



## From the Principal

### Welcome Back to Term 2

Term two is always the busiest as examinations, assessments and reports are prepared, marked, published and discussed for all academic years. As from next Monday, our Executive leadership will revert to its usual structure. I want to thank George Barris for his work in the Relieving Principal role and extend those thanks to Kerryn Ibbott who relieved for George as Deputy Principal (7,9,11) and to Matthew Hood who relieved as Head Teacher Science for Kerryn. During the holidays, John Prorellis and his team – Jim Crampton, David Isaacs and Daniel Xu – installed Vivi into the Industrial Arts practical rooms to complete the AV set up for the whole school. Scheduled blinds replacement or repairs were carried out in several rooms. The Cooler Classrooms work was also advanced.



### NAPLAN Results

Our planning targets several years ago identified a 29% gap between reading and writing results in Year 9 NAPLAN. In 2024, this gap was reduced to 12%. This is evidence that our focus on *Sentence Conscious Pedagogy* is having some positive effect.

In our recent NAPLAN results our school mean results for reading, grammar and punctuation, spelling and numeracy were all at the 'exceeding' level in Years 7 and 9. Compared to 2024, our 2025-year 7 cohort results were about the same in reading and grammar and punctuation. Improved means were achieved in spelling and numeracy. In reading in Year 9, 2025 there was an improvement in the bottom quartile but a slight drop in the mean. Grammar and punctuation, spelling and numeracy had improved means. Our regular spelling test policy seems to be having a beneficial impact over time. Congratulations to all staff and students for producing these encouraging results.

### Duke of Edinburgh Awards – Update

Silver Award recipients – Nestor Chan and Rajendra Krishnan (Year 11). Bronze Awards go to Charles Caro, Ryan Chai, Tristan Chee, Adam Flocard, Jack Francis, Kay Minh Nguyen, Alex Ruhfus and Michael Truong (Year 10). Well done indeed, boys!



### Help Replace The Fairland Pavilion

Jacob Ezrakhovich (SHS-2003), President of the SHSOBU and Chair of the Pavilion Fundraising Committee, officially launched the fundraising campaign on Tuesday evening. David Greateorex (SHS-1950) and Alex Feldman (SHS-2003) spoke about the Fairland Pavilion and McKay Playing Fields, its history and its relationships with the Greater Sydney Parklands management.

My speech is reprinted below:

'A century ago, at a SHSOBU annual dinner, the Minister for Education, Thomas Mutch, announced the provisional erection of a new school building adjacent to SGHS in Moore Park. The proviso was that the SHSOBU 'shared the responsibility of equipping the school and providing playing fields.' £800 was raised on the evening. According to the pre-decimal inflation calculator, that sum would buy >\$80k of goods and services in 2024. R.T. McKay lobbied the Department of Agriculture and a permissive occupancy of 19 acres within the Centennial Parklands was signed with the OBU. We have always had great support from our Old Boys.

*The SHSOBU and the NSW Government have had formal legal arrangements between them ever since 1925. Tonight, we are here to ensure that the relationships between the SHSOBU (now represented by the Sydney High School Foundation Ltd) and the NSW Government (now represented by Greater Sydney Parklands) persists for another 50 years. This can only happen if High is granted priority access to playing fields, through the GSP booking system. This priority will be maintained for a further 45 years, provided that a replacement for Fairland Pavilion has commenced construction by 2029. We are here to begin in earnest to raise the necessary funds to commence the building, and guarantee our access to the fields, where generations of Old Boys have played since 1932.*

One hundred years after that historic Old Boys dinner, High is still a very good school – better in many ways than you might remember it. Our academic results are high, with average ATARs in the range 91 to 93. Recently, we won GPS competitions in Football and Volleyball, with three national schools teams titles in Fencing. We support fifteen sports with administrative structures, finance and leadership. Our chess and debating performances are strong. Our performance music program has very high participation, with more than a dozen ensembles and a showcase marching band. We have student-run co-curricular activities in community service, social justice and environmental responsibility. The Sydney High Cadet Unit continues to thrive. Student Wellbeing is a focus of staff and student cooperation. Our facilities and resources have improved dramatically.

