



**Hunters Hill**  
High School

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# The Figtree

THE JOURNAL OF HUNTERS HILL HIGH SCHOOL

## Term 4, 2020



### **Introducing the HHHS 2021 Captains and Vice Captains: (From L - R)**

Grace Odgers - Vice Captain

Naya Cook - Captain

Zachary Clifton - Captain

Samuel Jones - Vice Captain

Congratulations! Our whole school community wish you well as our new 2021 Leadership Team.

## Principals Report

We are gathering pace toward the end of the year! As I write this there are only three weeks to go and end of year reports are being finalised. The timetable for next year is being constructed and classes are being put together. Part of the seemingly never ending cycle of things to do to keep us moving forward.

Already this term we have had a successful graduation and formal for Year 12. It was not what we have done in the past, but under the circumstances, there was a lovely tone to both events. Year 12 had a good time and it was a way to ensure some closure for what has been a most unusual year. There are some fantastic photos of the graduation and the formal on our website courtesy of everyone's favourite P&C President Jacqui Crompton.

Speaking of P&C, I must say a thank you to Robin Butterfield who has given so much to the school as a P&C stalwart over the last nine years.

At the moment the school is working toward its next cycle of planning. We have been seeking parental involvement in the planning (see the P&C website) but we are moving forward with our pedagogy by ramping up our focus on the 4C strategies and linking these to the already implemented ALARM writing strategies. We are implementing a significant reading strategy that will, in 2021 at least, be focussed on stage four. To support both of these pedagogical initiatives we will be continuing to work on our culture of high expectations around aspiration, uniform, attendance, homework completion and commitment to the formative assessment process. Specifically, to this end we are trying to increase the amount of students making expected literacy and numeracy growth between Years 7 and 9 and to increase the amount of students obtaining individual subject results of Band 5 and 6.

In summary, though it has been an unusual year, it has also been a successful one in that both teachers and students have faced new challenges that have been met through new found levels of resilience. How far back to normal we are going to be next year remains up in the air at the moment.

A couple of changes for next year with Ms Chiew-Meldrum on sabbatical, Mr Sherwin will be Relieving Deputy Principal (in charge of Years 7, 9 and 11), Mr Skinner will be Relieving Head Teacher HSIE. The Year Advisor for Year 7 will be Corinne Wilson from the PDHPE Department.

Finally, a hearty Merry Xmas from Hunter and I and as we are getting ready for the introduction of Agriculture in 2022, hoe, hoe, hoe!

**Greg Lill**



### **DATES TO REMEMBER**

Wednesday 9 December – Tech Crew in the Hall Incursion

Friday 11 December – Appreciation Morning at the Movies

**Monday 14 December – HHS Presentation Day (Students Only)**

**Wednesday 16 December – LAST DAY for STUDENTS**

Thursday 17 and Friday 18 December – Staff Development Days

**Friday 18 December - HSC and ATAR Results Released**

Wednesday 27 January 2021 – Staff Development Day

Thursday 28 January 2021 – Staff Development Day

**Friday 29 January 2021 – YEARS 7, 11 and 12 START/RETURN FOR TERM 1, 2021**

**Monday 1 February 2021 – YEARS 8, 9 and 10 RETURN FOR TERM 1, 2021**

Thursday 11 February 2021 – Swimming Carnival - TBC

Monday 15 February 2021 – School Photo Day 2021



## P&C Report

It has been a fabulous experience not only as President of the P&C but also as a Year 12 parent to see this long and trying year end with the Year 12 Graduation on the Green, the Year 12 Formal and the Colour Run – all three events were such joyful and uplifting occasions.

These were the celebrations our students *deserved*, and it was a privilege to see our kids so happy and carefree, to see them look so wonderful (both in their gorgeous dresses or splattered with coloured powder) and to see them and enjoying each others' and their teachers' company.

We have asked and encouraged our children this year to be resilient in the face of challenge and change, to adapt and to talk and work their way through these difficult times. We have encouraged them to consciously care for themselves and to care for others.

