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5 November 2021

## From the Principal

What an unusual year it has been! With the pandemic, Learning From Home, lockdown and LGAs of concern – it is very refreshing to be back at school and having students in classrooms learning face-to-face.

Thank you all once again for your support of the school and your children's learning over the last 4 months. I would like to congratulate all students on how well they adapted to Learning from Home. I really appreciate how they accepted responsibility for their own learning, completed classwork, assignments and assessments and sought help from teachers. This holds them in good stead for the return to school.

I would also like to thank the staff who have done a fabulous job of adjusting their teaching practices and utilising the Google Classroom, as well as a number of other strategies including voice overs, Kahoot quizzes and zoom meetings. An increase in workload for them but they all stepped up to the challenge without complaint.

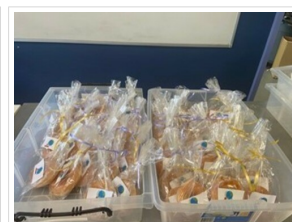
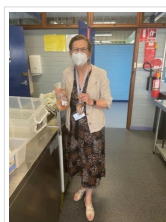
Thank you also to the Student Wellbeing Team who have also worked tirelessly this whole time to monitor student engagement with school and communicate with families and students where needed. They have also been working with our team of counsellors and social workers to support students and families in relation to wellbeing.

Thank you also to the non-teaching staff who during this period have been able to maintain school administration, Year 6 to 7 enrolment applications, phones, emails, finance, purchasing, resourcing and site management.

We warmly welcomed students and staff back to school on Monday 25 October with balloons and lollipops. As you are aware we have some alternative daily organisation in place to ensure minimal movement around the school and also to keep cohorts separate. Ventilation in classrooms has been a priority, and where possible, some classes are being held outdoors.

As we progress through the term, there will be easing of restrictions in the community as well as in schools. We will keep you updated as we receive this information.

On 29 October, Australia celebrated World Teachers' Day – very timely at the end of our first week back at school. World Teachers' Day is an opportunity to thank our teachers and celebrate the bright future of teaching. At GRC Peakhurst, we celebrated with donuts!



**Ms Diane Wilson**  
**Principal**

## Deputies' Report

Welcome to Term 4! As we head in to the final term of learning for 2021, and return from four months of Learning From Home, it's a good opportunity to review our core school values as these remain a priority for each and every day. Positive Behaviour for Learning, known as PBL, is an integral part of Georges River College Peakhurst Campus where we value, **Respect, Responsibility and Excellence**. When all expectations related to these values are met, students can feel safe at school, supported at school, and place their energy on learning. There are a few key behaviours that demonstrate these values that we would like to be a focus for Term 4.

- To demonstrate the value of **Responsibility**, it is the student's responsibility to wear their full uniform to school each day. We encourage parents to ensure their child / children comply with our uniform policy. Students who take pride in their uniform also show Respect and pride in their school.
- To ensure students focus on their learning to **Aim for Excellence**, all students must comply with the phone

policy. Mobile phones and other devices are to be turned off and away, all day. We encourage parents to support this expectation by refraining from making contact via text, messenger, social media applications or by phoning their child's mobile during the school day. Where there is a need for communication between child and parent, students and parents are reminded to do this via our school office. Speakers are not permitted at school.

- All of our school values are expectations not only for lessons but also during breaks. To demonstrate **Responsibility** in the playground, students must act safely by following all school rules and staff directions. We encourage parents to discuss how their child spends recess and lunch, while reinforcing our 'Hands-Off' rule. As a reminder to our school community, this rule is purely about maintaining safety; as such, chasing games, tackle or wrestling games, and 'play' fighting will not be tolerated, as these kind of games may accidentally cause injury to another, or cause an escalation of emotions and aggressive behaviour. As we head into the summer months and hot school days, students are reminded that any water games are also not allowed from the perspective of safety for all.

**Did you know: Almost 1 in 3 teens are accessing the internet between 10pm and midnight?**

We have many conversations with parents and students regarding expectations around social media and gaming. Utilising our core values of **Respect, Responsibility and Excellence** in discussions for non-school topics may also be of assistance in the home. Parents are encouraged to visit the Office of the eSafety Commissioner website to find excellent references and resources regarding these common topics. As an example, below you can see their infographic on parental controls on devices.

<https://www.esafety.gov.au/>

As students are preparing for end of year exams and assessment tasks, a particular study routine should be developed. Parents and students are encouraged to read the **Study Skills Tip** for November below.

## STUDY SKILLS TIP FOR NOVEMBER

For many students, a block of examinations and assessments can be daunting. Some students have no idea where to start and what they should work on. The first thing to do if you have examinations approaching in the next few months is to find out what topics will be tested. Even a simple question to teachers can get you started such as 'are we being tested on the whole year's work or just this semester?' Once you know what topics will be covered, organize all of your learning materials and make sure nothing is missing and you have everything you need to review those topics. The next step is to make study notes on these topics if you haven't been doing this throughout

the year (hopefully you have!). Next it is time to start learning the notes (testing yourself on them over and over) and doing practice questions to make sure you can apply your knowledge to different types of questions.

If you have a number of weeks prior to the examinations, it is a good idea to make a plan in your diary or phone or on a whiteboard of what subjects you will study when. Try and allocate each subject once or twice each week, depending on the number of examinations you have. As always, all assessment notifications can be viewed on our school website under the Assessment Tasks tab.

<https://peakhurst-h.schools.nsw.gov.au/>

We look forward to another successful term of learning and wish all of our students well in their final assessments!

**Julia Picone - Relieving Deputy Principal Year 7**

**Scott Wilson - Deputy Principal Year 8**

**Sophia Favuzzi - Deputy Principal Years 9 & 10**

## Year Advisor Reports

A BIG welcome back to all students after a very long working from home period!

The return to school has been very busy with students finalising their assessments for their reports. It is important for students to aim for excellence during this period of time so that they can achieve results which best reflect their ability. Unfortunately the Homework centre will not be open for the remainder of the year. If students are requiring further assistance please ensure they are seeking assistance from their teacher, subject Head Teacher or Year Advisor.

As the weather continues to warm up, we would like to remind students to wear the correct uniform. If your child is out of uniform, please write them a note explaining the individual circumstances.

## Year 7

Welcome back year 7.

We are hitting the ground running this term with teachers creating yearly reports. Please make sure you have completed all tasks and submitted any work outstanding. We still have a lot to learn this semester so let's do our very best to keep up the good work we have displayed during home learning.

