# **Shoalhaven High School - Newsletter**

Respect, Responsibility, Safety and Participation



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2022 Term 2 Week 4 Friday 20 May 2022

#### **COMING EVENTS**

16-26 May - Dentist Visit

17 May – Modern History Fleet Air Arm Museum Excursion

18 & 25 May – Perfect Presence Program

19 May – WHS Construction Induction Course

19 May - Zone Cross Country

19 May – Belvoir Theatre Excursion

19 May - Local School Reference Group Meeting

23 May - Year 12 PDHPE Big Day Out

23-24 May - Specsavers Visit

23 May – Wreck Walk Excursion

25 May - Netball Gala Day

25-26 May – Regional Table Tennis Carnival

25-27 May - ITMM Photography Camp

26 May - Girls Soccer 3rd Round

26 May - BigHart Project

26 May – P&C Meeting 4.30pm

30 & 31 May - Year 6 Discovery Days

1 & 8 June - Perfect Presence Program

1 June - SHS Athletics Carnival

1 June – EDGE Work Readiness Workshop

3 June - Zone Athletics

7 June – Bill Turner Soccer

7 June – Year 10 Future Me and Careers Expo

8 June - UOW Discovery Day

8-10 June - Year 9/10 Jindabyne Excursion

9 & 23 June - BigHart Project

10 June - Regional Cross Country

15 June - Coondoo Classic

15-17 June – Yr 7/8 Regional Rugby League Carnival

#### PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

A very warm welcome back to all our staff, students and the wider community for the commencement of Term 2.

All Shoalhaven High School staff participated in Cultural Awareness training on our Staff Development Day, 26 April 2022. This day helped our staff gain a deeper understanding of our local Aboriginal culture

and histories around the Shoalhaven Area. Our staff were most appreciative and excited to be part of this learning journey. I would like to express my sincere thanks to Margaret Simoes, Uncle Sonny Sims, Matty Sims, Aunty Pat and Nicole Timbs for their organisation and acceptance of our staff that made this day a huge success and benefit to our staff at Shoalhaven High School.

During the first week of school, we paid respect to those who have fallen during our ANZAC assembly. Mr Dolby organised a fitting service and celebration for those who paid the ultimate price. Our students were exceptionally respectful during the assembly making it a huge success.

It has been a wet start to Term 2 and as a result our Athletics Carnival due to be held Week 4 has been postponed until Week 6. All organisation remains the same and we hope to see all students attend the carnival and participate to the best of their ability. I would like to congratulate Mr McNeil and our Open Girls soccer teams for their 2 victories so far this year. Well done to Mr McNeil and all the girls for this fantastic effort. Our U/14 soccer teams play this Friday so I would also like to wish them good luck in their games. This Thursday our cross-country athletes will return to Willandra farm to compete in the Zone Cross Country Carnival. I wish all these athletes good luck in their respective competitions. Mrs Martin and our "Nahla" girls program hosted a special morning tea to celebrate and acknowledge their fantastic nans and mums. The morning tea was well received and attended. It was great to see all the mums and nans on site to celebrate this special day with their daughters. A great effort, girls. Thank you to Mrs Martin, Aunty Pat and Nicole Timbs for their exceptional organisation.

On Monday of Week 3 our Clontarf Academy boys also put on a special morning tea for all our female staff members. The boys prepared, cooked and served morning tea as a thank you for all the female staff at SHS and their contributions to our wider school community.

Our Year 7 and 9 students have taken part in the online format of NAPLAN over the last 2 weeks. A catch up day is provided at the end of week 5 for any students who have missed the opportunity to participate in a NAPLAN exam. The NAPLAN timetable for all students is available on our Facebook page and SHS website.

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.

