



2025 Term 1 Key Dates—Full list of activities and events are available on the Compass Calendar

Tuesday, 28th January	Staff Professional Learning Day—Student Free Day
Wednesday, 29th January	Term 1 begins Parent Teacher Conferences—years 7 to 11 / year 12 Federation University—No academic classes
Monday 3rd February to Friday 7th February	Year 7 Transition and Camp Week
Wednesday 12th February	Photo Day
Thursday 20th February	Swimming Carnival
Friday 7th March	Professional Learning Day—Student Free Day
Monday 10th March	Public Holiday
Thursday 3rd April	Parent Teacher Conferences 1:00pm to 8:00pm—No academic classes
Friday 4th April	Final Day Term 1—2:30pm finish
Tuesday 22nd April	Term 2 begins
Friday 25th April	ANZAC Day Public Holiday
Wednesday 30th April	Grade 6 Parent Information Evening 6:00pm Stadium
Friday 20th June	Report Writing Day—Student Free
Friday 4th July	Final Day Term 2
Monday 21st July	Term 3 begins
Thursday 7th August	Professional Learning—Student Free
Friday 19th September	Final Day Term 3
Monday 6th October	Term 4 begins
Tuesday 4th November	Melbourne Cup Day—Public Holiday
Friday 21st November	Staff Professional Learning—Student Free

OFFICE HOURS - Telephone: 8768 1000

FINANCE OFFICE: Monday to Friday: 8:30am – 4:00pm

ADMINISTRATION OFFICE:

Monday to Thursday: 8:15am – 4:30pm

Friday: 8:15am—4:00pm

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BERWICK COLLEGE NEWSLETTER

Please keep up-to-date with all College news by reading the newsletter, following us on Facebook, reviewing Compass regularly and contacting the appropriate Home Group Teacher if you have any concerns.



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Principal's Report—Josie Millard

'I congratulate and thank our students and staff for the contribution they have made to our productive, vibrant and successful school community'

As we come to the end of an exceptional year, I invite you to read this newsletter and reflect upon the successes and celebrations of the students of Berwick College. I congratulate and thank our students and staff for the contribution they have made to our productive, vibrant and successful school community.

On Presentation Night this year, over 130 students were honoured with either academic excellence awards, an endeavour award, a values award or a special award. These achievements are reflective of the amazing community of students; they contribute to the school, they seek to challenge themselves in their studies and they strive for excellence. They were students who were committed to their studies; who contributed to the school and challenged themselves to be their best selves.

That evening we also conducted the symbolic handover from the 2024 College Captains, led by **Regan Gay**, to the 2025 College Captains, **Mackenzie Rees, Brayden Brown, Charlee Lancaster and Luke Greenshields**. I am very much looking forward to working closely with these students in their leadership of the school in 2025.

Our 2024 College Dux, **Ariel Levy**, spoke eloquently of her educational journey and experiences at Berwick College, expressing gratitude to her year 12 teachers for their mentoring and guidance. Ariel gained an outstanding ATAR of 95.20 and is looking forward to commencing a career in biomedicine.

I was proud to announce the outstanding year 12 results knowing that we have continued to offer a huge range of subjects, reflecting our ongoing commitment to a broad, values-based education for all students. I acknowledge the passion and dedication of all staff to ensuring that Berwick College students are able to access an education that gives them agency and the ability to make the best decisions that impact their future. They do so in a culture of high expectations, both in academic and vocational terms, as well as in the way they contribute to their community.

On Tuesday, 10th December, we welcomed our new year 7 students for 2025. The new beginning and the welcoming of new students always brings with it happiness and hope and this year was no exception. The program for the day introduced students to the school and whilst there was some trepidation early in the day, by the end of the day there were smiles and laughter.

We celebrated the Basketball Academy students and coaches for their outstanding success in the Australian School Championships, establishing themselves as the strongest school-based basketball program in Australia. A full report is contained in this newsletter.

Year 10 and year 11 students have completed Unit 1 and Unit 3 Headstart Program and are to be congratulated upon the manner in which they have undertaken the first sessions in their VCE studies. They have recognised the significant advantage they have by completing the Headstart Program, and the purpose and commitment has been evident throughout the school. Holiday homework for all subjects has been set and we are confident that students will enjoy completing these tasks which further prepare them for a productive year in which they are able to reach their potential.

Our current Year 7, 8 and 9 students have also been working hard this term. Now, the CATs are completed, the learning is complete, and the habits of study are being built to ensure learning success in the years to come. As the holiday break begins, I encourage everyone to make the time to rest, to eat healthily and to be deliberate in avoiding screens over the break.

We look forward to welcoming our students to the 2025 school year on Wednesday, 29th January. Year 12 students will have an orientation day at Federation University and Years 7 to 11 students will, together with their parent or carer, attend school for a parent teacher conference. Further details about the arrangements for these conferences may be found attached to this newsletter.

In the final Newsletter of the year, I would like to wish all members of our school community a very happy holiday and a safe and healthy new year.

I look forward to welcoming you back to 2025 prepared and ready for a new year of learning!

