

Shoalhaven High School - Newsletter

Respect, Responsibility, Safety and Participation



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2021 Term 3 Week 4

Friday 6 August 2021

COMING EVENTS

9 September – R U OK Day

17 September – End of Term 3

5 October – Start of Term 4

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

As Term 3 draws to close, we reflect on what a different term it has been. I think we need to draw on our school community's strength at a time like this. I want to thank all our staff and families for the commitment and support as we transitioned to remote learning during Week 6. It was a quick reaction from the NSW Government to introduce stay at home orders and inform us that the school had to operate under stay at home restrictions. The school staff moved quickly to ensure our students had access to online classes and hard copy work packs for the weeks that followed. During this time of remote learning, please ensure you look after the wellbeing of your children as they learn from home, encourage regular breaks from the screen and the hard copy learning and please only complete what you can during this time. When we return to school, we will ask that all students who have been working from hard copy packs return them to their teachers so we can acknowledge the work that has been completed.

As we move forward into Term 4, the future is still unknown and uncertain. What I do know and can share with you is the following:

1. We are under stay at home orders until midnight 10 September and until that time we continue to learn from home in line with the public health order.
2. If stay at home orders are lifted on the 10 September, then we return to face to face teaching Week 10 this term 13-17 September. If we return to school during this week the remaining Year 12 Trial HSC examinations will continue.
3. If stay at home orders are extended beyond 10 September, then we continue to operate under

remote learning in line with the public health order until the stay at home orders are lifted.

More information on the school's operation will be provided later in the week when a decision is made about the stay at home orders from NSW Health and the NSW Government. As we return to face to face teaching and learning at some point, it is important that I share with you it will be under restrictions. When we will return to school, after public health orders are lifted, we will operate under Level 3 restrictions:

Level 3 Restrictions- This will require all staff and students in Years 7-12 to always wear a face mask while indoors and outdoors. Some exemptions may apply to students with medical conditions and these will need to be provided to the school. Wearing of face masks is also in the public health order and students or staff who do not wish to wear a face mask will be asked to leave the school site. Level 3 also sees that we will need to return to a staggered timetable that minimises the mingling of cohorts (please see the attached bell times and timetables for Level 3). No assemblies, no sport and no non-essential visitors to school sites including parent's/carers are also included under the school's Level 3 operation.

Overview	Guidance on mask wearing
Level 1 School operating in a COVID-neutral way	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• High level of mask wearing in the school community• Community use of the school grounds is not permitted• School facilities are open for use in accordance with the Department's guidelines• School facilities are open for use in accordance with the Department's guidelines
Level 2 COVID-safe further restrictions on activities and non-essential visitors	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mask wearing is required in the school community• School facilities are open for use in accordance with the Department's guidelines• School facilities are open for use in accordance with the Department's guidelines
Level 3 COVID-safe further restrictions on activities and non-essential visitors	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mask wearing is required in the school community• School facilities are open for use in accordance with the Department's guidelines• School facilities are open for use in accordance with the Department's guidelines
Level 4 School operating in a COVID-neutral way	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• High level of mask wearing in the school community• Community use of the school grounds is not permitted• School facilities are open for use in accordance with the Department's guidelines

Once again, I cannot thank our wider school community, our staff, our parent's/carers and most importantly our students as we navigate a pandemic and learning from home a second time. Without this support, it would not be possible to ensure our students are maintaining engagement in their education.

On a brighter note, I would like to congratulate Jasmine Greenwood on her amazing effort at the 2021 Paralympic Games. Just to get to the games was a pure demonstration of resilience and determination. Jasmine maintained both these traits during the 2019-2020 bushfires, 2020 COVID 19, cancellation of the 2020 games and floods. Jasmine completed in 4 events, made the finals in all four and won SILVER in the 100m Fly. Just such an amazing effort for a young student athlete and we can't wait until we see you at the 2024 games moving into the gold medal spot. A wonderful achievement from a gracious and humble student.

Please keep an eye on our school website, Facebook page and email for more information on our return to school. When the stay at home orders are lifted, we genuinely look forward to watching our students walk back through the door.

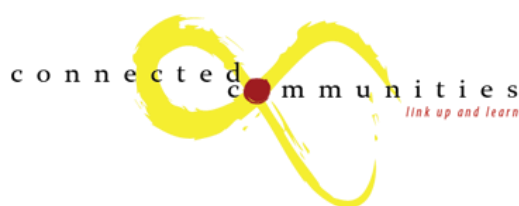
Stay safe and stay strong and thanks again for your continued support.