As the weather begins to cool off, I would like to remind all families that we are a proud uniform school. Please ensure your son/daughter has the correct winter uniform as the weather changes. Any student out of uniform will be required to bring a note and present it to all their teachers. Year Advisors will speak to students consistently out of uniform and for persistent issues, it will be the Deputy Principals. Students may face disciplinary consequences for persistent defiance. Wearing our school uniform ensures the safety of all students and staff, as it instils a sense of pride and of belonging. If any students are in need of financial assistance for uniform, please contact the school. I thank you for your continued support with our uniform.

I would also like to extend an invitation to the wider school community to express an interest in joining our Local School Reference Group (LSRG). This group provides an opportunity for our Aboriginal Community to share in our students' educational journey. As part of the Connected Communities Strategy each school establishes their own LSRG that will meet twice a term. The make up of our LSRG includes - AECG President (Chair), P&C Representative (Vice Chair), 2 Community members or elders and 2 parent representatives. We are having an establishment meeting Thursday 19 May 2022 at 2:30pm in the Shoalhaven High School Meeting room. Please come to the front office to sign in.

To all our new and existing families our P & C meeting will be held on Thursday 26th May - Week 5. The meeting will take place in the front office meeting room and start at 4:30pm. I would encourage as many

parents as possible to attend and help support our students at SHS by becoming involved in the education journey.

Damian Rees
Executive Principal
Connected Communities
Shoalhaven High School



#### 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.





#### **ATTENDANCE**

# What do you need to do if your child is away from school?

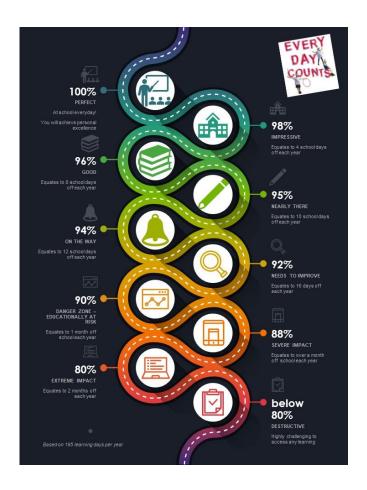
You have 7 days to explain an absence. If you do not contact the school within 7 days, the absence will be marked as unjustified and cannot be changed. This will affect your child's overall attendance.

#### How do you contact the school?

There are several ways:

- Phone 02 44218022
- Email shoalhaven-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au
- Log on to the portal
- Send a note with the student when they return.

#### Do you know what your child's percentage is?



#### **BELL SHAKESPEARE**

On Friday 13 May, Bell Shakespeare visited and performed for some very lucky junior English and Drama students. Junior English was exposed to the performance "Shakespeare is Dead". The performance was a comprehensive, but very entertaining, summary of Shakespeare's life and work. Phoebe from 7M said she "couldn't stop smiling" throughout the performance and several other students enthusiastically asked questions during the Q&A, including 9K's Jayleigh who was curious about what the actors ate for breakfast.

Year 10 were lucky to view the show "Shakespeare: The Human Experience". This show highlighted the different ways that Shakespeare presents the idea of being human. Some of the girls from 10R really enjoyed this performance, particularly Year 10 Drama who were able to reflect on the performative essay style of the show.

A big thank you to Ms. Bailey and the English faculty for their organisation of the show.

"All the world's a stage, and all the men and women merely players".



#### **STAGE MURAL**

Celebrating the beautiful mural created by Aunty Kerrie Williams, our students and staff at Shoalhaven High. It is featured on the front of the stage. This was a huge collaboration that took many hours of building up the designs. A major effort was made by student volunteers from Years 7 to 11 and staff, working to have it finished by the end of 2021. You may have seen it at the end of year assemblies last year.

The design is an image of Cullunghutti, which features footsteps leading to a wonderful meeting place, painted by Aunty Kerrie, representing students, staff and visitors travelling to come together at Shoalhaven High School. The beautiful Black cockatoo, a symbol for our area, is also painted by Aunty Kerrie. The background was filled with many intricate abstract designs, using layers of patterning to build up areas, students letting their imagination run wild. The mural is a fabulous feature in our hall and represents our school and community. A big thank you to Aunty Kerrie and everyone else who contributed.