Happy Holidays!

Dance Academy—News



TRANSIT DANCE

To celebrate the end of the year we took all of the BCDA students to Transit Dance in Brunswick. Students participated in two dance workshops led by industry professionals Priscilla Stavrou and Kaitlin Malone. Students were challenged in contemporary and musical theatre. We were also lucky enough to be audience members for their production of 'Nocturne'. This was a great opportunity to show students what it is like to be a full time dance student and we also bumped into a few BCDA past students which was lovely!

INSPIRE PILATES

Our year 8 and 9 students participated in workshops to enhance their dancing practice. We welcomed Alex and Francesca from Inspire Physiotherapy who guided our students through a turns workshop and a yoga hyper mobility class. Thank you to BCDA parent Olivia for helping organise this for our students!

Year 7 2025

On Tuesday the 10th we welcomed our 2025 year 7 BCDA class to the school. Thank you to our year 8 helpers **Arshiya** and **Eleanor** for making them feel more confident around the school and to our year 9 class for helping our new dancers get fitted with their dance uniform. We can't wait for a great 2025!

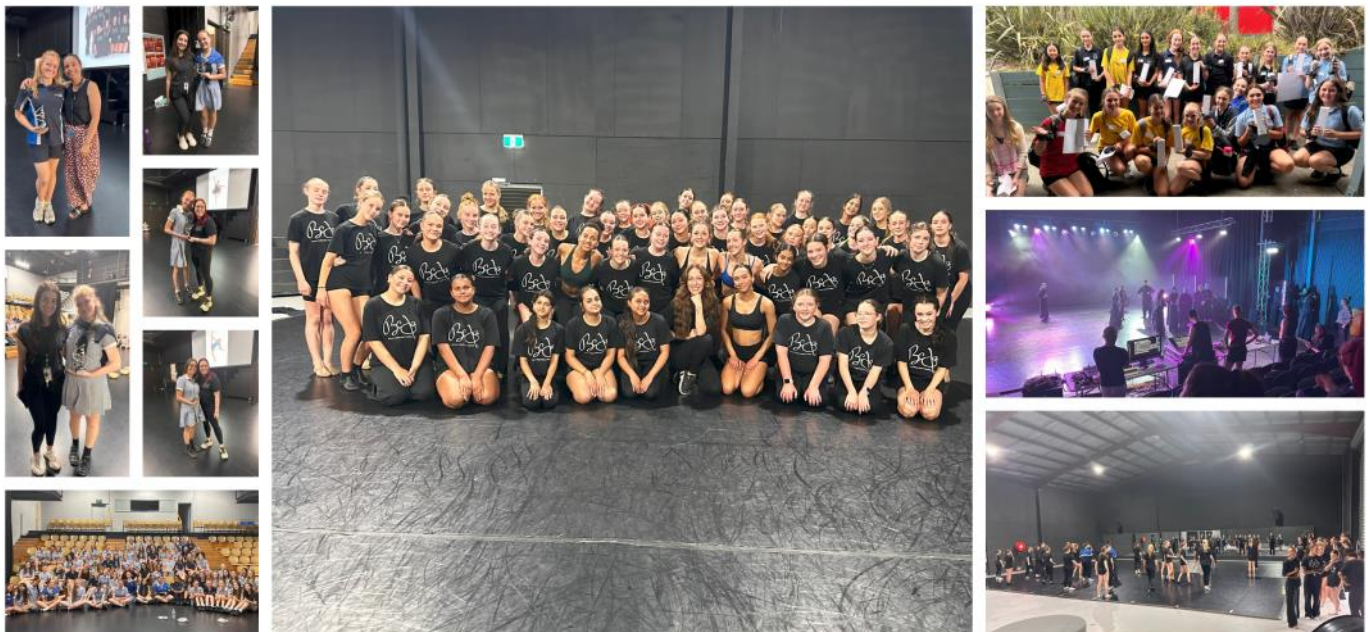
END OF YEAR CELEBRATION LUNCH

On December the 3rd we held our annual BCDA celebration lunch where we reflected on 2024 and our successes and growth. It was a time to thank our teachers for all that they do and to recognise students that continuously demonstrate our ICARE values. Congratulations to our year level award recipients **Bella Cruse, Holly Waring, Bella Lock, Estelle Greene and Zoe Elliott.**



Merry Christmas and have a safe holiday break!

Melissa Quenette
Director of Dance



Valedictory Celebrations—Class of 2024

YEAR 12 VALEDICTORY CELEBRATIONS: A MEMORABLE FAREWELL TO OUR GRADUATES

Over two special evenings, Tuesday the 19th and Wednesday the 20th of November, we came together to celebrate the remarkable achievements of our year 12 students at the Valedictory Ceremonies. Welcoming over 800 guests and staff across both nights, the atmosphere was filled with pride, joy, and a true sense of community as we honoured the Class of 2024.