Damian Rees

Executive Principal

Connected Communities

Shoalhaven High School



COVID LEVEL 3 TIMETABLE

The timetable for Level 3 for students returning to school is based on staggered break times for students, minimising the number of students in the playground during breaks.

Year 9, 10, 11 and Support (2,2,2 period structure)		Year 7, 8 and 12 (3,2,1 period structure)	
Roll Call	8:30 - 8:40	Roll Call	8:30 - 8:40
Period 1	8:40 - 9:31	Period 1	8:40 - 9:31
Period 2	9:30 - 10:22	Period 2	9:30 - 10:22
Early Long Break	10:22 - 11:02	Period 3	10:22 - 11:13
Period 3	11:02 - 11:53	Late Long Break	11:13 - 11:53
Period 4	11:53 - 12:44	Period 4	11:53 - 12:44
Early Short Break	12:44 - 1:04	Period 5	12:44 - 1:35
Period 5	1:04 - 1:55	Late Short Break	1:35 - 1:55
Period 6	1:55 - 2:46	Period 6	1:55 - 2:46

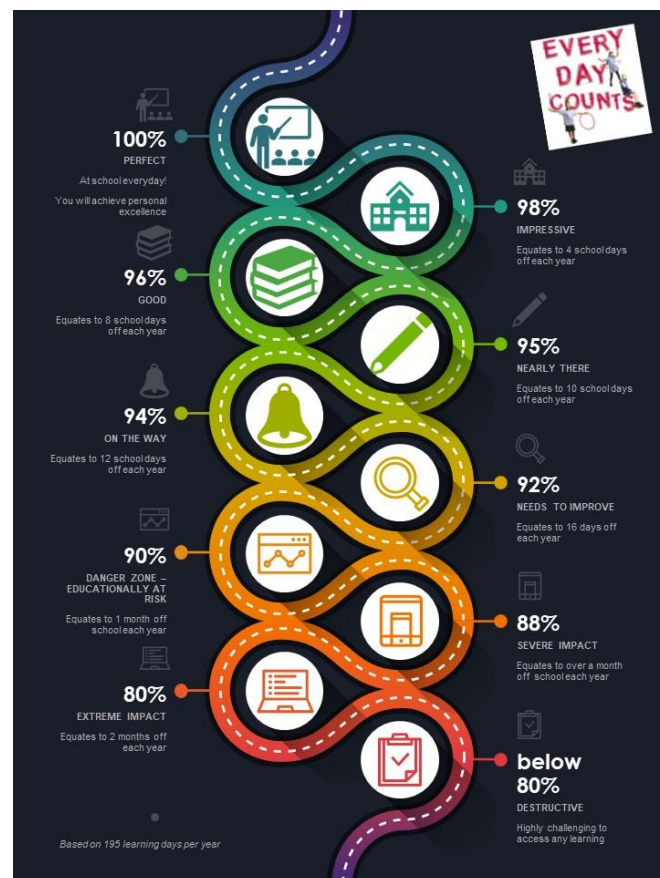
Sport - Wednesday

At 12:44pm Wednesday all students have a short break, followed by "PE Activities for Years 7 -10 and Tutotials for Year 11 and 12.

Period 6 moves to Period 4.

Option to sign out for Year 7-10.

ATTENDANCE



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.

Further information is available from the following link:

[Uniform Guidelines](#)

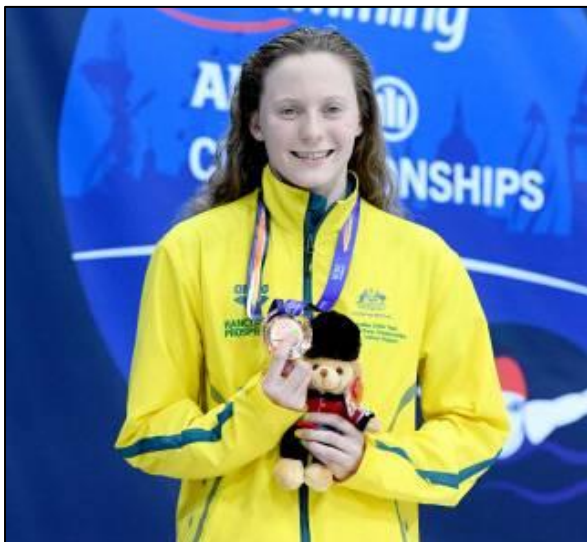
We encourage everyone to read the policy and guidelines and support our school by ensuring students wear school uniform every school day.