## Year 8

Welcome back year 8, I hope you are all well and excited to move back into school with your friends. This is going to be a short term. Please make sure you are checking your emails regularly and listening to any announcements from your teachers to make sure we are all keeping up to date with the regulations in place to keep you safe.

Make sure you are following your timetables and room allocations carefully, ensuring you are arriving at class on time. Remembering to always be respectful and responsible and

most importantly gracious, we have all been impacted by the events of the last 4 months and it is very important we look after each other and ourselves.

LAUGH OUT LOUD A LOT  
WE HAVE MANY THINGS TO BE GRATEFUL FOR.

If you need anything or have any concerns please reach out there are many staff at school to support you and my email is: Michelle.a.seinor@det.nsw.edu.au

## Year 9

Welcome back to school!

As we settle back into term 4, it is very important that all students continue to catch up and complete any assessment tasks that may be assigned over the next couple of weeks. A reminder for all Year 9 students to remain in their allocated area behind C block and the library while in the playground. It is also important that students are wearing a mask in class and using hand sanitizer or washing hands when possible. Students are also reminded to follow the classroom timetable assigned to them on the first day back. If they need a copy, please come and see me to receive a copy. I am looking forward to catching up with all students as the term progresses and if any Year 9 students have any questions please feel free to contact me or see me in the CAPA staffroom.

Mariam.haidar2@det.nsw.edu.au

## Year 10

### Oatley Orientation Day

#### Formal

We received some great news that the Year 10 Formal can go ahead as planned! It is always a fun night and a great reward for the students in what has been a difficult and unsettling year for them. It will be at Doltone House in Sylvania Waters on Wednesday, December 1st. The \$125 payment will need to be finalised by Friday, November 5th. If parents have any queries regarding the formal, please feel free to get in touch with Ms Tzoumas

### Year 10 Graduation

The year 10 graduation assembly has been moved to Friday the 10th December to allow parents and siblings the opportunity to attend the year 12 Oatley graduation.

We would like to wish everyone a productive term 4!

**Stoyan Koteski**  
**Year 7 Student**  
**Advisor**

**Ms Mariam Haidar**  
**Year 9 Student**  
**Advisor**

**Michelle Seinor**  
**Year 8 Student**  
**Advisor**

**Fotini Tzoumas**  
**Year 10 Student**  
**Advisor**

## FACULTY NEWS

### HSIE

The HSIE faculty is very excited to have everyone back in class and sincerely thanks both parents and students for their hard work, resilience and adaptability during the learning from home period.

While recent months have been a challenge to us all, some fantastic work has been done by our students in HSIE.

### Year 7 Geography researches and creates a landform magazine article

All Year 7 classes completed a research assessment task earlier this term on a landform of their choice. They had to create a magazine article focussing on the location, appearance, geomorphic processes that formed the landform and the impacts, both positive and negative of human activity.

Below are some outstanding magazine articles from Year 7:

### Year 9 Sustainable Biomes Infographics

Year 9 put their research and technology skills to the test through the Sustainable Biomes topic. Students were tasked with researching a biome of their choice and creating an infographic to illustrate their understanding of various geographical elements.

Below are some of the superb submissions we received:

### Year 10 History Elective investigates the collapse of Easter Island society

During Term 3, Year 10 History Elective worked through a topic on the rise and fall of the civilisation on Easter Island. Best known for the huge stone heads located around this barren Pacific Island, students had to research and create a feature article evaluating the competing theories to explain the societal collapse. A key element of their investigation was focussed on establishing the lessons we can learn from this case study for our future.

Included are some of the outstanding examples submitted:

**Hayley Diamond**  
**Head Teacher HSIE**

## PDHPE

The PDHPE faculty is thrilled to have our students back in class and sincerely thank both parents and students for your continued efforts during the learning from home period. Our students have embraced a return to full time face-to-face learning with modified sport and physical activity programs.

Within the Wednesday Sport program, each student will participate in a variety of modified non-contact sports like Cricket, Volleyball, Swedish Longball, Table Tennis and Mini Tennis. Students will also be afforded the opportunity to participate in a range of wellbeing related initiatives during the second hour of the sport program as a way of enhancing not only their physical and social health, but their mental health

too. This modified program will continue until further notice. Students and parents will receive further information about the resumption of normal school sport and physical activity within PDHPE/PASS lessons as it is made available by the government.

In an effort to restrict large gatherings within the change rooms, students should come to school wearing their sport uniform and appropriate footwear on allocated days they have a practical PDHPE/PASS lesson for the immediate future. Students will be notified when change rooms will become operational again.

Students are not required to wear their sports uniform on days that they have a theory PDHPE or PASS lesson. Students will be marked as out of uniform if they wear their sports uniform on days in which they do not have a practical lesson. If students are unsure of their allocated practical lessons, they are required to speak to their PDHPE teacher to clarify this.

During practical PDHPE/PASS lessons and School Sport, students should still:

- Practise good hygiene –Students are required to wash their hands prior to and at the conclusion of sport and physical activities.
- Not share items such as drink bottles – Students should provide their own personal items such as water bottles and towels.
- Maintain respiratory hygiene whilst participating in sport and physical activity – Encouraging coughs or sneezes to be covered and tissues to be disposed of immediately. Always wash your hands after having coughed, sneezed or blown your nose.

We look forward to the remainder of the Term 4 learning with a range of exciting plans in place.

Best wishes for a safe and productive Term 4.

**Mr Aaron Morley**

**Relieving Head Teacher PDHPE**

## SPECIAL EDUCATION

Welcome back to school everyone! Happy Term 4!

It has been a fabulous week. Staff and students have been so excited being reunited and being able to be back in the classroom. Thank you again to our parents who were awesome supporting us and the students during the Working from Home period. Huge thanks also to our amazing staff.

Just a few reminders -

Currently no external services are to come onto the school site. This includes all NDIS therapists. I will let you all know when that restriction is eased.

Transport – is there is a change in your child's pick up/drop off routine please let us know or if they will be absent from school and use taxi transport, please inform the driver.

Transition will continue via Zoom for both our Year 10 students exiting and our Year 6 students transitioning to high school.

Year 10 Formal - Wednesday 1st December - is going ahead as planned. Please make sure you have returned your notes and money.

In class the students have embraced the return to school motivated and ready to learn. We started off the week settling back into our class routine and sharing home learning experiences with our peers.

