



# Balcatta Update

2 February 2024

## From the Principal

Welcome to the 2024 school year. There is always a “buzz” of excitement and I always look forward to welcoming the Year 7s and other new students. We also acknowledge the Year 12s who are completing their final year of secondary education

The first day started with a whole school assembly. The key messages covered at the assembly focused on students resetting after the holiday break and getting their headspace back into student mode. I outlined to the students how school prepares them for the next part of their learning journey and the development of those transferrable life skills employers are looking for, such as using initiative, following instructions, working as part of a team, working independently with effective literacy and numeracy skills.

Students were reminded about the Department of Education's [Student Mobile Electronic Device Policy](#). Phones are to be OFF and AWAY once students are on school grounds (including break times). All students MUST follow this policy – there are NO WARNINGS.

### Expectations and Key Messages

1. All students are to be prepared every day for school, i.e. dressed in school uniform with the required equipment and arrive at class on time.
2. Focus on core business – their role as a student is to focus on learning and be respectful at all times, as everyone has a right to learn.
3. Always try your 'best'. Don't give up, seek support from your teachers as they all want the best for you.

I have been visiting all classes and have been pleased to see students actively engaged in their learning. The Year 7 students started with an orientation program both on-site and off-site for Week 1 which provided them with the following opportunities to settle into the start of high school:

- Positive Relationships – Making Friends
- Devices and Expectations
- Instructional Strategies
- Student Profile
- Physical Education team building activities
- External presenters from Helping Minds – Social Media and Mental Health.

All Year 7 students were provided with a student Orientation Booklet and Student Diaries. On Thursday 1 February and Friday 2 February, they participated in a one-day program at the Ern Halliday Camp.

We welcome two Year 10 students, Maria and Bianca from Brazil, as part of a scholarship program where they will undertake their studies in Term 1 and Term 2 (for 23 weeks). We hope they enjoy their time at Balcatta SHS.

### Staffing Update

I would like to acknowledge and thank Ms Cathie Bonner who backed-filled for me in the last few weeks of Term 4 while I was recovering from foot surgery.

Welcome back to Ms Tessa Curtis and Mrs Jo Keep.

Welcome to the following new staff who bring a wealth of knowledge

and enthusiasm:

### Teaching Staff:

English	Rachel Brown, Adrian Carlberg, Cameron Juniper
HASS	Emma Burns, Emma D'Orazio (including English), Jeff Zahari
Science	Eddie Chen, Jalen Earl (including Maths and HPE), Lenka King, Tara Tamang, Yitty Teh
Maths	Julian Ackermann, Poppi Shedden, Feiyi Wang
Design & Tech	Scott Pyper
Education Support	Rachel Mitchelmore
Health Phys Ed	Emma Baleilakeba (including Maths),
Student Services	Declan Kerrigan Program Coordinator

### Special Needs Education Assistants:

Julie-Anne Apperley, Kimberley Arnold, Ruby Becvinovski, Sian Corporaal, Josiah Godfrey.

Our current Administration Team and Student Services Team are as follows:

### Administration Team:

Helen Maitland – Principal  
Cathie Bonner – Associate Principal, Year 7 and Education Support  
Daniel Drummond – Associate Principal, Years 8 and 9  
Tessa Curtis – Associate Principal, Years 10, 11 and 12  
Sharon Beccarelli – Manager Corporate Services

### Student Services Team:

Luisa Pizzolante (Program Coordinator, S/S)  
Declan Kerrigan (Program Coordinator S/S)  
Alison Martin (Years 7/8 Coordinator)  
Joh Gatti ((Years 9/10 Coordinator)  
Miles Attey (Years 11/12 Coordinator)  
Rica Branca (Psychologist) (Tue to Fri)  
Louise Taylor (Community Nurse) (Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Alt Fri)  
Kiki Van Zijl (Chaplain) (Mon, Tue, Thu, Fri)  
Desley Metcalfe (Student Support Officer)

### 2023 WACE Results

We were very pleased with some of our 2023 Year 12 data, which included the following:

- Median ATAR 78.9 (improvement from 2022)
- WACE Achievement 87.1 (improvement from 2022)
- ATAR 90+ Finn Holman
- ATAR 80+ Florence Joy Dioneda, Shukri Jibril, Sonam Leksell, Utsah Nakarmi, Norbu Yangzom Tshering, Sangay Yangdon, Tiana Zito.
- Four students achieved Schools Curriculum and Standards Authority (SCSA) awards, one Certificate of Distinction – Finn Holman and three Certificates of Merit – Jessica Betti, Utsah Nakarmi, Tiana Zito.

Congratulations to all Year 12 students (Class of 2023) with a number of them having gained entry into university, TAFE or commencing employment.