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#### **ANZAC DAY CEREMONIES**

#### Culburra

Shenae B and Makaira B representing Shoalhaven High School at Culburra Beach.







#### **Greenwell Point**

Several students from our school committed to an early rise to participate in the Dawn Service at Greenwell Point to commemorate those that have sacrificed their lives. Charlie B and Ayden R laid the wreath on Shoalhaven High School's behalf. Well done.



#### Sussex Inlet

Well done to Emily McN and Isabelle H for representing Shoalhaven High School at Sussex Inlet ANZAC march and ceremony today. The girls did an amazing job laying the wreath and reading the poem 'Sir' during the ceremony. Lest we forget.



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#### Nowra



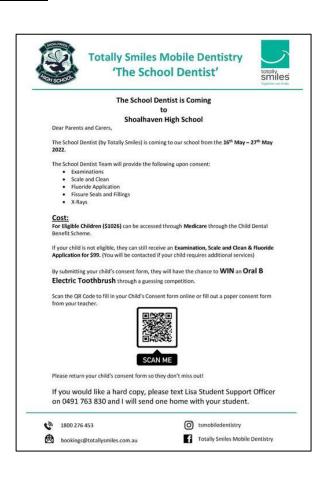




#### **DISCOVERY DAYS**



#### **DENTIST**



#### **7K SDL LESSON**

7K enjoying some initiative activities in their student development lesson, set by their peer support leaders!





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#### NATIONALLY CONSISTENT COLLECTION OF DATA

NCCD is an annual collection of data (since 2015) which counts the number of school students with disability and the level of reasonable educational adjustment they are provided. All schools must now collect and submit information annually. Personal details such as student names or other identifying information will not be provided to local or federal education authorities.

Contact your child's school if you have further questions about Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School students with Disability. You can view the Fact Sheet PDF at: <a href="https://www.nccd.edu.au/tools/fact-sheet-parents-guardians-and-carers">https://www.nccd.edu.au/tools/fact-sheet-parents-guardians-and-carers</a>



#### 9 ASPIRE

Year 9 have been reading 'Animal Farm' by George Orwell as part of their studies in English this semester. They are currently working on a project where they are required to design and create a Visual Representation (VR) of a chosen aspect from the novel. Here's a sneak peek at what some of the students are working on...











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#### **LIBRARY NEWS**

At Shoalhaven High School, we commemorate, celebrate and honour those who have served in our armed forces, sacrificing much to defend our nation. Our Library display is a small memorial and tribute, however, it comes from the Shoalhaven heart. Students can find so many resources of non-fiction and fiction in the library that keep our memory of our brave men and women alive.



Coming soon, a range of group activities are being planned for breaks in the library. Activities such as arts and crafts, origami, and science games are some on the list. Stay tuned.









In the Shoalhaven High School Library, we will be displaying the artwork of budding Shoalhaven High School artists. Some of the works highlighted here were created in the very library during lunch break. You never know where or how you are going to be inspired.



### MUSEUM OF HUMAN DISEASE EXCURSION

Year 12 Biology and PDHPE and Year 8 and 9 Science students travelled to the Museum of Human Disease at the UNSW to learn about infectious and non-infectious disease.















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#### YEAR 7 STEM PROGRAM

On May 13, the Year 7K class had the opportunity to participate in a STEM program designed to get students to develop ideas and prototype to generate social change within their community. Students, along with Mr Woods, Ms Hybinett and Mr Foster, worked across the day to identify ways that ICTs could be used to solve issues relating to sustainability and health. There were some fantastic ideas including automatic toilet cleaners, vape detector/alarms and incentive-based waste collection. The project will continue with students further developing their ideas. The team voted by their peers and judges will then be offered the opportunity to build their project in full as part of the ICT Explorers program.