JASMINE GREENWOOD

Year 11 student, Jasmine Greenwood has competed at the Tokyo 2020, Paralympic Games. She qualified in four events; The S10 100-metre freestyle, S10 100-metre butterfly, S10 100-metre backstroke and the S10 200-metre individual medley.

She is a member of Bay and Basin swimming club and trains under coach Bob McEvoy.

Jasmine was selected to compete at her first international event – the 2017 IPC World Championships in Mexico – when she was just 12 years old. In her debut outing at the 2018 Commonwealth Games, she placed a commendable fifth overall in two events – the Women's 100m Breaststroke (SB9) and the Women's 200m Individual Medley (SM10). This was followed up by two bronze medals at the Para Pan Pacs in Cairns in the same year. In 2019, Jasmine claimed bronze in the 100m butterfly S10 at the 2019 World Para-swimming Championships.



Jasmine has put in years of hard work and dedication to get to where she is and is a role model in our school community.

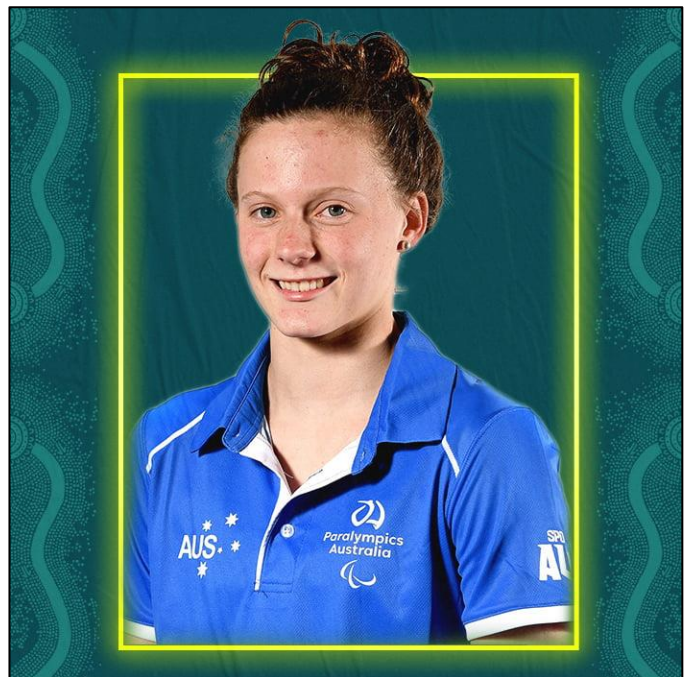


South Coast Register

Jasmine's results from the Tokyo Paralympics are:

- Won silver in the Women's 100m Butterfly (S10)
- Placed 4th in the Women's 100m Individual Medley (SM10)
- Placed 5th in the Women's 100m Backstroke (S10)
- Placed 5th in the Women's 100m Freestyle (S10)

What an amazing effort. Congratulations! Shoalhaven High School is proud of her efforts and congratulate her on each of her events.



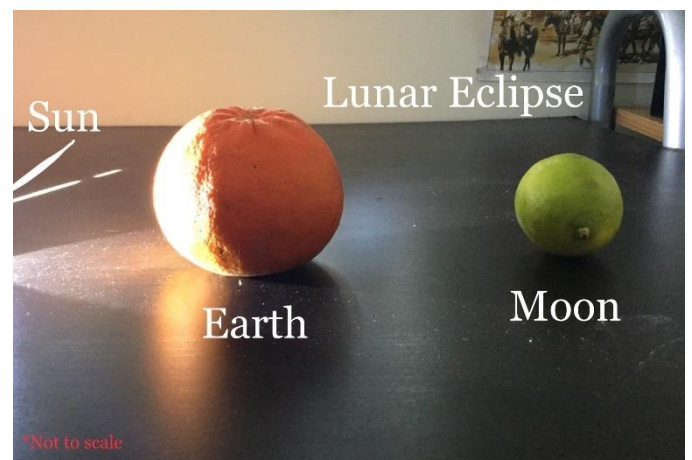
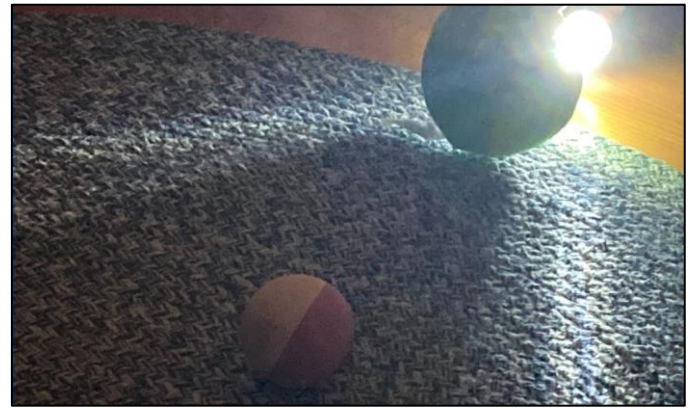
JASMINE ON CLICKVIEW