We have spent time outdoors and learning new math concepts such as measurement, sequencing and classification. We have measured the school perimeter and compared steps taken by students and teachers. This led to discussions in class about the different ways in which we can measure an object. We collected leaves that had fallen to the ground and applied concepts of sorting and sequencing in colour, shape, and size.



In TAS we continued making our chef hats and some students completed them. The finished product is fantastic, and the students are looking forward to using their newly made hats in their cooking classes next week.



We were excited to celebrate Halloween on Friday and had lots of fun wearing our Spooky masks and hats. So many fun activities to participate in and a special lunch together made it a wonderful day to end the first week back to school.



Have a great term everyone!

**Peta Holm**

**Head Teacher Special Education**

## Student Representative Council

Welcome back!

The SRC and I would like to thank our school community for their continued support and appreciation of our various initiatives during our online learning period, such as the "Learning From Home Hacks" video series on social media, the "Wellbeing Wednesdays" games and activities to support student wellbeing at each of their respective Year Meetings. Please see a special message below from our School Captains and Vice-Captains:

## School Captains/Vice-Captains - Welcome Back!

To our entire GRC Peakhurst school community: the School Captains and Vice Captains would like to wish you all a very warm welcome back to our last term for 2021! We would also like to wish our staff and students who returned to school in Week 4 a big welcome back. We are so glad to finish this year back at school together again after such a long lockdown period. Even though end of year procedures may look a bit different this year, our leadership team is doing our best to ensure that we can make this Term 4 as great as possible before we leave for GRC Oatley or other future pathways. To reassure any parents or carers, we would like to highlight that the Captains and SRC are supporting the teachers in making sure students follow the health and safety guidelines set out by the NSW Government and Department of Education. We cannot say a big enough thank you to everyone for their cooperation and quick, adaptive skills that occurred during this year because of the pandemic and we wish you all a safe and happy return to normality.

• **By Alivia B, Cameron A, Chloe S and Arden H.**

## Year 7 SRC Introductions

Please see below for some introductions from our Year 7 SRC representatives and their perspectives on leadership.

**Avinash** - Hello! My name is Avi and I am one of the Year 7 representatives for 2021. I think leadership is an important quality to take on. This is because leadership can teach you so many things that can be extremely useful, throughout your whole life. Leadership teaches us how to speak in front of others, act responsibly, and how to be a role model for your peers and teachers. This is one of the many reasons why I decided to join the SRC here at GRC Peakhurst.

I have so many hobbies! My biggest hobby is creative arts. I love to create things based on what I have seen and share them with my family and friends. Another hobby of mine is Public Speaking. I have been a public speaker for 4 years and it is one of the biggest things that has built my confidence. An interesting fact about me is that I am part Indian, this mainly comes from my dad. I enjoy doing things that make me and others happy and I continue to strive for excellence, making sure I never give up on my interests.

**Jasneet** - Hi, my name is Jasneet! Leadership to me is an important aspect of life as it teaches you to be a respectful and responsible role model that can help your fellow peers. Leadership teaches you how to take charge in situations and show resilience in everything that you do.

One thing I love to do is play soccer with my teammates and friends! I enjoy taking up new and fun challenges in every

aspect of life, especially in leadership! I never stop trying new things, no matter how bad I might be at them! An interesting fact about me is that I recently became a big sister! I will keep doing what I love, never give up on achieving excellence and be the very best role model I can be!

**Liam** - Hello! My name is Liam. Leadership to me is taking a role and not giving up on it and supporting students at your local school. To be a good leader, you need to take in other's information and learn how to use it in the right way.

I joined the Year 7 Leadership team because I would be able to support my school more, meaning I can get involved in more activities within the school. My hobbies include playing competitive soccer with teammates, playing basketball with friends and playing video games. I also enjoy travelling.

**Finn** - Hello, my name is Finn. Leadership to me is being able to listen to others and give their opinions a chance to be heard. Being a leader also teaches you how to be respectful, fun and how to be a responsible role model.

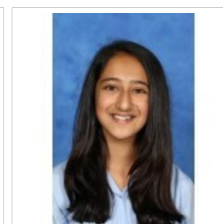
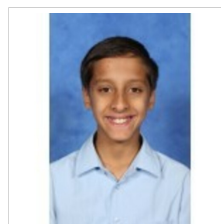
My hobbies include almost any sport as well as mountain bike riding. I joined the SRC team to learn new lessons and meet new people.

**Amina** - Hi, I'm Amina. Leadership to me is being able to listen to people's thoughts and contribute their ideas at our SRC meetings. I love to help peers' voices be heard and for everyone to feel happy and safe at school. I signed up for SRC as I love to learn new skills like being respectful, talking to others while feeling confident, being able to represent others, and most importantly having fun along the way of meeting new people.

Some of my hobbies include gymnastics, dancing, art & crafts, and skateboarding. I joined the SRC team to be able to make school a safe, fun, and happy environment for everyone to be. I would love to make an impact and become a person who people feel comfortable with talking to about their concerns and ideas. I would help them resolve things and try to make them a little happier.

**Emma** - Hi, I'm Emma. To me, leadership is a very important quality to have as it teaches you many important things like resilience, cooperation and compassion. It teaches you how to communicate with others and be respectful. Leadership is not always about being right. To be a good leader you need to listen to and represent others well.

I joined the SRC leadership team at GRC Peakhurst because I want to do my part in making our school the best learning environment that it can be. My interests are playing sports (especially soccer and netball), reading and running. I also enjoy cooking.



## GRC College SRC Meetings - Student Forum Opportunity

The four GRC colleges: Oatley Senior Campus, Penshurst Girls Campus, Hurstville Boys Campus and Peakhurst Campus have had two Zoom meetings over the last three weeks in order to discuss what school will look like when we return to face-to-face learning.

As a team, we have: spoken about a new Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL) matrix, student survey, viewed a video about being an active learner, learned about student wellbeing considerations and brainstormed strategies surrounding mental health. The teachers had devised these in preparation, but consulted us on a student perspective. The PBL learning matrix will be clearly displayed around the school near the other matrixes. This specific new matrix is focusing on Covid-19 and how to still be respectful, responsible and aim for excellence while being considerate of this evolving world we are living in. The survey was sent out to all the students so that our schools know how the students are feeling about going back to school and how they felt throughout the lockdown.

