



WILLOUGHBY GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL

A Leader in Girls Education

NEWSLETTER

Phone : 9958 4141

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

16 JULY 2021

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Mrs Jennifer Watts, Relieving Principal

Welcome back to Term 3!

We were fortunate to be able to hold our annual much-loved Multicultural Day on the last day of Term 2. Thank you to Mr Matt Palmer and his team for all their efforts organising this day. There are photos further in this newsletter.



Multicultural Day on the last day of Term 2

Despite a cyberattack, which resulted in staff and students losing access to the NSW Department of Education's portal for a few days at the end of the holidays, and the consequential issues with Sentral for the students, we have transitioned seamlessly to online learning. I thank Mr Nick Zunic, our Technical Support Officer, for his tireless efforts to ensure every student was back on line for the commencement of lessons on Tuesday.

I also thank our wonderful staff who have stepped up and swung into full online mode so quickly. The classroom teachers who are committed to ensuring student learning proceeds in a meaningful way, the EALD and Learning Support teams who continue to assist students in the classroom, however in a slightly different way, and the office staff who are also adapting to changes in the way they support our staff, students and families.

Teachers were very happy to see the student's smiling faces on Tuesday morning and their positive engagement during the past four days of online learning. It is also very pleasing that students are wearing their school uniforms, as requested. Thank you girls.

The Wellbeing Team will be monitoring student engagement throughout the duration of our online learning, and will be contacting students and parents, as appropriate. If parents have concerns regarding their daughter, please contact the relevant Year Adviser via the school email.

As always, staff have been liaising with and supporting Year 12 students to ensure they are well prepared for upcoming examinations and the weeks following. The Trial examination period has been moved back two weeks and now commences 9 August. Any changes which may impact upon the HSC will be communicated to students and parents as they are confirmed.

Continued next page



WGHS P&C



Facebook.com/wghspandc
secretary@wghspandc.org.au



Next P&C Meeting will be held:
Tuesday 20 July 2021 (Zoom details TBC)

- ✓ 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*

As per the NSW Government Stay At Home Orders, all staff and students are expected to be working from home, unless it is absolutely necessary to be onsite. Children of essential workers and those students who cannot work from home may attend, and will be supervised on site by a teacher. All students attending school will be required to wear a mask at all times, unless eating or drinking at lunchtime. Students must also bring recess and lunch each day as there are no canteen facilities available.

Please be aware that we are operating with a skeleton staff to keep the school open – it is not “business as usual”. We ask that all enquiries be forwarded via the school email: willoughbg-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au.

Current restrictions remain in place until 30 July, with the possibility of extension. Our staff are prepared to maintain quality learning experiences for our students, however long is necessary. As we progress into the term, we will constantly be reviewing, adapting and updating school experiences, activities and events. Some may need to be changed a little to meet COVID restrictions at the time, others a lot. However, please be assured that your daughters' health, safety and wellbeing are at the core of everything we do.

Take care and stay safe.

Mrs Jennifer Watts
Relieving Principal

2022 TERM DATES

Mr. Clem Burgmann, Acting Deputy Principal

Here are next year's term dates 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)

2021 CALENDAR

TERM 3: Tues 13 July – Fri 17 Sept

Tuesday 20 July

P&C Meeting 7pm - Zoom

Monday 26 July

Y8 & Y10 Parent Teacher night - online

9 -24 August

Y12 Trial Exams

Tuesday 10 August

Y11 Music Recital 7pm

Y10 Be Street Smart Road Seminar

Tuesday 17 August

P&C Meeting 7pm - Zoom

19-21 August

Festival of Creative Arts

24 August

Y12 returns to class following Trials

25 August - 7 September

Y11 Yearly Exams

8-10 September

Y11 Camp

Tuesday 14 September

Student Leaders Induction

Wednesday 15 September

Y12 Review & Farewell Luncheon

Thursday 16 September

Y12 Graduation

Friday 17 September

Last Day of Term 3

TERM 4: Tues 5 Oct – Thurs 16 Dec

EXPECTATIONS OF WGHs STUDENTS WHILE LEARNING ON LINE

Mr Clem Burgmann, Relieving Deputy Principal

When working from home students should be:

- In a workspace with no distractions, eg barking dogs.
- Wearing school uniform or PE uniform every day when attending classes
- Punctual and present online for every timetabled lesson. Attendance at each class will be recorded as usual, but in different ways.
- Completing the Attendance Question on the online year page of Google Classroom / Edmodo at the beginning of every day between 8.45am-9.15am. That is how we know you are ready for a day of learning.
- Logging in to your Google classroom or relevant platform punctually at the commencement of every lesson.
- Checking emails and notices on Sentral daily.
- In regular communication with your class teachers. If you have a question or are unsure about anything, ask your teacher via Google classroom.

Also,

- You will not zoom every lesson, or for the entire lesson. It can be tiring for both students and teachers.
- When you are on a zoom lesson, you must have your camera on so the teacher can see you.
- At times you will be working independently, however your teacher will be online to answer questions and assist and will be checking that you are completing class work.
- You must complete all assigned work.
- If you are ill and cannot attend school that day, please ask your parents to email the school office and let them know. Absences will be recorded as usual.
- Remember, if you are struggling with online learning, let your Year Adviser know and we can help.

YEAR 11 & 12 MINIMUM STANDARDS TESTS

Ms Janet Atchison, Deputy
Principal

Those who have not finished their HSC Minimum Standards Test(s) must complete them when we are back on site again. When we return, please make it a priority to contact Ms Atchison to sign up to finish your tests on Tuesday afternoons.



POSTPONED SUBJECT SELECTION

Ms Janet Atchison, Deputy Principal

At this time of the year, most year groups make decisions about subjects they will take in the following year (not Year 9). Due to the Covid lock-down, we will delay these decisions until we are back to face-to-face teaching as it is important that these decisions are not made blindly. When we are on site, students will be able to speak to teachers, other students and older students to find out all the information they need to make the most informed decision.

The following subject choices will be made when we return to on-site learning:

YEAR 7

Language choices for Year 8. Students will be able to choose one language (Japanese or French).

YEAR 8

As well as the core subjects of English, Mathematics, Science, Geography, History and PDHPE, each student must choose **three elective subjects** to study in Years 9 and 10.

For Year 9 2022, students may choose from the following:

- Aboriginal Studies*,
- Commerce,
- Design & Technology,
- Drama,
- Food Technology,
- French,
- Japanese,
- History Elective,
- Information & Software Technology
- iSTEAM,
- Music,
- Physical Activity and Sport Studies (PASS),
- Textiles and Design,
- Photographic & Digital Media,
- Visual Design
- Visual Arts.



*Note: Aboriginal Studies is a Preliminary (Year 11) course and an application is required to study this course due to the high work-load requirements.

YEAR 9

No subject choices.

YEAR 10

Subjects for the HSC. Our Year 10 Subject Selection Week has been postponed. Please note that Students have been given lots of information about all subjects on the On-line careers platform. In addition to English (EALD, Standard or Advanced), students will be able to select from the following subjects:

Ancient History	Economics	Investigating Science	PDHPE
Biology	English Extension	Japanese (Beginners / Continuers / Extension)	Physics
Business Studies	Food Technology	Legal Studies	Science Extension
Chemistry	French (Beginners/Continuers/ Extension)	Mathematics (Standard, Advanced)	Society & Culture
Community & Family Studies	Geography	Mathematics Extension	Software Design & Development
Design & Technology	History Extension	Modern History	Textiles & Design
Drama	Hospitality Kitchen Operations	Music (Music 1&2)	Visual Arts
Earth & Environmental Science	Information Processes & Technology	Music Extension	

YEAR 11 and YEAR 12 – No subject selections required.

WELLBEING DURING REMOTE LEARNING

Mrs Dianne Topic, Head Teacher, Wellbeing

TAKING CARE OF OURSELVES

So, here we are again.

Whilst this is not what any of us were hoping for, please know that we are still here to support you and your daughters during this challenging time. What we can all agree on is that at least we have done this before, and we know we will get through this together - this *will* pass.