Returning to the McKay Fields in 1932, Old Boys Charles and Sid Hirst designed and built a dressing shed which opened in 1933. As students were using the change rooms and the McKay fields, the Sydney High School P & C Association began to contribute the labour and finance necessary to maintain the sheds and fields. In 1935 a *Sports Ground Committee* was established, with three representatives from each of the governance bodies the OBU, the P & C and the School.

When the *Sydney High School Council* was established in 1951 to coordinate school activities, the *Sports Ground Committee* became affiliated with it. The P & C paid for a part time groundsman. Hence, the SHSOBU and the SHS P & C Association shared joint responsibility for assets – Old Boys build, acquire or manage assets, the parents of succeeding student cohorts of student users, maintain them. History calls upon us to work together again.

In the late 1940s, Sid Hirst again was the architect for the proposed additional storey on top of the dressing sheds. The three school bodies worked to raise £3000 and organised a guarantee of £1500 (a combined total of \$285,000 in 2024 equivalent dollars). The completed Fairland Pavilion was opened in November of 1952 and has served our school community ever since. Back then, the school community participated in working bees, one of which erected > 400m of post and rail fencing in one day, in 1957.

Since the establishment of the *Sydney High School Foundation* in 1986, it has managed the administration of the Fairland Pavilion, McKay Playing Fields and the relationship between the School and CMPT. *Sydney High School Foundation Ltd* is managing fundraising for the replacement pavilion project. *Our school community has been committed to McKay and Fairland Pavilion for 92 years. It is at the end of its useful life, and we need to replace it.*

Back in 2000, Bob Outterside and I led a negotiation to obtain a *Deed of Licence* with the CMPT on a 4x5 year

basis, as the previous agreement had expired. The new License was signed off on February 16, 2001. It expired in December 2019, but was deemed to continue until the terms of a new Deed of Licence could be agreed. Things then stalled and the Foundation (and hence the school) were in very real danger of having no priority access at all to the McKay Fields. There was a draft Fairland Pavilion licence prepared in March 2020. After many years of arduous negotiation by Old Boy Alex Feldman and Foundation Secretary John Taylor, inter alia, the current 5-year Deed of Licence was signed off on March 20, 2024. Securing the 45-year Licence is our next objective.

We all make emotional investments. Mine are mostly in yachting, a sport notoriously hard on the wallet. The return on my investments are psychological and emotional only. The school community needs to make such an investment. We need \$4 million dollars to secure 45 years access to McKay Playing Fields. We do not have much time to achieve this goal.

Future cohorts of High boys are depending on us. Several schools and organisations are ready to make offers to GSP to take over a secure access agreement over the McKay fields. This is a turning point – time and tide do not wait. Help us to secure High's future.'

**Dr K A Jaggar**  
**Principal**



**MOTHER'S DAY! Sunday 11 May 2025**

Gift suggestions for mum to keep warm at your sporting events!

Come by the **High Store** to make your purchases.

Scarf with SBHS Crest - \$27.50.

HIGH Beanie - \$35.00.



**Half Yearly Reports Clearance Forms Year 8**

Clearance forms for report collection will be online during the coming weeks. Please ensure outstanding payments and due book returns are received **before** the clearance form is generated.

**Sharon Kearns**  
**SAM**



## Senior Library Update

As part of our ongoing commitment to providing students with the best possible resources to support their learning, we are pleased to announce that Sydney Boys High School now has exclusive access to JSTOR.

JSTOR is one of the world's leading digital libraries, offering thousands of academic journals, scholarly articles and primary sources across a wide range of disciplines. It is a resource typically used by universities and research institutions, and now it's available to all SBHS students.

Students can access JSTOR via the 'Library e-Resources' section of the school intranet. They also have the option to create a personal JSTOR account using their @sbhs email address, allowing them to save articles, organise research and access materials beyond their school network.

We encourage students to make the most of this opportunity, particularly for research projects, major works and extended essays. I am available in the Senior Library to assist students with navigating JSTOR and incorporating it effectively into their academic work.

We look forward to seeing our students take full advantage of this outstanding new resource as they continue to strive for academic excellence.

**Beth Hinton**

Teacher Librarian Senior Library



## Transport Inspectors

Authorised transport officers are deployed to inspect **Code of Conduct** compliance on school bus and tram services in the Eastern Region. Students who are found to have breached their obligations may lose their travel entitlement and possibly incur an infringement fine







## 2025 Theatresports!

### Playoffs against Sydney Girls High School

In the last week of Term 1, SBHS Theatre Sportsmen competed against SGHS at the annual Theatresports Playoffs at The Governors Centre.

