# **Shoalhaven High School - Newsletter**

Respect, Responsibility, Safety and Participation



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2021 Term 1 Week 4

Friday 19 February 2021

### **COMING EVENTS**

18 February – School Photos

19 February – Jamberoo Rewards Excursion

23 February – Zone Swimming Carnival

24 February - Marine Studies Excursion

24-26 February – Year 7 Camp

26 February – School Photos Catch Up Day

1-5 March – Totally Smiles Mobile Dentistry

8 March - Sydney Youth Leadership Conference

18 March - P&C AGM

### PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

A very warm welcome back to all our staff, students and the wider community. We have come back to school after what was a well-deserved and hopefully relaxing break. I hope that all our families enjoyed some time together, had a safe enjoyable Christmas and are ready to tackle 2021 energised and enthusiastic.

The 2021 school year has started once again at a fast and furious pace. A special and very warm welcome to our new Year 7 students and their families. My staff and I look forward to working together with all our students in 2021 to ensure each individual receives and takes advantage of the exceptional learning opportunities provided at Shoalhaven High School.

A new school year often brings about many changes, here at Shoalhaven High School it is no different. Over the past 12 months, Shoalhaven High School has had many changes with staff upgrades to our school environment. Shoalhaven High School Executive Team who will lead the school into the future is as follows:

Principal: Mr Damian Rees

**Deputy Principals:** 

Year 8 and 9- Mr McNeil Year 7 and 10- Mr Hunter Years 11 and 12- Mr Dolby

Support- Mrs Amanda Johnstone

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If you have questions or issues that arise please contact us and we can work together to achieve the best outcomes for our students.

During Week 2 Shoalhaven High School held its annual swimming carnival at Nowra Pool. The day was well attended by students and our competition rates increased from previous years. All students who attended were excellent ambassadors for our school and they have set the expectations high for 2021. Mr McNeil will provided a more detailed report on the swimming carnival in this newsletter. A special thank you to the PE staff for their excellent organisation of the day and all staff who helped out with the various jobs required to ensure the day was successful.

At the end of Week 3, our Student Representative Council (SRC) students supported by Ms Wood and staff attended the SRC planning camp held at Shoalhaven Heads. Ms Wood put in a huge amount of time and effort to get the camp off the ground and by all reports it was very successful with, both staff and students, developing a working rapport that will help these young men and women experience success in the secondary education journey.

I would like to bring to the attention of Parents and Carers that E-Cigarettes are a banned item at school and consequences, in line with our student discipline policy, will be put in place for any students found in possession of or using these items. Please see the link below for information on e-cigarettes from NSW Health.

**NSW Health Response** 

To all our new and existing families our P & C AGM will be held on Thursday 18 March - Week 8. The meeting will take place in the Library and start at 4:30pm. I would encourage as many parents as possible to attend and help support our students at Shoalhaven High School by becoming involved the education journey.

### Damian Rees Principal

### **SCHOOL UNIFORM**

The school instituted changes to our Uniform Policy in 2020.

The new policy is on our SHS website (under About our school -> Rules and policies -> Uniform Policy) or from the following link:

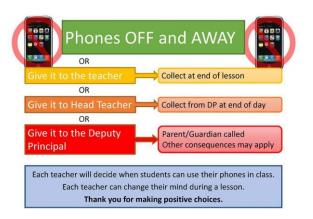
### **School Uniform Policy**

Please be aware that wearing school uniform is a Work, Health and Safety issue and part of our school rules.

We encourage everyone to read the policy and support our school by ensuring students wear school uniform every school day.

### **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.



### **EARLY DEPARTURE**

Dear Parent/Caregivers

The NSW Department of Education updated their COVID-19 guidelines on the 29/01/2021. The guidelines for the mixing of students and having whole school indoor events remain the same as they were in Term 4. As a result we are still not able to hold whole assemblies for the foreseeable future.

