



# WILLOUGHBY GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL

*A Leader in Girls Education*

## NEWSLETTER

Phone : 9958 4141

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

17 DECEMBER 2021

### PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Ms Elizabeth Diprose

#### Presentation Day

Congratulations to all prize winners who received their awards on Tuesday this week at our Presentation Day ceremonies. We held a separate ceremony for each year group due to the Covid situation. This gave me an opportunity to speak to each separate year group about aspects of the school and their achievements that were most relevant to them. I described our usual Presentation Day event to Year 7 and hope they look forward to experiencing this event at The Concourse in 2022, with music, speeches, special guests and, most importantly, families.



Year 12 Graduation Day

#### Year 12 Graduation

We finally held the 2021 Year 12 students' graduation ceremony yesterday at school. The majority of students attended for the morning and the ceremony took place after a morning tea on the senior lawn. The event was live-streamed to the whole school and families, and students and families will be provided with a link to the polished version before the end of Term. It was lovely seeing all these students again – they are an amazing group of women who make us all at Willoughby Girls very proud to have had the privilege of being a part of their life's journeys. I wish them well in their futures and I know that our futures are in good hands with these women leading us forward.

#### Farewell Willoughby Girls High School

Today is my last day as Principal of Willoughby Girls High School. I am taking long service leave for Term 1, 2022 then relinquishing my position. Mrs Jennifer Watts will be Relieving Principal for Term 1, and Mrs Tania Prowle will relieve in her Deputy Principal position for the term.

Every day of my nine years as Principal of Willoughby Girls has been both a pleasure and a privilege. This is an amazing school with a dedicated and highly skilled teaching team, a capable and committed support staff in administration, student learning and wellbeing. Our students, your daughters, are awesome – they value learning, they get involved in many extra-curricular activities, and demonstrate their kindness and compassion through raising funds for, and raising awareness about people who are less fortunate than us. They are also kind to each other which makes for a very harmonious school community.

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### WGHS P&C



Facebook.com/wghspandc  
[secretary@wghspandc.org.au](mailto:secretary@wghspandc.org.au)



Next P&C Meeting will be held:  
**Tuesday 15 February 2022**

- ✓ Please follow our Facebook page to stay informed of interesting things happening in the parent community. You don't have to be a Facebook member to access the page
- ✓ All parents are welcome at P&C meetings, held twice per term at 7.00pm in the staff common room (Access via front door)
- ✓ Any queries or matters to be raised can be raised via the Secretary at the above email address at any time

## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE *continued from previous page*

I sincerely thank all our parents and carers for your ongoing support of, and trust in the ways we support your daughters' learning and wellbeing. We have a small but very committed group of parents on our P&C and I encourage more of you to become involved in 2022. Covid has put a stop to so many of our usual activities involving parents and carers, so I feel the school has been disconnected from the community. Let's hope we can reconnect next year. Having an active P&C is critical to the ongoing success of the school. After all, the P&C originally initiated and still lead the extra-curricular sports program (Netball, Basketball, Hockey and Touch Football) and Music Ensembles program, which is at the heart of the school.

As I say goodbye to Willoughby Girls I pay tribute to our teachers. These two years have been particularly difficult for us all and I have witnessed the ways in which our teachers adapted quickly to the online teaching and learning environment. I saw how many long hours they put into making lessons as varied and engaging as possible, knowing that students were at home working on their computers, without their friends and classmates. They are amazing, and I know students and families appreciate their hard work and dedication.

**Ms Elizabeth Diprose, Principal**

## FAREWELL, THANKYOU AND GOODLUCK

**Mrs Jennifer Watts, Deputy Principal & Ms Janet Atchison, Deputy Principal**

On behalf of the staff and students, we would like to take this opportunity to farewell Ms Diprose as she embarks upon extended leave, followed by some exciting new adventures.

Ms Diprose will be spending far more time on her farm near Orange, enjoying the serenity of country life, but she will also be actively engaging in further study and educational leadership in other settings.

Ms Diprose will be sorely missed - she has provided the school with outstanding leadership over the past past nine years, continuing to build upon the school's excellent reputation for girls' education.



**Ms Atchison, Ms Diprose and Mrs Watts at the Year 12 Graduation yesterday**

Ms Diprose leaves Willoughby Girls High School with many legacies including:

- Transformation of the school from paper-based administration to a digital administration school, enabling teachers and students time to be better spent on teaching and learning.
- Creation of a framework for all teachers to run events and clubs, enabling teachers and students to gain leadership experience, and students more opportunities to follow their interests and passions.
- SRC and Prefects are more prominent, genuinely involved, and have a say.
- Conversion of many buildings into state-of-the-art learning facilities and spaces, including K Block, the Music block, the basketball courts, installation of many shade structures, and the Science block refurbishment, which is being finished now, and in line with Ms Diprose's inclusive and community sentiments, the Aboriginal artwork on the side of K Block.
- Clubs such as Social Justice, Environment club and others are given exposure for their issues in assemblies, the newsletter and other avenues.
- And, in one of Ms Diprose's most passionate changes, students have started to transform from chasing marks to becoming "life-long learners".

We all wish her well.

## FROM THE DEPUTY PRINCIPAL

Mrs Jennifer Watts, Deputy Principal – Student Wellbeing & Teacher Professional Learning

### DEPUTY PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

As we come to the end of another exciting (and unpredictable) year at Willoughby Girls High, I would like to thank parents/carers, staff and students for their willingness to be so adaptable and flexible as we adjusted to the ever-changing requirements necessitated by the pandemic throughout 2021. It wasn't always easy, but it was achievable, thanks in no small part to everyone's wonderful co-operation.

I wish all members of the school community a very relaxing break, happy holidays and joyous festive season.