Helen Maitland  
Principal

## Balcatta Update

### Student Services News

#### Attendance Process

All students are expected to attend every school day and to be on time. Students who arrive late to school may miss information at the start of the lesson. Arrivals after 8.50am are classified as a morning absence and require students to bring a note from their parent/guardian explaining their absence.

#### Leaving School Early

No student is permitted to leave the school grounds without permission from their parent/guardian. Parents requiring permission for their child to leave the school grounds **must** provide the student with a note and contact Student Services either via SMS on 0409 686 684 or via email at [balcatta.shs@education.wa.edu.au](mailto:balcatta.shs@education.wa.edu.au). Students must sign out at Student Admin allowing them to leave the school grounds.

#### Late Students

**Reminder:** Poincaire Street gates close at 8.45am. Students who arrive after 8.45am must enter through Amelia Street electronic gates and make their way to Student Admin office to sign in.

#### Student Photos

Year 7 students will be having their photos taken on Monday 5 February during Period 1 and Period 2. Years 8 to 12 students will be having their photos taken on Thursday 8 February. Please ensure they arrive at school on time. Photos of new students will be used for their Student SmartRider cards.

Student photos can be ordered [online](#) via Photo Hendriks. More details are available on this [link](#).

#### Uniform

Parents can order uniforms on-line or visit the Tudor Uniform showroom at Unit 1/75 Excellence Drive, Wangara. Visit our [website](#) for more details.

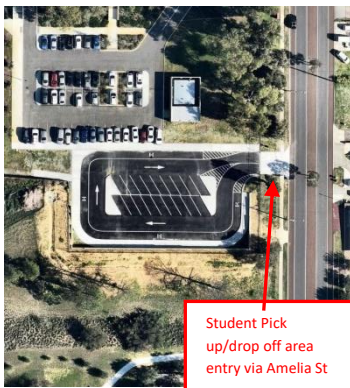
#### Amelia Street Parking Concerns

Please be reminded about our parking availability.

There are **NO STANDING** signs along Amelia Street as it is a designated cycle path on both sides. There are designated parking bays on Amelia Street.

**Please note: There is NO capacity to park and collect students from the staff carpark.**

There is a parking and drop off area on Amelia Street. This area is open from 8.15am in the mornings and from 2.30pm in the afternoons (except Wednesday afternoons which opens from 2.00pm). Poincaire



Street is available to pick up and drop off your child. Students are able to access the school through designated safe walkways. I strongly encourage you to instruct your child to use Poincaire Street. Do not stop in front of the school to pick up or drop off your child (unless in the designated parking bays). Please do not park on neighbours' lawn/front verges.

**I am seeking your support to ensure our students respect our local community and are kept safe.**

#### Free Travel with Transperth

All Transperth travel for students to and from school students will be entitled to FREE fares, providing they "tag" on and off with a valid Student SmartRider card.

Year 7 students and new students enrolled in 2024 will be provided with SmartRiders by the school. Once the photos taken next week by Photo Hendriks have been received in the office, the SmartRiders will be ordered. As soon as we have received them from Transperth, they will be distributed to the students in class.

Please note that while you are waiting for a Student SmartRider you may need to purchase cash tickets. The cash ticket will be charged at the concession rate and will depend on how many zones you travel through.

#### Replacement of lost or stolen card

If your Student SmartRider has been lost, stolen or damaged, students are to complete a form (available from the Admin Office) together with \$5 and the school will order a new card. The balance on your card will automatically transfer to your new card.

### From the P&C

Welcome to our new families and also to those families returning for 2024. We hope your child settles in and enjoys their year ahead at Balcatta SHS.

The P&C is seeking additional parents to join the team for 2024 and beyond to make sure our P&C continues to remain an important funding opportunity for the school's Learning Areas.

With only 8 to 10 meetings per year, we are seeking at least ten new members to remain a functioning committee. Without this commitment from parents, we will be forced to close the P&C and lose over \$20,000 worth of funding for the school per year.

Please email [balcattashspandc@gmail.com](mailto:balcattashspandc@gmail.com) to register your interest or Direct Message us via our Facebook page [Balcatta Senior High School P&C](#) for further information.

Our meetings are held on a Monday at 7.00pm in the school's Administration building. Our next meeting date for late February will be announced soon.

No previous experience is necessary. We hope to see you there.

Stacey Litchfield  
President

### Important dates

5 Feb	Year 7 student photos (P1 and P2) in PAT
8 Feb	Years 8 to 12 student photos in PAT
13 Feb	4.30pm Year 7 Parent Information Event in PAT (More details to be advised)
15 Feb	Student Photos – catchup in PAT
16 Feb	Whole School Assembly (P5)