Thursday Early Departure (Week A -3 5, 7 & 9) - Due to the fact we cannot hold whole school events, we have maintained an early finish, but, this has moved to Thursday, Week A. I have been in talks with Transport NSW to negotiate an early pick up for our bus students but at the present time our bus schedule remains the same. To ensure the safety of all students the following procedures have been put in place from Thursday 11th February for our early finish:

- All students with local addresses in the East Nowra, Nowra, South Nowra and Worrigee areas will have a personalised early leavers pass with the name and address indicated. At the conclusion of the school day these students will exit via the school gates and show their cards to the Deputy Principals stationed at the gates. ALL other students will remain inside the school gates and be supervised by staff rostered on. The library is also available for extra study and catch up work.
- Exceptions to the Above: Any non-local student who brings a note each early Thursday from a Parent/Carer will be permitted to sign out and be collected by their Parent/Carer. These students show their note to the Deputy Principals stationed at the exit gates.

The early finish does NOT impact on curriculum and teaching time. As a school we value the time for our assemblies so we can communicate school expectations and celebrate whole school achievements.

Thank you for your ongoing support with these arrangements. These have been put in place to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all our students.

If you have any concerns or questions please do not hesitate to contact the school on 4421 8022 or shoalhaven-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au

Kind regards,

**Damian Rees** 

Principal

### **YEAR 7 KINDNESS CHALLENGE**

Mr Rees, Mr Hunter and Miss Talbert were delighted to present our wonderful Year 7 student, Ronin, with this fortnight's Kindness Award. Each fortnight, the Year 7 Year Advisor puts out a kindness challenge. This fortnight, the challenge was to make an effort to get to know someone you have not met before. Ronin went above and beyond to meet and help out some of his new peers. Ronin received a Year Advisor Award and a little treat from the canteen, to reward his amazing-ness. Year 7 are encouraged to listen to the daily notices for the next challenge.



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### **BABY GOATS**

Bertie had a surprise for us on Monday. She has given birth to two adorable twin boys Marco and Polo.





### **LIBRARY NEWS**

Did you know our school Library has an Instagram page?

Head on over to 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.



### **LIBRARY LESSONS WITH YEAR 7**

Week 3 marked the start of fortnightly library lessons with Year 7. During their orientation, students were given a run-down of all the services Shoalhaven High School's Library has to offer as well as a tour to help familiarise them with the space. Students also had the opportunity to peruse our extensive fiction selection with a few leaping at the opportunity to borrow their first book (or two) for the year.

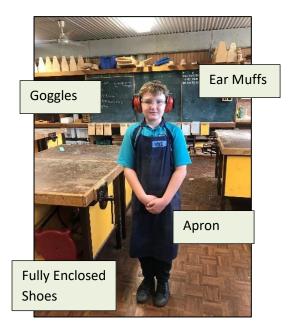




### **INDUSTRIAL ARTS NEWS**

Welcome back to a new year in the Industrial Arts Faculty at Shoalhaven High School. As a faculty we have hit the ground running with our main focus on SAFETY.

All classes from Senior Multimedia to Junior Mandatory Technology have been working through the importance of 'Safety in a Practical Work Space'. Students have been involved in classroom discussion and the completion of Safety Tests to bring their awareness back to the importance of 'Safety in an Industrial Environment'. Watch this space, more news to come in future newsletters.







Student working on the Drill Press with correct PPE



Student working on the Lathe with correct PPE

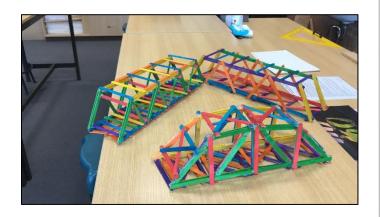
### **YEAR 12 ENGINEERING STUDIES**

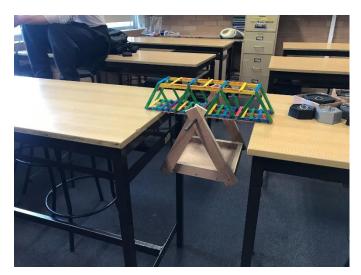
As a unit of work the Year 12 class have been focused on Civil Structures. Civil Structures take many forms.

