



# Balcatta Update

20 October 2022

## From the Principal

Welcome to the start of Term 4 with all classes resuming on Monday 10 October. Parents/guardians were informed about the Government announcement regarding further easing of public health resources in response to COVID-19. From 14 October, mandatory isolation requirements have been removed. Anyone who is unwell is encouraged to take a Rapid Antigen Test (RAT) and stay home until symptoms resolve. Parents must contact the school if your child is absent due to illness. People who test COVID-19 positive are encouraged to stay home until symptoms resolve and register their RAT with the Department of Health. You can visit [healthy.wa.gov.au](https://healthy.wa.gov.au) for up-to-date COVID-19 related support and advice. Parents can collect free RATs from the Administration office if required.

### Staffing Update

This term, we have the following staff changes:

- Mrs Cathie Bonner, Associate Principal for Year 7 and Education Support Program – returned from one-year deferred Salary Scheme.
- Mrs Allison Nolan, Program Coordinator, Education Support Program
- Mrs Linsey Williams, fixed term teacher in Education Support till the end of Term 4 while Ms Carissa Thomas is on leave.
- Mr Daniel Wheeler, HaSS teacher – returned from extended leave.
- Mr Trevor Ghouse, Music teacher – fixed term (5 weeks) while Mr Daniel Rees is on leave.

### Year 12 ATAR

The Year 12 ATAR students undertook their mock WACE exams during the holiday break. The ATAR teachers have been providing a comprehensive study program during Week 1 and Week 2 to provide students with feedback from their exams as well as specific exam revision practice and exam study techniques. We wish our Year 12 ATAR students the best in their upcoming final WACE exams.

### Gifted and Talented Presentation Event

On Wednesday 19 October, a representative from the Gifted and Talented Selection Unit presented information to parents regarding the Gifted and Talented Secondary Selective Entrance programs. Ms Sherree Tomlinson also presented information regarding the Balcatta SHS Gifted and Talented Visual Art Program.

### School Board

Parents and guardians are invited to attend the annual public meeting of the Balcatta SHS Board to be held on Wednesday 2 November at 5.30pm. The meeting will be held in the Staff Common Room (Level 1), 56 Amelia Street entrance.

### “40” Dance Showcase

Balcatta SHS is celebrating 40 years of Dance with the “40” Dance Showcase to be held at the Octagon Theatre on Saturday 22 October commencing at 6.30pm. Tickets are available for \$32.00 from [TicketsWA](https://tickets.wa.gov.au).

Mrs Helen Maitland  
Principal

## Learning Area News

### Space Camp

During the recent school holidays, four Balcatta SHS students had the unique opportunity to attend a three-day Space Boot Camp at the University of Western Australia (UWA), which is an initiative by UWA and the International Space Centre (ISC). The motive of the camp is to allow students who have an interest and passion for space to explore it with professionals in the field, such as Associate Professor Danail Obreschkow, Head of the International Space Centre and Professor Peter Quinn, Head of the International Centre for Radio Astronomy Research.

Multiple topics were discussed including space, rocketry and propulsion, law and robotics. Each allowed students to reach a deeper understanding of space and its lucrative careers. The carefully selected team of experts includes 150 researchers, 12 research nodes and 20 PhD students.

Our students found that attending the camp expanded their understanding of the vastness and problems of space outside of our world, the universe and our place in it. It also allowed an opportunity to expand their knowledge of the different processes of the formation of stars, planets, nebulae and black holes. Our students were incredible representatives of our school in asking deep questions and debating the nuances of space theory.

### WA Museum Boola Bardip Excursion (HaSS)

Over the last two weeks, Year 7 students had the opportunity to visit the Boola Bardip Museum in Northbridge. This was an exciting opportunity for the students to learn about archaeology and palaeontology. In the ‘Dinosaurs of Patagonia’ exhibition, students were in awe of the world’s largest dinosaur – the Patagotitan, a gentle giant that was 40m long and weighed over 77 tonnes. They learnt some great facts along the way. They also had the opportunity to undertake a scavenger hunt in the museum to find fun facts, such as how many fly species there are in WA and the journeys of migrants to our state.

Finally, all students participated in a facilitated program run by museum staff called ‘Debating Ancient History’. Students learnt the important questions archaeologists and historians need to ask when investigating the past. They also learnt ‘Dreaming’ stories and scientific explanations of land formations often overlap. All students had a great day and were all very tired by the time they returned to school.

### “R U Legal” Presentation

Representatives from Legal Aid WA presented an informative talk to our Year 7 and Year 8 students. “R U Legal” has been developed to provide information about the criminal justice system and the laws that affect them.

## Important dates

22 Oct	"40" Dance Showcase celebrating 40 years of Dance at Balcatta SHS, Octagon Theatre at 6.30pm
24 Oct	Year 9 OLNA Writing
25 Oct	2.00pm Year 12 Presentation Event Rehearsals
26 Oct	6.00pm Year 12 Presentation Event (to be held in the new Gym, Balcatta SHS)
26 Oct	Interschool Athletics Carnival at Ern Clark Athletic Track
28 Oct	Year 9 OLNA Numeracy
28 Oct	Year 11 Reward Excursion to Adventure World
1 Nov	Year 9 OLNA Reading