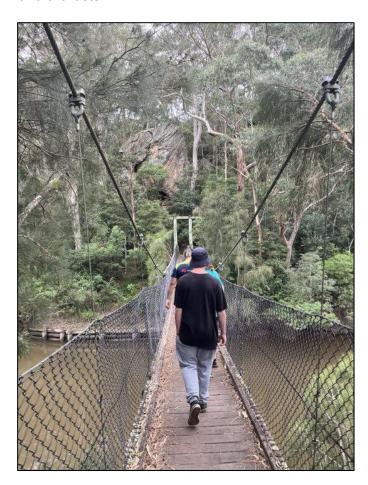






#### PERFECT PRESENCE PROGRAM

Last Wednesday Year 9 boys in the Perfect Presence Program participated in a 'Walk on Country' session with Matt Simms from Djiriba Waagura. During the session they talked about local Aboriginal culture and artifacts.













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### **CAREERS EXPO**

Last week Shoalhaven High School attended the Careers Expo in Wollongong.













#### THE PICTURE OF DORIAN GRAY EXCURSION

On 28 April, Drama and English students ventured on the train to Sydney to watch Sydney Theatre Company's production of 'The Picture of Dorian Gray'. The production was full of amazing props, costumes and incredible acting. Students enjoyed the performance and were able to be inspired by some of the team from behind the scenes with a question and answer session that followed. A huge shout out to Ms. Snape for all of her organisation. Here's what one of the Year 11 Advanced students thought:

"The Picture of Dorian Gray stage production was amazing. I haven't seen anything like it before. One actress played all twenty two characters and her stage presence was amazing. We are so grateful to be exposed to theatre like this"







# 2022 NATIONAL ADOLESCENT VACCINATION PROGRAM

<u>Year 7</u> students (boys and girls) have the opportunity to participate in a free vaccination program at school and conducted by NSW Public Health Unit over 2 visits.

- Visit 2 13 October 2022

Permission notes and information have been distributed to students.

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

<u>Year 10</u> students can receive the free Meningococcal vaccination as part of the National program this year.

- Tuesday 28th June 2022

Notes and information will be distributed this term.



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

#### **MATHS PUZZLES**

Can you solve the 2 puzzles?

Think carefully and find the correct solution.

Write your answers on a piece of paper as modelled here and place in the box at the Math staffroom.

All correct answers will go into the draw for a prize. Winners will be notified in the morning announcements after the draw.

Name-

Year-

Calendar Solution-

Count the Shapes Solution-

#### Calendar Puzzle

If I said that in three days time it would be a Thursday, I am sure that most of you would have no difficulty telling me that today was a Monday.



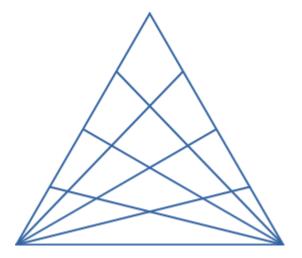
Try this one then. Yesterday was two days before Monday. What day is it today? Yes, you're right again. It's Sunday. Do you get the idea?

Question - Three days ago, yesterday was the day before Sunday. What day will it be tomorrow?

### Count the Shapes Puzzle

How many triangles are there in this diagram?

Bonus question: How many quadrilaterals?



#### YEAR 11 FOOD TECHNOLOGY

Where people live and what they can produce locally will often determine what they eat. Factors that influence our food selections include geography, climate, technology available for processing and production, available income, political and economical conditions of the country and people migrate taking knowledge and experiences of food with them.



Year 11 participated in a bush tucker practical lesson last term consisting of wattleseed pancakes and bush honey. All appeared to enjoy their new food experience.



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#### **SPORT**

#### Harry Scouller Memorial Fun Run

On 29 April 2022 Shoalhaven High School held its Harry Scouller Memorial Fun Run. The day was broken up into competitive and non-competitive races. A great day was had by all with fantastic participation and some outstanding performances. Congratulations to all students for their effort and enthusiasm on the day especially to the age champions (listed below) and to the students who have made zone cross country to be held at Willandra on Thursday 19 May 2022.