For the purpose of this topic bridges, bridge technologies, materials and the processes involved in their development and construction of such a structure has been the main focus.

As part of this unit the students were required to design a truss bridge spanning 450mm made from paddle pop sticks and hot glue. Total maximum weight of the truss must not exceed the weight of 50 paddle pop sticks.

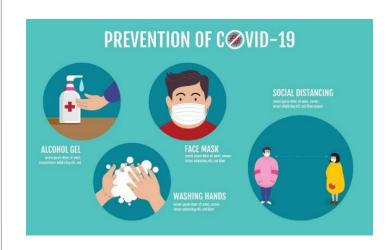
Congratulations to Jayden M who managed to build a Truss Bridge that was able to hold the weight of 11 bricks with a total weight of 41.8 kg.











### **WALLAWANI**

The Junior IM class painted the WALLAWANI letters as a gift for Aunty Pat and the AEO staff.









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### **SRC CAMP**

Last week the SRC attended a planning camp at Shoalhaven Heads.

They identified the key areas they want to focus on for the year, and developed a plan to carry it out. Along with the planning, students participated in team building activities including canoeing and beach scavenger hunts.

All students had the opportunity to voice what they and other students in their year group felt should be a priority for action this year.

Thank you to <u>Holiday Haven Shoalhaven Heads</u>, <u>Nowra Farmers Market</u>, <u>Bakehouse Delights</u> and <u>East Nowra Butchery</u> for your support.











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### **LEGO ROBOTICS**

The first Lego Robotics elective is underway. In only a few lessons the students of class zLegoz have achieved a lot. The robots have been built and most of them are moving quite successfully. A couple of groups have decided to go off the beaten track and create their own robot design (rather than follow the instruction manual) which is presenting some problems with their movement control. One group has even managed to program their 'bot' to play the theme tune of certain children's TV show!

The first task (after building the robot) was to drive the robot along a road, turn into a junction and park. A couple of the groups have achieved this goal already and are exploring their programming in a bit more depth to improve accuracy and reliability. The goal for the end of this term is to have each group enter their robot into a Sumo Robot competition. Last robot remaining in the circle is the winner! More photos and video later this term.

For now: "Eat, Sleep, Robot, Repeat!"











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### SHARE THE DIGNITY

# SHARE THE Dignity

On 11 December last year, the International Studies students raised awareness for the charity, 'Share the Dignity'. As part of the day, students were asked to dress in pink, purple or red and bring a donation of a gold coin or sanitary products. We are so proud of the support of Shoalhaven High School staff and students who managed to raise over \$200 and had an enormous offering of sanitary products for donation. We look forward to offering the items as part of the Dignity Drive which begins March 1st.

A special shout out to Charlie B in Year 10 for leading the initiative.

For more information, check out:

**Share the Dignity** 



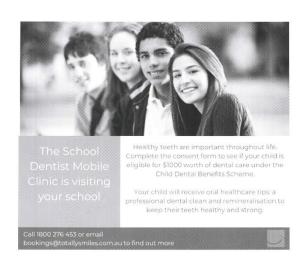
### **TOTALLY SMILES DENTISTRY**

Totally Smiles Dentistry is attending Shoalhaven High School from 1 March until 5 March.

Booking an appointment can be done

online through the following website:
 <a href="https://mobiledentistry.totallysmiles.com.au/consent-forms/consent-e-form/">https://mobiledentistry.totallysmiles.com.au/consent-forms/consent-e-form/</a>,

- from the QR code on the mobile dentistry handout or
- you can get a hard copy from Mrs Horgan.