Jasmine's races are in the process of being uploaded to Clickview. The first is up and available and they will have the rest ready soon. There will be a folder created within our Archives section for the races in our Clickview library. This will enable staff and students to easily locate and view the videos. Just sign in with your school email and password to access Clickview at home.

<https://clickv.ie/w/GLfr>

YEAR 7 SCIENCE

Who said that online learning couldn't be hands on? Definitely not Year 7, who have been busy this morning modelling the positions of the Moon, Sun and Earth during solar and lunar eclipses. Can you determine which type of eclipse each photo is modelling?



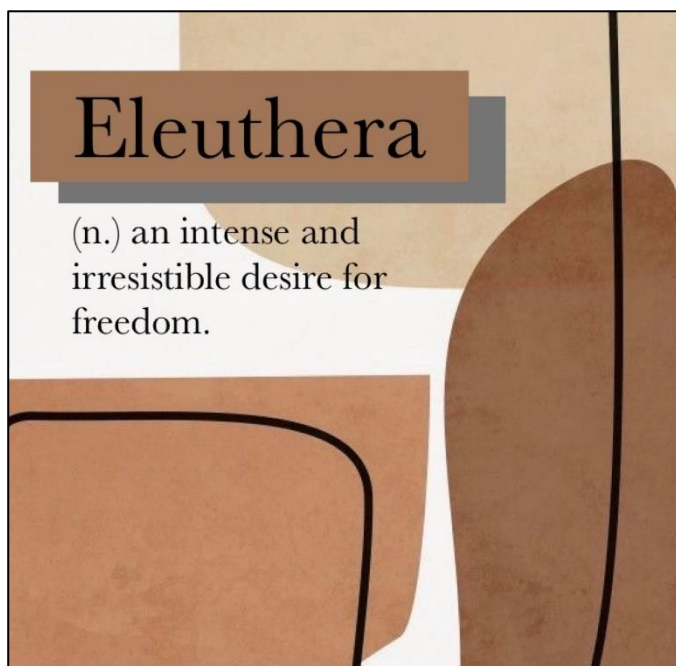
WE ARE ELEUTHERA!

Eleuthera is a podcast created by some of your favourite students- Gabbi, Lexy and Bella (Year 11). We have created it to try and educate the younger generation of women, by sharing advice, our own experiences and other valuable information relating to topics that any teen girl will face. Our aim was to answer those taboo questions that some girls may struggle with or don't feel comfortable to ask in person, and so by creating a podcast where we talk about these important subjects is a helpful outlet. We began our project at the South Coast Youth Leadership Forum back in 2020, then moved on to changemakers in 2021 where we were able to build on the idea and record it.

Thanks to the help of Sonder Youth, we have been able to publish our podcast and launched it to SPOTIFY! Yes, SPOTIFY! We are so grateful for this opportunity and wanted to share this achievement with you guys and the school, in hopes to promote Eleuthera.

You can find more information on our instagram page, @eleutheraaus, and we have also shared a link below for spotify, where you will find our introduction to Eleuthera! We hope you guys enjoy our little passion project, and would much appreciate it if you could spread the word!

<https://open.spotify.com/show/0NXYsqiNuMgFi5pBkVjSiZ>



9ENGK LOCKDOWN ADVICE

As we draw close to the end of week three of lockdown, some of our wonderful students have started to share some things that have helped them get through. Of course, learning from home has been different and difficult; however, 9ENGK believe that they can share some advice that will help us to survive another week with a smile on our faces.

- "Get lots of fresh air and give yourself plenty of breaks from the screen" – Miss Talbert
- "Find some new hobbies" – Emily
- "Don't take things too seriously" - Giorjet
- "Have time outside" – Dylan
- "If your finding lockdown tough maybe find a new hobby. It could be baking, crochet, juggling pretty much anything that takes your mind of all your work" – Anonymous



Some of our lovely 9ENGK students joining Zoom with their English teacher, Miss Talbert. Mrs Fox also made a sneaky appearance.

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.



