

Killara High School Newsletter

WEEK 5 | TERM 1 2024



PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Dear Killara Families,

We are entering Week 6 of Term 1 and our school has certainly settled into its wonderful rhythm of effective teaching and learning. Our Year 7 students have established their high school routine and many new friendships have formed. Our swimming carnival earlier this term was a success with many personal best achievements. School photos, assessments, sporting events and extra-curricular activities have dominated these early weeks of the school year.

Killara's explicit teaching framework

Killara High School is well known to be a leader in explicit teaching pedagogy. We are proud to use the research associated with explicit teaching to drive our learning experiences. We have strengthened our approach by creating our own Killara Explicit Teaching Framework. This involves teachers using Do Now activities, seating plans alongside explaining each lesson's success criteria and learning intentions whilst clearly guiding, modelling and explaining concepts. Here is a snippet from the NSW Department of Education's research document titled What Works Best published 24 April 2020.

"Explicit teaching practices involve teachers clearly showing students what to do and how to do it, rather than having students discover that information themselves. Students who experience explicit teaching practices make greater learning gains than students who do not experience these practices."

"Explicit teaching practices involve teachers clearly explaining to students why they are learning something, how it connects to what they already know, what they are expected to do, how to do it and what it looks like when they have succeeded. Students are given opportunities and time to check their understanding, ask questions and receive clear, effective feedback".

Furthermore, our teachers use strategies such as I Do, We Do, You Do as they gradually release responsibility of learning into the hands of students. Teachers and students have reported that classes are engaged, and the learning experiences are deep and transferable. We will continue to strengthen our explicit teaching approach. Killara High School was mentioned in an article on Friday morning about the benefits of explicit teaching. Here is a link to Lucy Carroll's article from the Sydney Morning Herald: [smh.com.au](https://www.smh.com.au)

Mobile phone policy update – parent collection upon second infringement.

From Term 2, we will be changing our mobile phone policy to improve compliance. Parents will need to collect their child's mobile phone from the front office upon the second mobile phone infringement and onwards. Currently, we ask parents to collect their child's phone on the third mobile phone infringement.

Therefore, from Term 2 a student's first mobile phone infringement will result in the phone being taken to the office and then collected by the student at the end of the day. For the second infringement, and all thereafter, parents will be asked to collect the mobile phone from the front office.

Students must lock their mobile phones in their YONDR pouches throughout the school day. This is an obligation for all students in public high schools across NSW.

New curriculum

We have new courses being taught across the school. I want to recognise the collaborative work of our teachers in planning and implementing the new curriculum in the following areas.

- English Stage 4 and 5 implementation in 2024.
- Mathematics Stage 4 and 5 implementation in 2024.
- Languages Stage 4 and 5 implementation in 2024.
- TAS – Computing Technology Stage 4 and 5 implementation in 2024.
- Geography Year 11 implementation in 2024
- TAS – Enterprise Computing Year 11 implementation in 2024
- TAS – Software Engineering Year 11 implementation in 2024

We look forward to seeing the marvellous work our students create throughout these new courses.

Academic Study, Homework and Assessment Hub for Years 10-12.

I would like to express my gratitude to our wonderful P&C for funding our Academic Study, Homework and Assessment Hub for our students in Years 10-12 for the duration of 2024. Within only 4 sessions, we have had over 100 participants. This free tutoring program takes place on Mondays after school for one hour from 3:15pm - 4:15pm in our school library. Students come along and complete homework, class activities, assignments, group work and many

other learning activities. We have teamed up with the professional tutors from The Art of Smart. Our tutors are Saksham, Alex, Henry and occasionally Rowan the CEO of The Art of Smart. We are excited about this partnership, and I know that it will support the growth and attainment of our students. I encourage students across Years 10-12 to come along.

Toilets

Most of our student toilet facilities have recently been refurbished. Our toilets are checked and cleaned before school, after Recess A, after Recess B and then after lunch. Recently we have experienced vandalism in some toilets by a small number of students. When toilets are damaged, we must close them for repairs. Please speak to your child about this issue and if you have any information to share, please contact the school and speak with a Deputy Principal.

We employ a cleaner to remain on school site throughout the school day. The Department of Education provides cleaners for service before and after school only. All toilet facilities are currently operating, and they are all open for students during break times and we have breaks after each lesson. Students will be able to use all toilet facilities in breaks before school, Recess A, Recess B, Lunch and after school. During class time, only A and K block toilets are open.

I am sorry that I have had to make this decision. I hope that this is only a short-term measure. A small number of students during class time are creating an unhygienic environment or damaging facilities in the toilets, which makes some toilets unsafe. This causes toilets to be closed for several days for cleaning and repairs, which is frustrating for students. We want our toilets to remain safe, accessible, and hygienic for our students to access during break times and class time. That is why I have made this decision. In summary, all toilets are open during break times. During class time, Block K and Block A toilets are open.