In the meantime, please remember, as parents it is crucial that you take the time to look after yourselves. 'Put your own oxygen mask on before assisting others.'

It is important that you maintain and establish routines everyday, that you stay connected with others, and that you take some time to move! Check in with yourself daily and take time out for *you*. Take a long walk, talk to a friend, eat well and do something nice for yourself. Encourage other members of your family to do the same.

SchoolTV published a special report last year during the Melbourne lockdown. Whilst it was created within that context, there are some very useful tips for parents regarding what to do during remote learning and how to support your wellbeing. Please see the link below –

https://willoughbg-h.schools.nsw.schooltv.me/wellbeing_news/special-report-riding-corona-coaster



WELCOME TO OUR NEW STUDENT SUPPORT OFFICER

We are very excited to announce that we have appointed a Student Support Officer!

Ms Natasha Sekelja will be working with the team to support the wellbeing of our students. You will hear more about Natasha and her role in the coming weeks.

ACCESSING THE WGHS WELLBEING TEAM

The Wellbeing Team would like to reassure you and your daughters that we are still here to support you during these challenging times. (Please see the next page for the Wellbeing Team)

Every year adviser has set up a Wellbeing Google Classroom page for their students. Each day your daughters have been logging into this platform before 9am to answer a question. This is to ensure they are ready to learn and present for online learning. Please make sure you remind your daughters to log on every morning and answer the question. The Year Advisers will also post tips, strategies and activities on the Google page to support your daughter's wellbeing during this time.

Once a week, the Year Adviser will ask your daughter to do a Wellbeing Check-In and complete a short survey. This is to allow our students to reach out and to acknowledge how they are feeling at any given time. If any concerns arise, the wellbeing team will then be able to provide support to your daughter.

If you are concerned about the wellbeing of your daughter, you can call the school and let our office staff know. However, please be advised that as most staff are working from home, we will be unable to receive your calls. Therefore, the best way of communicating with the school if you have a concern is through the school email willoughbg-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au

A member of the Wellbeing Team will respond within 48 hours (Please note, as most staff are working from home they will be calling from a private number).

If you have any immediate concerns about your child's wellbeing and safety, please call your GP and/or emergency services.

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The Wellbeing Team

The Wellbeing Team is available to assist you and your daughters. The Year Advisor is your first point of contact for wellbeing matters. For subject concerns, please email the Teacher or Head of the Faculty.

Year Advisors and Assistant Year Advisors for 2021 are:



Y7 - Mrs Nola Budd



Y7 - Ms Adel Frames



Y8 - Mr Daniel Yeung



Y8 - Ms Karen Tilson



Y9 - Ms Sarah Wigan



Y9 Ms Anastasie Velevski



Y10 - Ms Natasha Lemaic



Y10 Mr Sam Glazebrook



Y11 - Mrs Caroline Jarvis



Y11 - Ms Rachel Schroers



Y12 - Mr James Chen



Y12 - Ms Grace Tyerman



**Head Teacher, Wellbeing
Mrs Dianne Topic**



**Student Support Officer
Ms Natasha Sekelja**



School Counsellors
Monday & Tuesday:
Ms Gemma Jenkins



Wednesday & Thursday
Mr Will Chen

YEAR 12 HOSPITALITY LESSON DURING LOCK DOWN

With lockdown happening and the HSC nearing, Mrs Blomfield, Head Teacher Techological & Applied Studies, was very keen to finish off teaching a method of cookery – Grilling and Chargrilling with her Year 12 Hospitality class.

Some students came in for the lesson and others tuned-in via zoom.

There was a buzz as everyone enjoyed this practical class, with the main changes being wearing masks, social distancing and some of the class members participating on zoom.



Mrs Blomfield multitasking teaching students in the classroom and on zoom



MULTICULTURAL DAY

On the last day of Term 2 on Friday 25 June, we were lucky enough to be able to hold our annual Multicultural Day.

Multicultural Day is an opportunity to recognise and celebrate the many cultural backgrounds of the Willoughby community. It is designed to assist all students to feel included and valued, to share knowledge and grow understanding.