TheatreSports just keeps getting bigger every year and we have some strong junior players who have joined our weekly coaching sessions.

The Playoffs were hosted by our very own coach Nathaniel Jensen and are an excellent way to prepare for the State TheatreSports School Challenge competition which kicks off at the start of Term 2.

Our boys performed unscripted scenes in front of a live audience and were judged out of a score of 5 on 'narrative', 'entertainment' and 'technique'.

All boys are to be congratulated for their efforts!

**Anna Barry**

**TheatreSports Coordinator**



Junior Team: Elvis Chen, Yuwei Chen, Zayed Alkhateeb, Ethan Cui, Jerry Gao



Junior Team: Jacob Yen, Moksha Venkatareddy, Farhan Shakil, Chris Wang





Junior Team: Ilya Tsoutsman, Kiaan Taneja, Oliver Liu, Brishen Xue



Intermediate Team: Noah Pillemer, Issac Wong, Saadat Sayeed, Nishith Munasinghe



TSC Intermediate Team: Jason Huang, Mac Giles, Mihir Shah, Jasper Jakubauskas, Ahyen Haque



Senior Team: Jerry Yeung, Munjin Chowdhury, James Carmichael



# Music NOTES

## Transdev John Holland Randwick Buses 77<sup>th</sup> ANZAC Memorial Service

Selected members from our marching band in years 9 to 12 performed at the 77<sup>th</sup> Annual ANZAC Day Memorial Service at Randwick Bus Depot on Wednesday 16 April 2025. The drumline led the officials in before the band played the opening piece, *An Irish Ayre for Winds*. Year 11 student, Tim Chen, played the Last Post and Reveille after the reading of the Ode. We have had wonderful feedback on how well the boys performed and presented themselves. Well done to all the students involved giving up time in their holidays to represent the school proudly.



## RSL NSW ANZAC DAY March

Our Marching Band of over 100 members rehearsed in the holidays and marched in the CBD on Anzac Day alongside many other organisations. The band was led by year 12 Drum Major: Alasdair Yong, with Michael Li (OB 2024) directing the band and Kevin Chen (OB 2021) assisting Michael with rehearsals and marching with the band on the day. It is always great to have the old boys working with the current music performance band members.

Congratulations to all the boys involved, on their wonderful efforts and professionalism on the day!



## Music Ensemble Rehearsals

ALL music ensembles have commenced this term, please ensure you attend all sessions punctually and prepared. We have a packed term with Music Camp and concert in the last week, and several eisteddfod events in June.

ALL Junior students are expected to attend rehearsals during exam weeks.



## Annual Music Camp

Music camp notes are available outside the music staffroom.

Please collect a note and return completed with payment by end of week 4 to the main office.

## Music Instruments in Storeroom

A reminder to place your instruments neatly in their designated areas in the music storeroom to avoid damage and leave a clear pathway down the aisle as it becomes a safety hazard otherwise.

ALL instruments should have a tag attached to the case with student's name and contact details clearly labelled.

## Instrumental Lessons

Instrumental lessons are available before and after school. Please see the music notice board outside the music staffroom for tutor contacts to arrange a suitable time.

**Suzanna Lim**

Music teacher

## 2025 Music Ensemble Schedule

MONDAY (Before School)	TUESDAY (Before School)	WEDNESDAY (Before School)	THURSDAY (Before School)	FRIDAY (Before School)
Intermediate Concert ..... Band 7.30am – 8.30am Governors Centre	Senior Concert Band 7.30am – 8.30am Governors Centre	Symphonic Strings Ensemble 7.45am – 8.45am Room 204		Marching Band GH/MPW Scheduled Sessions
Guitar Ensemble 7.45am – 8.45am Room 201		Senior Stage Band 7.45am – 8.45am Room 201	Symphony Orchestra 7.45am – 8.45am Room 201	Chamber Choir Ensemble 8.00am – 9.00am Room 201
Philharmonic Strings Ensemble 7.45am – 8.45am Room 101	Junior and Senior String Quartet 7.45am – 8.45am Room 101	Junior Stage Band 7.45am – 8.45am Room 101	Intermediate Stage Band 7.45am – 8.45am Room 101	
(After School)	(After School)	(After School)	(After School)	(After School)
Guitar Ensemble 3.15pm – 4.15pm Room 201				Jazz Ensemble 3.15pm – 4.15pm Room 201
				Percussion Ensemble 3.30pm – 4.30pm Governors Centre