I understand that some individual students may be impacted specifically by this decision. If you feel your child needs specific additional support in

relation to this, please contact your child's Deputy Principal to find a way forward.

Hats

I encourage all students to wear hats to school. Sun safety is important and with the weather regularly reaching high levels, it's important for students to avoid getting burnt. Our uniform shop is in the process of ordering new Killara hats.

Killara Academy Years 7-10 Extra Curricular Activity

Killara Academy will commence in Term 2. This is a two-term intensive university preparation program that also teaches important life skills. The Killara Academy parent information evening will be held on Tuesday 5 March 2024 at 6:30pm in the Killara High School Hall. Register your attendance using [this link](#) or QR code. Parent and student attendance at this information evening is compulsory for any student wishing to enrol. This is an extra-curricular activity which is not compulsory. [Here is the link to the course outline.](#)

Arriving on time and ready to learn

Students should aim to arrive at school at least 20 minutes before the school day begins. This provides time for students to settle, socialise with friends and get ready for their day ahead. Arriving at school late or very close to the bell causes students to feel flustered and rushed, and this impacts the time it takes them to settle and engage in deep learning.

The importance of high expectations for learning

High expectations exist across our wonderful school. In this message I'm primarily focussing on student learning equipment and our collective high expectations around students bringing required learning equipment to class every day. The information that I am sharing here aligns with what many of us already know – and I believe many would agree that this is obvious, that students rise to high expectations, and conversely, student achievement is negatively impacted by the absence of high expectations. At

Killara we recognise that a culture of high expectations must start early and be maintained throughout schooling for all students – and I would like to focus here on learning equipment that helps students engage wholeheartedly with their learning.

Required learning materials.

Arriving at school with required learning materials is part of our high expectations for students. High expectations are linked with higher achievement and performance for all students. Those students in NSW who report their teachers having high expectations are often ahead in their learning by 3-6 months. Our teachers proudly have high expectations for all our students. High expectations have been found to be connected to positive behaviour, improved motivation, enhanced self-esteem, higher levels of attendance, academic success and improved rates of school completion. The reverse can also be true. Students may achieve less than their full potential if expectations of their ability are low. The purpose of this message is to seek the assistance of our Killara families to help our school maintain our high expectations and standards relating to student learning. I'm particularly focused on students having all required learning equipment at school every day. I would appreciate you dedicating some time at home to discuss with your child the importance of having all required school stationery items at school.

Course exercise books: Students are expected to have separate exercise books for each course.

Writing materials: Pencil cases should have writing materials that include multiple blue, black and red pens alongside writing pencils, sharpeners, erasers, and rulers. Students are not permitted to bring permanent markers to school.

YONDR mobile phone pouch: Student compliance with our mobile phone policy has been wonderful. Students must turn phones off and lock these inside their YONDR pouch before entering the school. Pouches are to be brought to school every day. Students can visit the Student Services window for assistance with pouches.

All other course specific learning materials:

This includes any specific items required for students to engage effectively across key learning areas. Aprons, PDHPE sports uniforms, leather shoes for labs, workshops and kitchens, and any other course specific materials should be brought to class when required.

Diary: Students should bring their Killara High School diary to write down their homework, assessment dates and other key learning notes every day.

Laptop: Laptops should be charged and ready to use.

A culture of high expectations starts with getting the basics right – and this message is about consolidating our high expectations culture by re-focusing on student learning equipment. At Killara High School we offer exciting learning opportunities, and we want all students to engage and participate as effectively as possible. We understand that sometimes bringing required learning materials to school can be challenging for various reasons. At high school, students are expected to be independent, self-reliant, and self-motivated, and bringing all required stationery and learning materials is part of this experience.

We are here to help, and we work in partnership with our families to maintain high expectations in learning, and we encourage you to contact the school if you wish to discuss this or if you need any support with any learning materials.

Traffic on Koola Avenue

This is a message about parents parking in the driveway of the public carpark opposite our school on Koola Avenue and causing the traffic to jam, and therefore delaying student bus arrivals. Please do not park in a manner that blocks other traffic. I further suggest that families consider using an alternative drop-off and pick-up location in safe areas away from Koola Avenue. Our school is not entitled to a road safety crossing supervisor; therefore, we are limited in our control of the school crossing flow. Please drive

safely around our school.

As a team, we can achieve great things.

I thank you all for supporting our great school. We have the most wonderful students, and we have the best teachers who are experts in explicit teaching and who work enthusiastically towards unleashing the potential in all students – all supported by wonderful families and hardworking support staff. All of this makes a significant difference in helping to maintain our high expectations at Killara.

