



# Balcatta Update

22 August 2024

## From the Principal

I can't believe we are already half-way through another busy term. The staff and students have participated in an array of activities, including incursions and excursions which have added value to the learning programs. Our students have participated and showcased their talents both in school and the wider community.

### Choreography Nights

Our Specialist Dance students displayed their incredible talent and skill at the annual choreography night performances titled "Enouement" which was held in our Performing Arts Theatre on Thursday 25 July and Friday 26 July. The Year 12 Dance students played a pivotal role in the coordination of this event both front and back of house duties. It was a jam-packed program with 30 performances from Years 7 to 12 students. This event is a culmination of intensive project-based tasks over several weeks on which the students are assessed. Congratulations to everyone involved. Both nights were fantastic and enjoyed by all who attended.

### Young Originals

This year marks the fifteenth year of the Young Originals exhibition, hosted by the Western Australian Secondary School Executives Association (WASSEA) and delivered in partnership with the Department of Education, Edith Cowan University School of Arts and Humanities and the Sangora Education Foundation. The exhibition celebrates visual arts programs delivered across Western Australian public schools. There were a total of 218 entries received this year from city and country schools, with 82 pieces being selected for the exhibition. Congratulations to the following students whose artwork was selected to be part of this exhibition:

Year 7 – Imogen Birkinshaw-Campbell

Year 8 – Miya Do

Year 10 – Karma Pema Dolkar

### Outside the Frame

The City of Armadale's Outside the Frame Art Awards showcased some of the best contemporary artworks by young artists across Perth. Established as a platform to help develop young artists, the exhibition featured many thought-provoking works, sharing current trends and ideas directly from the minds of our youth. This event is open to students in Years 11 and 12 from across the Perth Metropolitan region. The categories of work chosen for display included painting, drawing, printmaking, sculpture, textiles, digital media/photography and mixed media. Congratulations to Year 11 students, Ella Brereton-Ho, Jamie Macapagal and Annie Frencham and Year 12 students, Lilia Atkins-Webb, Elora Atkins-Webb and Amy Ly.

### NAPLAN

Recent information in the media regarding national NAPLAN performance is concerning. NAPLAN results were sent to Year 7 and Year 9 parents earlier this term. Please be reminded the previous band system has changed to four proficiency standards; Exceeding, Strong, Developing and Needs Additional Support (NAS). The school has received analysis reports for 2024. Overall, our data indicates student performance in all categories in Year 7 and Year 9 are in the Strong proficiency standard and moving towards Exceeding proficiency standard. Our 2023-2024 comparative performance showed us either equal or higher than both Like and WA Schools in the proficiency standards for both Year 7 and Year 9. The performance of Year 7 Numeracy was equal to Like and WA schools in the Exceeding proficiency standard. Year 9 Numeracy was above Like and WA schools in the Strong proficiency standard.

NAPLAN results for each student are based on both the number and difficulty of the questions the student answered correctly. A student who completes a more complex set of questions is more likely to achieve a higher score, while a student who answers the same number of questions correctly, but follows a less complex pathway, will achieve a lower score. For further clarification, please click [NAPLAN/OLNA Brochure](#).

### Staffing Update

I will be on Long Service Leave from Friday 23 August until Friday 20 September. Ms Tessa Curtis will be backfilling as Principal.

### Compass

Balcatta SHS is working towards a streamlined communication platform – COMPASS.

Compass enables parents/guardians to communicate with our school and provide essential information with the following:

- Attendance notes
- Events calendar
- Parent/teacher/Admin communications.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Compass is our preferred communication platform for attendance. If you have not logged into Compass, we will be sending you log in details to get you started. If you have any questions, please email:

[Balcatta.SHS.Attendance@education.wa.edu.au](mailto:Balcatta.SHS.Attendance@education.wa.edu.au).

Learn more about Compass using our parent guide available by clicking on the link – [A guide for parents & families | Compass Education AU](#).

Helen Maitland  
Principal

## Learning Area News

### Humanities and Social Science (HaSS)

Students in our Academic Extension Program participated in two national competitions:

**Australian History Competition** which provides students with an opportunity to showcase their history knowledge with a focus on testing interpretation and analysis. The results were very pleasing:

Year 7: 2 Distinctions, 9 Credits

Year 8: 1 High Distinction, 2 Distinctions, 8 Credits

Year 9: 4 Distinctions, 4 Credits

Year 10: 1 High Distinction, 3 Distinctions, 2 Credits

**Australian Geography Competition** assesses students' geographical knowledge and skills and aims to encourage student interest in geography and reward student excellence.

Year 7: 3 Distinctions, 3 Credits

Year 8: 4 High Distinctions, 4 Distinctions, 2 Credits

Year 9: 1 Distinction, 8 Credits

Year 10: 4 Credits

Congratulations to all the students who participated.

### Minister's Innovation Challenge

Balcatta SHS was successful in being selected to participate in this year's Minister's Innovation Challenge.

The challenge will provide an opportunity for Year 8 students from throughout Western Australia to work with an industry mentor to identify a local issue or problem and apply entrepreneurial and design-thinking to develop innovative solutions.

The challenge commences on 7 October (Term 4, Week 1) and concludes on 15 November 2024. Congratulations to Mrs Burns for the successful application. More details to come once the challenge gets underway.

