

Killara High School Newsletter

WEEK 11 | TERM 1 2023



PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Term 1 is coming to a close and our students have demonstrated tremendous growth and attainment across the school. I am very proud of all students for their commitment towards their learning and maintaining a growth mindset. Year 7 students have settled into their high school routines, and all other year groups have maintained their excellent levels of application. There is a strong culture of teamwork and support across the school.

New Newsletter Format – Coming Soon

From Term 2 our interim Principal's Report newsletter will transform into a larger and more comprehensive school newsletter. Our school newsletter will be published every month with practical information relating to school operations.

Killara High School Wellbeing Team

It is important to know the names of key staff members who can assist you and your child at Killara High School. We have staff members who are ready and enthusiastic to support your child's learning journey, and by clicking on this link you can see their names: <https://killara-h.schools.nsw.gov.au/about-our-school/our-staff/wellbeing-team.html>

Classroom teachers are available to support all students and parents with queries relating to key learning areas. If you need support that extends beyond the classroom, we have many staff members ready to assist. Please contact the school on (02) 9498-3722 for assistance.

Easter Public Holiday 7-10 April

Good Friday and Easter Monday are recognised nationally as public holidays. This year Easter also coincides with the start of the Autumn school holidays. Therefore, our final day of school for Term 1 will be Thursday 6 April. School resumes for students on Wednesday 26 April, Week 1B.

Attendance and Leave Requests

From the beginning of 2015, family holidays and travel are no longer considered under the Exemption from School - Procedures. Travel outside of vacation period is now counted as an absence for statistical purposes. Therefore, I am unable to approve leave requests for students attending family holidays during the school term. I understand that families may wish to continue with travel arrangements, and in this case please note that any absences not accepted will be marked as A - Absent (unexplained/unjustified) on the school's attendance register.

More broadly, we seek the support of all parents to encourage attendance. If your child needs support relating to attendance, please reach out and speak with our staff. Regular attendance at school is important. On occasion, your child may need to be absent from school. Justified reasons for student absences may include:

- being sick or having an infectious disease
- having an unavoidable medical appointment

- being required to attend a recognised religious holiday
- exceptional or urgent family circumstances eg. attending a funeral.

Parents must provide an explanation for absences to the school within 7 days from the first day of any period of absence. Where an explanation has not been received within the 7-day timeframe, the school will record the absence as unjustified on the student's record.

Regular attendance helps students to:

- develop a sense of belonging
- develop and maintain friendships
- be more engaged at school
- progress with their learning
- be more aware of career and life options.

NSW Department of Education

Why attendance matters

When your child misses school they miss important opportunities to...

- Learn
- Build friendships
- Develop life skills

education.nsw.gov.au

Days missed = years lost

A day here and there doesn't seem like much, but...

When your child misses just...	they miss weeks per year	and years over their school life
1 day per fortnight (represented by 4 icons with 1 crossed out)	= 4 weeks	= Over 1 year missed
1 day per week (represented by 8 icons with 1 crossed out)	= 8 weeks	= Over 2.5 years missed

education.nsw.gov.au

Winter Uniform - Term 2

Our students are all wearing their school uniforms with pride – thank you. As we enter the cooler seasons students are transitioning to our winter school uniform. Please visit this link to learn about our winter uniform requirements <https://killara-h.schools.nsw.gov.au/about-our-school/uniform.html>

We respect every child's wishes to continue wearing the summer school uniform during the cooler months. All students should be in full school uniform every day. Information relating to uniform shop opening times can be accessed from the link above.

Athletics Carnival

Our annual athletics carnival was a great success with many students participating. The event was held at Sydney Olympic Park. I want to thank our staff and students for their efforts throughout the day.

New School Semester Report Format

Over the coming months our students will be receiving semester reports that will align with our explicit teaching pedagogy. You will notice a change to the teacher comment section. *Our semester reports will become more explicit in regard to informing students about areas of strength and strategies for improvement. Students and families will be provided with strategies in how to discuss and use the report to build the connection and partnership between school and home. Reports will be clearer and more direct for students and families to activate the next steps of learning, in line with our explicit teaching philosophy.*

World's Greatest Shave

Thank you to Ms Saliba and our Social Justice Committee students for leading The World's Greatest Shave initiative at our school. Our students raised over \$12,000. Thank you to all students and staff who supported this important initiative.

Visit from New Zealand High School Students

Killara High School will be hosting students and staff from Albany Junior High School on 6 September 2023. It will be an honour to welcome 35 students from New Zealand to our school. I thank Ms Anna Wall for her commitment to this initiative.

