



# Macquarie Grammar School December Bluey Newsletter

*'Truth and Virtue'*

Volume 17

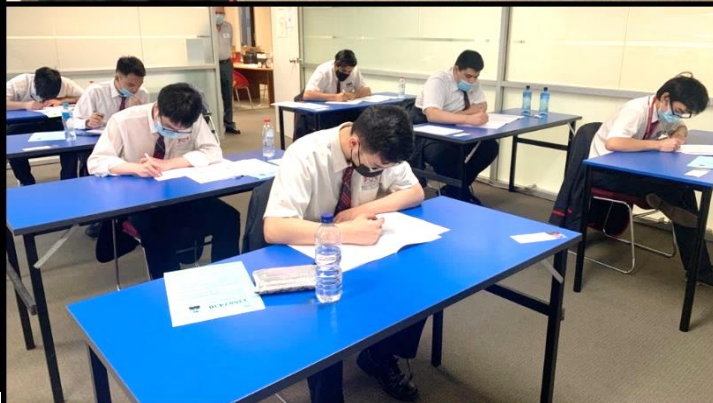
Edition 6

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Volume 17  
Issue 6  
Spring Term 4, 2021





# Macquarie Grammar School

## December Bluey



*'Truth and Virtue'*



### Spring Term 4, 2021

Lessons Conclude, Graduation Assembly-9:00am	Wed 8 <sup>th</sup> Dec
Staff Professional Development Days	Thur 9 <sup>th</sup> -Fri 10 <sup>th</sup> Dec
HSC results released and	Mon 24 <sup>th</sup> January
HSC results Inquiry Centre Opens	Mon 24 <sup>th</sup> January
School Office Closed	Mon 20 <sup>th</sup> December
School Office Re-Opens	Mon 24 <sup>th</sup> January
Christmas Day Public Holiday	Sat 25 <sup>th</sup> December
Boxing Day Public Holiday	Sun 26 <sup>th</sup> December
New Year's Day Public Holiday	Mon 3 <sup>rd</sup> Jan 2022
Australian Day Public Holiday	Wed 26 <sup>th</sup> Jan 2022

### Summer Term 1, 2022

Lunar New Year (Year of the Black Water Tiger)	Tue 1 <sup>st</sup> February
New Students' Orientation & Staff PD Day	Fri 4 <sup>th</sup> February
Summer Term 1 Lessons Commence, 8:30am	Mon 7 <sup>th</sup> February
Lantern Festival	Tue 15 <sup>th</sup> February
New Parents Welcoming & Information Evening	Wed 16 <sup>th</sup> Feb (6 pm)
Year 11 & 12 Examinations Week	Mon 21 <sup>st</sup> – Fri 25 <sup>th</sup> Mar
Swimming Carnival	Thur 24 <sup>th</sup> March
Junior Assessment Week Years 7-10	Mon 28 <sup>th</sup> – Fri 1 <sup>st</sup> Apr
Lessons Conclude Years 7- 12	Thur 7 <sup>th</sup> April
Home Visitations	Fri 8 <sup>th</sup> April
Public Holiday – Good Friday	Fri 15 <sup>th</sup> April
Easter Saturday, Sunday, and Monday	Sat 16 <sup>th</sup> -Mon 18 <sup>th</sup> Apr
Public Holiday ANZAC Day	Mon 25 <sup>th</sup> April

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

## Message from the Headmaster

### Spring Term Challenges

Spring Term 4 commenced with a staggered return to school for our students with Year 12 returning to face-to-face lessons first, followed by Years 7 to 11 the following week. This was a challenge for our teachers as they had Year 12 in the classroom teaching face-to-face while Years 7 to 11 were online. Our teachers adapted to the challenge and seamlessly transitioned from online teaching to face-to-face teaching and the students welcomed the return to school, with joy. The professionalism shown by our teachers was exceptional and I thank them for their good work while the students were online for all of Winter Term and into Spring Term. The lessons were creative and engaging and the curriculum was taught as per the programmes. In particular Year 12, who completed their courses and were well prepared for their Higher School Certificate Examinations. The Higher School Certificate Examinations commenced in Week 4 and were completed by Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> December. Year 11 sat for their Semester Two (2) Examinations and Years 7 to 10 completed their Spring Term Assessments last week, finalising their overall performance for the academic year. I wish all the students all the very best in receiving their academic results and look forward to reading their final reports.