Our graduates received their certificates of completion for the VCE and VCE VM programs, marking a significant milestone in their educational journeys. The evenings featured the presentation of subject awards, recognising the top-performing students in each subject area. The Senior School ICARE Awards, celebrated students who exemplify the values of Inquiry, Cooperation, Achievement, Resilience and Empathy. All our Senior School Award Recipients are named below, and we congratulate them again on their outstanding achievements.

Night 1	
Inquiry Award	Daisy Coupar
Cooperation Award	Heath McPherson
Achievement Award	Japneet Singh Deol
Resilience Award	Ajok Kuol
Empathy Award	Shi-Anne Lawrence
Employability Award	Harrison Church
Academic Growth Award	Levi Alter
Personal Growth Award	Bayley Burton
Long Tan – Youth Leadership Award	Ethan Smith
Coordinator’s Award	Ebony Code
Principal’s Award	Tarran Frost

Night 2	
Inquiry Award	Jordan Hillbrick
Cooperation Award	Stefan Kuljanin
Achievement Award	Ariel Levy
Resilience Award	Syeda Awallin
Empathy Award	Isabelle Harper
Employability Award	Sebastian Leone
Academic Growth Award	Oliver Ward
Personal Growth Award	Harrison Rojas
ADF Innovators in STEM Award	Ariel Levy
AMPOL Best All Rounder	Caitlin Bennett
Coordinator’s Award	Mitchell Drury
Principal’s Award	Isabella Quirk

Many staff members joined in the celebrations, engaging warmly with families to reflect on the growth and achievements of our graduating cohort.

On behalf of the Senior School team, we would like to thank all who attended and supported these evenings, making them a fitting tribute to our Year 12 students.

We wish them every success as they embark on the next chapter of their lives!



Basketball Academy National Champions

BERWICK COLLEGE BASKETBALL ACADEMY SHINES AT THE AUSTRALIAN SCHOOL CHAMPIONSHIPS 2024

On Sunday, December 1st, a select group of seven teams from the Berwick College Basketball Academy, including four boys' teams and three girls' teams, travelled to the Gold Coast to represent the school at the Australian School Championships 2024. The event brought together the best basketball schools in the country, with the Gold Coast playing host to some of the top-tier talent in Australian school basketball.

The highlight of the tournament was the performance of our U20 Boys team, who qualified for the Championship Division—a prestigious category made up of the best school teams from each state, competing for the national title. Alongside the U20 Boys in the Championship Division, Berwick College also fielded teams in Division 1 for U20 Boys and Girls, U17 Boys and Girls, and U15 Boys and Girls, with each age group competing at the highest level.

The challenging Gold Coast heat and humidity proved to be a significant factor throughout the tournament. By the end of the week, it was clear that survival wasn't just about skill, but fitness as well. Enter Robbie Tissera, our Strength and Conditioning coach, who played a crucial role in maintaining the fitness of all 70 student-athletes. Robbie was a true jack of all trades, ensuring the players stayed in top physical condition and ready for the gruelling competition ahead.

As the week progressed, our teams jelled beautifully, and by Friday, we had achieved a school-best six medals: 3 gold, 1 silver, and 2 bronze. The U20 Boys Championship team stood out as one of the best, going undefeated throughout the week. They faced a tough challenge in the final against Trinity College from South Australia, who were also undefeated in their pool. The game came down to the final minute, but Berwick College secured the win with a 78-68 victory, earning the first ever U20 Boys' Championship Division gold medal for the school.

U20 Boys 1 Championship Gold Medal Winners

Coach – Brent Hobba

- Ryan Baker
- Truman Byrne
- Jhai Guttenbeil
- Marcus Krasnadamskis
- Callun McDonald
- Heath McPherson
- Brandon Pele
- Cedric Rault
- Sebastien Rault
- Phoenix Windsor

Team Manager – Robbie Tissera



The Senior Girls team also delivered an impressive performance. They finished the round-robin phase with three wins and one loss, but in the semifinals, they were defeated by eventual winners Southport State High by 10 points. Despite the setback, the team bounced back on Friday, securing a bronze medal in a nail-biting 52-51 win against Westfield High School from Sydney.

U20 Girls Bronze Medalists

Head Coach – Jade Hyett

- Dakota Blacka
- Alexis Cruse
- Molly Da Silva
- Isabella De Jong
- Matilda Gaudion
- Charlotte Ngawaka
- Stella O'Loughlin
- Jacinta Purdham
- Molly Reimers
- Kendra Rivet

Team Manager – Tristan Blacka



Basketball Academy National Champions

The Senior 2 Boys team also made an incredible showing in Division 1, marking the only occasion in the championships where a school had two teams in the same age group. Their strong play saw them reach the gold medal match against Trinity College Gold Coast, where they unfortunately went down with a 55-47 loss.

A silver medal is an amazing result.