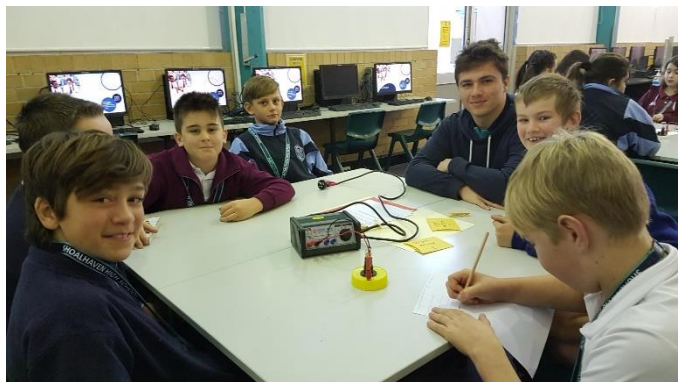
QR CODE BOOKMARKS



Don't forget to check out the QR code Bookmarks. Use a QR code reader on your phone, scan the code and the codes will lead you to a book review or trailer which can help you to choose a new book.

STEM DAY

On August 2nd, Year 6 students from the surrounding schools visited our library to participate in a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Maths) Day. Many careers use problem solving skills and these subject areas, so it was a great way to encourage young students to consider their future schooling. Thanks go to Ms Hybinett and Mr Woods for their organisation and the fun learning they provided as the students (with the help of some of our own) solved problems which may be faced by astronauts visiting Mars. Don't forget to check out the QR code Bookmarks. The codes will lead you to a book review or trailer and can help you to choose a new book.



AUSTRALIAN YOUNG WRITERS CREATIVE WRITING COMPETITION



Theme - Mental Health: Post Pandemic Recovery Challenges and Resilience

Submit by 15 September 2021, 11:59pm

You can write a play, a poem, or story... the style is up to you. However, your creative piece should be about what you feel, think of, or have experienced when it comes to mental health. If you want to write about a mental health problem or mental illness, then you may do so, however, we do also encourage you to take the opportunity provided to promote positive mental health and wellbeing.

**Open to all Australian primary and secondary school students.*

Please email your submission to Ms Bailey laurinda.bailey@det.nsw.edu.au to be uploaded as the submission form requires a teacher's details to be included. This competition is free and has a monetary prize.

Read more about the competition here:
https://www.mhfa.org.au/cms/mhfa-young-australian-writers-award?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=mhfa_young_writers_award_2021&utm_term=2021-08-31



YEAR 11 BIOLOGY

These are photos from week 1 of Term 3 when Year 11 Biology students travelled to Huskisson to conduct field work in the mangrove ecosystem. They all made a fantastic effort to collect their sampling data in very muddy conditions with an incoming tide.



YEAR 12 BIOLOGY

These photos are Year 12 Biology students undertaking the inoculation of agar plates for an Infectious Disease practical during Week 4 of this term.