It was a great success with amazing levels of student involvement and enthusiasm. Students ran 33 stalls selling food and drinks representing different nationalities and participated in a Talent Quest.

Congratulations to Mr Palmer and his team for their hard work and encouragement of students. They organised a very special and fun day that all the students and teachers truly enjoyed.



MULTICULTURAL DAY continued from previous page



YEAR 8 AND 9 SKI TRIPS POSTPONED TO 2022

Ms Narelle Best, Head Teacher, PDHPE

Unfortunately due to the recent strict Covid guidelines we are unable to proceed with this year's intended Ski Trip Camps for Years 8 and 9.

This is both disappointing for students and the school. We were eager to provide students with a fun and challenging outdoor experience that will now have to be **postponed to winter of 2022**. Our intention is to allow Year 10 and Year 9 the opportunity to attend next year.

We are in close communication with our Ski trip providers to reschedule dates and determine refund procedures.

We will keep you informed of what those arrangements will be.

If you have any enquiries about this, please email me via the school email address willoughbhg-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au



Ski Slopes with no NSW skiers

FREE ONLINE INFORMATION SESSION – LOCKDOWN 2.0 – THE UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY

Mrs Dianne Topic, Head Teacher, Wellbeing

The University of Sydney is running a free online information session on Pandemic fatigue: young people and mental health titled "What does lockdown 2.0 mean for younger people and how does it impact on their mental health?"

The session is on Wednesday 21st of July from 3:30PM
For information and to register, please visit the link below –

https://www.sydney.edu.au/engage/events-sponsorships/sydney-ideas/2021/pandemic-fatigue-young-people-and-mental-health.html?campaign=2021_SI-PRO&source=email&area=university&a=public&type=o&pid=edm-july



LOCK DOWN TIMETABLE / BELL TIMES

PERIOD	TIME	ACTIVITY
0	8.00 – 8.45	Class
WELLBEING CHECK	8.50 – 9.00	Respond to questions on year Adviser Google Classroom
1	9.00 – 9.40	Class
BREAK	9.40 – 9.45	Stand up, stretch, walk around the room
2	9.50 – 10.30	Class
HOMEROOM / RECESS	10.30 – 11.10	Stretch, jog, morning tea – eat something & drink some water
3	11.10 – 11.50	Class
BREAK	11.50 – 11.55	Stand up, stretch, walk around the room
4	12.00 – 12.40	Class
LUNCH	12.40 – 1.40	Stretch, jog, LUNCH – eat something & drink some water
5	1.40 – 2.20	Class
BREAK	2.20 – 2.25	Stretch, walk around the room - water
6	2.30 – 3.10	Class
BREAK	3.10 – 3.20	Stretch, jog, afternoon tea – eat something & drink some water
7	3.20 – 4.00	Class
BREAK	4.00 – 4.10	Stretch, walk around the room - water
8	4.10 – 4.50	Class



Learning environment checklist

In setting up this space the following should be considered:

- Is the area free of distraction?
- Is there excessive noise in the area?
- Are there trip hazards in the area?
- Is the area exposed to direct glare or reflections?
- Does the area have sufficient power points available?
- Is equipment (extension cords etc.) in good, safe, working condition?
- Is there a proper desk and chair and other necessary equipment (light, stationery and devices)?
- Is the chair adjusted correctly?
 - Feet should be flat on the floor and knees bent at right angles with thighs parallel to the floor.
 - The chair backrest should support the lower back and allow you to sit upright.
 - The chair should move freely and not be restricted by hazards such as mats and power cords.
 - Chair arm rests should be removed or lowered when typing.
- Is the computer adjusted correctly?
 - The screen should be positioned directly in front of You.
 - The screen should be at a distance where you can see clearly and easily without straining. The top of the screen should be slightly lower than eye level.
 - The keyboard should be positioned at a distance where elbows are close to your body and your shoulders should be relaxed.
 - The mouse should be placed directly next to the keyboard.
- Are your most frequently used items within easy reach from a seated position?