### **BOOK REVIEW COMPETITION**

Time to start reading those books and writing a review. Let Mrs Brook know what you thought about it. Grab an enter from the library today. Competition ends Friday Week 9. Winners announced Week 10.





### **SPORT NEWS**

After a limited amount of sport being able to be played last year due to COVID-19, this year is jammed packed with a lot of opportunities for students to be involved in and participate in various sports. The PE staff will nominate as many teams as we possibly can if we have enough students wanting to play.

In the first four weeks we have already sent nominations in for various South Coast Trials. There are plenty more coming up in the next few weeks, so students are encouraged to listen to the notices in the morning for up and coming trials and competitions for both South Coast teams and School teams. A special mention to Year 11 student Luke Jones who has already been selected in the South Coast Open Cricket team which is to compete later this year.

There are lots of different sporting events happening this term and some of our events include:

- Secondary 15 years and under touch football on 16 February
- Zone Swimming Carnival at Bomaderry Pool on 23 February
- South Coast boys Hockey Trials on 23
   February
- South Coast Netball Trials on 24 February
- SHS Zone Basketball Boys and Girls Basketball on 26 February
- South Coast 16 boys and under AFL Trial on 26 February
- South Coast Swimming Carnival on 9 March
- South Coast boys football trials on the 3
   March
- South Coast girls football trials on the 4 March
- U15s and Opens Boys Rugby League on the 11 March
- South Coast boys Basketball 16 March
- South Coast Girls Basketball 25 March
- South Coast Opens boys and girls touch football trials 22 March

competitions this term. U13s, U15s and Opens Rugby League, U14s and U16s league tag, Opens boys and girls Basketball, Opens boys and girls soccer, Opens boys and girls volleyball and U15s and Opens cricket are all being played at some stage during the first term.

In addition students have the great opportunity of completing their Rugby League Refereeing Certificate which will be run at school by NRL staff. This course will enable students to help at primary school gala days during the year as well as providing them with qualifications to referee on the weekend and assist their local clubs.

Lastly, a massive congratulations to the following students who have been selected by the peers as the 2021 House Captains and Vice Captains;

<u>Sharks</u> – Talyah C, Lucas C, Alexis C and Tyson B <u>Stingrays</u> – Kirra J, Luke J, Kirra I and Blake N <u>Dolphins</u> - Jasmine G, Braedon G, Izabella D <u>Marlins</u> – Hayley W, Jarrod S, Corey W and Gabby W

If you are interested in any of these events, see Miss Patterson, Mr Fakhoury or Miss Aird in the PE staffroom for more information.

We look forward providing as many sporting opportunities as we can and look forward to seeing everyone succeed and have fun this year.

PE Staff ☺

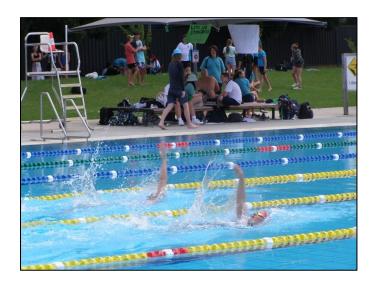
#goshoalie



Shoalhaven High will also be playing against other schools in our zone in a variety of CHS sporting

### SHS SWIMMING CARNIVAL

On the 3 February Shoalhaven High School's Annual Swimming Carnival was held at the Nowra Aquatic Park. With the swimming carnival being our first official sporting event back after a tough year of limited sport year due to COVID-19, you could tell our students were excited to be to a part of the day. Students and staff were dressed in an array of colourful red, green, blue and purple to support each of their team houses, from a red hot chilli's outfit's to purple and blue tulle. It was great day had by all with fantastic participation and some outstanding performances.



Congratulations to the age champions, who are listed, below for their outstanding efforts on the day and well done to the Sharks house who took out the top spot for the day.

