

## From the Principal

Welcome to the latest Balcatta Update. This week, for the first time in over 12 months, we have been able to take part in Lightning Carnivals. On Thursday 7 May, the Year 8 students participated in their Lightning Carnival playing soccer, basketball, netball and hockey. We look forward to learning the results. The Year 7 students have their Lightning Carnival on Wednesday 26 May. Please remember to return your child's consent form and payment.

### COVID-19 Update

#### Public exposure sites

The list of exposure sites continues to be updated at [Healthywa.wa.gov.au](https://www.health.wa.gov.au).

Masks are required to be worn by all staff at all schools and secondary school students until 7 May 2021, unless the person:

- has a physical, developmental or mental illness, injury, condition or disability which makes wearing a face covering unsuitable;
- is communicating with a person who is deaf or hard of hearing and visibility of the mouth is essential for communication;
- is engaged in strenuous or vigorous exercise; or
- is consuming food, drink or medicine, provided they are seated at the time.

Students and staff are not required to provide a medical certificate if they have a physical, developmental or mental illness, injury, condition or disability which makes wearing a face covering unsuitable.

Parents are to provide their child with a mask and need to ensure that the masks are replaced on a regular basis. Students arriving at school without a mask are provided with a reusable mask (which needs to be washed on a regular basis).

### Staffing Changes

Staffing changes are as follows:

- Mark Entwistle (Years 7/8 Coordinator) is Acting Head of Learning Area Mathematics until the end of Term 3
- Matthew Johnston – teacher (Mathematics)
- Ben Fuller – teacher (English).

Helen Maitland  
Principal

### NAPLAN

Every year students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 participate in NAPLAN tests in reading, writing, conventions of language (spelling, grammar and punctuation) and numeracy. The assessment provides parents and schools with an understanding of how individual students are performing at the time of the tests. NAPLAN is just one aspect of a school's assessment and reporting process. It does not replace ongoing assessments made by teachers about student performance. All Year 7 and Year 9 students have been provided with a NAPLAN schedule. If any students lose their schedule, spare copies will be available at Student Services.

If you would like to know more about the tests, please access the NAPLAN Online – information for parents and carers brochure by the following link –

<https://nap.edu.au/docs/default-source/resources/naplan-online-information-brochure-for-parents-and-carers.pdf>. The brochure also provides information on what parents and carers can do to support their child during NAPLAN testing.

### Years 11 and 12 Update

Externally Set Tasks (ESTs): Year 12 students in General courses are completing ESTs during Weeks 3-5 this term. The ESTs have a significant weighting towards the final grade for each course. Students need to provide a medical certificate if they are unable to sit the EST due to illness.

Semester 1 Exams for Year 11 and Year 12 ATAR courses will occur in Week 7. Students will receive an individual timetable. The teaching timetable for Year 11 and Year 12 will be suspended for that week. Students in General courses will be able to negotiate with their class teachers to come in and complete outstanding work for Unit 1. Students are also using this time to attend block work placements.

Please ensure your child has completed and submitted their My Futures and Career Exploration Booklet. This is due now.

### Act-Belong-Commit – Mindful May

As an Act-Belong-Commit school, Balcatta SHS actively promotes and supports mental health and well-being. Visit [actbelongcommit.org.au](https://actbelongcommit.org.au) for some useful information on 'Mindfulness'.

### Immunisation

Year 10 Immunisations are scheduled for Wednesday 16 June. Year 7 Immunisations for Round 1 are scheduled for Monday 13 September and Round 2 will be scheduled to take place in 2022 (date to be determined). Consent forms must be handed to the Admin Office as soon as possible. If you do not have a consent form, they are available from the Admin Office.

## Balcatta Update

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### Chess Club

Two weeks ago, Mr Attey, English teacher, commenced a chess club which is held every Thursday after school. Currently, there are four members, however the class is expanding. If your child is interested in joining, please ask them to see Mr Attey for a permission form.

## Important dates

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12-21 May	NAPLAN
26 May	Year 7 Lightning Carnival (Consent forms and payment due)
10 June	Year 9 Lightning Carnival

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