# PHOTOS



## Ordering Summer Sport Photos

[www.melbastudios.com.au](http://www.melbastudios.com.au)

Select schools

Password is HIGH

Kurt Rich

Photo Coordinator


Place Your Order






Welcome back to the school term! I hope everyone had a chance to enjoy the holiday break. As we start the new term, please note that **all Cross-Country Students** – including both **GPS Competitors** and the **Development Squad** – will have **Saturday fixtures** throughout the term.

#### Important Information for GPS Runners:

View the GPS schedule here:  [GPS Schedule Folder](#)

A comprehensive season overview (including CHS events) is available here:  [Season Overview Document](#)

All **training sessions** and **Saturday fixtures** should also be visible to students on **Clipboard**. If anything is unclear or missing, students are to let me know as soon as possible.

#### Expectations for Attendance:

**GPS Runners** must arrive **no later than the start of the course walk-through**.

For example, this Saturday's walk-through begins at **8:30 AM**.

Runners are expected to stay **until dismissed**, which will be after the final Open High Competitor finishes their race.

This Saturday marks our **first competition event of the season**, hosted by **Waverley** and **St Aloysius** at: **Upjohn Park** – 3 Kirby St, Rydalmere.

**Development Squad runners** must arrive **15 minutes** prior to their race start time.

**Final Reminders:** **Punctuality** is essential for both training and competition.

Please ensure you are prepared and arrive on time to every session and event.

Let's start the season strong and make the most of the opportunities ahead. Looking forward to a great season of running!

#### 2025 School Cross Country

Term 1 concluded with the successful running of our annual School Cross Country Carnival at **McKay Oval, Centennial Parklands**. A huge thank you to all staff involved, especially **Mr. John Prorellis**, whose support was crucial to the logistics and smooth running of the day.

Congratulations to all competitors! Below are the **Top 3 placegetters in each age group**. The full **Top 15** has been posted on **CANVAS – Sport**.

**Note:** Any student in the **Top 10** who does **not** wish to continue through the CHS pathways must notify **Mr K Rich** at [richk@sbhs.nsw.edu.au](mailto:richk@sbhs.nsw.edu.au) as soon as possible.

Well done to all students on their outstanding effort and participation!

**Kurt Rich**  
**MIC Cross Country**



#### Top 3 Finishers – Cross Country Carnival

Age Group	1st Place	2nd Place	3rd Place	Age Group	1st Place	2nd Place	3rd Place
18s	Tanish Sarathy	Micah Jouravlev	Aaron Chu	14s	Alejo Hartigan	Jeremy Li	Ayush Sarathy
17s	Max Chen	Joshua Kimpton	Lucas Zhang	13s	Anton Bolofer	Benjamin Lau	Riordan Li
16s	Nestor Chan	Elijah Lees	Charlie Cheshire	12s	Raymond Lee	Dennis Shek	Lucas Qiao
15s	Owen Smith	Chris Pan	Mekaeel Khan				





**FREE**

# Effective Parenting Course

**This free four-week course is facilitated by experienced psychologists specialising in adolescent development and behaviour. The course will assist parents to build stronger parent-child relationships and better manage and understand their adolescent's behaviour. This is a skills-building and educational program only.**

**Four Wednesdays from the 14th of May to the 4th of June, 2025**

**From 6pm - 8pm**

**WAYS Bondi Junction - Tiffany Plaza, 422 Oxford Street, Bondi Junction**

**Located above the bus and train station**

## TOPIC AREAS INCLUDE:

- Understanding your child - adolescent development
- Reflecting on your parenting - the impact of various parenting styles
- Practical strategies for building resilience and internal regulation in your children
- Setting limits and boundaries that stick
- Effective communication and conflict resolution strategies
- Special topics: alcohol and other drugs, respectful relationships, mental health, navigating social media and device use

“

“This course is one of the MOST beneficial things we have done as parents- everyone should be taught these Strategies / knowledge. Totally needed in the community”

“Both facilitators were extremely knowledgeable and generous with their information. It was great to have practical experience to reinforce the theory. I thought the content was pitched correctly to the target audience. Great service and felt privileged to have access to it”

“Absolutely life changing for me! Already recommended it to a few people”

”

**Hurry book in today as places are limited**

Please call and speak to Luke to reserve your place  
or for more information

P. (02) 9365 2500 E. [luke@ways.org.au](mailto:luke@ways.org.au)

[ways.org.au](http://ways.org.au)





# ADVENTURE STARTS HERE 2025

TELL ME MORE



The Duke of Ed is a prestigious award that's all about getting active, learning a skill, and giving back to your community. You get international recognition for doing the things you love and you get to go on awesome adventures in the bush.