Due to the COVID – 19 pandemic the normal school routine in Spring Term was suspended such as full school term and weekly assemblies, excursions, incursions and daily outings for lessons. Students were restricted to working and studying in their year groups and COVID safety guidelines were implemented, which included wearing a mask, socially distancing and regular hand sanitising. Even though these imposts were in place the students have enjoyed returning to school and have grasped the changes very well. I am proud of them in the way they have continued with their life at school and they have shown a level of maturity that is exemplary in every instance.

I would like to thank everyone within our school community for your patience and understanding with all the announcements throughout the year from the various authorities, that led to regular operational changes and in turn, created some uncertainty, as to when our students would return to school safely. The year is almost at a close and 2021

will be behind us and I wish everyone a well-deserved break and look forward to welcoming you all in the New Year. With optimism, may 2022 be a return to a regular school routine.

### ***Spring Term 4 Reports***

Reports will be issued to students on the last day of Spring Term, on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> December after the Graduation Presentation and will be posted and emailed to parents and guardians. If you haven't received your child's report over the break, please contact the Student Services Officers. The Years 7 to 10 Reports will indicate your child's performance for Term 4 and for Year 11, it will be the final result for the Preliminary Course.

### ***Graduation Day Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> December, 2021***

Traditionally a whole school Graduation Assembly is held the day after lessons conclude for Spring Term, which will take place this Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> December at 9:00am. The students will be acknowledged for their achievements throughout the year with a Graduation Presentation that will take place within each Tutor Group. Awards will be presented in a number of categories which include, Academic Excellence, Consistent Effort, Meritorious Award, Sporting, Senior School Dux and Junior School Dux, etc. At the conclusion of each Tutor Group Presentation, the students will be released from school to commence their end of year break. I ask parents and guardians to make suitable arrangements for their child's supervision and for their return home. The students will have a staggered departure between 9:15am to 10:00am.

It is compulsory for all students to attend in full school uniform including their blazer and be at school by 8:45am. By implementing the NSW Health Department Guidelines, the Graduation Day Programme will be for the students and teachers only. The school will take photos of the students receiving their awards and will be posted online on the school's FACEBOOK page, for all to view and share in memory.

### ***Summer Term Commencement, 2022***

Next year the first day of Summer Term 1 lessons commence for Years 7 to 12 students will be Monday 7<sup>th</sup> February, 2022. Please refer to the school calendar that is on the school's website.

### ***School Academic Calendar 2022 to 2024***

The school posts a calendar on the school's website in advance for three consecutive years, to give some idea to our international parents as to what the school has planned as the commencement and concluding dates for the four terms in each year. ***Please be aware that these dates may change and it's important that parents, guardians and students confirm the dates with the Headmaster prior to making any arrangements with family.***

It is important to note that applications to the Headmaster for extended student absence outside of school holidays (during term lessons) will not be approved. Under the NSW Department of Education guidelines, the Headmaster may approve an exemption in exceptional circumstances only, but not for a holiday.

### ***Year 12 Vale***

On Friday 29<sup>th</sup> October the school held the Year 12 Vale, which is an important event in our school calendar. Due to health guidelines the Year 12 Vale took place within the Year 12 Tutor Group and was telecast via ZOOM to all our parents. It was a lovely ceremony where the students were acknowledged for their academic, sporting and community involvement and were farewelled. They are a wonderful group of students and they have endured two years of interruption to their learning, but they have been diligent and determined to get on with their studies. They are a very strong and resilient group and I thank them for the positive contribution they have made to the school and we will miss them greatly. I am certain they will go on with their tertiary studies and will be a resounding success in Australian Society.