I am proud to say that the school leadership and parent community have modelled these behaviours for our children – and there is no better illustration of this than the staging of the Year 12 Formal, the Graduation on the Green, the Colour Run, and lastly, the off-site pop-up Uniform Shop, which Sustainable Schoolwear and the P&C will be running next month for Year 7 Orientation.

To make these events even *happen*, our school leaders and parents have had to think outside the box, they had to show determination and they worked very hard and quickly. These efforts, which behind the scenes have gone beyond what might normally be expected, were motivated by real care for our children and our school. For example, we were the only school I know of that held an in-person graduation for Year 12, instead of an online graduation.

Firstly, this care comes from the teachers and school leaders who have put our children and our families first every time this year. Thank you.

It is also appropriate to take this opportunity to publicly thank and congratulate one parent in particular for their incredible devotion to our school, for their unflagging energy, commitment and sheer hard work on behalf of all our students over the last 10 or so years.

The Butterfield family leaves HHHS this year, and **Robin Butterfield** has provided service to our school that goes above and beyond. Every time, Robin has stepped up to the call. She has never failed to attend P&C Meetings, has been involved in every aspect of the school life and has devoted countless hours to fundraising and event management – including this year's Year 12 Formal (which wouldn't have happened without her) and our third Colour Run in a row.

As Robin has said at many P&C Meetings, she is "*P&C through and through*" and our school community will sorely miss her. Thank you Robin, on behalf of all students, parents and staff at HHHS for your incredible decade of service.



It is with some relief that we look to the end of 2020, which has brought turmoil and hardship to our school and to many school families. As someone who lost their job early in the pandemic and was unemployed for seven months, I can attest to these difficulties.

While the closing of the year marks an end of sorts, we know there are more challenges ahead in 2021 – challenges we can see and some we can't predict. I hope that the character and commitment we have shown each other at HHS in 2020 continues to hold strong in 2021 – that we continue to adapt, that we keep our children safe and engaged, and that we all remain healthy and connected.

I can say hand on heart that volunteering in the P&C, in my role as President, has personally brought a lot of meaning and satisfaction to a hard year, and I recommend to any parent of the school no matter your circumstances, becoming involved. It is very rewarding. True, we can't all be Robins... but we each of us have something to contribute. It might be doing a shift at the canteen, or volunteering at Colour Run, or leading Dance Group, or making Music possible at the school.

Next year we welcome yet another new large cohort of Year 7 students, which means we are maintaining a thriving student body of approximately 800 students. The P&C looks forward to bringing back more events that bring our school community together – including parents! We plan to have Year 7 Welcome Drinks early in Term 1, a Trivia Night in Term 2 and of course our fourth Colour Run in Term 3.

Have a safe and wonderful Christmas and New Year, and hopefully we'll actually be able to see each other at school next year!

**Jacqueline Crompton**  
**President, Hunters Hill High School P&C**

**Colour Fun Run 2020! Our sincere thanks to the P&C for organising such a great event again this year. Thank you form HHS!**





# Wellbeing Report – Term 4

As the year draws to a close, we have been able to reflect on the positive achievements our students have made. Their ability to adapt to changes, to be flexible in their thinking and to overcome obstacles are life-long lessons which should not be underestimated. Whilst many have felt the pressures of this year, our students have continued to be safe, active and respectful learners.

## Positive Reward System

Our students have appreciated having access to an online reward system where they can review their achievements via the Student Portal. Students can be rewarded for success in academia, sport, extra-curricular activities, volunteering and contributing to our wider community. Merits are issued by teachers and these accumulate to certificates which are presented at Year Meetings. We encourage our students to continue to strive for their goals and demonstrate a strong sense of pride for their school.

## UMatter Sessions

Our students have continued to develop their interpersonal and intrapersonal skills in problem solving, resilience and self-awareness through regular U Matter sessions. There continued to be a strong focus on building their communication, collaboration, creativity and critical reflection skills. These sessions also allowed students to reflect on their learning by accessing school reports and discussing their learning outcomes. Peer support also continued this year and our Year 7 students have appreciated having Year 11 mentors to support their growing needs.