Age Champions:

12 year girls: Myra B
12 year boys: Riley O'B
13 year girls: Indeeka P
13 year boys: Jaxon M-S
14 year girls: Kara L
14 year boys: Yusuf E
15 year girls: Giorjet P
15 year boys: Tylar-Jay S
16 year girls: Maddison H

16 year boys: Lucas S17 year girls: Lexi C17 year boys: Gabriel W















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### <u>Futsal</u>

Futsal South Coast Regional titles were held at the Illawarra Sports Stadium on the 30 March 2022. The girls did an outstanding job winning games against Dapto High School, Corrimal High School and Picton High School. This meant the girls played Smith High School in the final. Unfortunately, with a few injuries the girls went down in the final 5-4. With the girls making the final means they qualified for the State Championships which will be held early next term.



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#### Girls Soccer

Congratulations to the open girls soccer team for beating Nowra High School 8-1 in the 2nd round of the CHS competition today. In hot conditions the girls teamwork and ball movement was outstanding which laid the platform for their dominant win. The girls will play Figtree High School in the next round of the competition. Goal scorers were Maddy H - 4, Issy H - 1, Lexi C - 1, Emily McN - 1 and Amelia C - 1.



#### Jasmine Greenwood

Year 12 student Jasmine Greenwood recently competed at the Australian Para Swimming Championships in Adelaide. In doing so, Jasmine was successful in qualifying for the World Para Swimming Championships which will be held in Portugal in June and the Commonwealth Games to be held in England later this year.

Congratulations Jasmine!



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#### **Talented Sports Program**

The talented sports class spent their double period swimming laps at Bomaderry pool. Students involved all gave it a hard go and participated with enthusiasm.





#### **House Captains**

Congratulations to the following students who achieved sports captains and vice captains. These students will be formally recognised at the school's next assembly. Well done.

#### Sharks:

- Tyson B (c), Charlie B (c), Georgia C (c)
- Darcy C (vc), Emily McN (vc)

### Stingrays:

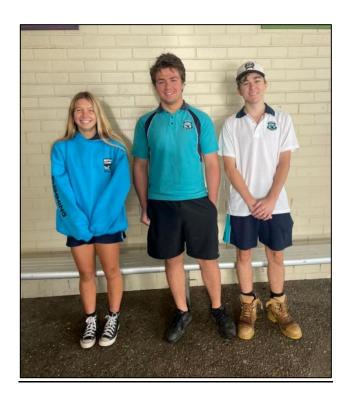
- Anabella P (c), Jone N (c), Kirra J (c)
- Hudson B (vc), Maddison H (vc)

### Dolphins:

- Charlotte G (c), Jarrad D (c)
- Saffron F (vc), Dean G (vc), Kiara B (vc), Roshan D (vc)

#### Marlins:

- Lily R (c), Ayden R (c)
- Lucas S (vc), Jalylah S-T (vc)









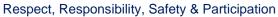
#### **CANOEING**

Canoeing is back!!!! Offered for sport on Wednesdays. \$5 per student. These lucky few chose canoeing this term and they were certainly treated to a perfect day for their first day on the water.















#### **CAREERS**

#### 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.

Workers, Health & Safety (WHS) Construction Induction Course

Thursday 19 May and another course in Term 4.

This "white card" course is compulsory for students doing work or work experience on a construction site. Cost \$80 (\$100 - \$20 subsidy from school) Register in Careers Hub

#### First Aid

Tuesday and Wednesday 6 and 7 December Cost \$65 (\$85 - \$20 subsidy from school) Register in Careers Hub

EDGE Workshop (Education, Deportment, Grooming & Employability skills.)

Wednesday 1 June

Free one day work ready course for Year 10 students The workshop was created to address the gap between student perceptions and employer expectations. Employers often cite poor presentation, attitude, hygiene and communication skills as barriers to employment for young job applicants.

Students will participate in workshops including grooming, hair styling and dressing for work. With parental permission, the boys can have haircuts by a professional hairdresser as part of the day.