School Dux was awarded to: Queenie Do

Academic Excellence: Dave Nguyen & Tom Le

Ampol Award: Ryan Thandi

Long Tan Award: Hassan Alshami

### ***Announcement of School Prefects for 2022***

As the school is unable to hold a full school assembly this term, the announcement of prefects will take place when the first full school assembly will be held in 2022. It's important that all the students from Years 7 to 12 partake in this event and are introduced to their new leaders. The students who are bestowed the honour of being a Prefect, undertake to uphold the Oath of Duty, accept the traditions of the school, stand by the motto of the school, agree to serve the school with honour and maintain the highest social standards. Currently, the Year 11 Monitors are carrying out a number of duties which may lead to a Prefectship. I wish all the Monitors well with their applications.

### ***Farewell***

At the conclusion of Winter Term, we farewelled Mr Sotiropoulos after serving the school for a number of years as an English Teacher. On behalf of the school community, I thank Mr Sotiropoulos for his good work at the school and we wish him well for the future.





### Long Service Leave

Mr Alexandru has been at MGS since its inception and is currently on long service leave and enjoying a well-deserved break. I look forward to his return in Summer Term 1, 2022.



### New Teaching Staff

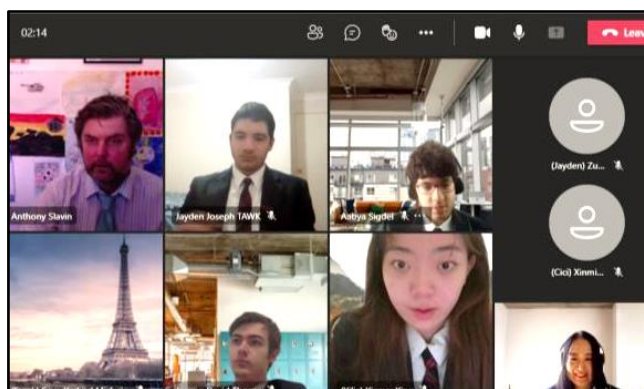
Mrs Lee joined the school as an English Teacher at the beginning of Spring Term and has been a wonderful asset to the school.

As Mr Alexandru is on LSL, Mr Giles is teaching Mathematics and Science and the students have thoroughly enjoyed his lessons.

**Mr Rekouniotis**

### Director of Welfare and Operations

#### Return to Face-to-Face Learning



It was wonderful to welcome back our Year 12 students to face-to-face learning on the 25th of October in Term 4 and on the 1<sup>st</sup> of November we welcomed all our amazing students and teachers on site. All staff use the school QR code to check in and follow the School's Covid Safety Plan. The Covid Safety Guidelines are followed by everyone on site and students and staff wear face masks. We are very excited to have everyone back to face-to-face learning this term.

#### The Covid Safety Guidelines are:

- Students remain within their year group.
- Masks are required indoors for staff and students: removed only when eating, drinking or exercising.
- Mask must be worn on public transport.
- Physical distancing of 1.5 metres where practical.
- No assemblies to be held indoors.
- Students and staff required to maintain good hand hygiene.
- Hand sanitiser is made readily available in all classrooms and open areas.

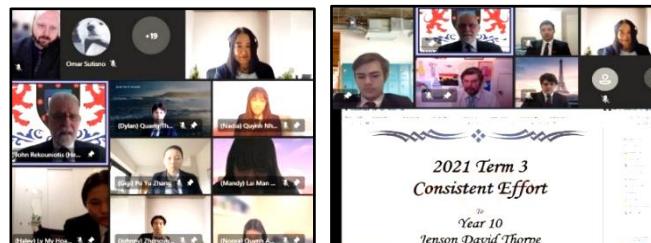
### Student Reports

At the end of last term and the beginning of this term, students across Years 7-10 received valuable feedback on their academic progress through the school report. At the same time, some valuable and worthy recipients were

additionally being recognised and rewarded for their dedication and hard work, receiving Academic Awards.