## Managing the School Holidays

For many people, the festive season is an exciting time to connect with others and celebrate. But for others, it can be the most stressful time of the year. Given some of the obstacles this year, here are some festive management strategies to help you deal with the holiday season:

Plan ahead (where possible): As the end of the year fast approaches, it's OK to feel overwhelmed or a little burnt out. So be kind to yourself when you're planning what you will do. If you're going to spend Christmas alone – or with a pet – take your mind off things by making sure you allow plenty of time for the things you enjoy.

Change your expectations: Being invited to social events and the pressure of living up to expectations can increase stress for people with a mental health condition. Some people also might start putting too much pressure on themselves about what they should buy or do for others. You have a choice in how you spend your holiday season. It's OK to say no to things or ignore it completely – or just the bits that you don't enjoy.

Manage conflict: Christmas can be stressful if there's tension between your family or friends or an unrealistic expectation to just 'put on a smile'. If you find yourself in an uncomfortable situation, try to be as understanding as you can of other people's situations; most people are under stress to some degree too.

## The Wellbeing Hub

Our Wellbeing Hub continues to evolve to support the needs of our students and school community. Please remember to check the Hub for current news and updates <https://huntershd-h.schools.nsw.gov.au/supporting-our-students/wellbeing-hub.html>

**Ms Patten - Wellbeing Coordinator**

## It's a girl!

My family and I are proud to welcome baby Penelope to the world. She arrived at sunrise on October 18 and has filled our days with light and laughter since.

Penelope has spent her first few weeks exploring the beach at her new home and wrapping all of our family and friends around her tiny finger.

We are looking forward to long summer days and baby's first Christmas. A big thank you to the extended Hunters Hill High community for all of their love and support throughout 2020. Wishing you all a safe and happy festive season.

**Ruth Simpson**



## Hunters Hill High School – Class of 2020

After a year that we have never experienced before and HSC exams completed, our Class of 2020 could finally celebrate together at Graduation Day on the Green and at their formal.

A selection of photos are included in the Figtree but there are many more which you are welcome to look through on our website. Our Year 12 students also created a video in celebration of their time at HHHS which can also be found on our website.

The video and photos can be located under Video (Year 12 Video) and Gallery (Graduation Day and Formal photos). The links are also here for your convenience.

Video: <https://huntershd-h.schools.nsw.gov.au/videos/year-12-2020.html>

Formal: <https://huntershd-h.schools.nsw.gov.au/gallery/year-12-2020-formal.html>

Graduation Day: <https://huntershd-h.schools.nsw.gov.au/gallery/year-12-2020-graduation-day-.html>

Our congratulations to all Year 12 students and their families and we wish you all the very best in the future. We will miss you!

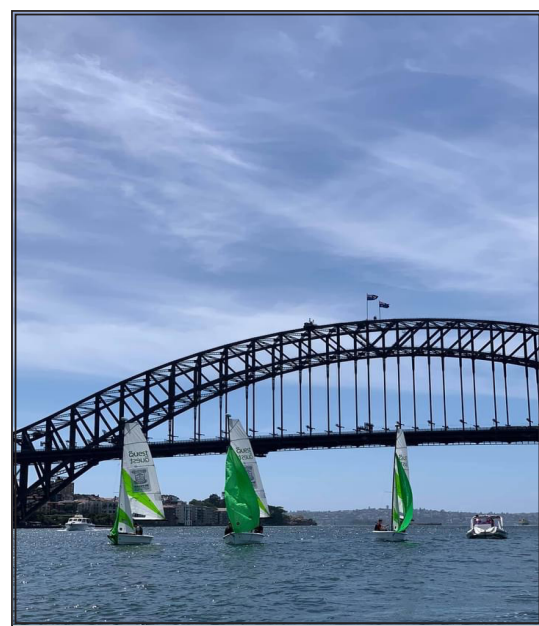
# Class of 2020 - Graduation on the Green





# Class of 2020 - Year 12 Formal





## READY, SET, SAIL!

Some spectacular photos from our Ready, Set, Sail! resilience program 2020. Our sincere thanks to the Hunters Hill Sailing Club, Mr Neild and all the students involved for making this such a positive and successful program!