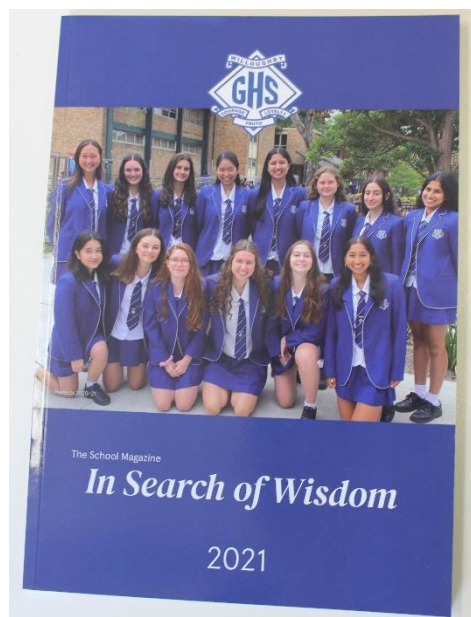
### 2022 DATES

Here are next year's term dates and the swimming carnival date for your planning purposes. (Please organise travel outside of school terms):

TERM	First Day	Last Day
Term 1	Tuesday, 1 February (Y7, Y11, Y12 & new girls) or Wednesday, 2 February (Y8, Y9 & Y10)	Friday, 8 April
Term 2	Wednesday 27 April	Friday, 1 July
Term 3	Tuesday 19 July	Friday, 23 September
Term 4	Monday 10 October	Tuesday, 20 December (TBC)



Swimming Carnival 2022 – 10 March  
One of the best whole school events is our swimming carnival. Every student attends regardless of if they are competitively swimming or not. Let's hope Covid will not prevent it in 2022.



### WGHS SCHOOL MAGAZINE

The WGHS 2021 School Magazine has been published and it is a lovely memento of school this year. Voluntary fees cover payment for the School Magazine. The School Magazine was be issued to the eldest student of each eligible family in Home Rooms this week.

#### How to order an additional copy?\*

If you would like to receive a 2021 School Magazine, but you have NOT paid your voluntary contributions, or if you would like to order additional copies, please pay \$17.66 per copy using the reference "2021 School Magazine". Magazines can be collected from the office at the beginning of next year. Please use this link to make the payment: <https://willoughbg-schools.nsw.gov.au/payment.html#/student-details>

\*Until stocks are depleted.t

## FROM THE DEPUTY PRINCIPAL

Ms Janet Atchison, Deputy Principal – Curriculum & Assessments

### YEAR 12 HSC EXAMS COMPLETED

The final HSC examination for our students was on Friday 3 December. The teachers and I are so proud of all these students for their perseverance.

### CONGRATULATIONS! EARLY UNIVERSITY OFFERS

To date over 100 of our Year 12 students (2020/2021) have received offers for early entry to university, which means they do not need to wait until they receive their ATAR marks to know if they have been accepted into a university course. The Universities give students early offers that are based on their work in Year 11 and participation in extra-curricular and leadership activities. Students may receive more than one offer and then can wait until they receive their HSC and ATAR and the main round of university offers before they make their final decision about which course to do.



Our Year 12 Geography students before their last HSC exam

Early Offers have been received for the following university courses: Visual Arts & Design, Psychology, Exercise & Sports Science, Arts, Media & Communications, Business Administration, Commerce, Professional Accounting, Marketing & Media, Early Childhood Teaching, Science, Medical Sciences, Mechanical Engineering, International Studies, Law, Information Technology, Science in Psychology, Nutrition & Dietetics, Pharmacy, Music, Criminology, Nursing, Film Production, Primary Education, Health and Sports Science, Business, Social Work, Exercise Science and Rehabilitation, Nutrition Science and others.

### YEAR 12 MAJOR WORK SELECTED

Stephanie B's Textiles and Design HSC Major Textiles Project has been accepted into the Textstyle exhibition for 2022.

This is an amazing effort. Only 30 projects were selected out of 2000 candidates. Congratulations to both Stephanie and our Textiles and Design Head Teacher, Mrs Cheryl Blomfield.



### PRESENTATION DAY

Unfortunately, due to Covid restrictions, we could not have our usual special Presentation Day at the Concourse with dignitaries, family, and other people important to our school, accompanied by a showcase of music from our wonderful Ensemble groups.

Instead of a large affair, we had small ceremonies to acknowledge the achievements of students in each cohort. Ms Diprose, the Principal, spoke at each ceremony and told students that one thing Covid has given us is the understanding of what is important to us: friendships, family, outside, nature, going out with friends and just being able to do things that we may have taken for granted before, such as being in classrooms with teachers and other students.

We hope next year can be at the Concourse again as it is very special to acknowledge students with Presentation Day awards.

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## PRESENTATION DAY *continued from previous page*

### Year 7 Award Recipients:

- Special Award for State Representation: Pin Pin M
- Sub Junior Cross Country Champion: Pin Pin M
- Principals Award for Kindness and Inclusivity: Nina B
- Equal First in Visual Arts: Nicole B
- Equal First in Visual Arts: Maya L
- Equal First in Visual Arts: Kaitlynne T
- First in English: Alaina C
- First in Mathematics: Yana Z
- First in Science: Lily G
- First in Music: Zoe L
- First in PDHPE: Alison L
- First in Technology: Nanao S
- First in History: Malak A
- **Dux of Year 7, 2021: Malak A**



Year 7 Award Recipients

### Year 8 Award Recipients:

- Gold Merit Award: Aurora H
- Gold Merit Award: Mirra K
- Junior Cross Country Champion: Willow T
- Sub Junior Athletics Champion: Jojo P
- Visual Arts & Design Award: Juliet D
- Equal First in Geography: Tabitha B
- Equal First in Geography: Kaitlyn W
- Equal First in Technology: Emma B
- Equal First in Technology: Baran S
- Equal First in Japanese: Chloe P
- Equal First in Japanese: Sara S
- Equal First in English: Marcella L
- First in Science: Caitlin J
- First in Mathematics: Srishti S
- First in French: Elise G
- First in Visual Arts: Ruixan- Renee L
- Sub-Junior Swimming Champion: Haylee H
- First in PDHPE: Haylee H
- First in Music: Lucinda K
- Equal First in English: Lucinda K
- **The Nell Mackie Award for Dux of Year 8, 2021: Lucinda K**



Year 8 Award Recipients

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## PRESENTATION DAY *continued from previous page*

### Year 9 Award Recipients:

- Music Award: Grace S
- Junior Athletics Champion: Scarlett M
- Junior Swimming Champion: Stela LK
- Gold Merit Award: Penelope D
- Gold Merit Award: Victoria S
- Equal First in French: Elise C
- Equal First in French: Darcy J
- Equal First in Music: Grace S
- Equal First in Music: Sonia P
- Equal First in Textiles Technology: Rose S
- Equal First in Textiles Technology: Kayla H
- Equal First in History: Jaewon - May M
- First in History Elective: Katya T
- Gold Merit Award: Penelope D
- First in Drama: Roisin G
- First in iSTEAM: Annie W
- First in Japanese: Ashley C
- First in Geography: Nicole L
- First in Photographic & Digital Media: Eleanor H
- Equal First in Information & Software Technology: Penelope D
- First in Commerce: Victoria S
- Gold Award: Victoria S
- First in PASS: Imogen M
- First in Food Technology: Imogen M
- First in Visual Arts: Sophie F
- First in Visual Design: Sophie F
- Equal First in Mathematics: Geumryang G
- First in English: Geumryang G
- First in Science: Geumryang G
- Equal First in Mathematics: Kimberly S
- Equal First in History: Kimberly S
- Equal First in Information & Software Technology: Kimberly S
- First in PDHPE: Kimberly S
- Debating & Public Speaking Award: Kimberly S