A special mention to Jasmine G who broke 6 records, Charlotte G who broke 2 records and Bianca G who broke 1 record on the day – a superb effort by these three students.

Students who placed in the top two, in every event, have been selected to represent our school at the Zone Swimming Carnival. This carnival will take place on February 23 at Bomaderry Pool.

### **Age Champions**

### Girl

12 years Amelia C
13 years Bianca G
14 years Millie M
15 Years Charlotte G
16 Years Kirra J
17 Years Jasmine G



### Boy

12 years Tulli K and Ronin M

13 years Oscar B
14 years Luke B
15 Years William D
16 Years Jack A
17 Years Samuel W

### **House Champions**

1st Sharks, 2nd Marlins, 3rd Dolphins, 4th Stingrays















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### **NRL TRAINING CLINIC**

On Wednesday 10 February, the St George Illawarra Dragons attended Shoalhaven High School and had our students participate in various activities to improve their overall rugby league skills, fitness and team sportsmanship.



The students were provided the opportunity to be out on the field with Tariq Sims, Bud Sullivan and Adam Clune who put students through their paces with modified games, kicking and a final challenge of attempting to catch high bombs and torpedos.

A massive thank you to the Dragons and the NRL for giving up their time and providing our students with an opportunity that does not come around very often to play alongside these elite athletes.



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### **HOMEWORK CENTRE**

**Homework Centre** 

### **Shoalhaven High School**

Our Homework Centre is back on for 2021! All of our students are welcome. What you need to know:

- It's on Monday and Wednesday
- From 3pm 5pm
- It's in the Library
- \$1 for afternoon tea cake and a juice or hot chocolate
- · We have teachers here to help you with your study, homework and assignments
- · You can use the computers and printer
- · You can access our book collections for research

### **BREAKFAST CLUB**

Breakfast Club is on Wednesday and Friday. It is held at the Uniform Shop. Come and say hi and grab a cheese toast and chocolate milk.





### **RELAY FOR LIFE**

Relay for Life is happening on the 20 March 2021. It will be a virtual relay on Facebook. Each registered team can do their own fundraising their way!

Shoalies 1 is our team.

We are going to join Callala Crusaders to walk from Callala Bay Community Centre opposite shops to Callala Beach Community Hall and return, starting at 9am to 12pm on Saturday 13th March 2021. Any Shoalhaven students and families and staff who would like to join us just turn up with your slip, slop and slap, water, hat and comfortable shoes.

A gold coin donation to enter. If you would like to join our team or donate online go to Nowra Relay for Life 2021 and find Shoalies 1.

https://www.cancercouncil.org.au/relayforlife/tea ms/ei00142322/

The office has raffle ticket books at \$2 a ticket or 3 for \$5



### **NEWS FROM CAREERS**

### **2021 National Adolescent Vaccination Program**

<u>Year 7 - Year 7 students</u> (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.

Visit 1 25 March 2021

Visit 2 11 November 2021

Permission notes and information will be distributed to students next week .

Notes to be returned as soon as possible either signed or with a note regarding alternative vaccination.

<u>Year 8</u> - students who did not receive the first or second vaccinations in 2020.

Vaccination 20 May 2021

Notes were returned in 2020. If the students did not receive a vaccination in 2020, they can request a note. Year 10

Year 10 students have the opportunity to receive the free Meningococcal vaccination as part of the National program this year.

Vaccination – 29 July 2021

Notes and information will be distributed this term. Further information available from Mrs Rosskelly (Careers Hub) or Lisa Horgan (Student Support officer).

### **University of Wollongong**

<u>Discovery Day for Year 12</u> - Wednesday 17 February Four Year 12 students explored courses and university life at UOW Wollongong Campus. Students select four workshops in a variety of faculty areas and now have a better understanding of courses and life and procedures in the world of university.

Thank you to UOW for providing free transport for the day.