YouthAdvance is partnering with your school to offer this amazing opportunity for all students in Year 9-12.



**PHYSICAL  
RECREATION**



**SKILLS**



**VOLUNTARY  
SERVICE**



**ADVENTUROUS  
JOURNEY**

**Parent Information Night - Wednesday May 7th 6:30pm**  
**TEAMS Meeting ID:492 424 534 585 Passcode:ia7zu7na**



# STUDY

Dear Students and Parents,

Just to remind you that our school is a subscriber to the study skills website [www.studyskillshandbook.com.au](http://www.studyskillshandbook.com.au) including the Study Samurai video library.

This website will help you develop essential skills for academic success.

There are units of work on improving time management skills, how to study, research skills, summarising, technology use, brain and memory as well as many wellbeing topics in the Study Samurai Library.

Everything you need to know about becoming a more powerful learner and improving your marks at school can be found on this site. For example, learn how the colour of your room affects your ability to study, what the best study techniques are for your type of brain, how to improve your handwriting and useful software and Apps to block yourself from technology distractions.

You will also see lots of useful handouts, grids and planners at the bottom of the THINGS TO PRINT page.

To access the handbook, go to [www.studyskillshandbook.com.au](http://www.studyskillshandbook.com.au) and **login** with these details:

username: **sydneyboys**

password: **sydneyboys**

OR, through the Student Portal, go to My Library then Online Databases, scroll down to the Study Samurai.

The more of this website you can work through, the more you will set yourself up for academic success.

**Miss Joanna Chan**

**Head Teacher Student Wellbeing**







# STUDY SAMURAI

FIVE KEYS TO UNLOCK PERSONAL ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE

## The Study Samurai Library includes:

### 1. THE ELES ONLINE STUDY SKILLS HANDBOOK WEBSITE

#### Working Better At Home Units

1. Home Study Environment
2. Organisation and Filing
3. Time Management Skills
4. Managing Workload
5. Dealing with Distractions
6. Overcoming Procrastination
7. Developing Motivation
8. Goal Setting
9. Lifestyle and Balance
10. Managing Stress

#### Improving Your Skills Units

1. Reading Skills
2. Writing Skills
3. Mathematical Skills
4. Science Skills
5. Foreign Language Skills
6. Assignments Skills
7. Research Skills
8. Presentation Skills

#### Improving How You Study Units

1. Summarising
2. Active Studying
3. Preparing for Exam Blocks
4. Test-Taking Techniques
5. After Tests & Exams

#### Working Better At School Units

1. Will we ever use this?
2. Using Classtime
3. Asking for Help
4. Dealing with Conflict
5. Groupwork Skills

#### Using Technology Units

1. Technology Tools
2. Basic Computer Skills
3. Be CyberSmart
4. Useful Apps for iPads
5. Microsoft OneNote

#### Skills for Specific Stages Units

1. Preparing in Primary
2. Starting Secondary School
3. Mastering Middle School
4. Becoming a Senior Student
5. Studying at University

#### Tools for Managing Challenges Units

1. Strategies for Dyslexia
2. Remote Home Learning
3. Living Across Two Houses
4. Bullying: Issues and Strategies
5. Managing Part-Time Jobs
6. Educational Kinesiology
7. Your Brain and Memory
8. Live Your Best Life
9. Tips for Parents
10. Tips for Teachers and Schools

NOTE: A subscription to the Study Skills Handbook includes all topics in this first section.

The Study Samurai Library includes everything on this whole page including all the handbook topics.