Robin Chand
Principal

TERM DATES 2024

Thursday 1 February	First Day of Term 1
Friday 12 April	Last Day of Term 1
Tuesday 30 April	First Day of Term 2
Friday 5 July	Last Day of Term 2
Tuesday 23 July	First Day of Term 3
Friday 27 September	Last Day of Term 3
Monday 14 October	First Day of Term 4
Friday 20 December	Last Day of Term 4

TERM DATES 2024

Tuesday 13 February	Swimming Carnival
Tuesday 20 February	School Photo Day
Tuesday 26 March	Athletics Carnival
Wednesday 1 May	Cross Country Carnival

Our School

Careers

If you have any questions or would like further information, please don't hesitate to reach out to our Careers Team.

We can be found in room D21 for students to access us or on email:
careers@khs.nsw.edu.au

Helen Urquhart and Eve Kiernan – KHS Careers Team

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

Secondhand Sale: Saturday 23 March 9:00am – 10:30am. Entry through Gate 5.

If you have any uniform items you would like to donate, please wash and bring them to the shop on any Tuesday or Friday.

Tuesday: 8:00am to 10:30am

Friday: 11:30am to 2:00pm

Check the website for school holiday opening times.

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

Wellbeing – Shannon Olivey

Welcome back Students and Families,

2024 has taken off at its usual fast pace and we are very happy to see all our students settling in well into the new school year. Our new Year 7 students participated in orientation days early in the term and the newly appointed Year Advisers Ms Catherine Latham and Ms Caitlyn Whitby Johnson have busily helped their students make a wonderful start into High school. Special welcome to our Year 7 students and families.

2024 Year Advisers

Year 7	Catherine Latham and Caitlyn Whitby Johnson
Year 8	Lynda Lake and Sunnie Kim
Year 9	Anna Wall and Ben Consantini
Year 10	Katie Sainsbury and Hannah Zhang
Year 11	Ayesha Ghazzeway and Arash Atah
Year 12	Jen Downes, Jack Currie and Jasmine Bonnici

Stage Head Teachers

Stage 4 (Years 7-8)	Shannon Bryant
Stage 5 (Years 9-10)	Jonathan Manley (Arash Atah relieving until Week 8)
Stage 6 (Years 11-12)	Tanu Arora

As always other essential wellbeing supports at Killara High School available are-

Student Support Officer -Lucy Dahill and Ava our wellbeing dog

School Psychologists- Kate Cullen and Eunjee Hong

Head Teacher Wellbeing- Shannon Olivey. You may contact me on shannon.olivey2@det.nsw.edu.au

Deputy Principals

Craig Date (Years 7-8)
Clair-Louise Schofield (Years 9-10)
David Browne (Years 11-12)

Year 11 students are getting excited about their upcoming Jindabyne camp in week 7 of this term. Many fun activities have been planned for the students and we look forward to hearing about the stories and seeing the photos of their upcoming adventures.

Last night I had the pleasure of presenting to our Chinese and Korean families about the wellbeing structures at Killara High School. Interpreters can be organised for families who may need assistance when seeking help for their child. We are also eagerly awaiting the completion of the Quadrangle cola, it is looking amazing, and we cannot wait to recommence our Fun Friday events there in the coming weeks.

A reminder that Killara High School offers many clubs and extracurricular activities that students can participate in. These include lunch craft clubs in the library, dance groups, drama club, chess, coding, sporting groups, SAGA, breakfast club, school musicals, bands, vocal ensembles etc. So, join in the fun and meet some new friends by joining a group. Listen out in Mentor Group for announcements to come along to a club or see myself or Lucy for more information.



Wellbeing

Staying safe online

Please make sure you are aware of your child's online world. This might include talking about who they are following, checking their phone from time to time, or installing digital parental controls. There are many options, and you will know the path that best suits your family, but ignorance is not bliss here. Problems can arise online when young people are left to their own devices, so I encourage all parents and carers to take an active role in the online lives of their children.

Stand Up Killara

Our school has an online tool to help students stand up and take action. This online help point lets students confidentially Stand Up against vandalism, or graffiti, or put downs or bullying. GO TO: <https://tinyurl.com/StandUpKHS>

Here is what we have said to students about this.

Stand Up against the things that make you mad, sad, frustrated, excluded, or discriminated against at school. No-one has the right to make anyone feel this way, and now we have a way to show what we stand for.

Stand Up for what's right, Stand Up for respect, Stand Up against racism, sexism, or homophobia. Let's think about how we speak and act here at Killara High School, so we can all belong.

You can make a confidential request for help by completing the online form. It will ask you to share what you know. It might be you who needs help, or you can Stand Up to support someone else. Your request goes to the Head of Student Wellbeing and your Deputy - what happens next will depend on what you need.

On a final note, a reminder that every day matters. Student attendance is essential for student growth and achievement. Missing class time affects results, but it also affects the overall wellbeing of the student, who misses those vital in class discussions and feedback from their teachers. Please ensure students come to school every day, unless unwell. Falling behind in work and not understanding missed concepts can have a detrimental effect on how a child feels about themselves.

Every Day Matters, so make it count.

Thank you.

Shannon Olivey
Head Teacher Wellbeing