This forum was an opportunity for student involvement with the transition back to school from online learning. These forums were a great way to make sure that student based wellbeing was catered for towards the students and was a great way of reintroducing the GRC Cross-College involvement by getting us all to work together again and share ideas. The initiatives discussed will be put into action over the next few weeks as we return to face to face learning.

Please complete the survey if you haven't already so that we can look at how to best support our students on their return to school.

- By Elektra B and Cameron A

## 2022 Year 10 SRC - Successful Applicants

This year, we received nine outstanding applications for Year 10 SRC 2022. These students are to be commended for excelling at the new online procedures for applying, which included seeking support statements from students and staff in order to successfully complete the process. One position remains vacant and will be advertised at the conclusion of the school year for any other interested students.

These students were congratulated at our most recent Formal Assembly on Zoom and will be officially inducted into the Year 10 2022 SRC early in the 2022 school year.

Elektra B  
Lofitu F  
Caitlin J  
Nicholas J  
Ben M  
Fatima R  
Sebastian S  
Amelia S  
Gordon W

## School Captaincy Procedures 2022

Seven of our Year 10 2022 SRC members have successfully completed one year on the SRC and are eligible for School

Captaincy 2022. Panel interviews as well as speeches to their year cohort will be held during Week 5.

## Year 8 2022 and Year 9 2022 SRC Applications and Elections

Current Year 7 and Year 8 students will be invited to apply for SRC during Weeks 6-8 of Term 4. Interested students should listen to updates and daily announcements regarding the procedures for applying and the associated elections that will take place.

## Welcoming Your Ideas

Please continue to contact your SRC members with your ideas to bring up in our meetings or for any suggestions you have in celebrating, appreciating and supporting our school community!

I will be starting maternity leave on November 12th, when a new SRC Coordinator will begin. I would like to personally thank our incredibly strong school community for their ongoing support of our countless SRC leadership initiatives as well as our hardworking students over the past eight years. I am exceptionally proud of the work that our student leaders have achieved and continue to implement for our school community. This year, to lead our student body through our Learning From Home period brought a new and tough set of challenges, tested their resilience and further demonstrated their impressive and immense leadership skills as they met the demands of their schoolwork as well as the requirements of our SRC leadership team. I'd like to thank each and every one of our 2021 SRC members for their outstanding commitment to their role, continuing to advocate on behalf of their peers, getting up extra early to attend our Zoom meetings and being thoroughly deserving of their leadership positions throughout the year. Congratulations!

I wish our school community all the best for a safe, happy and healthy conclusion to 2021 and a wonderful 2022.

**Miss Osmond**  
**SRC Coordinator**

## TAS

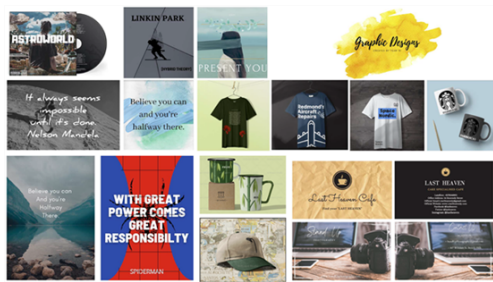
A big thank you to our students and their families for supporting learning from home. It was an amazing ride for all of us and one where we all had to expand our skill set in technology. It also made us appreciate how innovations in technology allowed us to learn virtually.

It is now exciting to be back in the actual classroom and workshops and seeing the students again in a covid safe manner. It is wonderful to see students enjoying practical work again and soon they will be completing many of the projects they have been planning for during learning from home. Just a reminder for students doing Food Technology to bring in their clean aprons and containers from home for hygiene reasons.

## Year 10 Graphics Technology

Year 10 Graphics Technology have been completing a series of graphic design challenges to show their creative flair and skills in computer based graphic designs. There have been fantastic

A young man with short dark hair, wearing a light blue polo shirt with dark blue sleeves and dark blue shorts, is sitting at a desk. He is looking towards the camera with a slight smile. Behind him is a computer monitor displaying a website with various images and text. On the desk, there is a black keyboard, a black printer or scanner, and some papers. The background is a plain wall with a light-colored baseboard.



Alexander P undertaking a virtual careers lesson via Zoom, during Term 3

More information related to careers can be found at the GRC Peakhurst careers website.

<https://www.grcpeakhurstcareers.com/>

All students need to register to access information on the website. To register as a GRC Peakhurst student firstly go to FOR STUDENTS -> STUDENT'S SECURE AREA -> REGISTER. Please keep these details in a safe place. YOUR EMAIL is your USERNAME and remember the PASSWORD (Write it down somewhere safe so that you can refer to it).

Parents should also explore the website in order to better support their child.

GRC will update the google classroom and careers website with helpful careers related information, and newly listed career opportunities.

**Subject Selection for Year 10 students** was affected by Covid-19 pandemic lockdown as all Subject Selection interviews took place via zoom meetings, last term, during lockdown.



## Careers

Year 10 GRC students are winding up their careers lessons for the year. All lessons can be revised by going to their Google Classroom for Careers to view the extensive program and accompanying notes. The student simply goes to Google Classroom - Classwork - Assignment – then search for the Careers Lesson by number or by Term and Week delivery.

Students are now required to return all the Enrolment Forms, Choice Submission Forms, EVET Expression of Interest Form, Transition Plan and other subject selection related paperwork

provided to you, to Ms Arfanis, Careers Advisor. The Careers Adviser, Ms Arfanis is located in careers Room, D0.14. If you have lost or misplaced any paperwork or are unsure of your child's status with the paperwork, please contact Ms Arfanis, for further clarity, or check the Google doc:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1yE-Xng6cYUFLZ3YuwlnU2ew7LM2PgokPfrRNOjmRZHE/edit>

The final stage of the transition process unfortunately has been cancelled at GRC Oatley Senior Campus Orientation Day, due to Covid-19 lockdown restrictions, placed on schools.

## **2021 EVET Year 10 students currently attending Tafe – no news**

The following students are required to continue their Externally delivered Vocational Education and Training (EVET) Stage 5 course with TAFE NSW, in term 4, face to face as they continue to work towards a Certificate 1 qualification. However, at this stage, due to Covid-19 lockdown restrictions, placed on TAFE NSW, notification for recommencement has not been advised.

Students awaiting TAFE notifications are:

- Marcus C, Charlie A, Luka D and Jordan M in Automotive at Ultimo
- Tiana M, Ronald F and Natasha P in Hospitality at Loftus.

