



SYDNEY BOYS HIGH SCHOOL

New Parents Guide 2014



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Welcome and
Introduction
for
new parents

Welcome to High

A warm welcome to all new parents!

Sydney High is an exceptional and unique school - one of a kind in Australia.

Known as *High*, the school was established in 1883 and is the oldest secondary public school in the State.

Consistently recognised as one of the top schools academically in NSW, *High* has the privilege of being the only public school that is a member of the Greater Public Schools (GPS). Academically selective, our boys have a long tradition of achieving personal excellence in academia, the arts and sport.

Our Alumni include Nobel Laureates, Rhodes Scholars, Governors and some of the most successful in academia, science and medicine, law, business and the arts - the Who's Who in Old Boys include Sir Roden Cutler, the former Governor of NSW, James Wolfenson, the former Head of the World Bank, international activist John Pilger, actor Russell Crowe and businessman John McGrath.

The school provides the best academically, together with a rich tradition of fellowship, sports and co-curricular activities.

These opportunities are instrumental in nurturing students into exceptional young men.

In particular, we are proud of the legacy of a rich tradition of parental support.

Ian Sweeting
President, P & C Committee

The Purpose of this Guide

This Guide is a valuable reference tool to support your son's transition into *High*. Available online, I encourage every parent to read the Guide and share its content and information with your son.

Prepared by the P & C Committee, the Guide provides an overview of the information at the *New Parents Welcome Evening*.

Structured into seven sections, the following information is covered:

1. Welcome/Introduction
2. Essential Information
3. Academic Information
4. Co-Curricular Information
5. Parental Involvement and Support
6. What Next?
7. Key Contacts

* If you need help, please email us at sbhs.pandc@gmail.com



On this page:

Essential
Information
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new parents

Essential Information

To best support your son, all parents should be familiar with:

- Your son's timetable
- Your son's before and after school activities and Saturday sport
- Your son's allocated summer sport, co-curricular activities and training times
- Key dates for Term 1 - including Year 7 camp
- Key events for parents, e.g. Big Night Out in Term 1
- The name of your son's Year Advisor
- The name of your Year Rep (who assist parents)
- The name of your Parent Mentor
- The school website
- Key policies on the school website, e.g. Homework and Bullying Policies

The Parent Portal on the school's your son's grades, absences and Please make sure you first check your son's timetable and wait for his sport and co-curricular activities to be allocated BEFORE organising any outside school activities.

All students are expected to winter sport as well as one co-curricular activity, e.g. debating, chess, cadets.

The school and P&C do not encourage outside academic coaching.

Where your son needs extra help with his studies, please contact your son's Year Advisor, who is available to discuss any concerns you have.

If you are looking for general advice, contact your Parent Mentor.

* Tip

Our research shows that students, who are **ALL ROUNDERS**, i.e. participate in sport and co-curricular activities achieve better results in the HSC, enjoy *High* the most and historically win the most prestigious University scholarships and later better transition into their careers. Notably many Universities allow additional ATAR points, depending upon the involvement of the student.

Time management, fellowship and organisational skills are instrumental to a student's success. Many of our boys find this challenging in their first year.

The school actively supports your son's transition into the School. Boys typically master the art of time management by the end of their first year at *High*.

If your son is taking a little longer to settle in, please contact his Year Advisor.



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Academic
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Academic Information

High's vision is to be recognised as the premier centre of opportunity for gifted boys, where excellent performance is an inherent part of each boy's values.

High aims to develop the whole person, while nurturing future-fit minds that are creative, disciplined, able to synthesis, respectful and ethical - global citizens who think for themselves and understand global issues in a sympathetic and sensitive manner and develop an empathetic imagination to see the world from differing voices and perspectives.

Fostering academic excellence, advocating a strong sense of self efficacy and promoting a sense of well-being and personal identity, *High* boys are typically engaged, resilient and self-confident - tomorrow's future leaders.

With 99% of boys going on to tertiary education, boys are encouraged to be independent learners and develop a sense of an environmental and ethical consciousness as well as community spirit.

To achieve this, *High* fosters independent learning, an appreciation for languages, humanities the arts as well as intellectual rigor in the sciences and mathematics whilst fostering co-curricular activities.

A School within a School

High is divided into two, self-contained schools. The Junior School comprises Years 7 to 9 and the Senior School, Years 10 to 12.

In practice, this is reflected by different curriculum, sports afternoons, separate uniforms and assemblies as well as attendance programs.