Student can register in Career Hub

Careers In Sign Language Workshop

Wednesday 3 August

The AUSLAN interpreting is signing for people with hearing impairment. This industry is currently facing a skills shortage.

The 1/2 day workshop is for students interested in developing a skill for signing and possibly a career as

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an interpreter. This is open to students from Years 7 to 12.

During the workshop, students will gain an overview of the official sign language for Australia – AUSLAN, the interpreting industry, the deaf community and the career opportunities available for qualified interpreters. They will also learn some basic signing skills as well as an opportunity to meet and speak with other industry partners working in the deaf community.

This course was postponed from earlier in Term 2. Please register an expression of interest in Career Hub

Swim and Life Guard Training and Qualifications Term 3 Week 6 - Years 10 -11 for 16 and 17 years

#### Year 12

HSC study notes

Prepare for exams and maximise results with help from HSC subject experts

Check this site <a href="https://atarnotes.com/">https://atarnotes.com/</a>

## Students must activate their personal NESA account – students online

HSC timetable is available. To access a 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 2023 or 2024?

Information for all students wishing to attend university in 2023 and 2024 (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/how-to-apply-for-uni

Student should have a four-digit passcode forwarded to them from UAC

Application clip to watch

https://www.google.com/search?q=applying+for+uac+utube&rlz=1C1GCEAenAU952AU952&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.)

<u>Schools Recommendation (SRS) and Early Entry</u> <u>Schemes Summary Sheet</u>

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

**Educational Access Schemes (EAS) Summary Sheet** 

3. Equity Scholarship - Financial support while at uni. <a href="Equity Scholarships">Equity Scholarships</a>

Keep asking questions if you are unsure

Year 12 Information Evening
Wednesday 1 June 2022
UOW Open Day
for students and parent/carers
Saturday 6 August
UOW HSC Super Study Week
July school holiday program. Link for info and registration

https://www.uow.edu.au/engage/outreachpathways/year-12/year-12-super-study-week/

**UOW Learning Labs** 

Years 1 - 10

For students from Years 1 to 10 in July and October school holidays

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/outreachpathways/learning-labs/

Career Expos
Sydney Career Expo 2-5 June
Moore Park
https://www.hscandcareers.com.au/

Western Sydney Careers Expo 23-26 June Olympic Park https://www.westernsydneycareerexpo.com.au/

#### **Work Experience**

Year 10 - Term 3 Week 8 (5 to 9 Sept)
Year 9 - Term 4 Week 8 (28 Nov to 2 Dec)
Note: more specific work experience applications are required for

- Shoalhaven City Council https://www.shoalhaven.nsw.gov.au/Council/Care ers/Work-Experience
- Australian Defence Force https://www.defence.gov.au/WorkExperience
- Taronga Zoo (applications close 28 Feb)
   <a href="https://taronga.org.au/get-involved/school-work-experience/sydney">https://taronga.org.au/get-involved/school-work-experience/sydney</a>

Year 10 also have opportunity to explore careers to assist in subject selection for senior school Year 10 will finalise their subject selections for senior school in early Term 3.

#### Apprenticeships, Traineeships and 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.

- Does it include your personal details?



#### **NEW BLUE SMILEY BOXES**

Remember to keep popping your smileys in your house box to get that end of term reward!

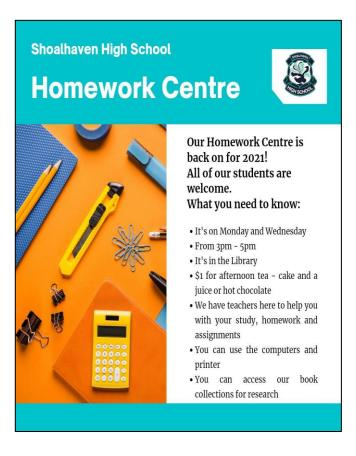


#### **PHONES OFF AND AWAY**

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**



#### **BREAKFAST CLUB**

Breakfast Club is on Tuesdays and Fridays. It is held in the new Gujarga Hub situated in front of the gym building. Come and say hi and grab a cheese toast and chocolate milk.