• **Old Girl's Award for DUX of Year 9, 2021: Kimberly S**



Year 9 Award Recipients

### Year 10 Award Recipients:

- Gold Merit Award: Sophie H
- Senior Swimming Champion: Lisa N
- Senior Cross Country Champion: Annabelle W
- **Long Tan Future Innovators Award: Jessie J**
- NSW Premier's Sporting Challenge: Donna M
- Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award: Jessie J
- Equal First in French: Leah C
- Equal First in French: Rhiannon L
- Equal First in Food Technology: Christine K
- Equal First in Food Technology: Donna M
- Equal First in iSTEAM: Eva C
- First in English: Kiera W
- First in Drama: Charlie D
- First in Mathematics: Yubin H
- First in History: Claire S
- First in History Elective: Kristine Z
- First in Japanese: Suzy T
- First in Information & Software Technology: Rachel B
- First in Music: Cameron G
- First in Design & Technology: Cynthia F
- Principal's Award for Creative and Critical Thinking: Elyna L
- First in Visual Arts: Elyna L
- First in Photographic & Digital Media: Ella B
- First in Textiles Technology: Jessie J
- First in Geography: Freya H
- First in PASS: Freya H
- Equal First in iSTEAM: Arabella T
- First in Science: Arabella T
- First in Commerce: Arabella T
- First in PDHPE: Arabelle T
- Long Tan Youth Leadership Award: Arabella T

• **Old Girls' Award for Dux of Year 10, 2021: Arabella T**

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## PRESENTATION DAY *continued from previous page*



Year 10 Award Recipients

### Year 11 Award Recipients:

- Excellence in Work Placement: Abbey B
- Visual Arts Award: Anevay F
- Macquarie Leaders and Achievers Award: Olivia T
- Macquarie Leaders and Achievers Award: Mila B
- Senior Swimming Champion: Olivia T
- Gold Merit Award: Natalia F
- Reuben F Scarf Award for Ongoing Effort & Desire to Improve: Maya L
- Equal First in Ancient History: Claire D
- Equal First in Ancient History: Rosie K
- First in Standard English: Agnes B
- First in English EALD: Yung H
- First in Drama: Abbey T
- First in Design & Technology: Sanvi G
- First in Mathematics Advanced: Poroshat A
- First in Mathematics Standard: Isabella W
- First in Biology: Annabel L
- First in Geography: Ellie K
- First in French Beginners: Mariah-Angelee M
- First in Japanese Continuers – Sophia A
- First in Music 1: McKenzie R
- First in PDHPE: Kinjal K
- First in Software Design & Development: Jessica O
- First in Community & Family Studies: Evie K
- First in Textiles & Design: Thowshi D
- First in Modern Greek Continuers: Maria K
- First in English EALD: Yuna H
- First in Japanese Beginners: Yuna H
- First in Mathematics Extension 1: Sanjhanaa S
- First in Physics: Sanjhanaa S
- First in Information Processes & Technology: Lorin Chanel R
- First in Visual Arts: Lorin Chanel R
- Equal First in Ancient History: Natalia F
- Equal First in Modern History: Natalia F
- First in English Extension 1: Mila B
- First in Chemistry: Mila B
- First in French Continuers: Claire O
- First in Music 2: Claire O
- Winona and Kristine Langford Memorial Music Award: Claire O
- Equal First in Modern History: Hafsa A
- First in Business Studies: Hafsa A
- First in Economics: Hafsa A
- First in English Advanced: Madeline H
- First in Legal Studies: Madeline H
- First in Society & Culture: Madeline H
- **Award for Dux of Year 11, 2021: Madeline H**

There was no photo of Year 11 Award Recipients due to Covid restrictions and no assembly.

### FROM THE WELLBEING TEAM

Mrs Dianne Topic, Head Teacher, Wellbeing

On behalf of the Wellbeing Team, I would like to thank you all, our wonderful Willoughby Girls High School community, for all that you have done to support your daughters and our school this year. We have had to deal with numerous challenges and uncertainty, and have worked together as a community to support our young people and each other.

During the summer break, take the time to relax, recharge and reconnect with your loved ones. Be kind to yourselves and each other.

We look forward to seeing you all again in 2022!