The development of the whole person and nurturing literacy is one of the school's priorities in the Junior School.

Separate curriculums and activities enable the boys to develop personal interest areas, such as the Da Vinci Decathlon and Tournament of the Minds. In the senior years, a stronger emphasis is on academic achievement in preparation for the HSC and University.

Supporting this, classes in Year 7 are grouped by ability and interest groupings and in subsequent years by ability (for English, Mathematics and Science) with multi-level classes from Year 8 and cross grade groups allowing subject acceleration from Year 10.

Mid and final year exams underpin the academic performance process. Regular homework and assessment extend and consolidate academic work.



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Co-Curricular
Information
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new parents

Co-Curricular Information

Students are encouraged to participate fully in *High's* co-curricular life. This has enormous benefits for their personal development.

Notably research shows regular participation builds self-esteem, confidence, physical fitness and well-being.

Boys are required to do one summer and one winter sport each year. Attendance at training sessions (before or after school), as well as sporting fixtures (most commonly held on Saturdays), is compulsory.

Choices for summer sports include cricket, basketball, rowing, swimming, sailing, water polo and tennis. Winter sports include soccer, rugby, athletics, cross country, skiing, table tennis, volleyball and fencing.

The school carries a defined 24/7 injury insurance cover for its students. This covers specific injuries and emergency transport. The scheme however does not provide for basic medical costs (where a student is covered by private insurance) or the gap between claims and the fees charged by service providers.

Boys also participate in co-curricular activities, with a choice from debating, chess, music, Cadets or the Duke of

Edinburgh program. Alternately they can advance leadership skills through service committees, such as the environmental group or the Student Representative Council.

Where students are absent from Saturday sport, parents must contact the coach prior to the fixture and then submit an Absentee Note to the relevant Master in Charge. Where continued absences occur, this can impact on mid or yearly reports and subsequently a school reference.

Physical fitness is also encouraged by regular 1.6 km runs, where the boys work towards their personal best.

Attendance in PE/Health classes is part of the curriculum and results are included in the mid and final year reports.

Student Recognition

High's Student Award Scheme encourages participation in co-curricular activities and recognises special achievements. This includes participation in GPS sport, academic performance, the performing arts, co-curricular activities, competitions and a multitude of events, cumulating in the Regional Directors Award or School Trophy in Year 12.

Students need to be aware that where they do not complete the documentation for the Award Scheme each year, despite their active participation, those



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involvement
and support

students are not eligible for Perfect nomination in Year 12.

Parental Involvement and Support– WHY?

Research* has shown that parental involvement in school life has a positive impact on many indicators of student achievement, including higher grades. Beyond educational achievement, parental involvement is associated with various indicators of student development. These include greater engagement in school work, more positive behaviour and better social skills.

Parental involvement also benefits the boys in terms of building their connectedness to *High* and other families.

High has a rich legacy of parental involvement and support. In particular the generosity and spirit of past parents and our “old boys” (former students) has benefited current students.

This has allowed the depth and breadth of co-curricular activities to be offered at *High* and built the school’s reputation as one of the best schools in the State.

Unfortunately *High* does not receive any additional funding from either the Federal or State Government to support its programs, as is the case for other GPS schools who charge up to \$30,000 per student per annum.

With school fees providing only a small percentage of the overall costs for the school, active support from parents has enabled *High* to thrive and provide its students with an exceptional education.

Substantial funds are raised every year, e.g. nearly \$300,000, through the school canteen and from parking events.

This has allowed us to fund the school buses and capital works such as the study centre for senior students, as well as many other important resources.

We also raise funds through social events, such as the Big Night Out, which is held in Term 1 each year.

Getting involved in *High* is good for your son, good for parents and also greatly benefits the school.

* See for example Emerson, L., Fear, J., Fox, S., and Sanders, E. (2012). *Parental engagement in learning and schooling: Lessons from research*. A report by the Australian Research Alliance for Children and Youth (ARACY) for the Family-School and Community Partnerships Bureau: Canberra.



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...

Monthly
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Program

Parental Involvement and Support– HOW?

How can you be actively involved in High?

Here are some suggestions:

- Come to the next P & C meeting
- Join a Supporters Group for a sport or co-curricular activity (a great way to meet the parents of sons with similar interests)
- Volunteer to be a Year Rep
- Help at the school canteen or High Store (once a week, month or term)
- Help with parking duty when called upon
- Help with a fundraiser event
- Respond to requests from Supporters Groups for assistance

*Essentially, say yes when asked *whenever you are able*.