## **2021 TAFE Taster Courses are on hold for Year 10 students for Term 4**

The students who applied for the 2021 TAFE Taster Courses for Term 3 will be advised of new dates for when these courses will proceed subject to the Covid-19 situation. GRC await TAFE's notification.

## **School Based Apprenticeship and Traineeship (SBAT)**

Students who are thinking of undertaking a School Based Apprenticeships and Traineeships (SBAT) while they undertake the HSC, next year, should start to seek out employers to work with for this opportunity, throughout this year.

An SBAT are more than just part time jobs. They are a great way for students to set themselves up for the career they want, while still completing their HSC. Now is the time to explore SBAT options:

<https://www.tafensw.edu.au/documents/60140/308644/School-based+Apprenticeships+and+Traineeships+%28SBAT%29+STUDENTS.pdf>

If YOU are in Year 10 and would like to learn more about an SBAT for 2022 and 2023, please speak to Ms Arfanis and we can seek out an appropriate host employer, as work experience, to increase your chances of success. Known employers who are keen to take on students for SBATs include:

- McDonalds for Retail Services
- KFC for Retail Services
- City Beach for Retail Services
- Airport Retail Enterprises (ARE) for Hospitality (Food & Beverage)

- LEA Group or BlueFit at Hurstville Aquatic Centre or Angelo Anestis Aquatic Centre for Fitness
- Lugarno Gourmet Meats for butchery
- Automotive:

## **MIGAS Apprenticeships and Traineeships Availability**

MIGAS specialises in skilled and traditional trade apprenticeships and traineeships. That means students interested in pursuing a career in trade-related industries such as engineering, mining, energy, manufacturing, building and construction, and warehousing.

should head to MIGAS Jobs Board to find a current opening in your region and apply! If you don't see a current vacancy that appeals to you, register with MIGAS to receive our latest job alerts. MIGAS specialises in skilled and traditional trade apprenticeships and traineeships. That means we are always looking for people interested in pursuing a career in trade related industries such as:

- Diesel Fitting Apprenticeships
- Heavy Vehicle Mechanic Apprenticeships
- Light Vehicle Mechanic Apprenticeships
- Panel Beating Apprenticeships
- Business Administration Traineeships
- Cabinet Making Apprenticeships
- Carpentry Apprenticeships
- Civil Construction Apprenticeships
- Painting Apprenticeships
- Plastering Apprenticeships
- Plumbing Apprenticeships
- Air-Conditioning and Refrigeration Apprenticeships
- Electrician Apprenticeships
- Electrical Fitting Apprenticeships
- Electrical Instrumentation Apprenticeships .

To enquire about a role or other currently advertised positions, please phone recruitment on 1300 464 427. See:

<https://www.migas.com.au/apprenticeships/>

A Wide Range of Apprenticeship Videos are available to learn more about apprenticeships. See:

<https://www.youtube.com/user/AAPathways/videos>

If you are aware of any employers keen to employ an apprentice or trainee, please inform Ms Arfanis of their details.

See Year 10 Careers Google Classroom for more SBAT and apprenticeship/traineeship opportunities.

## **White Card Training is on hold**

A white card (or general construction induction card) is a mandatory requirement for workers who want to carry out construction work.

The white card provides people entering the construction industry with a basic knowledge of requirements under

Workplace Health Safety laws, the common hazards and risks likely to be encountered on construction sites and how these risks should be controlled.

The white card becomes void if you haven't attended a construction site for five consecutive years or more.

As lockdown restrictions are slowly lifting, we are entering a time of transition and adjustment. The circumstances of this situation have significantly impacted us all. The scheduled White Card Training is on hold due to Covid-19. GRC is awaiting government to allow visitors to the school to deliver courses. In the event that this does not occur all students who have paid the cost of \$100 will be fully refunded. However, if it does go ahead, the student will be advised of the rescheduled time, when foreseeable.

If students aged 14yo + are interested in undertaking this course, they need to inform Ms Arfanis. Each student interested in undertaking their White Card Training will need to create a Unique Student Identifier number known as a USI before commencement. See Ms Arfanis for a permission note.

## Work Experience program

While the Year 10 cohort of students are encouraged to attend work experience throughout the year, if they wanted to, they should be aware they are usually expected to attend a mandatory week of work experience in Term 4, however due to the Covid-19 situation, in Sydney, work experience has been cancelled for Terms 3 and 4.

For students in Year 9, **Taronga Western Plains Zoo offers 2022 school work experience.** Applications close 28 February 2022, unless program reaches capacity earlier

Taronga Western Plains Zoo offers school work experience opportunities for students in Years 10-12 who are interested in pursuing a career in zoo keeping and animal care.

Work experience undertaken at Taronga Western Plains Zoo Dubbo allows students to:

Observe and participate in a variety of work being done in the field of zoo keeping, animal care and education. Undertake supervised work appropriate to the student's skill level

Ask questions about a zoo workplace; Gain skills related to being at work at the zoo; Investigate training and employment opportunities with Taronga. Go to:

<https://taronga.org.au/get-involved/school-work-experience/dubbo>

## Job Readiness Program

A number of Year 10 students are undertaking a Job Readiness Program run by Project Youth, over 8 weeks, every Friday from 11am -1pm. They are Shyanne A, Jaiden G, Eluzhon H, Sharleas H, Nicholas I, Krishita J, Michael K, Jordan M, Alexander P, Joshua R, Munokoatupou T, Mark T, Emmanuel T and Gabriel T.



Job ready program participants, At school, in Careers Room D0.14 with Sharleas H, Mark T and Alexander P

## Apprenticeship / Traineeship Zoom interviews with 1300apprentice

A number of Year 10 students were to undertake an initial job interview on Tuesday September 28th to help students find an employer for apprenticeship or traineeship. They included Ali H, Donald L, Chloe M, Joshua R, Michael K, Jamison M, Munokoatupou T, Jaiden G, James D and Kane C.