U20 Boys 2 Silver Medalists

Head Coach – Craig Kennedy

- Levi Alter
- Tyler De Jong
- Kaidyn Duke
- Seth Horne
- Brayden Kotsch
- Tyler Langston
- Riley McLeod
- Nikola Prvulovic
- Will Seskis
- Mitchell Zeunert

Team Manager – Helen Alter

The U17 Boys' team went undefeated in the round games, facing off against Westfield High in the quarterfinals, where they won 65-48. However, it was in the semifinals that they truly proved their mettle. They were matched up against Rowville Sports Academy, a team they were familiar with from previous tournaments, including the Champions Cup. Despite both teams playing solid defense and struggling with foul troubles—key players from both sides found themselves in early foul trouble—the depth of the Berwick squad became evident. With a roster packed with talent, Berwick's depth shone through as the game wore on. The team's ability to rotate fresh players without losing intensity allowed them to maintain defensive pressure and execute offensively. In a hotly contested matchup, Berwick came out on top with a 54-42 victory, securing a spot in the grand final and leading to a rematch with Flinders College. The boys played an outstanding game, winning 75-38 to take home the gold medal.

U17 Boys Division 1 Gold Medal Winners

Coach – Gerard Leonard

- Jack 'JB' Byrne
- Harry De Koning
- Eddie James
- Elijah Kata
- Zach Morrell
- Xavier Osmond
- Lachlan Pickering
- Parker Rivet
- Jake Shaw
- Zane Windsor

Team Manager – Jason Rivet

The U17 Girls, after a strong run of two wins and one loss, advanced to the finals, defeating Varsity College 51-39 in the quarterfinals. They were narrowly beaten by Flinders College in the semifinals, but finished strong with a bronze medal, edging out Templestowe College 37-34.

U17 Girls – Bronze Medalists

Head Coach – Kassie Boorer

- | | |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| • Ruby Blacka | • Latysha Iotua |
| • Taylor Dines | • Grace Norton |
| • Emma Donnellan | • Jas Pickering |
| • Kitara Fatuleai | • Sienna Read |
| • Jorja Harfoot | • Haydn White |

Team Manager – Kate Blacka



Basketball Academy National Champions

Our U15 teams, though not all medals, still showcased remarkable skill and resilience. The U15 Girls team, coached by Mr. Davey, finished the week with a 1 win and 2 loss record, but still played fiercely, finishing 7th after defeating St. Luke's College.

The U15 Boys, favourites after winning the Champions Cup earlier in the year, displayed their dominance throughout the tournament. Their quarterfinal match against Hillcrest Christian College was a commanding 114-40 win. The boys then defeated Varsity College 77-61 in the semifinals and faced Rowville once more in the final. A close first half was followed by an explosive second half, with Berwick College coming away with the gold medal in a 70-49 victory.

U15 Boys Division 1 Gold Medal Winners

Coach – Chris Pentland

Samuel Allott

Keyon'Dre "KD" Diop

Kadin Johnston

Connor McCormack

Josh Slater

Logan Stockx

Stevan Tasic

Dilan Turkkan

Oliver Van Den Brink

Harlen Youle

Team Manager – Sheree Stockx



In total, the Berwick College Basketball Academy achieved an incredible six medals—three gold, one silver, and two bronze. This achievement not only showcases the skill and dedication of our student-athletes, but also reinforces

Berwick College's position as one of the top basketball schools in Australia.

We extend our deepest thanks to all the staff, team managers, and families who supported the students throughout the week. We are incredibly proud of our athletes and their remarkable achievements, which reflect their hard work, perseverance, and commitment. What a fantastic week for Berwick College basketball!



Gerard Leonard—Basketball Academy Teacher

Mighty Monash Learning Team

The Learning Team Celebration Day was a joyful event packed with fun activities like face painting, a petting zoo, obstacle courses, Just Dance, a dunk tank, sausage sizzle, cookie decorating, and a cozy Christmas movie. It marked the end of the learning team structure, paving the way for the exciting new year-level and house system. The day was filled with laughter and camaraderie as everyone embraced the change with enthusiasm.

Secondly, well done to all our final EPIC award winners:

- Callum CHALMERS
- Siddharth REDDY
- Toby WOODWARD
- Isabella SANDERS
- Aaliyah RHODES
- Krystal ACHILLES
- Levi CAMPBELL

Lastly, let's welcome our new Monash House Leader Matthew Blanch, as well as our Captains **Austin Borutta and Tom Daly**. With our inaugural 2025 House Cup on the horizon, all eyes are on Monash to take the lead and make history!



Stephanie Swain & Jorgia Foster
Monash Learning Team Leaders



Hollows Hawks Learning Team



We are incredibly proud of all our Hollows Hawks who actively engaged in a wide range of Learning Team activities throughout the year. A huge thank you to our students, families, and staff for their unwavering commitment to achieving their best and making a positive impact on the Berwick College community.

LETTER FROM MS BOND

As we wrap up 2024, I would like to congratulate every member of Hollows for their support, engagement, and participation, which made this year such a success. For the past two years, I have had the privilege of leading Hollows, and it has been incredibly rewarding to witness the progress of our students across so many areas. Whether in the classroom, on the sports field, or beyond, it has been inspiring to see students push themselves outside their comfort zones and achieve great things.

As I will not be leading Hollows in 2025, I want to take this opportunity to say how much I have enjoyed getting to know each and every one of our students and their families. It has been a privilege to work alongside you to support students at Berwick College and these have been two of the most rewarding years of my teaching career.