### 2. THE HUMAN CONNECTIONS ONLINE WELLBEING RESOURCE

- Module 1: What is stress?
- Module 2: Stress and peak performance
- Module 3: Positive Psychology, what determines happiness
- Module 4: Quick relaxation & wellbeing tips
- Module 5: Learning how to relax, progressive muscle relaxation
- Module 6: Meditation
- Module 7: Mindfulness
- Module 8: Stress and the way you think

- Module 9: Changing your thinking
- Module 10: Turning negative thinking into positive thinking
- Module 11: Breathing techniques
- Module 12: Changing your focus
- Module 13: Pressure points to help you relax
- Module 14: Time management
- Module 15: Self-image beliefs
- Module 16: How to create positive habits

### 3. THE STUDY SAMURAI LIBRARY VIDEO LESSONS BY DR PRUE SALTER & ROCKY BIASI (20-30 MINS EACH)

#### Performance: Achieve personal best performance

- Neuroplasticity (ROCKY)
- Brain Rules (ROCKY)
- 7 Motivation Strategies (ROCKY)
- What Drives Human Behavior (ROCKY)
- How to Set Goals (ROCKY)

- Maximising Classtime (PRUE)
- Practice Methods (ROCKY)
- Mental Practice (ROCKY)
- Practice Principles (ROCKY)
- Getting in the Flow (ROCKY)

- Your Brain and Memory (PRUE)
- Finding Help (PRUE)
- Aligning Goals To Values (ROCKY)
- Model Masters (ROCKY)
- Sustain Progress Develop Mastery (ROCKY)

#### Study Skills: Know how to make learning easy

- Study Notes 1 (PRUE)
- Mind Maps (PRUE)
- How to Study (PRUE)
- Test-Taking Techniques (PRUE)
- Common Study Mistakes (PRUE)

- Study Notes 2 (PRUE)
- Learning Preferences (PRUE)
- Improving Reading Skills (PRUE)
- Improving Handwriting (PRUE)
- After Tests & Exams (PRUE)

- Study Notes 3 (PRUE)
- Subject Specific Study (PRUE)
- Advanced Memory Techniques (PRUE)
- Preparing for Exam Blocks (PRUE)
- Essay Writing Skills (PRUE)

#### Time Management: Become organised, efficient and productive

- Home Study Environment (PRUE)
- Organisation and Filing (Paper) (ROCKY)
- Organisation and Filing (Digital Resources) (PRUE)
- Independent Learning (PRUE)
- Managing Workload (PRUE)

- Time to Allocate to Schoolwork (PRUE)
- Creating Afternoon Routines (PRUE)
- Dealing with Technology Distractions (PRUE)
- Dealing with Other Distractions (PRUE)
- Overcoming Procrastination (PRUE)

- Prioritising Techniques (PRUE)
- Managing Workload 2 (PRUE)
- Planning Holiday Study (PRUE)
- The One Thing (ROCKY)
- 80/20 Rule (ROCKY)

#### Mindset: Develop a growth and success mindset

- When will we ever use this? (PRUE)
- How Winners Think (ROCKY)
- Identity Beliefs (ROCKY)
- Fixed and Growth Mindset (ROCKY)
- Vision and Purpose (ROCKY)

- Senior School Mindset (PRUE)
- How to Change Negative Thinking (ROCKY)
- Problem Solving Questions (ROCKY)
- Mental Mindset of Champions (ROCKY)
- Focus (ROCKY)

- Keeping Things in Perspective (PRUE)
- The Power of Failure (ROCKY)
- 5 Steps To Get Your Head Right For Senior School (ROCKY)
- Changing Your Thinking ABC (ROCKY)
- Strategies for a Growth Mindset folder (ROCKY)

#### WellBeing: Have energy and motivation

- Lifestyle Factors (PRUE)
- Power Poses (ROCKY)
- Positive Psychology (ROCKY)
- Starting Your Day For Success (ROCKY)
- Creating Positive Habits (ROCKY)

- Sleep and Study (PRUE)
- Stress and Anxiety Relief with The Tapping Technique (ROCKY)
- Accessing The Emotions You Want (Anchoring) (ROCKY)
- Asking Better Questions to change your mental focus (ROCKY)
- Healthy Mind Platter (ROCKY)

- Nourishing Body and Brain (PRUE)
- Meditation and Mindfulness (ROCKY)
- Happiness Advantage (ROCKY)
- Wellbeing Factors (ROCKY)
- Progressive Muscle Relaxation (ROCKY)



# 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 of 17 years. 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 NSW Education and Standards Authority for home schooling.

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.

## 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 NSW 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.

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