## EVET 2022

A number of Year 10 students are waiting to see if they are able to enrol into an Externally delivered Vocational Education and Training (EVET) course at TAFE, in 2022. They include:

- Elamin B, Electrotechnology
- Abdulrahman A, Plumbing
- Charlie A, Automotive
- Keira A, Visual Arts and Contemporary Craft
- Steven B, Tourism, Travel and Events: Tourism
- Caitlin C, Fitness
- Sionell E, Beauty Services
- Blake F, Visual Arts in Screen Media
- Olivia G, Early Childhood Education and Care
- Eluzhon H, Beauty Services
- Sharleas H, Community Services
- Krishita J, Early Childhood Education and Care
- Eleanor K, Visual Arts and Contemporary Craft
- Alicia M, Beauty Services
- Theodora M, Early Childhood Education and Care
- Tiana M, Early Childhood Education and Care
- Emma M, Community Service
- Amelia M, Fitness
- Remedi M, Community Service
- Elissa M, Beauty Services
- Yasmin N, Floristry
- Chloe S, Fitness
- Kaitlynn-Maria S, Visual Arts and Contemporary Craft
- Timoci T, Baking.



Jayden G, Kyren B and Emma M – prospective EVET candidates

Wishing all the students luck in being accepted into their respective EVET courses.

**Ms Toni Arfanis**  
**Careers Advisor**

## High Performing/Gifted Debating and Public Speaking Report

Welcome back!

Although the online learning period meant that some of our debating/public speaking competitions have been paused for now, some highly valuable student opportunities have continued, with new opportunities also developing. GRC Peakhurst staff and The Arts Unit have ensured that their valuable extra-curricular student opportunities for debating and public speaking have continued (where possible) and have consistently provided updates and resources for our school community.

### Year 9&10 Debating Year 7&8 Debating

Our Debating Competitions are paused for now. We will investigate revised dates for all competitions if debates are able to proceed.

### Legacy Public Speaking Competition

Despite a very unique and challenging start to Term 3, four of our Year 7 & 8 students should be commended on their commitment to the Legacy Public Speaking Competition. Omar A, Avinash B, Cody J, Sirine N each uploaded their video submissions of a five minute prepared speech (topics listed below), in addition to meeting their deadlines for all of their other schoolwork. Congratulations to our GRC Peakhurst Legacy Public Speaking competitors for 2021!

Omar A - "Rack Off Racism"

Avinash B - "Protesting as a Way to Enact Positive Societal Change"

Cody J - "Appearances Aren't Everything"

Sirine N - "Feminism Is Not A Dirty Word"

Two students were then selected to represent our school. It was a tough decision, but ultimately Omar A and Sirine N advanced to the Sydney Region Final of the Legacy Public Speaking Competition for their speeches that included a balance of effective research, personal impact, sincerity and humour in their approach. These students were also recently recognised at our most recent virtual formal assembly and as 'Student of the Week'. Both are to be commended for their active participation in Zoom sessions, taking on feedback in order to further excel in the competition and also filming and uploading their speeches to the Arts Unit in a professional and sophisticated manner. Although they did not progress to the State Final this time, they were provided with thorough and meaningful feedback in order to strengthen their public speaking contributions in the future.

Congratulations once again to Omar and Sirine!

## Speaking 4 The Planet

Lillian K from Year 7 is to be congratulated for her participation in a brand new competition - Speaking 4 The Planet. She wrote an engaging written piece on bats and their vital role within our world. Well done Lillian in taking the initiative to participate in this new extra-curricular competition!

## After School Debating Sessions

At this time, unfortunately our after school Wednesday debating sessions are unable to proceed but will re-commence when departmental guidelines allow. Thank you to all students for their keen participation and to our Year 10 students (Zac H, Chloe S, Alivia B, Emma M and Aliyah J) for leading such engaging and informative public speaking sessions.

Your best contacts in the English staffroom for various public speaking opportunities are as follows:

### Public Speaking Competitions and after school Wednesday workshops - Miss Osmond

<https://www.artsunit.nsw.edu.au/speaking-competitions/public-speaking/legacy-junior-public-speaking-award-0>

<https://www.artsunit.nsw.edu.au/speaking-competitions/public-speaking/plain-english-speaking-award>

### Year 9&10 Debating Teams - Miss Rossenrode

<https://www.artsunit.nsw.edu.au/speaking-competitions/premiers-debating-challenge>

### Year 7&8 Debating - Miss Osmond/Mrs Campbell

<https://www.artsunit.nsw.edu.au/speaking-competitions/premiers-debating-challenge>

Finally, more resources are available for students. Each week, The Arts Unit schedules short video lessons in a range of areas (such as debating and public speaking) to offer students a chance to engage in extra-curricular activities. All Bites will then be available on demand to revisit as often as you like.

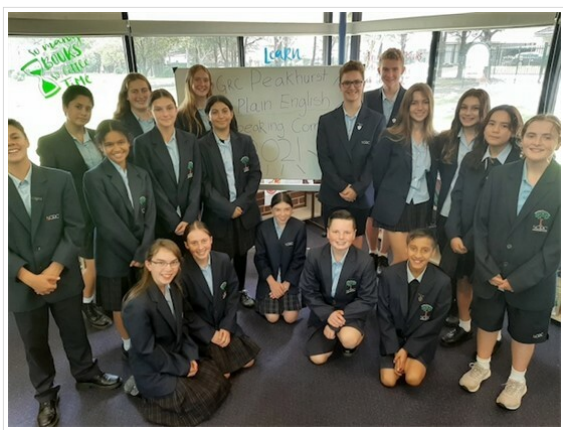
Please visit the link below for many resources that The Arts Unit have created for students.

<https://digital.artsunit.nsw.edu.au/the-arts-unit-home/art-bites>

Interested students are also encouraged to join the Debating/Public Speaking Google Classroom with code - tr34azd.

I will be starting maternity leave on November 15th. The rest of our English faculty staff will be available to attend to any public speaking or debating enquiries. I would like to personally thank our exceptionally talented public speakers and debaters who have continued to excel across our debating and public speaking programs despite a challenging year. Congratulations!

I wish our school community all the best for a safe, happy and healthy conclusion to 2021 and a wonderful 2022.



**Miss Osmond, Miss Rossenrode**  
**Debating and Public Speaking Coordinators**

## Learning Enhancement

### LEARNING ENHANCEMENT IS FOR EVERYONE

In any one school there will be students who may experience difficulties with learning. These difficulties may vary in cause, nature, intensity and duration. At GRC Peakhurst, the Learning Enhancement Team plays a key role in ensuring that the specific learning needs of all our students experiencing difficulties are met.

