing feed trees was destroyed in the Black Summer fires. We now have 40 trees in the school grounds which will provide food and shelter for these magnificent native birds.

Year 9 students



HSIE PROGRAM CHANGES

We are considering a redesign of our HSIE teaching program and are seeking feedback as to what the learning preferences of our students and community would be for Stages 4 & 5. If you would like to complete the questionnaire, just following the link below. We would be grateful! - Miss Forbes, HT HSIE (Rel.)

[Proposed HSIE Changes](#)

Proposed HSIE Stage Changes

We are considering a redesign of our HSIE teaching program and are seeking your feedback as to what the learning preferences of our students and community would be for Stages 4 & 5.

Currently, HSIE is taught by semester for Geography and History. We are proposing that we would teach each of the Stages over 1 whole year. For example, all of the History topics studied in Stage 4 would all be taught in Year 7. Then, in Year 8 all Geography topics for Stage 4 would be covered. As a faculty, we would like to investigate this change for both Stage 4 and 5, starting with Year 7 & 9 in 2021.

All answers will remain anonymous. Thank you for taking the time to provide your feedback.

- Jessie Forbes HT HSIE (R), Shoalhaven High School

Are you a:

- Student
- Parent/carer
- Other community member

Which of the following would you prefer?

- Semester option (both History and Geography in the year)
- Stage option (only History OR Geography in the year)

Why would you prefer this option?

Your answer _____

Would you like more say in the topics chosen in class? For example, choosing the depth study for the Mediterranean World - Ancient Egypt OR Greece OR Rome?

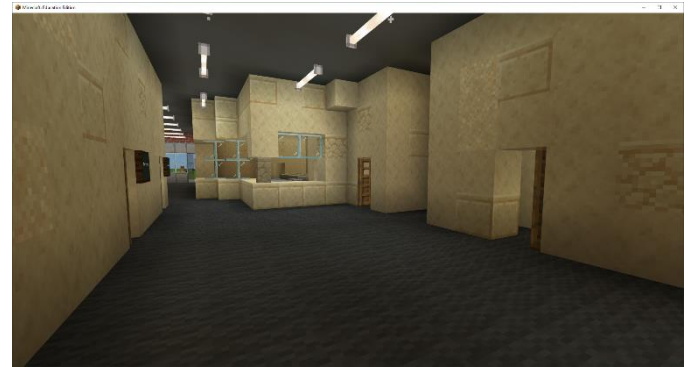
- Yes
- No
- Other: _____

Do you have any suggestions about how we can improve the teaching and learning experience in HSIE?

Your answer _____

INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY GRAPHICS

This semester in Industrial Technology Graphics, Year 9 and 10 students have been working hard to produce an accurate model of Shoalhaven High School using Minecraft. This project aims to develop skills in interpreting information from blueprints and representing this information in a graphic model. Whilst the majority of students were quite experienced in using Minecraft, not all had tried to produce models that were accurate to life. This provided a few challenges that needed to be overcome, such as representing objects with rounded or diagonal faces and creating objects that did not exist in the Minecraft inventory. Originally we were hoping to insert our school model into the Minecraft - Build the Earth Project but this was unfortunately not achievable through the school system. Instead we have created a model to gift to the school for students to enjoy in the future.



PEER SUPPORT TRAINING DAY

On Monday 30 November, a number of Year 10 students participated in the Peer Support Training Day. Students were equipped with skills to conduct and facilitate Peer Support sessions with the new Year 7 students next year. They are very excited to meet our new students and show them around the school. The photos are of the students completing a challenge as to who can create the best wedding dress out of newspapers. They did a fantastic job, well done!





SRC FOOD DRIVE

Our Student Representative Council is holding a food drive. Please donate a small item of non-perishable food which will be donated to the Homeless Hub. Food can be left in the student office, the library or Wellbeing Staffroom.



