



# Macquarie Grammar School November Bluey Newsletter

*'Truth and Virtue'*

Volume 16

Edition 6

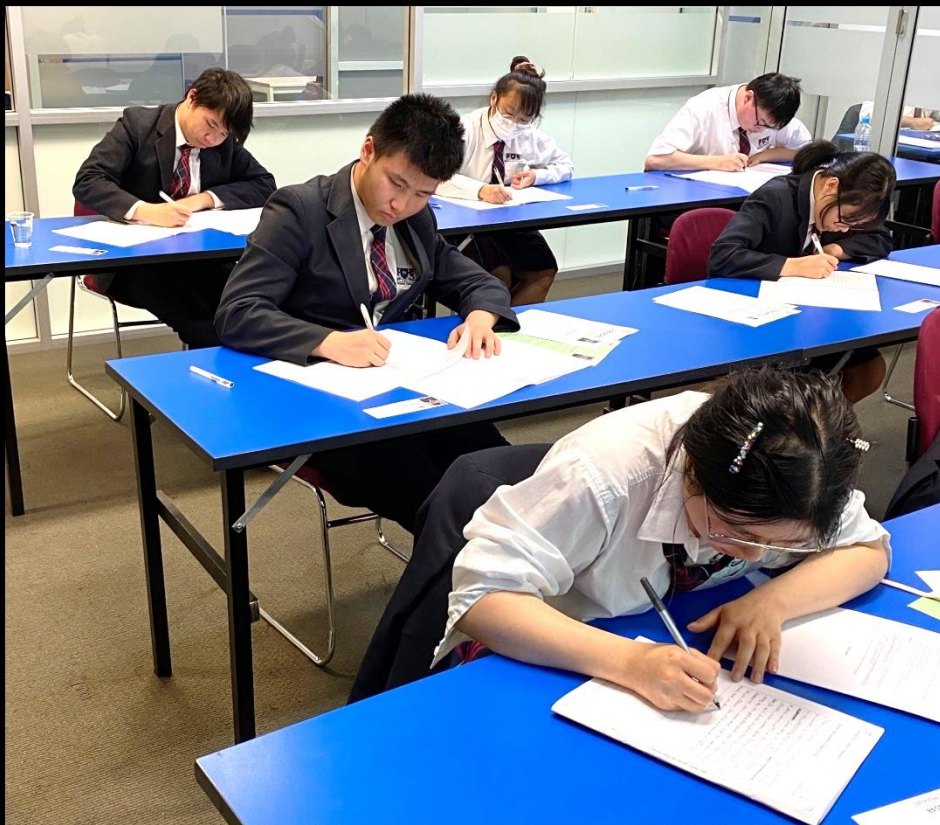
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Year 12 HSC  
Examinations, 2020



Volume 16  
Issue 6  
Spring Term, 2020



# Macquarie Grammar School



## November Bluey

*'Truth and Virtue'*



### Message from the Headmaster

#### Welcome Back

The students have settled in well this term and have transitioned to their studies after a well-deserved holiday break almost seamlessly. It has been a treat to walk throughout the school and to see our students fully engaged in the classroom and enjoying the various interesting activities that their teachers have prepared for them. The teachers conducted a number of extra lessons during the break in support of our Year 12 students and in preparation for their Higher School Certificate Examinations. From all reports, the lessons were well attended, and a great deal of revision took place. I would like to thank our wonderful teachers for conducting these lessons and we are so fortunate to have such dedicated teachers at MGS. I wish everyone all the very best for this Summer Term

#### Presentation Assembly and Other Activities

The coronavirus is still with us, but the school has continued to have its safety and hygiene protocols in place with hand sanitisers available in the classrooms and open areas, face masks, cleaning cloths, restricting visitations from members of the public, not holding group gatherings and social distancing wherever possible. Therefore, this term it appears that the end of year presentation assembly will take place but not as a whole school. Each year group from Years 7 to 11 will have their own assembly and the students will be socially distanced and the recipients of awards will be presented at this assembly. These mini assemblies will be staggered throughout the day on Wednesday 2nd December, which is officially the last day of lessons for Spring Term.

Also, sport will not resume until Term 1 2021 but PDHPE has recommenced.

#### Higher School Certificate

The Higher School Certificate Examinations commenced on Tuesday 20th October with English and our students have found some of the examination papers quite a challenge but have been buoyant in their responses to the questions in each examination paper. They are a wonderful group of students and they have worked diligently throughout the year and have not been fazed by the challenges of COVID - 19. They have been well-prepared for these examinations and their teachers and I are proud of them, and we wish them all the very best with their examinations.

