



Balcatta Update

24 September 2021

From the Principal

The last week of term has been busy with a range of activities including exhibitions, excursions and visitors to our school to view the facilities.

Lawrence Wilson Art Gallery

Our partnership with the Lawrence Wilson Art Gallery has been an invaluable experience for our Year 10 Gifted and Talented Visual Art students.

In July, our students had the opportunity to visit and engage with artworks from *Feeling Abstract?*, an exhibition at the Lawrence Wilson Art Gallery which featured artworks from the UWA Art collection. The students were then asked to identify with either an artist, or a theme from the exhibition, and develop artwork in response to their visit.

Recently, I had the privilege of attending the exhibition. The quality of the students' work was very impressive. Congratulations to the teacher, Ms Arkeveld and the following students whose work was exhibited:

Asher Beard, Harrison King, Karla Macri, Jordan de Beer, Kai Dunbar, Mariam Yaseri, Daniel Antal, Eli Barr, Shayleigh McKenna, Gerald Giron, Jessica Betti, Riscia Vinta, Jeryn Huntley, Rose Watkins and Andrew Woods.

For more information, visit the [Lawrence Wilson Art Gallery Exhibition](#) on our website.

Awesome Arts Excursion

On Monday 20 September, the Year 7 Gifted and Talented Visual Art students visited the Perth Cultural Centre for the Awesome Arts Festival. The festival aims to inspire creativity and expression in young Western Australians through engagement with a broad range of contemporary art forms. Students saw a world-class theatre performance and participated in a workshop in the Arts area with a curriculum focus.

'Bev Dainton Independent Learning Area' Presentation

On Monday 20 September, we held a very special event with the unveiling of the 'Bev Dainton Independent Living Area' in B Block. Bev's family attended and were very appreciative that Bev's contribution to our school was recognised. Sebastian Foran, Year 12 student, was tasked with the unveiling which he was proud to do. The room is utilised by the Education Support students to develop independent life skills.

Association Learning Environment Visit

Recently, I was approached by this association seeking approval for a site visit on 22 September. This group represented professionals who are passionate about the design and functionality of spaces across a wide range of education settings. There were over 40 people in attendance from a range of professions including architects, interior designers, project consultants and education. The architects from Hassell led the group, which included Balcatta Senior High School staff and Year 9 students, Eva Veljanoski, Lidia Vojnovic and Tilly Woodard. The students were great school ambassadors and

spoke confidently about their experiences in the new learning spaces.

Farewell to Year 12 Students

A significant event for Year 12 students was the farewell to the Class of 2021 on Friday 24 September, the first group of students to complete their final year in the new building. The students have been reminded on numerous occasions by their teachers that this year will go so quickly, as realistically, they have only 30 weeks of learning program. Again we were faced with the challenge of COVID-19 which impacted on the start of the school year being delayed by one week, and then with the wearing of face masks. As a school community we have ensured the Year 12 students are well-positioned when they leave Balcatta SHS. I had the privilege of talking with them over the past couple of weeks regarding their plans for next year and beyond. It has been very interesting to hear their plans. Some have employment lined up, while others have applied for TAFE and university. We look forward to hearing their plans. It was pleasing to see some students had identified back up plans.

I would like to take this opportunity to personally acknowledge the commitment from all teaching and support staff who have contributed to the development of the Year 12 Class of 2021. Special thanks to Associate Principal Ms Tessa Curtis and Years 11/12 Coordinator Mr David Curtis. They had a pivotal role in guiding and supporting this group of students. The Year 12 student leaders, Nathan Hamilton and Phuntsho (Jen) Choden, have represented the students and school by always demonstrating our school values of Respect-Unite-Excel.

We wish the Year 12 ATAR students all the best with their upcoming mock exams next week.

I would also like to wish all families and students a safe and relaxing holiday break.

Helen Maitland
Principal

Intercom Electronic Gates – Amelia Street

Our electronic gates will be operational from Term 4. The staff entering the carpark will gain entry via an access code. An intercom system will be available for all visitors who require vehicle access into the school. The pedestrian gate will also be automated and late students must use the intercom system to access the school grounds. Visitors can also use the pedestrian gate as visitor car parking is limited.

Please remind your child school starts at 8.45am on Monday 11 October. Students late to school will be required to use the intercom. Any unexplained lateness will be dealt with seriously.

Leavers WA

Leavers WA will be held from Monday 22 November to Thursday 25 November 2021. It will be an opportunity for Year 12 students to celebrate the end of their schooling with their friends. It is a challenging time for school leavers, many of whom are fast approaching adulthood. Often, it is the first time they will be away from home without supervision. It is important to celebrate Leavers in a safe and responsible way. WA Police are there to protect the community, including leavers and visitors, and to uphold the law. We ask that school leavers follow some basic rules:

- Party safely and care for your friends;
- Respect the communities you visit and the people living in those communities;
- Drive safely and respect the well-being of yourself, your passengers and other road users at all times; and
- Make your Leavers is something to remember, not something to forget.

On the [Leavers WA](#) website you will find:

- information to help plan your Leavers;
- what you need to know about your Leavers wristband;
- advice for parents and guardians; and
- tips for you to stay safe during Leavers and where to go for help if something goes wrong.

For updates on Leavers week, please visit the [Leavers WA Facebook](#) page.

Uniforms

The majority of our student population adheres to our [school dress code](#), and I am seeking your assistance to ensure your child adheres to this code at ALL times.

Reminder: Leggings must be navy blue only and can only be worn with shorts or skirts over the top. Leggings cannot be worn as an item on their own.

School uniforms are available from Tudor School Uniforms, 1/75 Excellence Drive, Wangara. Opening hours are:
8.00am to 6.00pm Monday to Friday
8.00am to 1.00pm Saturdays

More information is available on our website - <https://baltashs.wa.edu.au/for-parents/uniforms/>

Important dates

24 Sep	Last day for students – Term 3
28 Sep – 4 Oct	Year 12 exams in the PAT
11 Oct (Monday)	Students commence Term 4
19 Oct	4.30pm to 6.30pm Year 12 Presentation Ceremony at the Octagon Theatre, UWA
22 Oct	Year 11 Dinner Dance at the Rendezvous Hotel, Scarborough