SUPPORT is available to every student in need and we can help in the areas of;

- Learning difficulties
- Physical disabilities
- Anxiety
- Injury
- Long & short-term learning concerns
- Assignment help (Available recess and lunch each day)
- Organisation

If you have any questions or would like to contact the Learning Enhancement Team to discuss the learning needs of your child please contact us on the school number or by email on;

**Peta Holm – Head Teacher Support and Learning Enhancement –**  
**peta.holm@det.nsw.edu.au**

**Jennifer Jarman – Learning and Support Teacher (Yrs. 7 & 9) –**  
**jennifer.jarman@det.nsw.edu.au**

**Monique Van De Pol – Learning & Support Teacher (Yrs. 8 & 10) –**  
**monique.vandepol@det.nsw.edu.au**

## Wellbeing Team Report

WELLBEING AND POSITIVE MENTAL HEALTH RETURN TO SCHOOL

As we are returning to school your child may feel a range of emotions, they may feel excited about returning to school as well as feeling worried about it. As a parent you can support your child by providing them a space to talk about how they are feeling and by validating their feelings.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT, TALKING AND IDEAS

### Acknowledge

Acknowledge your child's worries and concerns; make your child feel heard and understood. Instead of saying: - Do not worry about it - You do not need to stress about it. You could try: - I can see that you are feeling worried about going back to school.

### Talk

Have a conversation about your child's worries; talk through what they are thinking. Instead of saying: - Everything will be ok - That would never happen You could try: - Help me understand what you are worried about - Do you think anyone else feels that way too?

### Ideas

Brainstorm supportive and helpful ideas together.

The student wellbeing team are ready to help ease your child back into the everyday routine of school life. Every student received a **Returning to School - Wellbeing Guide** during Week 4 and this document was also emailed home to each family. Please reach out to us if you feel your child needs extra support facilitating their return to school.

Further information can be accessed at:

<https://education.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/advice-for-families/guidelines-for-families>

<https://kidshelpline.com.au/parents/issues/returning-normal-after-covid-19>

<https://www.relationshipsnsw.org.au/getting-back-to-the-new-normal-school/>

<https://theconversation.com/how-parents-can-help-kids-deal-with-back-to-school-anxiety-165273>

## Parenting Ideas

Georges River College Peakhurst Campus has a subscription to 'Parenting Ideas', which includes fantastic articles and webinars on a range of important issues and topics related to parenting. In every school newsletter, I will endeavour to include some articles for you to read and some of those articles have links attached to a webinar. As we are a subscribing school, for our parents, most of those webinars will incur no cost, so be sure to check them out!

This month, I have included 3 'Parenting Ideas' articles (see below) covering the following areas:

- Everyday Resilience Lessons for Kids
- How to Manage Stress Caused by Exams and Upcoming Events
- Building Resilience During the Covid Pandemic

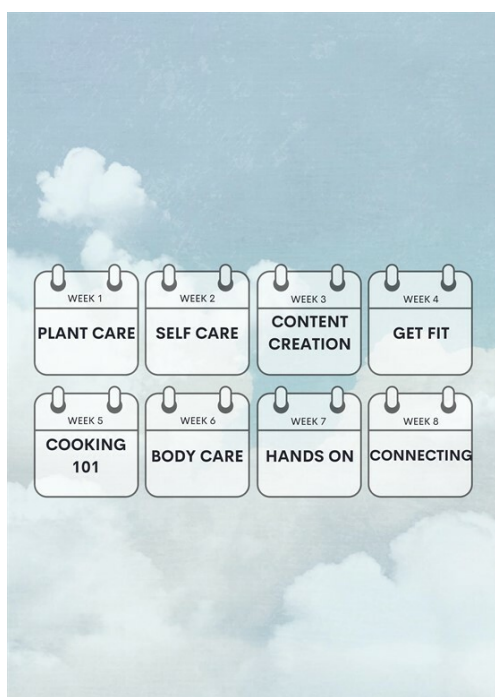
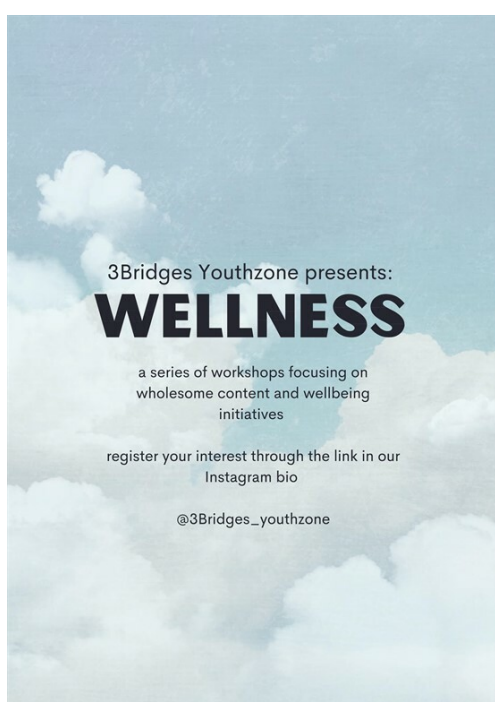
## Peer Support

On Friday 3rd December 2021, 50 Year 9 students will have the opportunity to participate in the Peer Support training day. This day is essential in preparing all our potential leaders to run the Peer Support Program for the Year 7's of 2022. On this day, students will learn many things, including; a series of icebreakers, name games and lessons on Peak Learning. They will also learn how to teach a series of lessons.

Students will view a sequence of videos aimed to inspire and share views of being a leader as well as building on their communication and team work skills. From Week 5 Year 9 students will be able to express their interest by completing an application form to become a Peer Support Leader. These forms can be collected from Mrs Seidel in the Wellbeing Office in D0.19.

**Michelle Seidel**

**Relieving Head Teacher Wellbeing**



## GRC Community Consultation - BMX/MTB

Georges River Council is currently consulting with the community regarding BMX and mountain bike riding in the local area. Council plans and strategies have identified off-road riding as an emerging sport with increased popularity throughout the community, especially among children and young people.

Council is seeking community feedback which will help Council consider the infrastructure needs for off-road bike riding, along with the interests of all community members and other interested stakeholders.

I have attached some posters that have been developed which will soon be displayed sporadically throughout the LGA, most notably within parks and popular bike riding locations. Through accessing the QR codes on these posters, community members will be directed to engage in a survey that will inform the feasibility of a dedicated BMX and/or mountain biking facility within Georges River.

Council's Your Say page – has additional information and alternate engagement methods such as a 'Build My Bike Track Map' encouraging the community to outline suitable locations for such facilities.