To every student, staff member, and family in Hollows — thank you. Your hard work, support and dedication have made a real difference. I'm incredibly proud to have been part of this journey with you and look forward to seeing all that Hollows achieves in 2025.

LETTER FROM MR HARRIS

As we come to the end of another fantastic year, I would like to extend a heartfelt goodbye and thank you to the entire Hollows Learning Team. It has been an absolute pleasure working with such dedicated, enthusiastic, and hardworking students. Each day, your energy, creativity, and commitment to excellence have made this year truly special. Watching you grow, overcome challenges, and celebrate achievements has been an inspiring experience for all of us. I am so proud of all you have accomplished and can't wait to see what the future holds for each of you.

It has been a privilege to be part of your journey this year. Best of luck, and we look forward to all the amazing things you will continue to achieve in the future!

Annabel Bond & Dylan Harris—Hollows Learning Team Leaders



Kenny Kangas Learning Team Farewell



Dear Students and Parents/Carers of Kenny Students,

Firstly, we would just like to thank each and everyone of you for your efforts this year and for bringing the Kangas spirit at every whole school event, learning team day and in the classroom every single day. The Kenny Learning Team has had a very successful 2024, winning The Chisholm Cup on the Chisholm Learning Team day, showing great participation numbers at both Athletics and Swimming carnivals, and embracing the team spirit by raising money for the Cancer Council during the inaugural Kenny Olympics. It was also fantastic to see so many Kenny students cashing in their positive behaviour chronicles throughout the year, to give out awards for NAPLAN achievement and hearing about all of the successes experienced by our students outside of school and within the broader community.

On behalf of both of your learning team leaders we want to thank you for making 2024 a special year, whether it was your first as a part of the Kenny Learning Team, or your fifth year; the students within the team make it so special and we are very grateful to you. A special thanks also goes to every parent or carer of a Kenny student. Your efforts ensuring your children arrive to school on time, have the proper resources and attend all our wonderful events does not go unnoticed and for that we thank you.

Remember that as we move to our new structure, your connection to Kenny does not go away and we both look forward to seeing you wear your red colours with pride during whole school events in the future.

Have a restful break and a very happy Christmas, we look forward to seeing you back at school in 2025. Go the Kangas!

Dustin Cunningham – Kenny Student Learning Leader

Riley Boland – Kenny Assistant Student Learning Leader



Dunlop Diggers Learning Team



As we conclude another eventful year, the last few weeks have been filled with various activities and achievements.

The Headstart program for our VCE students proved successful, aiding our students in exploring new subjects and acquiring essential skills for the upcoming year of 2025. This program has set a positive tone for the future, helping students feel confident and prepared for the challenges ahead.

A massive congratulations to **Jordi-Ella Groenewegen** for her selection to the Australian Pearls squad and on being presented with her banner in our Celebration assembly. We are very proud of your achievements!

A special acknowledgement goes out to our E.P.I.C award winners for their outstanding dedication. These students achieved 100% attendance in Term 4 and received the highest number of green chronicles, exemplifying our school values. Students were recognised in our very last Learning Team assembly on Celebration Day.



We would like to take a moment to thank our 2024 Learning Team Captains, **Madeline De Jager** and **Mika Flenner**. Their efforts with supporting the Dunlop students and serving as fantastic role models for younger peers have been invaluable throughout the year.



Our Home Group teachers also deserve a special mention. Your dedication and support for our students have made this year a memorable one.

Thank you for everything you do to foster a positive and nurturing environment.

Jaqueline Pistorius, Rod Park, Ingrid Mirtile, Jenny Hutchinson, Noah Kent, Sovannawath Khoy, Bernard Sun and Thomas McCormick.

Celebration Day was a fantastic occasion to reflect on the year's achievements and enjoy time together as a school community. It was heartening to see so many of our students participating and enjoying the day's activities with enthusiasm.

Lastly, we would like to say a big thank you to all students, teachers and families that have been a part of Dunlop over the many years. While we move into a new structure in 2025, all students will still be Dunlop through-and-through and as a team, we will continue to support one another and celebrate Dunlop as a house, continuing the team spirit!

As we head into the holiday season, we wish everyone a safe, restful and enjoyable break. We look forward to welcoming you back refreshed and ready for another successful year ahead!

Rebecca Kosach and Ross Crowley
Dunlop Learning Team Leaders



Flynn Phoenix Learning Team



Thank you to Flynn students and staff for your participation in Celebration Day on December 6th! Mr Curnow and I were saddened to part ways with the Flynn Learning Team but we are looking forward to what 2025 holds in store for us. Congratulations to our final EPIC award winners:

Top 5% attendance in the school

- Jayron Silvio
- Quinn Van Dyk
- Rania Rejith
- Mia Mercuri
- Andre Geerdharry
- Kaidyn Duke
- Mitchell Zeunert

Highest number of Green Chronicles

- Cooper Boce
- Lola Amos
- Poppy-Rae Clark
- Darcie Hannam
- Eva Wright
- April Kelly
- Emma Smith
- Will Gouge

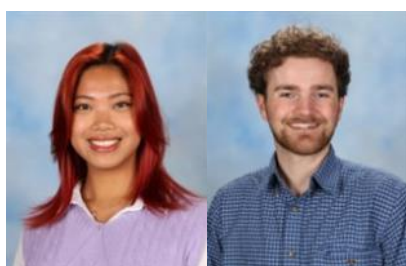


THANK YOU!