The NSW Department of Education has released an *Inclusive Education Statement for Students with Disability*.

This is the next step in the Department's Disability Strategy commitment to improve learning and wellbeing for students with disability in every public school. The Disability Strategy was released in February 2019, and sets out the Department's plan for providing children and young people with disability, their families and the broader community with an education system that meets their needs.

The statement is about strengthening inclusive education for all students with disability in mainstream schools and their support classes, and schools for specific purposes.

**Inclusive education**

Inclusive education means all students can access and fully participate in learning, supported by reasonable adjustments and teaching strategies tailored to meet their individual needs.

Inclusion should be embedded in all aspects of school life, and is supported by culture, policies and everyday practices.

All NSW public schools should champion inclusive education.

**Have your say**

The Department will listen and work with students, parents and educators over 2020 on what support is needed to strengthen inclusion of students with disability. This feedback will inform an Inclusive Education Policy and practice resources.

**Support resources**

The statement and materials to help understand this are available online at: [www.education.nsw.gov.au/inclusive-education](http://www.education.nsw.gov.au/inclusive-education).

This includes an Easy Read version of the statement.

If you would like to find out more about this work or give feedback please email the team in the Department of Education working on this. They can be contacted on [disabilitystrategy@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:disabilitystrategy@det.nsw.edu.au).



**Sarah Mitchell**  
Minister for Education and Early Childhood Learning

**Bronnie Taylor**  
Minister for Mental Health, Regional Youth and Women

**MEDIA RELEASE**

Sunday, 08 November 2020

**MENTAL HEALTH HUB FOR STUDENTS, PARENTS AND TEACHERS**

Students, parents and teachers will now have easily accessible mental health advice and support at their fingertips, with the NSW Government today launching their new online *Mental Health Hub*.

Minister for Education Sarah Mitchell said the website has been developed to ensure advice is available to anyone who needs it, at any time.

"Mental health support for our students has to be varied and accessible for everyone," Ms Mitchell said.

"We know that overwhelmingly students do their own research before they reach out for help, so we need to make sure that information is accessible and designed for our school communities.

Minister for Mental Health Bronnie Taylor said the *Mental Health Hub* will be a useful toolkit for students, parents and teachers.

"The hub has some really practical resources, from tips on how to start a conversation with someone doing it tough to finding ways to improve their own mental fitness," Mrs Taylor said.

The website is broken down into three categories; information for parents, information for teachers and information for students.

"The hub has been designed for everyone in the school community, I encourage anyone who has questions, stressed or wants to know how to support people in their lives," Ms Mitchell said.

The site can be accessed by teachers, parents and students across every school sector, including independent and catholic schools, and has had input from leading mental health advocacy groups, including ReachOut, headspace, Kids Helpline and Beyond Blue.

The Mental Health Hub: <https://education.nsw.gov.au/student-wellbeing/counselling-and-psychology-services>

MEDIA: Michael Fairbairn | Minister Mitchell | 0417 785 910 Richard Shute | Minister Taylor | 0409 394 232

**R U OK?**

IF YOU FEEL **WORRIED** OR **SAD**  
YOU CAN TALK TO:

**ANY TEACHER - They DO care!**



Year 7 Ms Wilson    Year 8 Mrs Pena    Year 9 Mr Habbouchi    Year 10 Ms De Santis    Year 11 Mr Skinner    Year 12 Ms Brierty

**YEAR ADVISORS -**

Each year group has one - you will find them in their classroom or staffroom.



We are Melissa Abarzua and Christine Wong.  
We are **school psychologists** and we here to help you.  
You can find us in Room 400 and Room 415.  
Monday through Friday.  
Come and say hello.