IT'S THE LITTLE THINGS



THAT COUNT

SRC food drive
Donations to the Homeless Hub

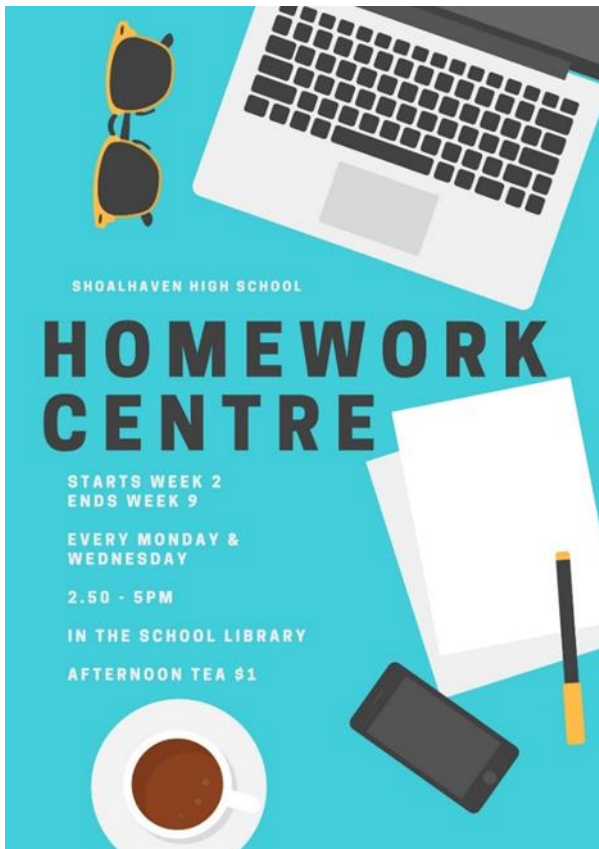
Drop off non-perishable food
to the Student Office, Library or Wellbeing Staffroom

SPORT NEWS

On Thursday the 12th and Monday the 16th of November our year 7 and 8 students participated in some fun initiative games and Indigenous games presented by external providers from the Berry Active Kids Program. Schools in the Shoalhaven have been targeted as an area where active kids vouchers have not been accessed. These provide students with \$100 twice a year to help pay for sporting uniforms or registrations for some sports. Parents are required to fill in a form and submit it and they will receive the voucher. You can access it at Service NSW- Active Kids vouchers.



HOMEWORK CENTRE



BREAKFAST CLUB

Breakfast Club is on before school each Wednesday and Friday at the uniform shop. Anybody can come and it is run by staff volunteers.

Fruit is also available from Lisa in the Admin/Welfare Office at the bottom of A block.



GREAT CHOICE

Well done to Karen and her team!.



NEWS FROM CAREERS

Work Experience in Term 4

Thank you to the many employers and companies who provided work experience opportunities for students from Years 9 to 12 this term.

51 Year 9 students participated in their first work experience in industries such as retail, hospitality, animal care, law, engineering, mechanics, construction, building maintenance, landcare, childcare, education, oyster farming and deep sea fishing.

Congratulations to Dustin C and Jimmy P who have secured full time apprenticeships after work experience. Dustin is at Nowra Chemicals and Jimmy has an Automotive Mechanical Apprenticeship at Nowra Toyota.

Upskill Activities

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 organisation.

Congratulations to the many students who UPSKILLED and had a GO at a variety of activities and short courses this term.

- Barista and Hospitality – Shoalhaven Community College
- Horticulture – Shoalhaven Community College
- Construction – TAFE
- Barista and Hospitality – TAFE
- Beauty and Make Up – TAFE
- Rural Fire Training – Shoalhaven RFS and Regional Development Aust
- Construction White Card – Accelerated Learning
- Cert 1 Financial Literacy – Smith Family
- First Aid – Royal Life Saving
- Women in Trades – SALT Australia
- Careers in Defence Force – Defence Force Recruiting
- Plane Simple -Paper Plane Challenge – Nowra Show Society, Shoalhaven Defence Industry Group, Regional Development Aust and UOW

A special thank you to the many organisations who provided the opportunities for our students.