A special shoutout to our Captains, **Stephanie Dickinson and Teaghan Glassenbury**, who have done an exceptional job in representing and leading their peers to success. I'd like to especially acknowledge Lachlan Curnow, who stepped in as Flynn Assistant Student Learning Leader in Term 1. Mr. Curnow is well known for his unique sense of humour and the positive relationships he builds with students,



which were both assets to our Learning Team. We would also like to express our gratitude to all Flynn parents, carers and community members for your contributions this year in supporting the Flynn Phoenixes in their learning in 2024.



We wish our community a safe and restful summer holiday, and look forward to meeting again in 2025. Fear the Phoenix! Fear the Flynn!

Aria Sunga and Lachlan Curnow
Flynn Student Learning Leader and Assistant

Alumni Update

Our strong focus on excellence in learning has provided our students with many and varied pathways to rich and exciting careers. We love to celebrate and recognise the achievements and connections we have with Berwick College past students, staff and families. It is a powerful endorsement of the positive relationships and success of our College when former students return after completing their studies to work at our school and also when children and grandchildren of past students commence their secondary schooling here. All becoming part of our vibrant learning community.

This year we have caught up with a number of past students who have gone on to successful careers. Each sharing memories of school experiences, speaking fondly of how much their time at Berwick meant to them, of the influence of teachers who inspired and made a huge difference to their lives, and the camaraderie and connections that last across decades.

We had the pleasure of catching up with Rebecca Potalej, Class of 2016 recently.

What is your profession?

I am a women's strength & nutrition coach and Gym owner

• Where has life taken you since graduating from Berwick College in 2016?

Since graduating, I have completed my studies in nutrition and personal training. By 19 I was personal training, and learning how to build a business. When I was 23 I opened my gym Lioness Performance, and now at 26 we are still growing and expanding. I have a staffing team of five, run the gym, run an online coaching platform, and also run retreats and seminars! This has led me to lots of public speaking opportunities and educating other up and coming coaches.

• What does your job involve?

I get to work closely with women everyday - showing them how to get the best out of going to the gym, to fall in love with the gym, making it a favourite part of their day. I show women how to get as strong as they can with a barbell - one of my recent 'queens' dead lifted 180kg! I am very lucky to work so closely with women from all walks of life. I also have the opportunity to lead a team and help build their careers, all of which I love!

• What do you most enjoy about your work?

The freedom to run my own business & create opportunities for myself, my staff and my community!

• What are your favourite memories of your time at Berwick College?

Playing school netball with Miss Graham and always winning the tournament with her. I loved year 11 and 12 and the relationships I was able to build with my teachers. I loved the opportunity to do Outdoor Education and particularly the snow camp! I also have always really loved Legal Studies.

• When you were a student at Berwick College, what did you imagine you would do for a career? Did you do work experience in this field?

I always knew I wanted a gym!

• If you could go back and give advice to your school aged teenage self, what would that be?

Nothing is as scary as it seems - lean into the fear and go for the things you want! If you fail, you will still achieve more than not doing it at all!



Rebecca Potalej



CLASS OF
2016



Strength & Nutrition
Coach
Gym Owner— Lioness
Performance



High Achievers' Program (HAP)

"A highly sought after program that enables students to expand their minds in creative and innovative ways, ensuring students' engagement and academic acceleration".

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING DURING 2024?

MONASH UNIVERSITY SCHOLARS

This year we have seen year 10 HAP students **Harry Du Bois**, **Lauren Shambrook**, (pictured right) and **Hayley Ward** (not pictured) receive places in the Monash Scholars Class of 2024 – 2026.



Year 10 student and School Council Student representative, **Teaghan Glassenbury** was the recipient of the prestigious Kwong Lee Dow Scholars Program from Melbourne University 2024.

CHESS CHAMPIONS

Jake Humphriss Year 7 HAP won the Year 7 Berwick Chess Tournament, **Thenuje Wickramasinghe** Year 8 HAP won the year 8 Berwick Chess Tournament and **Oliver Freedman** year 10 HAP won the Year 9/10 Chess Tournament



TEAM TEACHING AND COMBINING CLASSES

Year 8.5 and 8.6 joined together for an exciting debating competition and worked on creating their own chapters modelled on Lewis Carroll's novel, *Alice's Adventures In Wonderland*. They placed Alice in a modern day context and created some amazing creative stories. They also engaged in cross class debating.



CREATIVE WRITING CLUB

Students from the creative writing club, wrote and illustrated their own compilation of short stories. During Term 3 the year 8.5 English HAP class worked on creating short stories (600 - 700 words only).

