



## Head of Senior School Start of Year Letter

24<sup>th</sup> January 2022

Dear Senior School Students, Families and Staff,

It is with great pleasure that I write to welcome you to the 2022 Academic Year.

As a member of the Senior School community I am immensely proud of the manner in which our students, families and staff overcame the myriad challenges of the past two years. Throughout this strange and extended COVID-season, our students have upheld the century-long tradition of the School by excelling across the gamut of their academic, sporting and cultural pursuits.

While we all look forward to what we hope will be a more “normal” year in 2022, I have the utmost confidence that regardless of what happens this year, we will see our wonderful staff team give their all for our students, and we will see our students succeed.

### Welcome to new Teachers and Staff – People in New Roles

In 2022 we welcome a number of new teachers to the Senior School who will, over coming years, make a significant and positive impact in the lives of our students. Please join me in making the following teachers welcome.

- Mr. Anil Chopra – Mathematics Teacher
- Mr. Steven Coote – RAVE Teacher and Director of Strategic Growth
- Mr. Jordan Heckendorf – Humanities Teacher
- Mrs. Sandie Naumann – Mathematics Teacher
- Mrs. Lang Reid – Humanities Teacher
- Mr. Chris Sanders – RAVE Teacher and Director of Pedagogy and Innovation
- Mrs. Mary Shelley – Mathematics Teacher and Head of Kelley House
- Miss. Brooke Stockley – Humanities/English Teacher

In addition, I am pleased to congratulate some of our existing Senior School Team as they take up new roles within the Senior School in 2022:

- Mrs. Alicia Michielsen – Dean of Curriculum, Head of Learning Enrichment and Careers Advisor
- Mrs. Jacqueline Haines – Director of Student Culture and Character Development
- Mr. Tristan Forsyth – Head of Humanities
- Mr. Brendan O’Keeffe – Head of Pitt House
- Mr. John Quilter – Acting Head of Sport
- Mr. Dirk Weibye – Head of Deane House

We also wish Mrs. Megan Harris and Mrs. Sally Herron well as they begin a season of richly-deserved Long Service Leave in Term 1. As their replacements for Term 1, we welcome the following teachers to the Senior School.

- Ms. Florence Lee – Mathematics Teacher (Term 1 only)
- Mrs. Nadia Matteucci – Visual Arts Teacher (Term 1 only)

### Congratulations to Our Outstanding Year 12 (2021) Graduates!

We are pleased to congratulate our Year 12 Graduates of 2021 on their outstanding HSC success. Despite the many challenges this cohort faced over the past two (COVID-affected) years, our students have upheld the tradition of significant academic achievement here at Blue Mountains Grammar School with a large number of students achieving outstanding results.

While we recognise the achievements of all our students, we particularly note that our students gained 42 Band 6/E4 results and a significant number of Band 4 and 5s. The consistency with which our students achieved these outstanding results has also resulted in a great number of students receiving impressive Australian Tertiary Admission Ranks (ATARs). In particular, the School congratulates Scarlett Weston-Cole, receiving an ATAR of 97.3! In addition, the overwhelming majority of our students received early offers to a range of highly competitive university courses, with one student receiving 15 early offers!

As a non-selective school, we are proud of all our students and know that the education they have experienced here at BMGS will serve them well as they open the next chapter of their lives.



### First Day of Term (Year 7) – Thursday 27th January

We are thrilled to welcome a full cohort of wonderful new Year 7 students to the Senior School in 2022. Whether these young people are joining us from our own Junior School or from the many other feeder schools across the greater Blue Mountains Region, we are excited to have you join us and are confident that you will make an outstanding contribution to the life of the School over many years.

- a. Year 7 students are to meet on the Coorah Lawn (to the left of the roundabout) from 8:15am. They will be met there by the Year 7 Tutors, Heads of House and student leaders. Students will be led through three days of induction activities by the end of which, it is hoped, they will feel like part of our community and will be ready to begin their studies in the Senior School. Parents of Year 7 students will have the opportunity to meet their children's Tutors and Heads of House briefly as they drop their children off at Coorah Lawn.
- b. Year 7 students are to wear their Sport Uniform (including hats) and are expected to, in all other respects, follow the School's grooming guidelines. Please note that the Uniform Shop will be open on Monday 24th and Tuesday 25th January for those needing to purchase items of uniform.
- c. Year 7 students will need to bring their devices (laptops) etc. and to ensure that they are fully charged.
- d. The Canteen will not be open on Thursday 27th January, so students should bring their own morning tea, however Year 7 will be provided with a BBQ Lunch. The Canteen will be open as usual from Friday 28th January.

### First Day of Term (Years 11 and 12) – Thursday 27th January

- a. Years 11 and 12 will launch directly into their studies by moving directly to classes as per their Mezzo Timetable. They will need to bring the appropriate books and equipment to engage in learning.
- b. Year 11 and 12 students are to wear full Summer Uniform. Please note that students are expected to have dispensed with any inappropriate holiday hair colours, experimental facial hair arrangements and piercings. Please note that the Uniform Shop will be open on Monday 24th and Tuesday 25th January for those needing to purchase/update items of uniform.
- c. The Canteen will not be open on Thursday 27th January, so students should bring their own morning tea and lunch. The Canteen will be open as usual from Friday 28th January.

### First Day of Term (Years 8, 9 and 10) – Friday 28th January

- a. Students in Years 8-10 are to return to School on Friday 28th January.
- b. New students are to meet on the Coorah Lawn (to the left of the roundabout) from 8:15am, where they their Tutors will collect them.
- c. A Commencement Assembly will be held under strict COVID-Safety Guidelines in the Sports Centre from 8:30am, followed by an Extended House/Tutor Time, in which diaries and timetables will be distributed. Normal classes will resume for Years 8-10 from the beginning of Period 3.