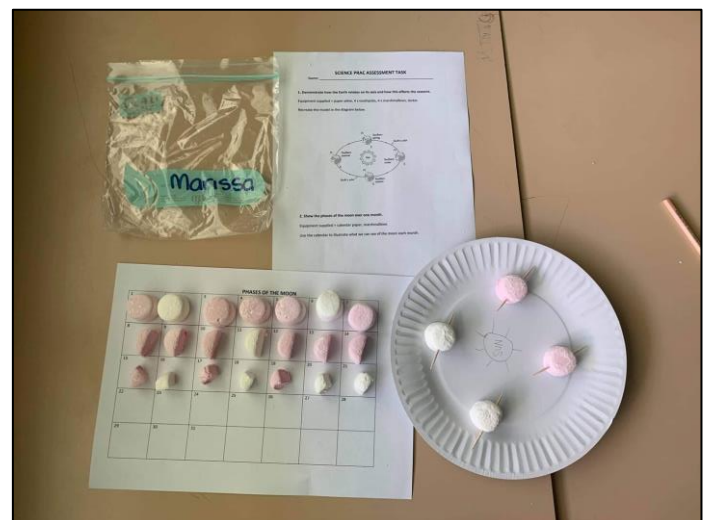
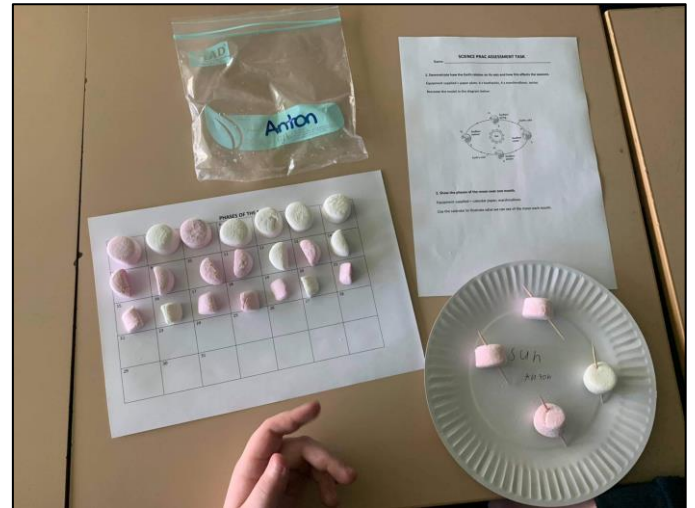
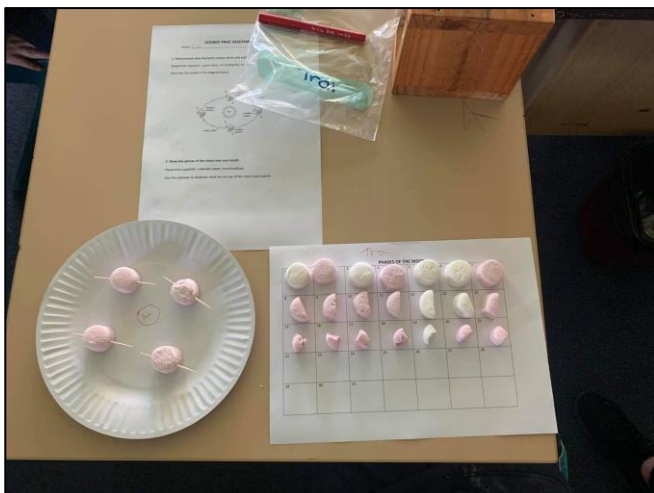
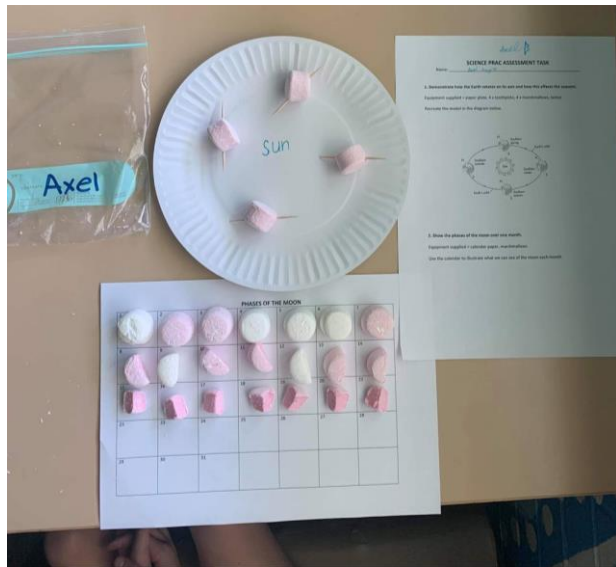
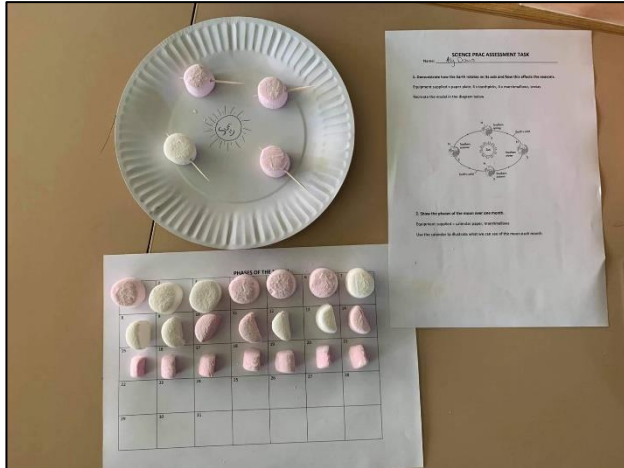


7MAGPIES SCIENCE

7 Magpies Science used marshmallows today to show how the Earth sits on an axis as it orbits the sun, thus explaining the seasons.

They then used marshmallows to explain the phases of the moon over a 4 week period.

The best part was eating the models!!!!



WELLBEING NEWS

See the link below for some strategies with coping with pandemic fatigue.

[Coping with Pandemic Fatigue 2021](#)



CARE AND CONNECT LINKS

Click on the link and it will take you to a page where you will find a series of short videos focused on enhancing student wellbeing. Just scroll down past the Primary links to the Secondary links.