Berwick College's focus on vocabulary, and the work that our Literacy Specialist, Ms Alex Rees, has instigated based on a culture of literacy across the College with the power of words, has assisted these students to understand the importance of language.

I hope you enjoyed their stories in Issue 5 of the College Newsletter.



High Achievers' Program (HAP) continued...

INCURSION WITH MONASH UNIVERSITY

Students enjoyed an Incursion from Monash University where they studied stem cells examining the cell structure of real life Zebrafish!



STEAM

Students have been involved with the STEAM program during Monday lunch times under the guidance of Leading Teacher, Ms Pinya Senevirathne.

The weekly activities challenge and extend students' critical thinking in our cutting-edge, technology rich STEAM project-based and problem-based curriculum.

HAP STUDENT VOICE AND AGENCY

Students have also had the opportunity to "be the teacher" and run parts of, and the entire class. Our College is invested in differentiating for all students in the pursuit of instilling high expectations in all our students, and investing in student voice and agency.



THE HAP HUB

The HAP HUB opened almost two years ago as a space for HAP or any students who had the desire to engage in extra studies, or just socialise with like-minded peers. We started with one classroom and have extended the Hub over two classrooms. It has literally become a thriving *hub* of activity and students have access to their HAP Leader before school and at lunch times.



BEFORE SCHOOL STUDY SKILLS

This year, Mr Ross and Dr Lubarsky began the Before School Study Skills program every Tuesday morning in the HAP HUB for students who were unable to access Berwick College's wealth of After School Study and Homework Support. This has been highly successful as any student from junior to senior is welcome to attend for extra support, or just a quiet place to catch up on learning and assessments.



RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE AUSTRALIAN DEFENCE FORCES

Berwick College has a strong relationship with Defence Forces.

Our Indigenous and other students have had the opportunity to attend a range of programs from work experience days to experiences in the forces, as well as programs that are non-military and take students on tours of the Defence Department and the many career pathways that are open to them.

Pictured RIGHT is **Ira Sabet** who was one of the participants in the International Women's Day STEM experience for women in Victoria (DFA)



STUDENT EXCELLENCE UNIT DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

The Victorian High Ability Program

During Terms 1 to 4, over 80 year 7 and year 8 students were invited to take part in the Victorian High Ability Program based on their NAPLAN results and performance in Maths and English at school.

The program is an extension course running for one school term, where students meet like-minded peers at neighbouring Victorian government schools through weekly virtual sessions taught by expert Virtual School educators.

Congratulations to all who participated.



Careers and VET News

CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2024

The Careers Team would like to congratulate the Class of 2024. Year 12 students received Careers advice at the start of the year and developed Career Action Plans to assist them to transition from secondary school into further education, training and employment. These students were guided through the Victorian Tertiary Admissions Centre (VTAC) application process to apply for their preferred tertiary courses at university and/or TAFE during terms 3 and 4. Year 12 students wanting to gain an Apprenticeship/Traineeship, seek employment, or apply for the Police Force or Defence Force received support with resume preparation and applications to the providers. We are confident all our students have meaningful pathways moving forward and will continue to monitor our students are on track.

WORK EXPERIENCE PROGRAMS AT BERWICK COLLEGE

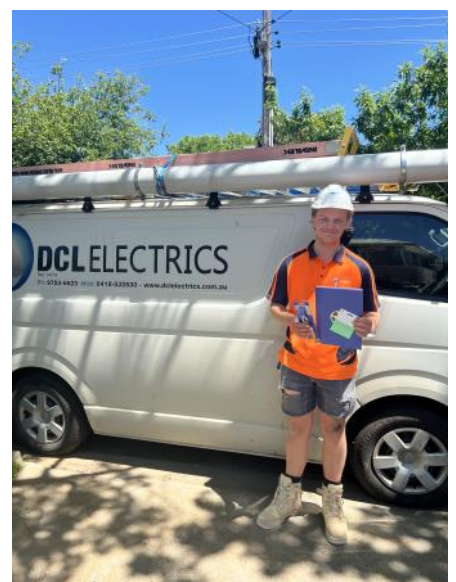
Congratulations to all our students who undertook meaningful Work Experience in 2024. The Careers Team facilitated four weeks of Work Experience for our VCE VM Students and one week of Work Experience for our year 10 Students. With 500+ placements we are thrilled to have received positive feedback from employers.

Congratulations to the students who gained part time employment or School Based Apprenticeship offers from these placements. We'd like to thank all our employers who so generously offered their time and expertise to our students.

BERWICK COLLEGE CAREERS EXPO

Students through Years 9 to 12 participated in the annual Berwick College Careers Expo on Tuesday, 14th May. This event provided students with an opportunity to hear from a range of different speakers from most universities, TAFE Institutes, private providers, and employment agencies in Victoria. The representatives spoke about their most popular courses and any courses that are unique to their institutions. The students were then able to navigate around the Expo and talk to their preferred providers (with a scaffolded sheet to support and record their conversations and findings). The Berwick Star News paid our school a visit and were impressed with how engaged our students were with the providers. A photo was taken of our College Captains and Acting Principal with our local university representative, Federation University. The Captains then personally thanked all our representatives with a small gift. There were many institutes that attended, such as The University of Melbourne, Monash University, RMIT University/TAFE, Swinburne University/TAFE, Victoria University/TAFE, Deakin University and College, La Trobe University, Federation University, Australian Catholic University, Chisholm Institute, William Angliss, Casey College of Beauty and Transit Dance together with a wide range of other providers including apprenticeship, private and workforce providers. Our Expo will be back in 2025 offering direct contact for our students with Tertiary Providers and Training/ Employment Services.