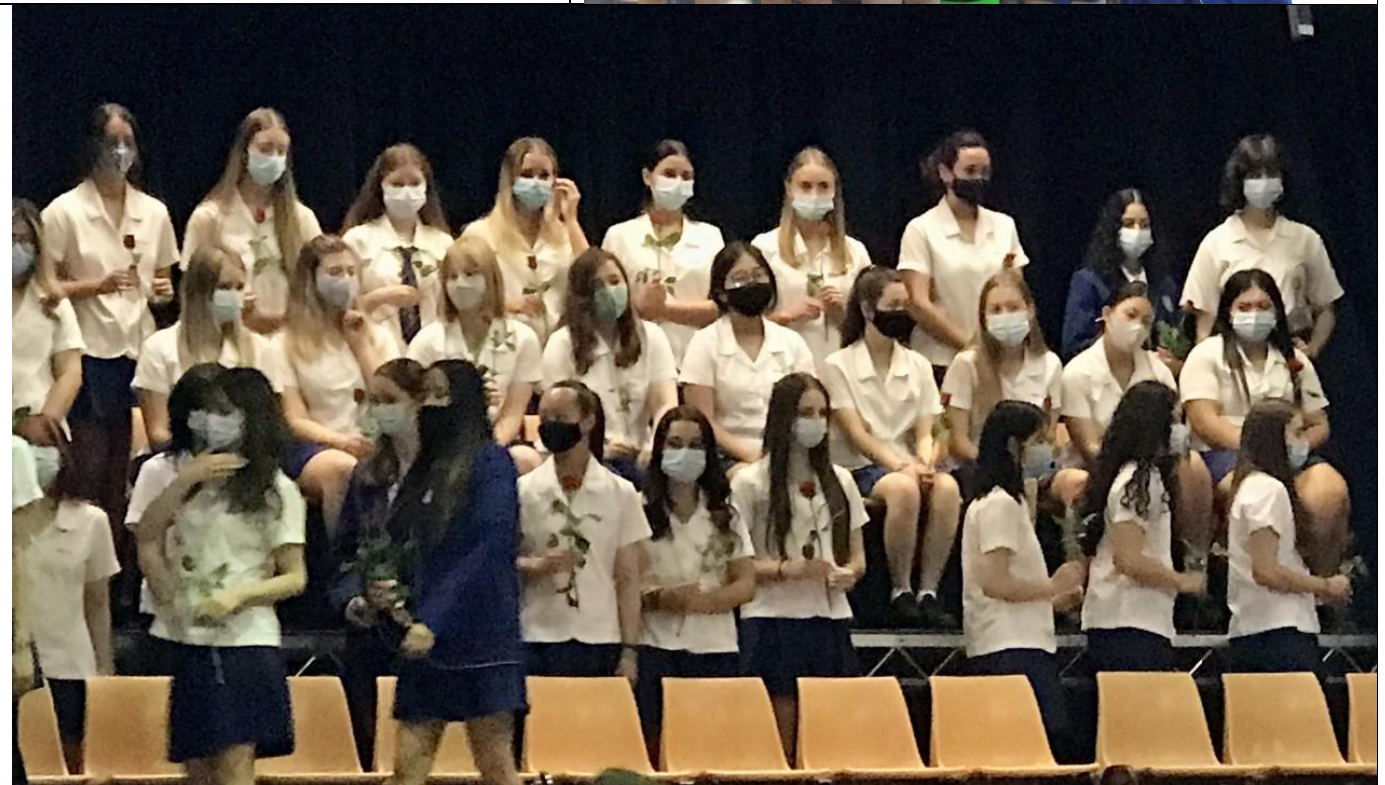
## YEAR 12 GRADUATION

On Wednesday, 15 December, we held the Year 12 Graduation Ceremony in the hall and it was wonderful! Nearly every Year 12 student was able to attend and many of them have since sent messages to the school about how much they enjoyed the day. It was full of happiness, friendship, excitement and joy. There were speeches from Ms Diprose, Ms Grace Tyerman (Year Advisor), and Our 2020-21 School Captain, Lana Timms.

The Final Roll Call when each student was individually acknowledged for her achievements, and the walk out with the roses brought many students and teachers to tears.

We hope parents enjoyed watching the live stream. A polished video link will be sent to all Year 12 students when it is ready.

Below are some photos of the student's last day wearing their school uniform.





## AWARDS - BRONZE, SILVER, GOLD & LEARNING

Each semester, Bronze awards are given to students by teachers for demonstrating school values such as improving in learning, displaying kindness, community service within and outside the school and for showing improvement in learning outcomes.

Bronze awards are also given for Outstanding Learning Habits when they achieve a full score of 180 in their report.

Congratulations to all students who received Bronze Awards this semester.

### SILVER AWARDS

If a student is awarded five (5) or more Bronze certificates in one semester, she qualifies for a Silver Award, which we usually celebrate in a special assembly at the end of each Semester. Due to Covid restrictions, we could not have a Silver assembly this semester, but hope to recognise these students at a special assembly at the beginning of Term 1, 2022.

### AWARDS ON PRESENTATION DAY

If a student receives a Silver Certificate in both Semesters, then she is awarded a Gold Award at Presentation Day. If a student receives two Bronze awards for Outstanding Working Habits, then she is awarded an Outstanding Commitment to Learning award at Presentation Day.

Congratulations to all students who received awards this year.



Some Year 11 Award recipients



Some Year 7 Award recipients



Some Year 9 Award recipients

# OUR 2021-22 PREFECTS BUSY PLANNING

Abbey T, School Captain 2021-22

As the year ends, the Prefects are hard at work during our weekly Monday meetings organising events for this year and next. Currently, we are working on the following initiatives:

## Year 12 Jerseys, Trivia & Sleepover

Our first initiative group (Claire O, Olivia T, and Sanvi G) is busy coordinating the Year 12 jerseys and are involved in everything from the design process to distributing it (hopefully) early next year. They will later focus on making the 2022 Year 12 trivia and sleepover the best ones yet!

## Welcome Video and Prefects Afternoon Tea

Kinjal K, Trinity T, and Maddie H have been drafting scripts and recording the welcome video and compiling a list of Prefects from other schools to invite to the annual Prefects Afternoon Tea (PAT). We are so excited to welcome the new Year 7s into the school community in a few months and have the chance to talk to Prefects from other schools about how they are fulfilling their roles and enjoying their final year of school.

## International Women's Day

Even though International Women's Day (IWD) is not until the 8th of March next year, it is such a priority for us here at WGHS that Mila B, Vanessa W, and Thowshi D have started selecting speakers to have at our annual assembly and women-centred charities to support with a bake sale. The 2022 campaign theme is 'Break the Bias' about women in their careers, and more specifically, STEM. We are already excited to hear from inspirational women about their lives and work, and help fund a charity by eating baked goods (it is a win-win situation!!!).

## Charities Day & Year 12 Holiday Week

Another initiative group (Aleah D, Izzy K, Mia G, and Jada K) is working diligently to make sure our Charities Day and Holiday Week are successes. They have already sent out a survey to Year 12s to get extra theme inspiration for Charities Day (get excited), and have set out an excellent plan for our Year 12 Holiday week for our Year 12's to enjoy leading up to the holidays.

This week (Week 10) in our lunchtime wellbeing sessions, Year 12s were treated to tree decorating, relaxing colouring in, and a chance to watch Home Alone!

That is all from us for now, but we cannot wait to get stuck into our Prefect roles after the summer holidays when COVID restrictions have eased a bit more.



# YEAR 12 BODIES OF WORK

Mr Francesco Maltese, Head Teacher Visual Arts

We are very proud of our Year 12's efforts. This year 32 students submitted bodies of work to be marked for the HSC. These artworks varied from painting, drawing, photo media, digital drawings, ceramics and sculpture. We have been randomly showcasing these artworks in newsletters this term. Please take the time to appreciate some of these amazing works below.