<u>UOW Early Entry</u> - opens 19 July <u>ÚOW OPEN DAY</u> for students and parent/ carers -Saturday 7 August

<u>UOW "Future Me" Program</u> - Year 12 applications open this week

The Year 12 Future Me Program is designed to provide Year 12 students with the support to get the most out of their HSC year with regular sessions in Terms 2 and 3.

Over fifteen school weeks, they receive online skill development to assist in the HSC and beyond, as well

as engaging in peer learning with trained In2Uni mentors from UOW.

Benefits of the program include:

The Year 12 Future Me Program will deliver content in a blended mix of online and on campus (COVID-19 permitting capacity) during Terms 2 and 3 of 2021.

The program includes:

- Online HSC study support
- Online Transition to University content
- Soft Skill webinars and lectures
- Live Q&A sessions with University of Wollongong Mentors
- Support with university applications
- Eligible to attend the UOW HSC Super Study Week (date to be confirmed)
- Opportunities to visit your local UOW campus (COVID-permitting)

There is no cost

Links for more information and application: <a href="https://www.uow.edu.au/engage/outreach-pathways/year-12/year-12-summer/">https://www.uow.edu.au/engage/outreach-pathways/year-12/year-12-summer/</a>

<u>UOW Learning Labs</u> – for students from Years 1 to 10

Learning Labs is an academic and creative arts enrichment program for high-achieving students from Year 1 to Year 10. Learning Labs offers one- or two-day workshops during the school holidays that cover numerous interest areas.

https://www.uow.edu.au/engage/outreach-pathways/learning-labs/

### **Shoalhaven Productivity Bootcamp**

Productivity Bootcamp is a concentrated 8-week program, giving young people the construction skills and work values needed to succeed in the industry, with hands-on experience in many trades.

A new Nowra opportunity for young people who have left school and a training center in Flinders Estate South Nowra.

Applications are open:

mailto:info@productivitybootcamp.com.au

### **2021 Career Lessons**

### Years 9 and 10

Students will explore careers, prepare a resume and apply for a Tax File numbers and Unique Student Identification number (USI)

Year 9 - Terms 1 and 4

Year 10 - Terms 2 and 3

Lessons on work expectations and preparation for work experience

### **Work Experience**

Year 10 - Term 3 Week 8 (30 August to 3 Sept)

Year 9 - Term 4 Week 8 (22 Nov to 26 Nov)

Note: more specific work experience applications are required for

- Shoalhaven City Council
- Australian Defence Force
- Taronga Zoo (applications close 28 Feb )

https://taronga.org.au/get-involved/school-work-experience/sydney

Year 10 also have opportunities to explore careers to assist subject selection for senior school

Early Term 3, Year 10 will finalise their subject selections for senior school.

### **Worksmart Activities And Courses**

Career Advisors will provide opportunities for students to complete courses, attend workshops, participate in experiences outside school, in school and online.

Updates will be in Shoalhaven High School newsletters, Facebook page and directly to student's email. Students are encouraged to check their school (or work) email and participate in opportunities that interest them.

Online learning opportunities include developing gaming programs, understanding coding, art, writing and exploring many careers. Check them out.

### Australian Defence Force Visit

Term 1 – date to be finalized.

### Army Cadets – Shoalhaven

HMAS Albatross on Wednesday evenings commencing in March.

Students must be at least 13 years (or year 8) and no older than 16 years.

Brochures with contacts and more information in Careers Hub.

# Workers, Health & Safety (WHS) Construction Induction Course

Thursday 27th May and another course in Term 4
This "white card" course is the compulsory for
students doing work or work experience on a
construction site.

Cost \$100 (\$20 subsidy for each students may be available if we can seek the funding).

### **Rural Fire Training**

Tuesday to Thursday 14 - 16 September Year 10 students have the opportunity to complete the Basic Rural Fire Training Certificate. It is a combination of online learning and three days at the Shoalhaven Emergency Centre.