# Balcatta Update

## Choreography Nights

Our Specialist Dance students held their annual Choreography Night performances titled "Enouement" on Thursday 25 August and Friday 26 August. Tickets sold out for both nights. Students were engaged in intensive project-based tasks for several weeks and put together a show guaranteed to entertain.

## Year 11 Health Expo

On Friday 9 August, our Year 11 students held their annual Health Expo. The expo takes weeks of preparation and is based on educating others about lifestyle diseases. Every year the students come up with more engaging and interactive stalls.

The weeks of planning involved researching their chosen topic and writing a short report, designing an informative and eye-catching display board and stall, and then creating an interactive game to draw students to their stall. Students are asked to contact organisations to gather information and paraphernalia they can use on the day. The game aims to educate in a fun way with the offer of prizes for student participation and demonstration of knowledge.

As Balcatta SHS runs this event at an excellent standard and the quality of the students' work is very high, teachers from other schools also attended to see if they could use a similar model at their schools.

## National Science Week

During National Science Week, our school hosted a variety of engaging activities. These included a bake sale which raised funds for the World Wildlife Foundation, a video competition centered on the theme "Species Survival: More Than Just Sustainability" and a visit from Year 5 students from our local intake primary schools to observe experiments conducted by our Year 9 Academic Extension students. The Year 5 students had a fantastic time being involved in activities such as making honeycomb, dry ice experiments, making ice cream without a freezer, etc. Our Year 9 students were very positive ambassadors for our school and did an amazing job in demonstrating these experiments which was reflected in how captivated the Year 5s were throughout the event. Additionally, Year 8 students watched the David Attenborough documentary "Life on Our Planet" and five of our classes participated in the National Science Quiz.

## WA Classical Guitar Ensemble Festival 2024

On Sunday 11 August, our Classical Guitar students competed in the WA Classical Guitar Ensemble Festival held at Carine SHS under the guidance and tuition of Amy Nordsvan, IMSS teacher. The festival provides a unique opportunity for ensembles in primary, secondary and tertiary education (both public and private) to perform in a formal environment and receive feedback on their performances. Our students did very well and are confident of an excellent rating from the judges. Students who participated were:

Year 8: Natalie Gagg, Hannah Gavanzo, Taylor Jalla, Katie

Krekora, Yurino Kobayashi

Year 9: Tsheyang Lhazom, Allegra McGee

Year 10: Daniella Santich

Year 11: Matthew Lewis

## Waterwise Experience

On Monday 19 August, our Year 7 students participated in The Waterwise Experience, an interactive, multi-sensory incursion designed to engage and inspire students on the topic of water sustainability.

Using silent disco technology, students explored, wondered and questioned through the power of audio. Students were led through three engaging narratives as they interactively travelled through an arid landscape, jetted into space and explored Perth city from a new angle. These experiences empowered them to take action and become sustainability ambassadors. They learnt we have finite

## Important dates

23 Aug	Parliament House Lunch Excursion
26 Aug	"Write a Book in a Day" Incursion
27 Aug	UWA Girls in Physics Excursion
30 Aug	Whole School Athletics Carnival (all students)

resources and need to work together to preserve, restore and protect the uniqueness of our planet.

## Health News

### St John First Responder App

The app is available on the [Apple Store](#) and [Google Play](#) and allows qualified first aiders in Western Australia to register to become Community First Responders. It contains first aid guides, a defibrillator and urgent care map, access to community transport and training history.

The app is full of features to be emergency and first aid ready showing the locations of the nearest defibrillators. It has information on what to do for all emergencies from sprains and strains to snake bites, jellyfish stings, anaphylaxis, head injuries and much more. You can also call 000 from within the app which will provide your precise location.

Download NOW.



## Community News

### Career Conversations Events

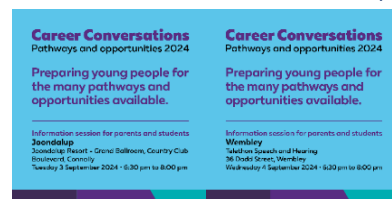
Due to the overwhelming response for our north metropolitan events, the Department of Education Statewide Services has scheduled extra events to deliver the Career Conversations events for families and schools throughout the state in 2024. Previously, these free events have booked out overnight in the metropolitan area. The feedback is positive and participants highly valued the opportunity to hear accurate, up-to-date career pathway and labour market information. A key highlight for the participants was hearing from industry representatives and employers.

We encourage parents and students to join the conversation about post-school options at the free family events in your local area to hear about:

- where to find accurate, up-to-date career pathway information
- exploring university and training pathways
- career pathway information for young people with disabilities
- where the jobs are
- what employers and industry are looking for.

**The invitation is open to all secondary and primary school families.**

The Department of Education will be in **Joondalup on Tuesday 3 September** and in **Wembley on Wednesday 4 September** to deliver **Career Conversations – Pathways and Opportunities 2024**. All events commence at 6:30 pm and finish at 8.00 pm.



For more information and to reserve your place please book using the following link:

<https://www.education.wa.edu.au/en/careerconversationsevents>

### Newman Breakers Water Polo Club

Newman Breakers Water Polo Club is located at the Newman College swimming pool. They have a strong vision to provide opportunities for students to learn or further their interest in water polo, irrespective of their experience or ability. Please refer to the relevant flyers (click on links) for the [Flippa Ball](#), [Flippa Ball Rules](#) and Water Polo WA State [League Junior](#) programs.