Crystal W



Alycia W



Elsbeth H



Paris D



Rinka K



Tilly T



Amy B



Hannah W

## YEAR 9 FOOD TECHNOLOGY

Mr Terry Evans, Technical & Applied Studies Teacher

For the last practical of the year, Year 9 Food Technology students were asked to design their own practical for someone in a different life stage. The students were really enjoying this practical lesson, there was lots of energy in the class, and the cooking smells were amazing!



Helya A & Bronte S made Healthy burgers for Boarding School Students.



Lulu R & Lily J were making Healthy chicken nuggets, peas and corn and banana bread for Toddlers.



Shuhani C and Alisa P were making Korean chicken and mini cheese cakes for children aged 8-13 years.



Alisia A and her partner were making Healthy Mac & Cheese and sailing boats for toddlers.



Yuna US & Maya YH were making rainbow veggie wraps with tuna, and mini veggie muffins for Primary School children.

## YEAR 12 ENSEMBLES FAREWELL BREAKFAST

Mr Clem Burgmann, Head Teacher Music

The annual Year 12 Ensembles Farewell Breakfast was held last Friday, with Covid-safe treats and Chamber Ensemble's first performance in 6 months. The Year 12 girls loved their traditional gift from the Music Committee of an engraved harmonica, plus some amazing music-themed biccies. Thank you to our fifteen leavers for your years of service!



## NEARLY 50 HAMPERS FOR THE SALVATION ARMY

Sophie P, Year 7 SRC Representative

This term every homeroom was given a basket to fill with items (books, food, clothing, etc) to donate to the Salvation Army. The baskets were collected last Friday with an impressive total of nearly 50 Christmas hampers! These hampers will be helping numerous people who don't have anything to wake up to on Christmas morning. The school has done a wonderful job by coming together to bring in items for others less privileged.

Thank you to all staff and students who brought in donations - the Salvation Army is very grateful for all of the hampers we have filled. Thank you also to Ms Hattingh's Year 7 class and Joe for loading the baskets into the trucks.

Every year there is a competition about which homeroom can fill the most baskets, congratulations to homeroom 10.3 who filled 7 baskets!! (They are aiming to fill 9 baskets in 2022!)

Congratulations everyone on a very successful year of Christmas Hampers and have a wonderful holiday and Merry Christmas!



## YEAR 7 PAPER PLANE COMPETITION

Olivia W and Hannah L, Year 7

For the last couple of weeks, Year 7 have been making and testing paper aeroplanes during our Fun Friday homerooms.

Everyone had a few days to get creative and make their own paper aeroplanes. Our goal was to make a plane that flew the furthest distance. Each homeroom teacher then chose the two furthest flying planes to compete with the other homerooms.

On Friday 10 December, during homeroom time, the Year 7 finalists competed against each other to find the paper aeroplane that flew the furthest.

Making the paper planes gave us a fun break from screens and it was super fun watching the competition.

Congratulations to the winners.

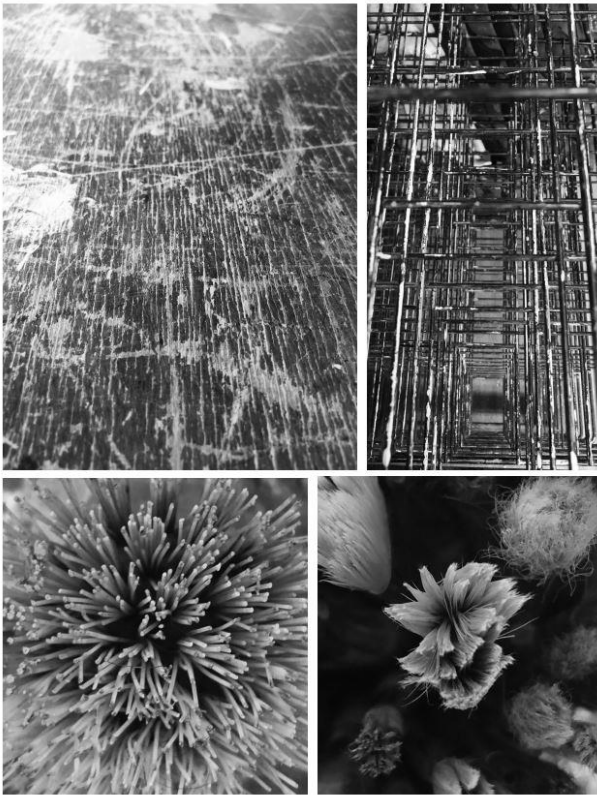


The winners: Eden M, Joyce I and Sia M

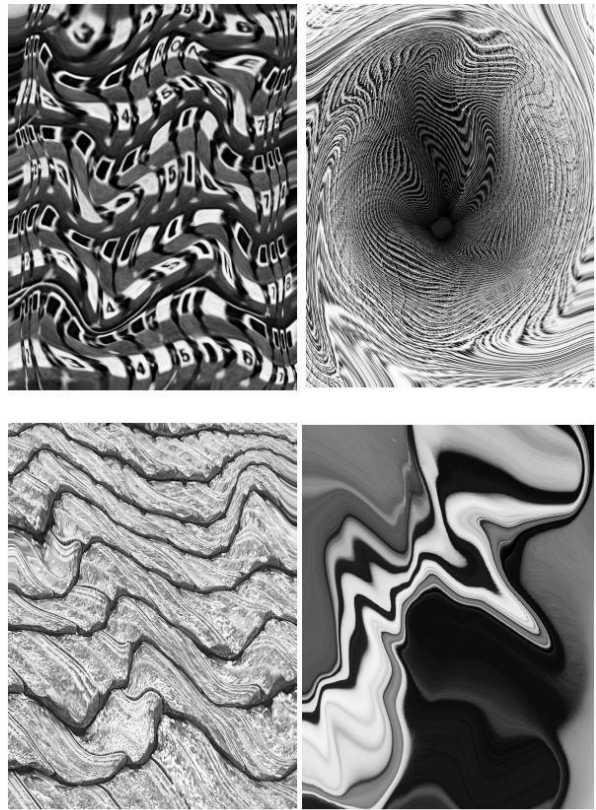
# YEAR 10 PHOTOGRAPHIC AND DIGITAL MEDIA WINNERS

Ms Marie Drougas, Visual Arts teacher

Congratulations to Emilie T and Montana Suttie. Their photography series won first and second prize in Year 10 Photographic and Digital Media 2021 in Term 4.



1<sup>st</sup> - Emilie T



2nd - Montana S



## YEAR 8 PINBALL MACHINES

Mr Terry Evans, Technical & Applied Studies Teacher

This year in Mandatory Technology - Engineered Systems, Year 8 students have been creating wooden pin-ball machines.