[Learning from home wellbeing sessions](#)



YEAR 6 STUDENTS COMING TO SHOALHAVEN HIGH IN 2022

Term Four

16th November - Information Night for students and families

23rd November - Orientation Day for Year 6 students

Shoalhaven High School ASPIRE Program

ASPIRE is a class to extend and challenge able and interested students.

More information is on the Shoalhaven High Website

<https://shoalhaven-h.schools.nsw.gov.au/aspire.html>

The online application is available to Year 6 students on our website from Monday 12 July 2021 and closes Friday 17 September 2021.

2021 NATIONAL ADOLESCENT VACCINATION PROGRAM

Year 7 – students have the opportunity to participate in a free vaccination program at school and conducted by NSW Public Health Unit over 2 visits. Visit 2 - 11th November 2021

Further information available from Mrs Roskelly (Careers Hub) or Lisa Horgan (Student Support Officer).



SPORTS NEWS

Zone Netball

On Monday 2 August, Shoalhaven High School had 19 girls represent the school in two age groups at the Zone Netball Carnival held in Ulladulla. The U15's girls played outstandingly, taking away a win, a draw and two losses. The girls displayed an excellent amount of sportsmanship and should all be very proud of themselves. The senior girls team, also played extremely well. The girls came away with a win, and a couple of losses. The most exciting loss the girls achieved was being beaten by Kiama by 1 point- an excellent effort.

On the day, the girls were asked to present a name of who they think players player was for their team. A massive congratulations to Anna Cottom (Year 12) nominated by the senior girls and Kara Lethbridge (Year 8) nominated by the U15's girls. Well done to all involved.



Junior Boys Basketball

On Tuesday 3 August the junior boys basketball team played in the local schools knockout basketball competition at the Bomaderry Basketball Stadium. The team, made up of Noah Watson, Wyl Brandon, Luke Butler, Raymond Bonney, Lincon Betts, Cooper Carson, Riley Thurston, Lachlan Fairweather, Harrison Ingwersen, Riley Case, Drai Cowan, Kyenan Staker, Lucas Gardiner, and captained by Zeke Brandon, played well for a team that have never played together before, fighting hard against the strongest team in the comp in the first round. Although they went down, team spirits remained high and the team dug deep to provide a strong performance in the second game, which they lost by only a few points. Congratulations on representing Shoalhaven High School as proudly as you all did. It was a pleasure to be there with you for the day.

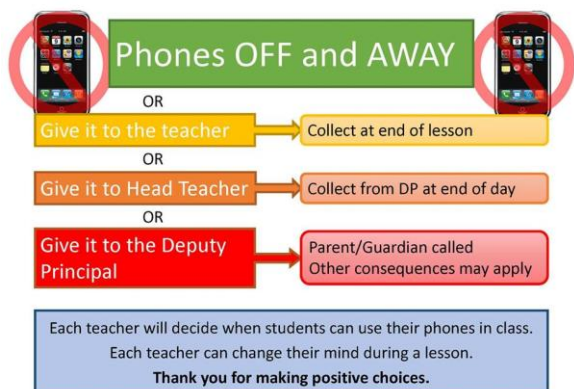
NEW BLUE SMILEY BOXES

Our new blue smiley boxes are in the library and are filling up quickly! At the moment it looks like Sharks are in the lead. Remember to keep popping your smileys in your house box to get that end of term reward!



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.



HOMEWORK CENTRE

Shoalhaven High School

Homework Centre

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 Tuesday and Friday. It is held at the Uniform Shop. Come and say hi and grab a cheese toast and chocolate milk.



NEWS FROM CAREERS

No time like now to make those applications that will assist you in the future.

Big Hint - Ask someone like a teacher or Career Advisor to check your written comments before you submit any application

Year 12 INFORMATION and APPLICATIONS

Term 3 Information sharing during Wednesday Tutorials.

- UOW
- UOW College (courses for students with low or no ATAR)
- TAFE
- Kiama Community College
- Shoalhaven Education Fund (many students can apply for financial support if they are working, studying full time in 2022)

Students Must Activate Personal NESA Account

HSC timetable is available. To access student's personal HSC timetable, information and results, Year 12 students must activate their NESA account.

All students have been forwarded the link to ACTIVATE their personal NESA account.

Considering University In 2022 Or 2023?