### First Aid

Tuesday 7 and Wednesday 8 December Cost \$85 (\$20 subsidy for each students may be available if we can seek the funding).

Register in Careers Hub

### Apprenticeships, Traineeships, Jobs

Many full time, part time and casual positions are currently available in the Shoalhaven.

To find them

- Register and check daily with ADZUNA and SEEK apps
- Facebook Shoalhaven Jobs
- South Coast Register
- Shop windows and promotions
- Business websites such as Coles, Woolworths, KFC, McDonalds

# Warning - Check who you are forwarding your resume to online.

McDonalds

**Hungry Jacks** 

Coles

Subway

**KFC** 

Leaf - Nowra

Wastewater traineeship (Shoalhaven Water)

https://www.hvtc.com.au/jobs

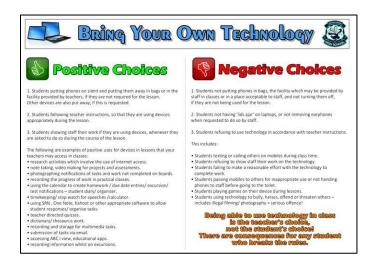
Warehouse traineeship (South Nowra)

https://www.hvtc.com.au/jobs

### **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** 





### **UNIFORM POLICY**

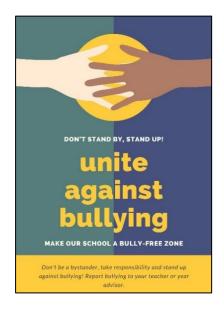
The Shoalhaven High School Uniform Policy is found on our School website under 'Our School' or click on the link

### 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**

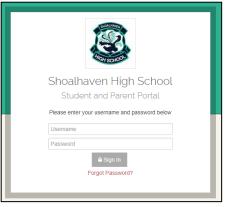


### STUDENT TIMETABLES

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



password.



# 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 (<a href="www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/symptoms-and-testing">www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/symptoms-and-testing</a>). 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 <a href="https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/schoolvaccination">www.health.nsw.gov.au/schoolvaccination</a>

NSW Ministry of Health
ABN 92 697 899 630
100 Christie Street, St Leonards NSW 2065
Locked Mail Bag 961, North Sydney NSW 2059
Tel (02) 9391 9000 Fax (02) 9391 9101
Website: www.health.nsw.gov.au



Public Schools NSW

### **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

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.



NSW DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

LEARNING AND ENGAGEMEN

WWW.SCHOOLS.NSW.EDU.AU



### 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.

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.

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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### **COMMUNITY NEWS**







Welcome to Soccer 2021. Rego is Open.

Closes 19th Feb 2021

Come Join our Club

Have some Fun

Meet New People

Make New Friends

Rego Fees

- 5-11's \$100 (Active Kids Voucher = Free Rego)
- 12-17's \$140 (Active Kids Voucher = \$40 out of pocket)
- Seniors \$290
- 18's \$150

(Under 18's \$150)

(Students 18+ \$255)

Active Kids Voucher Accepted

Contact us through Facebook/ Website or Contact Jarrad 0466699419 or Anna 0434350338







Respect, Responsibility, Safety & Participation

# Conline safety webinars for your parent and carer community The education team at eSafety has been working on a new free webinar series for parents and carers, to be delivered live in 2021. The demand for our popular parent and carer webinars in 2020 prompted us to develop the 2021 series to support school communities. Each term, we will effer a new topic that will trun numerous times. These webinars will provide parents and carers with the knowledge, skills and tools to support their children to have safe, positive online experiences. This is especially important in an era when we are all online more than ever before. The Term 1 webinar topic is eSafety's guide to cyberbullying and online drama. This will be offerred five times over the term. We will ker you know when the topics for the following terms are announced. Attached is eSafety's 2021 webbinar schedule. We would be grateful if you could note the dates as you start planning the year ahead, then advertise them in 2021 through your communication channels with parents and carers. Thank you in advance for your support. Please get in touch if you have any questions. Lucy Kimpton Senior Outreach Coordinator outreach@esafety.gox.au 02 6219 5341











FREE CHILD MINDING AVAILABLE (BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL)

Date: Starting Thurs, 11 Feb 2021 for 8 weeks Time: 10.00am - 12.30pm (lunch included)

Cost: FREE

Place: Family Services Australia 1/80 Park Road, Nowra

To book your spot, call Kylie on 0429 312 390

or Helen on 4283 8111





nent of Social Services.