During lockdown, the students were provided with timber templates and were given free reign over the design elements.

The students showed great aptitude, creativity and safety when designing their machines. It has been great to see the students enjoying using the handsaws, chisels, drills, files and hot glue guns to create such a variety of scenes.



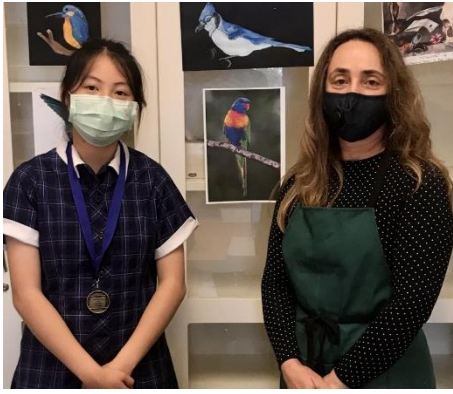
Sara S – Bridge over water



Emma B – Dog park



Kate S - Beach



## YEAR 7 RUNNER UP IN YOUNG AUSTRALIAN ART AWARDS

Mr Francesco Maltese, Head Teacher Visual Arts

Congratulations to Alexandra Z for her artwork "Rose Queen" being selected as Runner up in the 2021 Young Australian Art Awards.

## YEAR 8 JAPANESE PENPAL PROGRAM

Ms Naoko Konishi, Japanese Teacher

Each year, our students have an opportunity to communicate with students in Japan by exchanging letters and Christmas cards.

Students are practicing their learnt language skills by reading and writing in Japanese for a real purpose.

Even though students are in opposite hemispheres and miles away, they have started to share their common interests and worries such as the Covid pandemic which affected people all over the world this year.

This is a great opportunity to understand our common cause and develop our compassion to create a better world.

Here are some letters the students have created.



Ella Z



Catherine H



Carmen L

# YEAR 10 EALD – AMAZING COLLECTION OF ORIGINAL POETRY ABOUT COVID EXPERIENCES

Ms Margaret Wajs, English Teacher

When lockdown began, again, in June 2021, we had just finished studying Memoirs in our Year 10 English program and had shared many experiences, which not only showed the incredible lives of my students but brought the class much closer as human beings who have suffered, experienced great joy and grown from all our experiences. This experience of COVID lockdown in 2021 that students in Sydney experienced, will one day be studied and written about, by many. It is certainly an experience we can and will learn from when it is over.

For my beautiful class, this experience includes months of online learning and two holidays in lockdown.

I decided to challenge the girls to write an anthology. We had just studied some poems in class and the girls all come from cultures where poetry has a long tradition and is valued in their cultures. As young citizens of the world, these young ladies are sharing their views of the experience.

These are all views of teenagers who have a migrant background, who have family overseas, some who have had to spend time in quarantine after returning to Australia (on their own), adolescents who miss their friends and family, both here and overseas. Some have only been in Australia a very short while, others a few years longer.

All these students are bilingual, bicultural, or multilingual and they have chosen to share their view of our world in "Lockdown", in Sydney 2021.

Some have chosen to write their poems in both English and one of their other languages so they can share their feelings and views with people who may not be able to read in English.

As their teacher, I cannot express enough my gratitude for their wonderful effort and their beautiful souls, that they have chosen to share with us. I hope those who get to read this anthology will listen to their observations and admire their resilience and hope for the future.

*"I thoroughly enjoyed reading these poems and am impressed with the quality of writing and the perceptiveness of all these budding poets.....Congratulations to all students who contributed to this anthology of poetry that creatively documents a difficult point in history."*

Ms Elizabeth Diprose, Principal

This wonderful collection of poetry has been printed for all the girls to share.



The cover of the poetry booklet written by 10EALD



# YOUNG SCIENTIST AWARDS FOR STEM PROJECTS

Ms Esther Deshwal, Science Teacher

Congratulations to the following students from the Science Club for their achievements in the 2021 STANSW Young Scientist Awards competition:

- Penelope D (9) - High Distinction
- Ally X (10) - Distinction
- Yubin H (10) - Distinction
- Susannah A - Credit for Year 11-12 Biology



The Prize winners



Penelope D was awarded a high distinction for her work on drying time of paint.



The Science Club with Ms Gulline, Head Teacher Science

# YEAR 10 PASS ROLLERSKATING

Ms Rachael Harris, PDHPE Teacher

Year 10 had lots of fun skating in PASS this week.



# YEAR 7 SKIPPING COMPETITION

Narelle Best, Head Teacher PDHPE

On Friday 3 December, the Year 7 Jump Rope for Heart Jump-off was held. Our new Sports Captains took charge and they did a wonderful job leading the stations.

*"We ran the skipping relays - races to see which team could skip around the circuit fastest doing regular skipping, hopping, criss-cross skipping, and activities like star jumps and squat jumps. The Year 7s enjoyed racing their classmates which brought out their competitive side, and with their friend's encouragement they skipped faster and with more motivation."* Cameron G and Kiera W – Cavell

*"We really enjoyed running the jump rope afternoon for the Year 7s. Most girls were super excited to compete with their friends, but also the motivation powers of lollies were very helpful"* Jessica M & Maddison M – Browning

*"Fry ran the Zumba-skipping. We alternated between slow and quick skips, crisscross, double-unders, star jumps, and shuffling while skipping. Everyone gave their all. We enjoyed interacting physically with the Year 7s; enthusiasm was reflected upon their smiling faces as they jumped, moved and skipped to the beat of each song."* Roselyn D and Lisa N – Fry

*"Nightingale led the musical statues station. We loved how everyone was able to participate and have a good time together as we had music as a bonus to up the energy levels. We really look forward to experiencing another fun event like this one and we thoroughly appreciated our time during the fundraiser event."* Shido H and Piper W – Nightingale



Browning House Captains



Fry House Captains



Nightingale House Captains



Year 7s were hot after the obstacle course!



