



From the Deputy Principal – Head of Senior School

End of Term 2 Letter, 2023

Term 2 in the Senior School has been a season of enjoying the many experiences that make a BMGS education outstanding. It has been a genuine joy to see our students participating so actively in our Winter Sports, Debating, Chess, STEM, Art, Winter Ball, the Careers Expo and Subject Selection Evenings, Music and Drama. Similarly, we have watched as our Year 12 students have grown into their leadership roles with the Student Representative Council, and our Year 11 students have been preparing to take up the mantle of student leadership.

Staffing Changes

As Term 2 draws to a close, we are pleased to welcome Ms Jacque Haines and Mrs Jackie Tanner back after their well-earned long-service leave. We join together in thanking Mrs Mary Shelley for her service as Acting Director of Student Culture and Character Development, and Ms Adele Stubenrauch who has served as Acting Head of MacLaurin House throughout this term.

In addition, we formally welcome Miss Isabelle Coote, Miss Emily Allen, and Mr Adrian Michielsen to the Humanities Team. I look forward to seeing the impact they will make in the lives of our young people and in the Humanities Faculty over coming months.

Finally, we acknowledge and thank Ms Julie Hiam and Mrs Leah Opie, both of whom will finish their time at BMGS at the conclusion of this term. In the Visual Arts Faculty, and in PDHPE and Deane House both these outstanding teachers have made an outstanding contribution to the life of the School over many years, and will be missed. We wish them all the very best as they move forward into their next adventure.

Term 3 Commencement Assembly and House Meetings

School resumes for students on Wednesday 19th July. We will begin our day with a Commencement Assembly in Cuff Hall at 8:30am. Classes will resume as normal from Period 1 at 9:05am. Parents are cordially invited to attend our Commencement Assembly, and to join the Principal and Executive Team for Morning Tea in the Residence (Kedumba Gallery) thereafter. [Please click this link to RSVP.](#)

The Dangers of Vaping

Thank you to the many parents who have taken on board the School's advice with regard to the dangers of vaping and who have engaged their children in the challenging conversations that we know are needed to keep our young people safe. Please note that while we believe that the numbers of students vaping on campus has significantly reduced, we are aware that this continues to be an issue for some students. Where we become aware of students loitering in bathrooms, we may make the assumption that they are engaging in this dangerous behaviour, and act accordingly. I encourage parents and carers to continue to engage with the School's communications regarding vaping throughout the term.

Year 12 Trial HSC Examinations

Our Year 12 students will be undertaking their Trial HSC Examinations in Weeks 3-4 of Term 3. Students are encouraged to devote a significant portion of their Winter Holiday to examination preparation, ensuring not only a thorough degree of mastery of their course content, but also the well-practiced examination skills needed to navigate their first set of full HSC-style exams. They are also encouraged to take some time to relax!



Year 12 University Applications

Our Year 12 Careers Program is well underway, with students having heard presentations from multiple universities and attended the BMGS Careers Expo in Term 2. With early-bird university applications due over coming weeks, students are encouraged to spend the necessary time this holiday researching their tertiary education options carefully and to make appointments to meet with Mrs. Michielsen to discuss options for early entry.

Each year an increasing proportion of our students receive early offers to the university degrees of their choice, with all students seeking early entry in 2022 receiving one or more early offers to university. Universities increasingly recognise that raw marks are not the only indication of a young person's potential success at university, and look for students who have demonstrated leadership as well as ongoing participation in sport, music, the creative and performing arts and community organisations. Our students are uniquely prepared to meet such a test! Students are additionally encouraged to research scholarship opportunities, as for similar reasons, our students are also frequent recipients of university scholarships.

Year 11 Leadership Applications

Blue Mountains Grammar School has a long tradition of growing outstanding young leaders, and our leadership program is both thorough and well-designed. Throughout Term 2, our Year 11 students worked collaboratively with their Tutor Groups to create a Senior School Quality Improvement Plan relating to their choice of the following community wellbeing themes:

- Enhancing relationships between Year Groups;
- Deepening engagement with the Ad Altiora Framework;
- Growing student involvement in extra/co-curricular activities;
- Improving participation in the spiritual life of the community;
- Increasing environmental awareness;
- Developing broader community connections.

Having presented their plans at the end of Term 2, it is hoped that they will continue to bear fruit in the community in Term 3, and throughout their time in leadership in Year 12.

We look forward to inviting parents to our Leadership Induction Ceremony and Morning Tea. If your child is among those selected for student leadership, please look for your invitation soon.

Years 8-10 Subject Selection Processes

Students, parents and carers will now have received information relating to subject selection for the 2024 academic year. It was a great pleasure to welcome Year 8, 9 and 10 students to our Subject Selection Evenings late in Term 2, and to interview each and every Year 10 student over the last week of term. Years 8, 9 and 10 students, parents and carers are reminded that subject selections for 2024 are due Friday 21st July.

Final Greetings

It is my hope and prayer that your family will enjoy a restful break this Holiday, and be refreshed for the coming School Term.

Yours Sincerely,

Owen Laffin
Deputy Principal – Head of Senior School