WELLBEING COORDINATOR Ms Patten    HT TEACHING & LEARNING Ms Jelfs    CREATING CHANCES MENTOR Mrs Pena    CREATING CHANCES MENTOR Mr Neild

## Bees!

HHHS has welcomed Native Stingless Bees (*tetragonula carbonaria*) to our school. Two hives have arrived this term and are settling in well. On warm days you can see them flying around the hives and coming back loaded up with pollen. As you can see they look very different to the introduced bees we are used to seeing around, they don't even have stingers!

There are about 10,000 bees in each hive; one queen, about 500 male drones and the rest are female workers.



Some classes will start to visit and learn about the bees next year. There is already a Year 12 Investigating Science depth study looking at their colour preferences.

The hives are in an out of bounds area so if students would like to visit them you will need to talk to your Science teacher about the class going for a visit during class time.

**Deanne Sawyer**  
**Head Teacher Science**

### Parent Portal Access

Thank you to all the parents and carers who have set up their Parent Portal. If you are yet to do so, please email the school office at [huntershd-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:huntershd-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au) to request access, including your unique Access Key. Please note, Year 7 2021 parents and carers will receive access to the Parent Portal via email early in Term 1, 2021.

Please note the Parent Portal is where parents and carers have access to student reports and where online bookings are made for Parent / Teacher Interviews when they are scheduled.

### HHHS WEBSITE

The HHHS website is updated regularly! Please take the time to go to our site for updates, important information about our school, photos, videos, upcoming events and important dates.

**[www.huntershd-h.schools.nsw.edu.au](http://www.huntershd-h.schools.nsw.edu.au)**

# School Travel for 2021



## 2021 school travel applications are now open

Applications for student travel in 2021 opened from Monday 12 October 2020.

Students who require a School Opal card or travel pass for 2021 can now **apply** online. A new application should be submitted if a student is applying for a school travel pass for the first time or requesting an additional pass as a result of a new shared parental responsibility situation (e.g. joint custody).

Students who have changed school/campus, changed address, repeated a year or received an expiry notification from Transport for NSW for their school travel entitlement should **re-apply or update their details**.

\*Applications must be completed by the student's parent or legal guardian if the student is aged under 16 years. Students 16 years and over must complete the application form themselves.

Where there is a change of distance eligibility based on a student's grade, the system will automatically update a student's entitlement if they meet the new criteria. If they do not meet the new **eligibility criteria**, they will receive an expiry notification via email.

Students who have an entitlement approved under a medical condition which is due to expire will receive a notification advising them to re-apply.

**Term Bus Pass** holders will receive a notification to re-apply.

If a student needs to update their information or re-apply, they should go online to **<https://apps.transport.nsw.gov.au/ssts/updateDetails>**

Applications need to be submitted before 31 December 2020 to ensure that current student entitlements are updated and their current entitlement/card remains valid. If their application is submitted after 31 December 2020, the system will automatically cancel an entitlement/card and a new one will need to be issued.

Students in the Opal network applying for a SSTS or Term Bus Pass entitlement for the first time will receive their card at their nominated postal address. Cards will be mailed out from January 2021.

Students residing in Rural and Regional (R&R) areas should receive their travel pass at the commencement of the new school year from their nominated operator, this may be distributed via the school or sent direct to their address. Note: some R&R operators do not issue travel passes. Students/Parents should confirm with their nominated operator if they do not receive a pass.

## New Concession Entitlement Cards

Transport for NSW will be replacing the below cards with Transport Concession Entitlement Cards (TCEC) from October 2020:

- \* Senior Secondary Student Concession Card (16 years and over) – also used by Mature Secondary Students (18 years and over), Distance Education Students and Home School Students
- \* Proof of Age card (when a student under 16 years of age looks older)
- \* Boarder Rail Pass.

All previous cards will be valid until they expire. Students who require a Transport Concession Entitlement Card should speak with their school administration staff.

Enquiries regarding school student travel can be submitted to Transport for NSW at:  
**<https://transportnsw.info/contact-us/feedback/passes-concessions-feedback>**

*We made it!*

*Wishing all students,  
families and staff a Merry  
Christmas and Happy  
Holidays*

*See you in 2021.....*



**CONTACT US**

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