Year 9 PASS class assisted



Cavell House Captains

# YEAR 10 BRONZE CREST AWARDS FOR SCIENCE

Ms Natasha Lemaic, Science Teacher



Congratulations to the Students who have received Bronze Crest Awards from the CSIRO for their Scientific Reports and open enquiry investigations:

- Eva C - Investigating the production of Worm castings
- Aissatou C - Does temperature affect the reaction time of bath bombs?
- Charlotte D - The effect of magnetic field strength on the speed of a DC motor
- Cynthia F - Testing coatings to prevent corrosion of fish hooks in sea water
- Annie F - Comparing the effectiveness of Face masks with different layers
- Cameron G - How do Vitamin C levels vary between different fruits?
- Lucia H - Investigating methods to best preserve herbs
- Tivija K - How fertiliser effects the height of grass
- Saloni K - How does acidity level affect rock erosion?
- Rhiannon L - How does the ripeness of fruit affect its acidity
- Kein C - How water type and watering affects plant growth
- Eliza L - The effect of temperature on yeast when fermenting flour dough
- Grace M - Soil PG and the germination time of plants
- Cordelia M - The effect of windspeed on wave energy
- Jessica M - Gravity's impact on hydro-electricity
- Zara R - Effects of concentration and coatings on the corrosion process
- Yuri S - How temperature affects the pH level of laundry detergent
- Xin Min T - Do organic and synthetic fertilisers affect plant growth?
- Arabella T - How does friction affect the acceleration of an object?
- Emilie T - State of decay: prevention of tooth decay through toothpaste
- Diane T - Effect of soil PH & water on bean plant height
- Niamh W - The effect of candle colour on its burn rate (red burns quicker!)
- Kiera W - Preventative measures to delay the oxidation of fruit
- Ally X - Type of Panadol that dissolves fastest in a stomach model
- Rachel B - The effect of tablet surface area on the reaction rate
- Ella B - The effect of temperature and PH on solubility
- Lakshita L - Effect of voltage on the PH of solutions



## YEAR 9 SELECTED IN NSW TEAM

Mrs Nola Budd, PDHPE Teacher

Congratulations to Stela LK (Year 9), on her selection into the Under 16 NSW Water polo team. She will represent NSW at the National Championships held in Brisbane from the 9th to the 13th of January. We wish her all the best in the upcoming competition. Well done Stela!

## YEAR 11 CHRISTMAS AND WELLBEING WEEK

Mrs Caroline Jarvis, Year 11 Advisor and Ms Rachel Schroers, Year 11 Assistant Advisor

Year 11 had lots of fun in holiday week doing activities organised by the Prefects.



Health  
Northern Sydney  
Local Health District

### NSW School vaccination clinic, Year 7 students, Postponed until Term 1, 2022

The Year 7 school vaccination clinic for HPV dose 2 has been postponed due to the Covid-19 restrictions and lockdown. This clinic has been rescheduled to run on **Friday 25<sup>th</sup> March, 2022** at your school.

There are no concerns with this slight delay to the second dose of HPV for the Year 7 students. The recommendation is for the second dose of HPV to be given 6 to 12 months after the first dose, but there is no concern or need to repeat the first dose if the interval is slightly longer than this. There is no need for students to go to their GP, but parents can choose to access the vaccines at their GP practice if they prefer. Note there is a minimum 6- month dosing interval between HPV dose 1 and 2, and that GP-administered vaccinations may incur a consultation fee.

Please inform Hornsby Public Health Unit ([nslhd-phuschoolvaccinationprogram@health.nsw.gov.au](mailto:nslhd-phuschoolvaccinationprogram@health.nsw.gov.au) or ph 02 9485 6971) if your child receives the HPV dose 2 at the GP, to make sure they are not called to the next school vaccination clinic. This is only necessary if the school consent card was completed and given in at school by the parent, but then the student went to the GP instead for the vaccine. Year 7 parents who completed the vaccination consent form in 2021 do not need to do any additional paperwork.

Any Year 10 students who have not received the Meningococcal ACWY vaccine at school are advised get it from their GP to avoid any delay in protection against Meningococcal disease.

Further information about school vaccination is available; <http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/schoolvaccination>

# 2021 NSW PREMIER'S READING CHALLENGE (PRC) ACHIEVEMENTS

Ms Alexandra Parker, Teacher Librarian

The following 55 students are to be congratulated for their completion of the 2021 NSW Premier's Reading Challenge. Each student read 20 books. Five Year 9 students achieved 9 years of completing the PRC and have been awarded PRC Medals in recognition of their amazing reading achievements. Gold and Platinum certificate recipients also deserve special mention as they have completed 4 and 7 successful years of reading.

All students are encouraged to complete the 2022 NSW PRC which will officially begin on 28 February 2022 and conclude on Friday 19 August 2022.

## YEAR 7

**Platinum:** Vivian C, Julia D, Nanao S, Emma X

**Gold:** Malak A

**Completion:** Chloe C, Abbey F, Zoe G, Makayla H, Theresa H, Sasha H, Jessica H, Chelsea J, Hannah L, Kezia LO, Althea N, Celina T, Alina W, Charlotte W, Maris Y, Lucy Y

## YEAR 8

**Completion:** Lydia A, Rhiannon G, Haylee H, Catherine H, Saher J, Claudia L, Charlie L, Evie L, Ava M, Abbey M, Jieun P, Tiffany P, Callie S, M Sharma, A Sim, W Tucker-Downs, Teagan W, Jessica Y, X Zhang

## YEAR 9

**Medal:** Charlotte B, Cassandra C, Claire F, Emma L, Samantha P

**Platinum:** Grace S

**Gold:** Elizabeth S

**Completion:** Coco B, Gi T, S Poon

## YEAR 10

**Gold:** Jasmine L

**Completion:** Tivija K, Ellie M, Naureen M, Zara R



Left to right - Cassandra C, Emma L, Claire F, Charlotte B, Samantha P

## SOME HELPFUL WELLBEING LINKS

Ms Natasha Seklja, Student Support Officer

### ANNUAL YOUTH SURVEY BY MISSION AUSTRALIA

Annual Youth Survey by Mission Australia reports on the views of young people aged 15-19 years with over 20,000 respondents. This year, Covid has markedly impacted many aspects of their lives. The negative effect it has had on their participation in activities, education and mental health is not surprising but of particular interest is the finding that half of the young people who responded said their mental health was one of top three barriers in achieving study and work goals. Screen time, exercise and sleep habits have been significantly impacted this year with 77% of young people reporting that they spend more than 5 hours on screen daily. These findings reflect the issues girls have been displaying at school and seeking help for. The holidays is the perfect time to reset with a digital detox and more time outdoors. See the link to the Mission Australia Youth Survey for more details.