Our School's Heritage

Last week we welcomed members of our school's first graduating Year 12 cohort. They walked down memory lane as we toured the school and spoke to staff. Our ex-students spoke to current students and browsed our school's archives. I encourage our community to read about our school's beginnings and view highlights from across the decades by visiting our website. Ms Francie Campbell has curated our digital archive and it is accessible by

our community at this location: <https://killara-h.schools.nsw.gov.au/about-our-school/history-of-killara-high-school/the-beginings.html>

UAC Resources – Steps to Uni for Year 11 and 12 Students

The University Admissions Centre has produced a comprehensive document that outlines important information for students aspiring for university study. The document is called Steps to Uni for Year 11 and 12 Students. The document is free, and it can be accessed from this link:

<https://www.uac.edu.au/assets/documents/year-11-and-12/steps-to-uni-year-11-12.pdf>

The topics covered within this document include understanding the ATAR and applying through UAC.

Killara Academy – applications close this week for Years 7-10

Killara Academy is our life skills and university preparation program. This year we have surgeons, an executive chef, business leaders, Tesla and many others supporting student learning. This is a unique program and it aims to prepare students for life beyond the school gates. If you are interested in this program, please email the school at: killara-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au

Class Assessments

Assessments are a key part of the learning process. Assessments provide information to teachers to shape future learning experiences. You can find out information relating to the dates of your child's assessments by looking at our Compass calendar. Furthermore, you can discuss specific assessment details with your child's teachers. Assessment notifications are provided to students two weeks prior to the due date. Students should use this time to discuss the assessment requirements with their teachers. All assessments are based on syllabus outcomes and include criteria to clarify for students what aspects of learning are being assessed. All students have been issued with their Killara High School student diary, and students should develop the habit of writing assessment dates

into their diary.

Basic Learning Requirements - Stationery

At Killara High School all students must have an exercise book for each subject. Students should cover their exercise books with plastic contact or another covering and expect to use their exercise book every lesson. Students are also required to bring their laptop to school charged and ready to use. Laptops provide students with access to the latest information relating to their learning. All students must have blue, black and red pens, along with a ruler and highlighters. A key component of being ready to learn is being equipped with the tools of learning.

Mobile Phone Policy

Our phone policy is having a positive impact that is significantly improving the learning experience for all. We have developed a culture in the school that mobile phones are not to be used whilst inside the school. An increasing number of students have shared their positive reviews towards our policy, and this is wonderful. I want to thank all our students, families and teachers for making this policy a great success. The number of negative incidents involving mobile phones has decreased, and students are increasingly engaged and focussed on their learning.

Early Leave

We understand that there are occasions when students need to leave early from school. Parents are required to pick-up their children from Reception for early leave. Students will not be permitted to leave school without an accompanying adult. Some students have indicated that their parents are waiting outside the school gates and that they cannot come inside, and in this circumstance, we cannot allow students to leave school on their own, and we seek parent support around this. This is for the safety of our students.

Have a safe and restful vacation.

Robin Chand
Principal
Killara High School

What you need to know

TERM DATES

Thursday 6 April	Last Day of Term 1
Tuesday 25 April	ANZAC Day
Wednesday 26 April	First Day Term 2 (all students return)
Monday 12 June	Public Holiday
Friday 30 June	Last Day of Term 2
Tuesday 18 July	First Day of Term 3
Friday 22 September	Last Day of Term 3
Monday 9 October	First Day of Term 4
Friday 15 December	Last Day of Term 4

UPCOMING EVENTS

Thursday 27 April – Friday 28 April	Year 7 Camp
Friday 5 May – 12 May	School Musical – Annie
Wednesday 17 May	Year 8 and 10 SPRM's
Wednesday 17 May	P&C Meeting
Monday 22 May	Year 7 Vaccinations

Attendance Tips

- Late to school – students must sign in at window.
- Sick or traffic or other reason – add attendance note on Compass.
- Leaving early – parents must collect student and sign out at window (parent to give note to leave class early).
- Year 11 and 12 can leave with a note signed by a Deputy Principal.
- Absent with medical illness 4 days or more requires a medical certificate.
- Other leave eg holiday over 4 days requires approval by the Principal. Email attendance for the leave forms.
- Any roll marking issues requires student to see their teacher for any corrections.
- Queries or questions please email: attendance@khs.nsw.edu.au
- [School Attendance Policy](#)

Canteen

[Click here for School Canteen Menu](#)

Students are asked to exercise patience and show courtesy to the parents serving them, to refrain from making purchases for friends and to stand back in line while waiting to be served. Students must move out of the canteen as soon as they have completed their purchases. No games are to be played in the canteen during recess or lunch breaks.

Uniform Shop

Special Opening Times for Winter Changeover

Term 2

24 April Mon	11.00am to 2.00pm
26 April Wed	8.00am to 11.00am
27 April Thur	8.00am to 11.00am
28 April Fri	11.00am to 2.00pm
29 April Sat	8.00am to 11.00am



Please go to this link: <https://www.trybooking.com/CGXMX> to book your fittings.