Paper Plane Challenge

Students with outstanding performances in the Plane Simple paper plane challenge

Thomas C, Deegan K, Regan B, Kodi R, Breanna Lee R, Kylah D, Perlan S, Matthew I, Jasmine, Beau.

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:

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

Scholarships for most universities
check the university site.



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

Shoalhaven Water (Shoal City Council)-

HVTC <https://www.hvtc.com.au/jobs>

Assured Locksmith Apprenticeship

EMPLOYMENT

McDonalds –

apply - <https://mcdonalds.com.au/>

* Hungry Jacks

resume to South Nowra

* Coles

apply - <https://careers.colesgroup.com.au/>

The 2021 National Adolescent Vaccination Program

This program is conducted by NSW Public Health Unit
Year 8 2021

Year 7 students (boys and girls) who participated in a free vaccination program at school in 2020 will receive their follow up vaccination on Thursday 20 May 2021

Year 7 2021

Year 7 students (boys and girls) can participate in a free vaccination program at school in two visits.

Visit 1 Thursday 25 March 2021

Visit 2 Thursday 11 November 2021

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

Year 10 2021

Year 10 students can receive the Meningococcal vaccination on Thursday 29 July 2021

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

 Harvest Brewing Company posted a job. 
7 Oct · 

Sustainably focussed artisan food and drink business launching in Berry in November now recruiting like minded people to bring it to life in full time, part time and casual roles. You would be a good fit if you are interested in learning about:

1. A true paddock to plate experience (we will serve produce from our farm on Berry Mountain and will support our staff to spend time on the farm understanding where our produce comes from);
2. Craft beer and spirits (we will be brewing and serving our own beverages via our Master Brewer Neal Cameron, the most recognised brewer in Australia using traditional methods and historic ingredients);

We can commit to you that you will be working in a business:

1. With a focus on growth, but in a sustainable way that is kind to the planet.
2. That can offer support to build a career not just a job.

We will provide training on all aspects of our offering as well as competitive remuneration.

Key roles we are looking for include i) bar staff, ii) wait staff, iii) apprentice chefs and venue managers, iv) barista's.

Please send your CV to neil@harvestbrew.com.au and we will contact you shortly.

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 view, 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

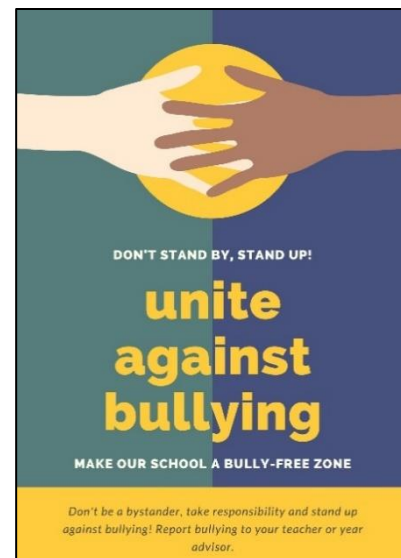
The Shoalhaven High School Uniform Policy is found on our School website under 'Our School' or click on the link

[2020 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

A screenshot of a web login page. At the top is the Shoalhaven High School crest. Below it, the text reads "Shoalhaven High School Student and Parent Portal". A message says "Please enter your username and password below". There are two input fields: "Username" and "Password". Below the fields is a "Sign In" button and a "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

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

Free workshop for parents and supervisors of learner drivers



Helping learner drivers become safer drivers

The two-hour session will offer practical advice about:

- current driving rules and requirements for L and P plates
- how learners benefit from supervised on-road driving
- how you can help make learning to drive a safe and positive experience

9.30am - 11.30am

- Saturday 28, November 2020
- Saturday 5, December 2020

Council Administration Centre,
Osprey Training Room,
36 Bridge Rd, Nowra NSW 2541



Contact Council on 02 4429 3111 to reserve your place as spaces are limited.

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.