- Auskick (Under 5-Under 7) for girls and boys on Thursday afternoons 4:30 to 5:30 at Nowra Showgrounds starting 26th of March
   Junior competition football with mixed teams for under 9's, 11's and 13's, boys teams for under 15's and 17's, and girls teams for

Junior competition football with mixed teams for under 9s, 11s and 13's, boys teams for under 15's and 17's, and girls tean under 12's, 15's and 17's age groups.
 Training 4:30 to 6:00pm Thursdays at Nowra Showgrounds. With games on Sundays.
 Further opportunities with representative selections and elite academies ran by AFL South Coast.
 Registration is every Thursday evening between 4:30pm and 5:30pm in March at Nowra Showgrounds, West St Nowra, or any training session from 4th March.

For further information, please contact President Greg Muffet on 0402 470 537 or by email at bornaderryjafo@



### **Teaching someone** to drive can be a happy experience.

Supervising a Learner Driver?

You can learn all the simple steps on how to teach a learner driver at a FREE twohour workshop.

The workshops will be held on

Where: Orchid Training Room – Nowra Administration Centre, Bridge Road Time; 9.30 -11.30am

Call Shoalhaven City Councils Road Safety Officer on (02) 4429 3111 or email council@shoalhaven.nsw.gov.au to regist

Registration is essential as numbers are limited

Helping learner drivers become safe drivers







stay updated via our social media: instagram-@youthforchangeshoalhaven facebook-Youth for Change, Shoalhaven

Youth for Change is a non-political group of young people in the Shoalhaven. We discuss issues that are relevant and important to us such as mental health, equality and the environment. We then develop community based projects to create positive change in the Shoalhaven. We meet on the

Our next meeting is Friday12th of February at 6pm, all are welcome

first Friday of every month at Bomaderry Bowling Club, pizza provided.





### **NSW PARENT/CARER ONLINE WORKSHOP**



Join us for an online workshop where you will have the opportunity to listen, share and learn with parents and carers who support young people on the autism spectrum, from across New South Wales.

This online workshop is for parents, fulltime carers and grandparents. Join other families to learn more about autism and ways to strengthen the home-school

During the online workshops, we will cover three topics:

- · diversity of autism
- understanding behaviour
- · working together with your child's school

Location: New South Wales via zoom online

Date:

Tuesday 9th March 2021

Time

Wed 9:30 AM - 2:30 PM (AEDT)

http://

For more information and to register, visit www.positivepartnerships.com.au or contact Laura Owens <u>lauraowens@autismspectrum.org.au</u>



### 2021 Season

- Season start date 20th March 2021
- We currently have available spots in the following age groups:
  - U6 minis play Saturdays
  - \* u7 minis play Saturdays
  - \* U11 graded comp, play Saturdays (experienced u10's eligible)
     \* U12 girls full field comp, play Saturdays, limited spots

  - \* U12 boys full field comp, play Saturdays, limited spots
  - $^{st}$  U14 girls full field comp, play Saturdays, limited spots

We accept Active kids Vouchers!

Training advised by coaches upon team allocations Uniform store dates to be advised on our Facebook page.

For the dads, we have spots available in our senior men's teams!

For all enquiries visit our Facebook page: St Georges Basin Football Club or email: basinsoccer@gmail.com

basinfcrego@gmail.com



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.