Interested in more information?

Email us at

sbhs.pandc@gmail.com

Monthly Giving Program

With around \$1.2M raised, we are well on the way for our next project, the Governors' Centre for Excellence.

With less than a \$1M to go before we can apply for Government funding, our aim is to start this project in late 2013.

Are you able to contribute? Email us at sbhs.pandc@gmail.com.

All donations are tax deductible.

Tips

- An [Information Session](#) for your Year is organised by the Year Advisors in the first half of the year.
- [Parent/Teacher Interviews](#) are held in late June.
- Individual [Subject Teachers](#) can be contacted after first making an appointment.
- The [Year Advisor](#) is available where you would like to know about your son's general progress.
- The [School Counsellor](#) is available where your son has special needs or you or your son would like to talk to someone confidentially.
- As a parent, where you need some advice or general information, contact your [Parent Mentor](#).



**On this
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**What Next?
A checklist
for
new parents**

What Next?

A Checklist for New Parents

To help you, we've prepared a parent checklist.

1. Get a copy of your son's timetable
2. Do not organise any external commitments for your son (i.e. music lessons) until you know his commitments at school, (i.e. training times for school sport)
3. Pay your son's school fees as soon as possible - remember a discount applies until the end of February
4. If you are unable to pay the school fees, contact Dr Jaggar
5. Sign in to the Parents' Portal on the school website (details were provided in the information package)
6. Sign up if you can to the Monthly Giving Program - donations are tax deductible
7. Join a Supporters' Group for your son's summer and winter sport or co-curricular activity
8. Check the School Calendar and write major events in your diary and/or calendar
9. Take your son to sport every Saturday and cheer him on
10. Get to know other parents – attending school sport on Saturdays is a great way
11. Volunteer to help at the Canteen or High Store - once a week, month or term

12. Come to next P & C Meeting.
The P&C holds a monthly meeting on the third Wednesday evening of every month except during school holidays. Meeting dates are advised through *High Notes*
13. Volunteer when contacted to help with parking at the school. It is another great way to meet other parents
14. Sign up your son for Life Membership with the Old Boys' Union (details in the information package)
15. Attend parent events, e.g. the Big Night out in Term 1
16. Attend the annual dinner for your son's GPS sport
17. Stay in touch with your Year Group through your Year Rep
18. If you have welfare concerns, contact the School Counsellor
19. Call your Parents Mentor if you have any questions
20. If you are able, make a tax deductible donation to the School

... And last but not least, enjoy your son's best school years!



On this page:

Important
Contact
Details

**Parents & Citizens
Association**

The P&C Association has been working continuously since 1925 to provide facilities and equipment for the school. It provides valuable assistance for organisers of school sporting activities and special events. The P & C supports school functions which bring parents, staff and students into closer cooperation. Sub-committees of the P & C operate the School Canteen, assist in the administration of particular sports and maintain the school environment.