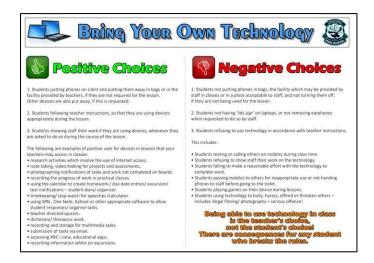




#### **BRING YOUR OWN TECHNOLOGY (BYOT)**

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**

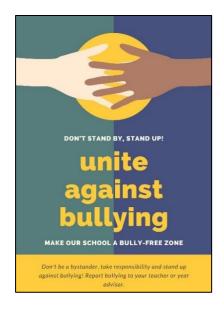
The Shoalhaven High School Uniform Policy is found on our School website under 'Our School' or click on the link

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 2021 online via the Student/Parent Sentral Portal.

To access, please visit <a href="https://shoalhavenhs.sentral.com.au/portal/">https://shoalhavenhs.sentral.com.au/portal/</a> then log in with your DoE username and password.





## **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
- Give 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 AND COMMUNITIES

LEARNING & ENGAGEMENT

WWW.DEC.NSW.GOV.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 Communities 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 and Communities 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:

Please visit the Department of Education's *Policy library* 

The school leaving age: Please visit the Department of Education's Wellbeing and Learning

#### Do you need an interpreter?

Interpreting services are available on request, including for the hearing impaired. The Telephone Interpreter Service is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week on 131 450. You will not be charged for this service.

For further advice and questions contact your educational services team

T 131 536

website

Learning and Engagement

Student Engagement & Interagency Partnerships

T 9244 512 www.dec.nsw.gov.au

NSW Department of Education and Communitie

NSW DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND COMMUNITIES

LEARNING & ENGAGEMENT

WWW.DEC.NSW.GOV.AU

#### **COMMUNITY NEWS**









### upcoming sessions



Parents, Carers, and Community Members in Illawarra Shoalhaven are invited to attend a free mental health education session in Term 2.



- The sessions aim to:

  Strengthen your understanding of mental health definitions.
  Enhance your conversational approach to mental health and well-being.
- Emilate your conversational approach to mena heath and well-being. Build skills and strategies to support young people, including transition to work and study. Build awareness of local, state and national supports available to young people. Increase your knowledge & understanding of the mental health challenges facing young people today. Introduce you to some of the skills and strategies to encourage and support help-seeking.



Helping my young person during COVID Date: Tue, 10 May 2022 Time: 12:00 PM – 1:45 PM AEST Location: Online webinar Registration: https://bit.lv/3L/ys2/y5



Helping my young person during COVID Date: Tue, 24 May 2022 Time: 6:30 PM – 7:45 PM AEST Location: Online webinar Registration: <a href="https://bit.lv/3r/5d9F">https://bit.lv/3r/5d9F</a>



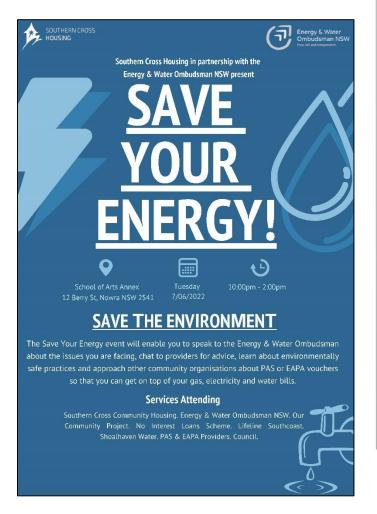
#### Navigating uncertainty and change

Date: Wed, 15 June 2022 Time: 12:00 PM – 1:15 PM AEST Location: Online webinar Registration: https://bit.ly/37Bh8IW



#### For more information

ort@headspace.org.au



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