### Year 11 Preliminary Reports and Curriculum Adjustments in Term 4

To all Parents/Carers of Year 11 students, I wanted to clarify some concerns around reporting. The report your child will receive at the end of the preliminary course will remain as a normal report, despite the final examinations being modified. I am mindful that for some students this will be an exit report therefore, I want to make sure it is as reliable and authentic as possible.



Year 11 students have enquired about dropping one course of study for next year and have now finalised their best 10 units which they wish to continue with in Year 12. Please remember that no subject can be dropped until all paperwork is completed and



processed through Mr Alexandru or Mrs Sun. If you have any questions, please contact Mr Alexandru or Mrs Sun.

### Year 12 HSC Exam Update

I wanted to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of all teaching staff, ensuring that students are thoroughly prepared for their HSC Examinations. I wish them all the very best and look forward to being informed of their future success.



### Club Activities

Since Ms Green joined the school as our specialist Visual Arts Teacher, she has introduced some wonderful options for our students to be involved with. One of these new activities is the Camera Craft Club where our students take photos of objects and use computer software to enhance and model the artifact. Below are some photos of the works the students are creating under her tutelage.



*Camera Craft Club*



*Camera Craft Project*

I wish everyone all the best for the upcoming festive season, and we look forward to an exciting and even more rewarding 2022. As always, take care, stay safe and please contact the school if you have any concerns.

**Mrs Sun**

#### **Meet Our Monitors of 2021**



“One of my great pleasures is being a School Monitor. It's been a pleasant feeling since I've had the opportunity to make contact with the students, make new friends and support others with all of my enthusiasm. I believe that simple actions such as a wave, a hello or a goodbye, can sometimes be enough to make our students happy and joyful. I am really grateful and pleased to have been given the opportunity to bring joy to fellow students.”

**Year 11 Nadia, Quynh Nhu Nguyen**

“Although this is my first time as a Monitor, I will take on my responsibilities. I think this job has added a joy to my ordinary study life. Every time I wave and say goodbye to the students in the exit foyer, I feel the happiness in undertaking this role.”

**Year 11 Sallie, Yongzhen Lin**

“It has been a great honour to be a Monitor this term and the experience has so far been phenomenal. The weekly ground duties allow me and the other Monitors to interact with all of our MGS students more easily and closely and have helped us to build up bonds with the junior students. I have really enjoyed being a monitor and I am thankful to be able to provide assistance to my peers and teachers.” —

**Year 11 Johnny, Zhongyu Wang**

I believe, the role of Monitor is a test of leadership and it is a great responsibility as I must be an exemplary role model for the students and be available to students to counsel or ask for advice and most importantly – build trust. That is why being a Monitor gives me a sense of purpose and responsibility and provides a little more meaning to my life.

**Year 11 Mikhail Komarovskii**

"It seems like an eternity that we were all at home and learning online. Whilst it was great to be in the comfort of your own home, you do miss face to face contact with not only your friends but teachers and other students, as well. It was nice to get back to school, see everyone again and talk to students leaving at the end of the day. I look forward to continuing strong relationships with all students and teachers as a monitor of the school.”

**Year 11, Indya Farrington**

This is one of my best experiences, being a Monitor. This is a pleasant feeling for my high school life, because I have the opportunity to chat with my classmates and understand their thoughts. I have the opportunity to make new friends and treat others with all my enthusiasm. I enjoy this role of leadership.

**Year 11 Ryan Jiang**

Due to the school being forced into online classes because of Covid-19, I have missed being able to see the students and teachers face to face. Although it was nice and comfortable at home, it was great to be able to go back to face to face classes and see everyone. Being a monitor has enabled me to expand from my usual group and get to know other students. Overall, it has been a great experience being a monitor and I hope to continue building a strong relationship with the students and teachers.