New opening hours for KHS Uniform Shop starting Term 2:

Tuesday	8.00am to 10.30am
Friday	11.30am to 2.00pm

Secondhand Jackets for sale

We have excess secondhand jackets available for sale at \$20 each (\$76 brand new). The sizes are limited but these jackets are great value and are in good secondhand condition. They are available at the KHS Uniform Shop during our opening hours.

If you have any queries, please contact: killara.uniform@gmail.com

Our School continued

NSW public schools are committed to providing safe, supportive and responsive learning environments for everyone. We teach and model the behaviours we value in our students. Our behaviour code is included here for your reference.

NSW Department of Education

Behaviour code for students NSW public schools

NSW public schools are committed to providing safe, supportive and responsive learning environments for everyone. We teach and model the behaviours we value in our students.

In NSW public schools students are expected to:

- Respect other students, their teachers and school staff and community members
- Follow school and class rules and follow the directions of their teachers
- Strive for the highest standards in learning
- Respect all members of the school community and show courtesy to all students, teachers and community members
- Resolve conflict respectfully, calmly and fairly
- Comply with the school's uniform policy or dress code
- Attend school every day (unless legally excused)
- Respect all property
- Not be violent or bring weapons, illegal drugs, alcohol or tobacco into our schools
- Not bully, harass, intimidate or discriminate against anyone in our schools

Schools take strong action in response to behaviour that is detrimental to self or others or to the achievement of high quality teaching and learning.

Behaviour Code for Students: Actions

Promoting the learning, wellbeing and safety of all students in NSW Public Schools is a high priority for the Department of Education.

We implement teaching and learning approaches to support the development of skills needed by students to meet our high standards for respectful, safe and engaged behaviour.

Respect

- Treat one another with dignity
- Speak and behave courteously
- Cooperate with others
- Develop positive and respectful relationships and think about the effect on relationships before acting
- Value the interests, ability and culture of others
- Dress appropriately by complying with the school uniform or dress code
- Take care with property

Safety

- Model and follow departmental, school and/or class codes of behaviour and conduct
- Negotiate and resolve conflict with empathy
- Take personal responsibility for behaviour and actions
- Care for self and others
- Avoid dangerous behaviour and encourage others to avoid dangerous behaviour

Engagement

- Attend school every day (unless legally excused)
- Arrive at school and class on time
- Be prepared for every lesson
- Actively participate in learning
- Aspire and strive to achieve the highest standards of learning

The principal and school staff, using their professional judgment, are best placed to maintain discipline and provide safe, supportive and responsive learning environments. The department provides a policy framework and resources such as Legal Issues Bulletins, access to specialist advice, and professional learning to guide principals and their staff in exercising their professional judgment. In this context the NSW Government and the Department of Education will back the authority and judgment of principals and school staff at the local level.

Term 1 has been a busy term for the Wellbeing team at Killara High School. Activities have included welcoming our new Year 7's with an extensive Orientation program, Introduction of the highly successful Fun Friday's program and new mobile phone policy, Year 11 Jindabyne camp and Life Ready program, Targeted groups of students participating in wellbeing programs such as Top Blokes, Respect, Understanding, and Acceptance Day for Year 9 participants, the launch of Raise for 2023, Breakfast and lunch clubs, PCYC student programs, Year 12 Wellbeing Day including Study without Stress and the GPs in Schools Programs and the implementation of a stepped care model for wellbeing at KHS as part of addressing the Inclusive, Engaging and Respectful Schools policy.

We have also supported parents and families through a Phoenix House information night, which proved popular. I feel very privileged to lead this dynamic wellbeing team (now in a permanent capacity) who apart from doing all of this have cared for, supported, helped and guided all students through wellbeing and educational challenges that may arise. Our amazing school counsellors have been flat out checking in with our students and engaging external supports, while the Year Advisers have led and supported their year groups through the ups and downs of a busy term. Our Stage Head teachers have coordinated their year groups through NAPLAN and prepared our seniors for assessment blocks and camps.

The wonderful Learning support team have grown with our new Growth and Attainment Teachers, and many learning support, health EALD, HPGE, and behavioural student plans have been developed to help our staff know their students and their needs. Ava our school dog and Lucy have been popular with many wanting to walk or pat Ava as she moves around the school, while Jason the school nurse has helped many students throughout the term.

I am pleased to announce a new compass feature so that parents can now contact Year Advisers directly through Compass. If you wish to contact Year Advisers, please go to Compass, click on the "Contact" button on your child's home screen then follow the menus to select Year Advisers from the menu. On the next 2 pages of this newsletter, you will also find a quick-reference guide to our whole Student Wellbeing team.

We all do this for one reason- our students, wellbeing is essential if learning is to be successful. I would like to wish all our students, staff, parents, and families a very Happy Holiday. Stay safe, get some rest, and enjoy the break.

Shannon Olivey
Head Teacher Wellbeing