#### Spring Term 4

HSC Concludes Week 4	Mon 9 <sup>th</sup> – Wed 11 <sup>th</sup> Nov
Junior Assessment Week, Years 7 to 10.	Mon 23 <sup>rd</sup> -Fri 27 <sup>th</sup> Nov
Spring Term 4 Graduation Assembly, 9:00am	Wed 2 <sup>nd</sup> Dec, 9-11:30am
Staff Professional Development Days	Thur 3 <sup>rd</sup> -Fri 4 <sup>th</sup> Dec

#### Summer Term 1, 2021

School Office Closed	Mon 14 <sup>th</sup> Dec
HSC results released	Wed 16 <sup>th</sup> Dec
New Year's Eve, 2021	Fri 1 <sup>st</sup> Jan
School Office Re-Opens	Thur 14 <sup>th</sup> Jan
Australian Day Public Holiday	Tue 26 <sup>th</sup> Jan
New Students' Orientation & Staff PD Day	Wed 27 <sup>th</sup> Jan
Summer Term 1 Lessons Commence, 8:30am	Thur 28 <sup>th</sup> Jan
Parent-Teacher Information Evening	Wed 3 <sup>rd</sup> Feb
Chinese New Year, 2021	Fri 12 <sup>th</sup> Feb
Years 11&12 Senior Examination Week	Mon 15 <sup>th</sup> -Fri 19 <sup>th</sup> Mar
Junior Assessment Week, Years 7to 10	Mon 22 <sup>nd</sup> -Fri 26 <sup>th</sup> Mar
Lessons Conclude, Awards Assembly	Wed 31 <sup>st</sup> Mar
Home Visitations Day	Thur 1 <sup>st</sup> Apr
Good Friday	Fri 2 <sup>nd</sup> Apr
Easter Saturday	Sat 3 <sup>rd</sup> Apr
Easter Sunday	Sun 4 <sup>th</sup> Apr
Easter Monday	Mon 5 <sup>th</sup> Apr
New Students' Orientation & Staff PD Day	Mon 19 <sup>th</sup> Apr
Autumn Term 2 Lessons Commence, 8:30am	Tue 20 <sup>th</sup> Apr

School Office Hours (During Term)	8:30am-5:00pm
School Office Hours (During Term Breaks)	9:00am-5:00pm
Uniform Ordering Hours	9.00am- 500pm

#### Notifications from Administration Department:

##### Reminders to All Students

If you wish to return to your home country during the holiday break at the end of each term, please see the Student Services Officer for a Student Leave Request Form. Complete the form and return it to the Student Services Officer for the Headmaster's approval. Students are allowed to travel only to their home country, and they must have the approval of the Headmaster, before booking an air ticket. This also applies to students who wish to stay with their parents during visits. A letter of request from parents, their contact details in Sydney and copies of parents' visas, passports and flight tickets also need to be attached to the Student Leave Request Form.

Students who have changes in their contact details, guardians or homestay including address, email and phone numbers, please notify the SSO, complete the Student Contact Change Form and submit it back to the SSO.

Ms. Zheng  
Guardianship/Homestay Officer

## **Appointment**

### **Director of Curriculum and Compliance**

Mr Alexandru has been appointed to the role of Director of Curriculum and Compliance. He is an outstanding classroom practitioner and his knowledge of the curriculum will assist the School to develop a strong broad curriculum with a central focus on university matriculation. Congratulations on his appointment and I look forward to his close involvement with the parents, teachers and our students.

### **Farewell**

I would like to thank Mr Hagan for his service to the school over a number of years. He has been a part of the fabric of the school and has seen the various changes that have taken place, of which he played a significant role. On behalf of the school community I wish him well with his future endeavours in the education profession, and he will be missed.

*Mr Rekouniotis*

### **Director of Welfare and Operations**

Welcome back to our final term for 2020 which will be a fast and furious one. With only four (4) weeks of schooling left to achieve accomplishments inside and outside of the classroom, students will have to be fully focused on all that needs to be achieved.

### **HSC Examinations**

Year 12 commenced their HSC examinations last week on the 20th of October 2020. In the next few weeks, HSC and school will be over for year 12 students. Our year 11 students on the other hand have just commenced their HSC Course.

I wish all of our Year 12 students all the very best and their families throughout their HSC Exams!

### **Are You Getting Enough Sleep?**

Sleep is vital for normal daily functioning. Insufficient sleep leads to decreased motivation, sleepiness during the day, irritability, low tolerance levels, difficulties in focusing attention, and difficulties with self-control. Adequate sleep is vital for effective learning.

Sleep is a very topical subject with approximately 30% of primary school children and 70% of teenagers being sleep deprived. This is having significant consequences on many areas of their lives.

I would encourage students, guardians and parents to create an awareness of the current level of sleep deprivation among students and empowering parents with the knowledge and practical strategies and tools to manage sleep health for all members of their family.

### **Student Attendance**

An important legal requirement of all schools is to maintain accurate attendance records. The recording system and processes at the school allows us to know whether students are at school or not and assists us in ensuring the safety of all students. The school records the daily attendance of all students at the start of every day and is completed by their class teachers at 8:00am (Period one) or 9:00am (Period 2) and 8.45am by their Tutor Group Teachers. To ensure we are able to account for every student, we require the parents or guardians of students who will be absent, to either call the School Office (8228 3022) by 8:30 am, or email

[sso@mgs.edu.au](mailto:sso@mgs.edu.au) where the SSO (Student Service Officer) will record the absence. If the school has not been notified by 9:00 am, the SSO will begin to contact the student's parents or guardians of any student who is absent. All absences require a written explanation or a Medical Certificate detailing the reason for the absence. This should be provided to the SSO the day after the absence. Reasons for absences are recorded on the Denbigh system.