**Year 11 Omar Sutisno**



I am very happy to be a monitor, because it allows me to meet many different classmates and to recognize students of different grades. I feel honored to be a monitor. Being a monitor allows me to better understand the operation mode of this school. And good communication between people

**Year 11 (Gigi) Po Yu Zhang**

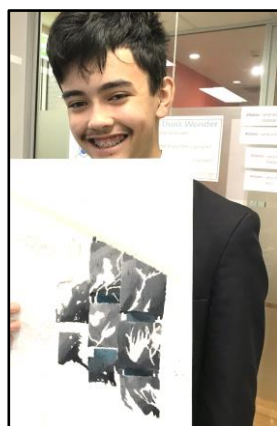
## The Year 7/8 Report

This month, the Years 7 & 8 English class - Misheel, Toni, Declan, Seoyun, Gary and Tuguldur - led the school through an online, socially distanced Remembrance Day ceremony on November 11. The entire school stopped momentarily to remember and honour those men and women who have served and continue to serve their countries to ensure our freedom and prosperity. Years 7 & 8 delivered a very nice presentation of The Ode of Remembrance and guided students through the proceedings from The Last Post, the National Anthem, through to a one-minute's silence at 11am.



## Declan Peno (Yr 8):

I'm so glad to be back to face to face learning this term, learning a significant amount about subjects I enjoy, such as our visual arts assessment on pop-art, with the amazing and colourful classes with Ms Green, experimenting with colours and more modern styles of art. I've personally enjoyed this experience being able to further refine my artistic skills. TAS has also been extremely exciting, with us creating our own personal dragsters - essentially our own cars to race with! I have found the group collaboration with my fellow peers and students to be fun and enlightening, while also learning a significant chunk of engineering and design. I would like to thank all my teachers and friends for this amazing and enjoyable experience.



## Tuguldur Gansukh (Yr 8):

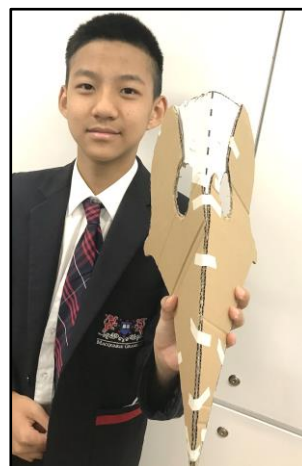
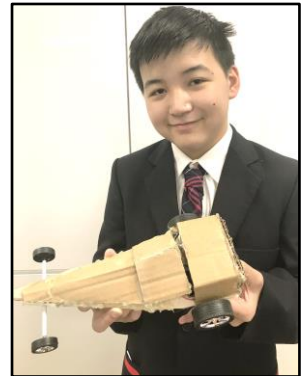
I loved Maths, Science and TAS this term. Our teacher for Maths this term was Mrs. Yamashita. She teaches things in a fun way, supporting students through class discussions and allowing students to help and learn from each other. To cheer people at the end of class, she allows us to do a maths based Kahoot that she creates herself every week. Ms Cai joined us for science last term, as well. She teaches things with easy-to-understand analogies and fun examples. It was really enjoyable and easy to understand.



## Misheel Gansukh (Yr 7):

This term has been tremendously more exciting and hands-on than the last term, where we were learning online. Learning face to face gives me motivation for improving my work and consistently working hard. We have been making a doctor's mask for The Black Death

(Bubonic Plague) for History and learning about the different genres of music in Music class. Learning about the facts and figures regarding The Black Death has been interesting. For example, the doctor's mask was filled with 55 different types of herbs to block the smell of the Black Death (people thought you caught it by smelling it!)



Music has been engaging in learning about Electronic Music, Jazz and Blues. I have learnt about various electronic instruments including the Trautonium and Theremin and learned that Jazz and Blues music originated from Ragtime music. Overall, this term has been fascinating and I'm looking forward to future intriguing projects next year!

**Mr Baron Levi**

# 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 notification.

### **Android Users**

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