<https://yoursay.georgesriver.nsw.gov.au/bmx-and-mountain-bike-riding-in-georges-riverhas>

It's important to note that this consultation will remain open until 21 January 2022. Council believes children and young people will offer great insight into this proposed project and their input is extremely valuable. I would ask that you please share the above information, posters and link to Council's Your Say page with students. Please let me know if there are any questions.

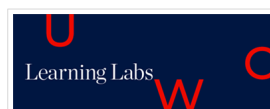


Thank you and kind regards,

**Brad Crain**

Georges River Council  
Corner of MacMahon and Dora Streets  
Hurstville NSW 2220  
Phone: +61293306219  
Mobile:  
Email: [bcrain@georgesriver.nsw.gov.au](mailto:bcrain@georgesriver.nsw.gov.au)  
[www.georgesriver.nsw.gov.au](http://www.georgesriver.nsw.gov.au)

## January Learning Labs applications now open!



The University of Wollongong would like to invite your students to LEARNING LABS, an academic and creative arts enrichment holiday program. We are targeting students from Year 7 to 10, who are passionate, self-motivated and curious learners.

**Wollongong Campus Dates:** 12th – 14th January 2022

**Applications close: Wednesday, 17th November 2021**

Help us spread the word by passing this information on to your students and their parents via your school newsletters, website, or individual selection process:

- LEARNING LABS program brochure

## APPLICATION PROCESS

- Students can be encouraged to apply by their school, classroom teacher, subject specialist teachers from school or out-of-school or by their parents. If a school-based professional is identifying a potential student please supply them with a Teacher Nomination Letter

- Parents/Guardians/student visit our website and read the full list of workshops available by scrolling to the "Workshop Descriptions" section.
- Students apply for workshops that are within their current year (ie. Year 4 students in 2021 will apply for the Early Learning Labs- Year 3 & 4). In exceptional circumstances, we are willing to review applicants who would like to try a more challenging workshop.
- Parents/Guardians/student (or school if parent/guardian is unable to) fill out the online application form.
- One piece of supporting documentation for first time applicants is required that demonstrates their ability (see 'Supporting Documentation' section on website). Please note that the Teacher Nomination Letters can be used as a supporting document.
- Learning Labs is registered as COVID-Safe and follows the guidelines set out by the NSW Government [here](#).

Please know that applications are open now and workshops fill very quickly.

We will also have several sponsorship places available for students who identify as Australian Aboriginal/Torres Strait or students experiencing financial difficulty.

For further information about workshops and the application process please visit our website, or contact the Learning Labs team via email at [learning-labs@uow.edu.au](mailto:learning-labs@uow.edu.au).

We thank you for your continued support of Learning Labs and we hope to share our passion for providing further opportunities to your students!

PS. We endeavor to keep our database up to date. If the content of this email is no longer relevant to you please let us know.

Yours sincerely,

Lily, Lani, Shannon & Sarah

**Learning Labs Team**

Pro Vice-Chancellor (Students) | Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) | Building 17, Level 2

University of Wollongong NSW 2522 Australia

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Your feedback is appreciated and can be submitted at: [feedback@uow.edu.au](mailto:feedback@uow.edu.au)

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## School Travel for 2022

### School Travel for 2022



#### 2022 school travel applications are now open

Students who need a School Opal card or travel pass for 2022 can [apply](#) now. A new application will need to be submitted if they are applying for a school travel pass for the first time, or if they are requesting an additional travel entitlement as a result of a new shared parental responsibility situation (e.g. joint custody).

Students who change address, school, campus location, or who have repeated a year or received an expiry notification from Transport for NSW for their school travel entitlement should [renew or update](#) their details before the **end of term 4**. This will ensure that schools can endorse applications and current entitlements are updated and remain valid. School Opal card holders will have the changes applied to their existing card.

If a student's distance eligibility has changed based on their grade the system will automatically update their entitlement if they meet the new criteria. If they do not meet the new [eligibility criteria](#), they will receive an expiry notification via email.

Students who have an entitlement approved under a medical condition that is due to expire will receive a notification advising them to re-apply.

[Term Bus Pass](#) holders will receive a notification to re-apply.

Students in the Opal network applying for an Opal card (including a Term Bus Pass) for the first time will receive their Student Opal card at their nominated postal address. Cards will be mailed out from January 2022.

Students living in rural and regional (R&R) areas should receive their travel pass at the start of the new school year from their nominated transport operator. It may come via the school or be sent directly to them at home. **Note:** some R&R operators do not issue travel passes. Students/parents should confirm with their nominated operator if they do not receive a pass.

#### School Student Transport Scheme site change

On 1 October 2021 the School Student Transport Scheme (SSTS) information and application portal was moved to [transportnsw.info](https://transportnsw.info). This will assist families to find all their travel information in the one place.

#### Travel from Term 1 2022

We ask that parents plan ahead and make sure their child knows which service/s to use and has a valid ticket to travel; either a School Opal card or Child/Youth Opal card (within Greater Sydney) or a School Travel Pass (outside Greater Sydney), from the start of the school year.

Applications for the School Student Transport Scheme (SSTS) open at the start of Term 4 2021 for travel in 2022, so parents/students can [apply](#) or [update](#) details early and be ready for the start of the new school year.

Most students using the Opal network will not need a new Opal card and can continue travelling on their existing card each year.

The start of the year is a difficult period for local bus operators, and students travelling without a valid ticket make service planning and operations increasingly difficult.

We recognise that for some families last minute changes to school enrolments mean they may not have a School Opal card or Travel Pass for the start of term. In the Opal network, we strongly encourage these families to have their children travel on a Child/Youth Opal card until they receive their valid School Opal card. If outside Greater Sydney, parents should contact their [local bus operator](#) to discuss their travel needs.

Bus operators are flexible and understanding, particularly at the start of the school year, and will ensure students can travel safely to and from school. But to best support our operators we encourage all students to have a valid ticket, as early as possible, from the start of the school year.

Please also remember that students using Opal cards must tap on and tap off in line with the [Student code of conduct](#) and [Opal terms of use](#).



Further information can be found at [transportnsw.info/travel-info/using-public-transport/school-travel](https://transportnsw.info/travel-info/using-public-transport/school-travel)  
Enquiries can be submitted at [transportnsw.info/contact-us/feedback/passes-concessions-feedback](https://transportnsw.info/contact-us/feedback/passes-concessions-feedback)