### Adjusted Bell Times and Expectations for Tutor Group

In 2022 we have altered bell times in order to hold both Tutor Group and Assemblies from the start of the day at 8:30am.

Please note the following times (Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays):

- 8:30am - Tutor Group
- 8:50am – Period 1
- 9:50am – Period 2
- 10:50am – Recess
- 11:10am – Period 3
- 12:10pm – Lunch
- 1:00pm – Period 4
- 2:00pm – Period 5
- 3:00pm – end of day

On Wednesdays bell times are slightly different to accommodate Assemblies, House Meetings and Extended Tutor Group:

- 8:30am – Assembly/House Meeting/Extended Tutor Group
- 9:05am – Period 1
- 10:00am – Period 2
- 10:55am – Recess



- 11:05am – Period 3
- 12:10pm – Lunch
- 1:00pm – Period 4
- 2:00pm – Period 5
- 3:00pm – end of day

### Bus and Train Information

The School's own Bus services will commence on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> January.

Lithgow Buslines will commence service on the 28<sup>th</sup> January. Students who usually use this service will need to make alternative travel arrangements on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> January.

All other buses and trains will run as normal.

### 2022 Terms and Events

The 2022 Term Dates are available on the School website and the dates of planned events for Term 1 are enclosed with this communication. Further information will be sent as the term progresses and please be aware that these might change.

### Communication and the School Portal

Effective communication between School and home is a vital tool in ensuring the success of each and every student. For this reason, it is imperative that if you alter your email address or your contact details, you advise the School promptly of these changes so that your records can be amended. Our key communication medium is the School's Parents' Portal, Mezzo. Mezzo contains regular practical information, the School calendar, excursion notes/details, academic reports etc. Parents are encouraged to regularly check the Portal for updates and to check the family information contained therein.

Recently you were forwarded an email containing activation and login details for your Mezzo account. If you have any questions regarding this process, please contact our Senior School Receptionist Miss Rebecca Kaczmarczyk on [rkaczmarczyk@bmgs.nsw.edu.au](mailto:rkaczmarczyk@bmgs.nsw.edu.au).

### Salutation

As we begin this next chapter I look forward to working in partnership alongside our wonderful students, parents and staff. Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me either by phone on (02) 4757 9000, or by email on [hoss@bmgs.nsw.edu.au](mailto:hoss@bmgs.nsw.edu.au).

Yours Sincerely,

**Owen Laffin**

Deputy Headmaster – Head of Senior School



## Term 1 Information

Please note these events and dates are correct at the time of printing and are subject to change.

Further details will be provided closer to the event date.

<b>Key:</b>	<b>JSS</b>	Junior School Springwood
	<b>JSW</b>	Junior School Wentworth Falls
	<b>SS</b>	Senior School

Campus			Date(s)	Event Details
JSS	JSW	SS		
✓	✓		27-Jan	<b>Start of Term - Years PK - 6</b>
		✓	27-Jan	<b>Start of Term - Years 7,11,12 only</b>
✓	✓	✓	28-Jan	<b>Start of Term - All Students</b>
		✓	27, 28, 29 Jan	Year 7 Orientation Days
		✓	28-Jan	SS Commencement Assembly
		✓	1-Feb	Year 7 Swim and Survive
		✓	2-Feb	SS Pink Day Assembly
✓	✓		7-Feb	Junior School Parent Information Evening
		✓	14-18 Feb	Year 7 Camp
		✓	19-Feb	Pink Sports Day
		✓	22-Feb	Year 12 Parent Evening
✓	✓		23-Feb	Junior School Swimming Carnival
✓			24-Feb	JSS Parent Teacher Interviews
		✓	25-Feb	Senior School Swimming Carnival
		✓	28-Feb to 4-Mar	Year 9 Camp
		✓	1-Mar	Ad Altiora Parent Seminar TBC
		✓	2-Mar	SS Harassment and Bullying Assembly
	✓		2-Mar	JSW Parent Teacher Interviews
		✓	3-Mar	Year 7 and Year 10 Vaccination Day
✓	✓		7-Mar	HICES Swimming @ SOPAC
		✓	8-Mar	SS Music Soiree Benvenuto
			8-Mar	<i>International Women's Day (To be confirmed)</i>
		✓	9-Mar	ISA Swimming @ SOPAC
		✓	12-Mar	Summer Sport Finals
✓			14-Mar	JSS Photo Day
	✓		16-Mar	JSW Photo Day
		✓	16-Mar	SS Duke of Ed Information Evening
		✓	16-Mar	SS Harmony Day Assembly
		✓	18-Mar	ISA Girls & Boys Touch Footy Trials
		✓	21-30 March	Year 12 Assessment Block
		✓	25-Mar	SS Cricket Presentation Night
		✓	30-Mar	SS Basketball Presentation Night
✓	✓		31-Mar	Junior School Cross Country Carnival
		✓	31-Mar	Senior School Cross Country Carnival
		✓	1-Apr	Senior School Photo Day
		✓	5-Apr	SS Touch Football Presentation Night
✓	✓		6-Apr	<i>Junior School Cross Country Carnival (Back up date)</i>
		✓	6-Apr	<i>Senior School Cross Country Carnival (Backup date)</i>
		✓	6-Apr	SS Sports Celebrations Assembly
	✓		7-Apr	Years 5/6 Performing Arts Soiree
		✓	7-Apr	NSW CIS Individual Triathlon
	✓		8-Apr	Grandparents' Day
		✓	8-Apr	NSW CIS Teams Triathlon
		✓	8-Apr	Easter Service
✓	✓	✓	8-Apr	<b>End of Term</b>