<https://www.missionaustralia.com.au/what-we-do/research-impact-policy-advocacy/youth-survey>

### SIGNS TO LOOK OUT FOR IF A TEENAGER NEEDS MORE SUPPORT

It is sometimes hard to know when a young person is just being moody and when they need more support. headspace has information on how to support a young person and signs to look out for that indicate more help is needed.

<https://headspace.org.au/assets/Uploads/Corporate/Support-your-young-person-during-the-holidays-web.pdf>

## ACTIONS FOR HAPPINESS IN DECEMBER

Mrs Dianne Topic, Head Teacher Wellbeing

[https://www.actionforhappiness.org/media/1068309/dec\\_2021.jpg](https://www.actionforhappiness.org/media/1068309/dec_2021.jpg)

**December Kindness 2021**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
5 Give a gift to someone who is homeless or feeling lonely	6 Leave a positive message for someone else to find	7 Give kind comments to as many people as possible today	1 Spread kindness and share the December calendar with others	2 Contact someone you can't be with to see how they are	3 Offer to help someone who is facing difficulties at the moment	4 Support a charity, cause or campaign you really care about
12 Be generous. Feed someone with food, love or kindness today	13 See how many different people you can smile at today	14 Share a happy memory or inspiring thought with a loved one	8 Do something helpful for a friend or family member.	9 Notice when you're hard on yourself or others and be kind instead	10 Listen wholeheartedly to others without judging them	11 Buy an extra item and donate it to a local food bank
19 Contact someone who may be alone or feeling isolated	20 Help others by giving away something that you don't need	21 Appreciate kindness and thank people who do things for you	15 Contact an older neighbour and brighten up their day.	16 Look for something positive to say to everyone you speak to	17 Give thanks. List the kind things others have done for you	18 Ask for help and let someone else discover the joy of giving
26 Get outside. Pick up litter or do something kind for nature	27 Call a relative who is far away to say hello and have a chat	28 Be kind to the planet. Eat less meat and use less energy	22 Congratulate someone for an achievement that may go unnoticed	23 Choose to give or receive the gift of forgiveness	24 Bring joy to others. Share something which made you laugh	25 Treat everyone with kindness today, including yourself!
			29 Turn off digital devices and really listen to people	30 Let someone know how much you appreciate them and why	31 Plan some new acts of kindness to do in 2022	

**ACTION FOR HAPPINESS** Happier · Kinder · Together

## YEAR 8 CHRISTMAS COMPETITION

Mr Daniel Yeung, Year 8 Advisor

For some fun in the final weeks of school, Year 8 participated in a Christmas decorating Competition.

The winning Home Rooms were:

Best Overall Christmas Decorations: 8.1

Best Feature: 8.3

Best Theme (White Christmas): 8.5

The winners are in the photo with Ms Rudd and their prizes (chocolates and lollies).



The Winning Class: 8.1

## CHRISTMAS WISHES & INVITATION TO CAROLS ON THE GRASS

Mrs Kate Snell, Scripture Teacher at WGHS, on behalf of local Christian Churches

As Christmas approaches, we want to wish the WGHS community a time of great joy and rest.

After a difficult few years I'm sure we're all looking forward to celebrating all the good things that this time of year brings. But of course, there may be hard things too.

So, as you navigate your way through the ups and downs of this season, let me encourage you to consider Jesus, God's son, the saviour of the world, the one who came to hold out the hope of peace, healing and joy for eternity.

You're welcome at any of the local churches, and St Stephen's Willoughby is hosting: Carols on the Grass on Saturday 11th December at 5pm.

Tickets at <https://st-stephens.com.au/thissummer/>



## CHRISTMAS WISHES

Ms Aida Moore, Catechist Coordinator

The Catholic Scripture teachers from Lower North Shore Parish wish you and your families a wonderful Christmas and summer holiday break. Click on the link below to receive your Christmas card and a variety of craft, cooking activities, songs, prayers and lots more.

[An Advent & Christmas Message from Catholic SRE Scripture Teachers](#)



## PLAY LEAGUETAG IN 2022 FOR THE WILLOUGHBY ROOS

Annabelle A and Sian G in Year 10 play League Tag for Willoughby Roos. They would like to promote their club to try and get more girls playing in 2022.

The Willoughby Roos are a local Rugby League club based at Willoughby Park.

BluesTag is a non-contact form of Rugby League that has been very popular over the recent years, starting with a single team in 2019, to this year fielding four teams across multiple age groups and the Roos now have over 70 girls registered. The club hopes to break the 100 mark for female participants in 2022.

Games are played on Saturday afternoons across the North Shore from April through to August, with one training session per week on Thursday nights. If you are looking for a fun way to keep fit, develop great skills, meet new friends and be part of a great community then this is definitely for you.

For the first time in 2022 the club will be offering female tackle for our 14 and 15 year girls who want to take the next step. The Roos will be the first club on the Lower North Shore to offer this form of the game and is a massive step forward for the Women's game.

This year the Roos are also running our first ever Summer Training Squads, which will be held at Willoughby Park on Thursday nights throughout January and February. The Squads run by professional coaches and are designed for anyone who is interested in playing Touch, Tag or Tackle formats of the game to keep fit over the summer months and improve your footy game. Registration costs \$70 and come with a training shirt and bucket hat.

If you are interested in the Sumer Training Squads or have any questions about playing for the Roos, please reach out to [willoughbyroos@gmail.com](mailto:willoughbyroos@gmail.com) or hit us up on Facebook or check out our Website [www.WilloughbyRoos.com.au](http://www.WilloughbyRoos.com.au)



## YEAR 9 GINGERBREAD HOUSES

Mrs Cheryl Blomfield, Head Teacher Technical & Applied Studies



Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays  
to all the Willoughby Girls High School Community





**headspace**  
National Youth Mental Health Foundation



# are you finishing school in 2021 and don't know what's next?

**During these uncertain times it can help to talk to someone. headspace is here to support you with your work or study situation.**

With everything that's happened in the last few years, your work or study plans might have changed, leaving you feeling anxious or unsure about your future. headspace is here to support you with your work or study situation.

If you're 15-25, our team of qualified work and study specialists can help you during this uncertain time.

#### **we can help you with:**

- understanding your strengths, skills and abilities
- exploring course and study options
- career planning and advice
- resume and job application support
- study and enrolment support
- support transitioning from school to work or further study
- balancing your mental health and wellbeing with work or study.

[headspace.org.au/workandstudy](https://headspace.org.au/workandstudy)  
**1800 810 794**

headspace Work and Study is funded by the Australian Government