### **Melanie Lee Youth Worker**

I am delighted to introduce Melanie Lee. Over the past couple of weeks, she has been at MGS for a work placement opportunity to practically apply the knowledge and skills she has learnt while studying the Youth Work course.

Melanie has a passion for sharing knowledge and inspiring students. I am pleased to see she is thrilled at the opportunity to make a positive impact on the community at school.

She takes pride in getting to know students on a personal level to better understand their needs when she is supervising students in the HSP class and assisting students with special needs.

I truly hope she has been enjoying communicating with the students and discovering that working with high school students comes naturally to her.

### **My Work Placement**

*My passion is to empower people and encourage them to be the best versions of themselves. High school in particular are formidable years and there can be challenges that are difficult for students to handle on their own. I want to be able to equip students with the tools to handle these situations, live a purpose filled life and support them through this journey.*

*This week, I have been giving presentations on overcoming cyberbullying and ways to boost your confidence. I believe that it is important to value your self-worth and to be careful about the way you talk to yourself and each other because what you say can affect how you view yourself. The purpose and end goal is to be kind to one another. Harmful comments should not reflect your self-worth because you know who you are and are confident in yourself!*

*I will be here for the next 6 weeks so please feel free to find me in the Staff Room if you need to talk about anything.*

*I am loving my time working with the friendly teachers, staff and students here. I am excited to meet you all and get to know you better!*

*Mrs Sun*

### **Director of Curriculum and Compliance**

The tradition at Macquarie Grammar is to provide the highest quality education by nurturing the talents and abilities of our individual students and this term is no different. The lessons delivered by our teachers were focused on creating an effective learning environment, inspiring students to show enthusiasm, encouraging them to persist in conquering difficult tasks and develop responsibility and curiosity, so that they want to explore more about their learning. By building and developing such character traits our students are more likely to succeed and boost their academic performance.

As the restrictions are still in place, this term Parent-Teacher Night has been cancelled; however, the teachers continue to

communicate with parents and carers to identify how we can best work together to make learning better for our students.

Over the past weeks interviews were held with applicants for formal student leadership positions at our school. I am always impressed with the enthusiasm and commitment our students present and it is wonderful to hear them explain how they would like to contribute to further develop our school.

At this time of the year there is a strong focus on the final preparation for the end of term tests and assignments. Our Year 10 students have finalised their subject selections for Year 11, 2021 and are preparing for the next stage in their education and growth. For our Year 11 students the time has come to consider carefully which subjects to continue with so that they can achieve the best results in the coming year. After a very challenging year our Year 12 students have finally been sitting their HSC Examinations. To confirm the high standards in an increasingly tougher competition, more than 10% of the Mathematics Extension 2 Exam requires students to prove historical recurrence formula, Wallis' integrals, discovered in the 17<sup>th</sup> century by mathematician John Wallis. Our senior students proved once again their maturity, perseverance and resilience and I look forward to celebrating their achievements at the end of the school year.

*Mr Alexandru*

### School Monitors

After a lengthy selection process, I am pleased to announce the 2020 Monitors. They are Hassan Alshami, Dave Nguyen, Sophia Wang, Tom Le, Ryan Thandi.

Throughout Spring Term 4 the Monitors undertake a number of duties that may lead them being chosen as Prefects for 2021. We wish them well and congratulation on their appointment.

## Uniform Online Ordering

Enjoy the convenience of online shopping. Save time and energy by ordering your uniforms online in 5 – 6 easy steps

### New User Instruction

1. Go to [www.midford.com.au](http://www.midford.com.au)
2. Select Macquarie Grammar School from the Online School Shops tab
3. New users need to click the Register New Account button
4. Start the registration process by selecting Macquarie Grammar School from the drop-down menu and add the unique school pass phrase [MGS2004]
5. Add your personal information, create a username and personal password
6. Order the items you need, choose to collect from the school or arrange for home delivery.



#### Further information

Tel : 1800 835 643

Email: [Info@midford.com.au](mailto:Info@midford.com.au)

### Mobile School App for phone and Android

The school has its own mobile application that it uses as a portal to disseminate information such as Newsletters, permission notes, notifications and even forms. If you haven't downloaded the Macquarie Grammar School Application from the App Store or Google Play be do, so that you can be up-to-date with what's happening at Macquarie Grammar School. Skoolbag is a mobile App for Macquarie Grammar School to communicate directly to parents, staff and students

How to Install the Macquarie Grammar Skoolbag App on your smartphone:

#### *iPhone Users*

Simply search for "Macquarie Grammar School" in the App Store on your phone and install. After the App is installed on your phone, make sure that you select "OK" to allow push notifications.

#### *Android Users*

Simply search for Macquarie Grammar School" in Google Play on your phone and install.