Congratulations **Harry Church**—
SBAT Award for 2024



Careers and VET News continued...

MORRISBY INTERVIEWS

During Term 4, our year 9 students were presented with their Morrisby Career Insight Profiles and met individually with Career Practitioners from the Careers Education Association of Victoria. They were able to sit with a practitioner and have a one-on-one interview to unpack the findings of the Morrisby Profile. Students came away excited, chatting about new career ideas and subsequently subjects they might like to try.

CAREER EDUCATION

Career Education sessions for students in years 7 to 11 this year have focused on the importance of building the skills and general capabilities they will need in the workplace; strengthening school and employer collaboration; and developing students' career management and navigation skills. Through these sessions our students were able to make informed decisions about their subjects/program and career options to assist them to build a connection between school and their future career pathway.

VET UPDATE AND CONGRATULATIONS

2024 has been another exceptional year for our students in Years 10 to 12 undertaking VET. Over 150 of our senior students were engaged in a VET course either on campus at Berwick College or off campus at other institutions such as Chisholm Institute, Foundation Learning Centre, Skillinvest, Casey College of Beauty Therapy, and neighbouring schools.

This has meant that our students were able to access a wide range of courses such as Animal Care, Automotive, Beauty, Building, Business, Cookery, Engineering, Equine Studies, Early Childhood Education, Fitness, Health Services Assistance, Information, Digital Media & Technology, Salon Assistant (Hairdressing), Sport and Recreation and Visual Arts. In conjunction with the practical/hands-on approach to learning, students were required to complete the theory assessments to complement the practical learning to be deemed as competent for each unit within their VET Certificate. Congratulations to our students who have completed a full qualification! We look



Preparing for a Successful School Year

Ensuring Your Child Has the Right Tools

As the school year ends and we look to 2025, we want to emphasise the importance of ensuring your child is equipped with all the necessary tools for learning, especially their textbooks and other essential supplies. Starting the year prepared not only sets a positive tone for academic success but also reduces unnecessary stress for students and their families.

Why Are Textbooks and Equipment Essential?

- 1. Foundation for Learning** Textbooks provide the core content for subjects and are the primary resource used in classrooms. They support in-depth understanding, reinforce lessons taught in class, and help students complete assignments with accuracy and confidence.
- 2. Active Participation** Without the proper equipment, students may struggle to participate fully in lessons. Whether it's a math workbook, science lab materials, or a calculator, these tools are integral to engaging with the curriculum.
- 3. Building Responsibility** Having all necessary materials encourages students to take responsibility for their learning. Being prepared fosters independence and helps students develop organisational skills that will benefit them throughout their education.

Equity in the Classroom When all students have the required materials, it creates an equal playing field, enabling every child to focus on learning without feeling left behind.

What Can Parents Do?

- **Check the School Supplies List** Review the school's book list on the Campion portal and ensure your child has all required items.
- **Label and Organise Supplies** Labelling items can help prevent loss and ensure they're easy to identify. Encouraging your child to keep their materials organized will also save time and reduce stress during busy school days.
- **Encourage Responsibility** Talk to your child about the importance of looking after their supplies and bringing the right materials to class each day.
- **Seek Support If Needed** If obtaining school supplies is a challenge, please don't hesitate to reach out. This year there is the School Savings Bonus which is partnered with Campion Education, the College's book supplier.

Together for Success

Your support in ensuring your child is fully prepared for the school year is invaluable. By working together, we can provide every student with the best opportunity to thrive academically and enjoy a successful, productive school year.

For any questions or assistance regarding school supplies or textbooks, please contact us Administration on 8768 1000. Let's make next year a fantastic one for all our students!



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Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander identified role

Start date: February 2025 to December 2025

MOONLIT SANCTUARY SUMMER HOLIDAY CLUBS



JNR KEEPER CLUB

Ages: 7-14 Registration Fee \$104
9:00am-2:00pm

In Keeper Club kids enjoy environmental activities, animal encounters and native animal care. Junior Keepers help with feeding animals and animal enrichment activities. See our website for dates. Groups are small, with a maximum of 14 children.

CONSERVATION CLUB

Ages: 12-18 Registration Fee \$119
9:30am-3:00pm

Activities include assisting our Keepers with maintenance tasks, feeding diurnal birds in the morning and nocturnal animals in the afternoon, discovering the water-life of our local systems, and meeting the endangered species that benefit from those healthy systems.
Thursday, 23rd January

Learn more: moonlitsanctuary.com.au Info: (03)5978 7935

Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander identified role

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