Information for all students wishing to attend university in 2022 and 2023 (after a GAP Year) has been forwarded to students and on Year 12 Google Classroom

- University Administration Centre (UAC) applications are open

Check the website for information

<https://www.uac.edu.au/future-applicants>

- [UAC Application Summary Sheet](#)
- [Schools Recommendation \(SRS\) and Early Entry Schemes Summary Sheet](#)
- [Educational Access Schemes \(EAS\) Summary Sheet](#)
- [UAC "Super Edition" newsletter](#) (a newsletter you can send to students that is basically a summary of the application process, early entry and EAS information).

Watch This Information Clip

https://www.google.com/search?q=applying+for+uac+utube&rlz=1C1GCEA_enAU952AU952&oq=applying+fo

Students can also apply for -

1. School Recommendation Scheme

This is an Early Entry at most universities... not Wollongong University which requires a separate application

2. Educational Access Scheme - provide adjustments to your ATAR score if you have experienced disadvantage in the last 2 years

Applications close 28 November 2021

Webinar 3 November 6pm

Register on this site <https://www.uac.edu.au/key-dates>

3. Equity Scholarship - Financial support while at uni. Keep asking questions if you are unsure

Worksmart Activities And Courses

Online learning opportunities include developing gaming programs, understanding coding, art, writing and exploring many careers. Check them out. Expressions of interest and information in Careers Hub

Workers, Health & Safety (WHS) Construction Induction Course

This "white card" course is the compulsory for students doing work or work experience on a construction site. The next course is Thursday 4th November.

Cost \$80 (after \$20 subsidy for each student).

First Aid

Tuesday and Wednesday 7 and 8 December

Cost \$85 (\$20 subsidy for each students may be available if we can seek the funding).

Register in Careers Hub

Financial Literacy

Thursdays 18 Nov and 2 December

Free Certificate 1 course learning about budgeting, taxation, loans and money management.

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


www.hvtc.com.au/jobs

www.shoalhaven.city.council/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](#)



Bring Your Own Technology






Positive Choices

- 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.
- Students following teacher instructions, so that they are using devices appropriately during the lesson.
- 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 i view, educational apps.
- recording information whilst on excursions.



Negative Choices

- 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.
- Students not having "lids ajar" on laptops, or not removing earphones when requested to do so by staff.
- 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

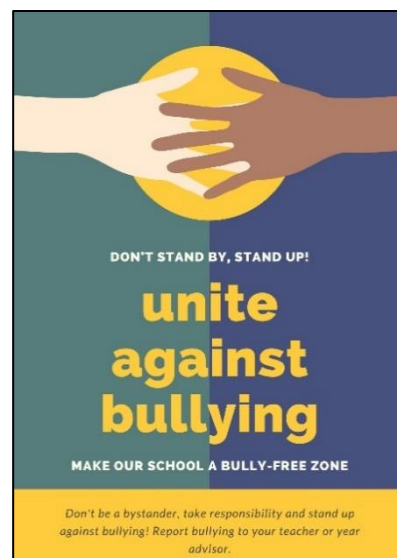
The Shoalhaven High School Uniform Policy is found on our School website under 'Our School' or click on the link

[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](#)

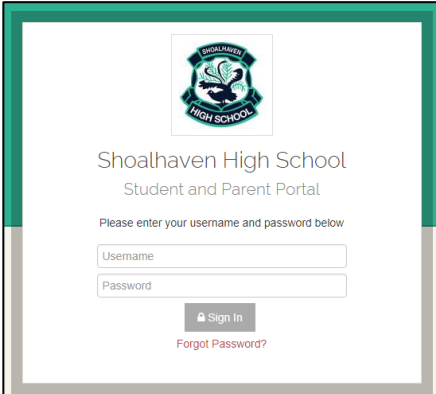


STUDENT TIMETABLES

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



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 (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

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



Education &
Communities

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?

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 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/leaving-school/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



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

Join us for a **FREE**, online two hour workshop for parents, carers and supervisors of learner drivers.

At Shoalhaven City Councils free helping learner drivers become safer drivers workshop you will get practical advice about:

- Supervising learner drivers
- Completing the Learner driver log book
- Learner and Provisional licence holder laws
- How to encourage safe driving behaviours
- Young driver issues
- The Safer Drivers Course
- Tips to help the supervising driver and learner

Learner drivers are encourage to attend, but this is not compulsory.

TIME & DATE:

9.30-11.30am
Saturday 11 September

VENUE:

Online event

Contact Shoalhaven City Councils Road Safety Officer on **(02) 4429 3484** to register

Please note registration is essential as numbers are limited.

Helping learner drivers become safe drivers



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.