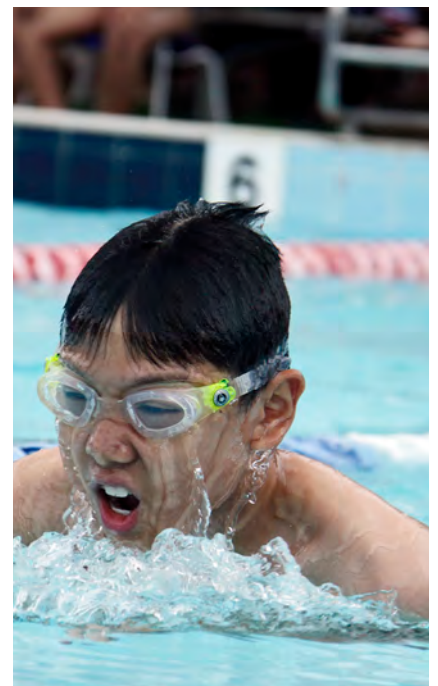
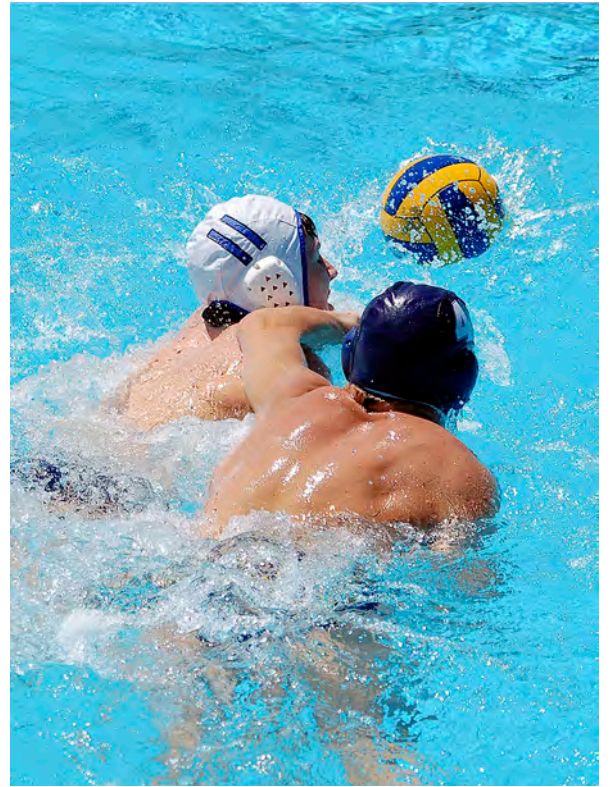
Key Contact Details	
Front Office Switchboard	Tel. 96629300
Principal	Dr Kim Jaggar
Deputy Principal, Junior School	Mr Con Barris
Deputy Principal, Senior School	Mr Robert Dowdell
Head of English	Ms Marina Trompetter
Head of Maths	Mr Paul Bigelow
Head of Social Science	Mr Peter Loizou
Head of Welfare	Mr Jamie McKay
Head of History	Ms Rachel Powell
Head of Sport	Mr Mark Pavone
Head of Science	Mr Mick Kay
Head of Industrial Arts	Ms Rebecca Dam
Head of Creative Arts	Ms Jenni May
Music Department	Ms Rita Miller
Head of PDHPE	Mr Geoff Stein
2014 Year 7 Advisors	Mr M Aldous Mr E Higgins Ms M Rigby
School Counsellors	Ms Estelle Harman, Ms J Noakes
Year 9 Student Mentor	Ms Berger (History- ext 431
Canteen	Tel.96629350
High Store	Tel. 96629360
President of P&C	Mr Ian Sweeting Email: sbhs.pandc@gmail.com Tel. 0417 685 955
Absences	Tel.96629300 , Press 1 and leave your name,Contact details, your son's name and his roll class. You must send a note explaining your son's absence when he returns to school.

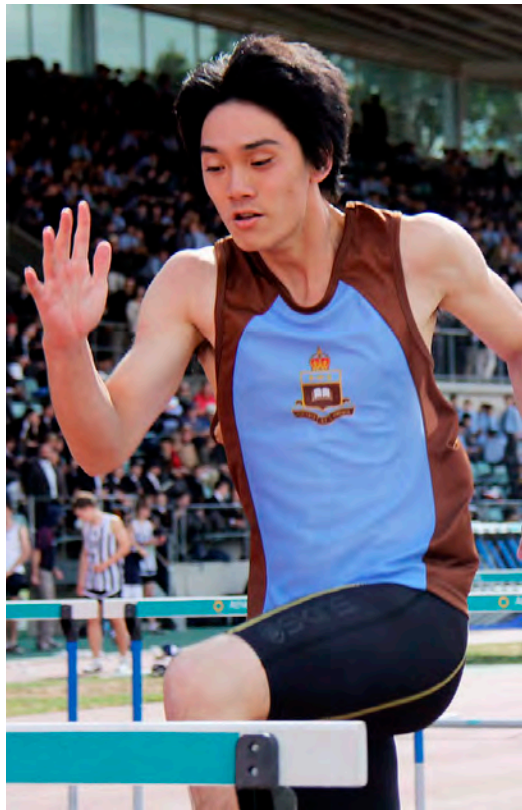
Sydney Boys High School is an academically selective high school conducted by the NSW Department of Education and Communities.

The school was founded on October 1883 and moved to its current site at Moore Park in 1928. The school is bounded by Moore Park, Anzac Parade, Sydney Girls High School and Cleveland Street.

The school's playing fields (The McKay Sports Ground) are located in Centennial Park.

The school's rowing sheds, the Outterside Centre, which are owned and maintained by the Sydney High School Foundation, are located in Teviot Avenue, Abbotsford







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