



MACQUARIE GRAMMAR SCHOOL SUMMER BLUEY NEWSLETTER

"Truth and Virtue"

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One notable aspect of this term has been the increase in our student population. Welcoming new faces into our school has enriched the diversity of our community, fostering new friendships and experiences for all. We extend a warm welcome to each new student and their families, and we look forward to the contributions they will make to our school.

Academically, our senior students have demonstrated a commendable level of dedication and focus, particularly our Year 12 cohort. With the realisation of the importance of their final year, they have begun to approach their studies with a newfound seriousness and determination. This commitment is inspiring to witness and sets a positive example for their peers.

For our Year 11 students, transitioning into senior courses has provided them with valuable insight into the rigors of senior studies. Many have recognised the gap between their current level and the expectations of their future courses, prompting them to redouble their efforts and strive for excellence. This self-awareness is an essential step in their academic journey, and we commend their willingness to rise to the challenge.

Additionally, our Year 7 and Year 9 students recently participated in the NAPLAN assessments. These assessments serve as a valuable benchmark, providing us with insights into our students' strengths and areas for improvement. The results will guide our efforts as we work to enhance our teaching practices and support our students' growth and development.

Furthermore, I would like to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of our HSP students and their teachers. Together, they have worked tirelessly to improve their English proficiency and prepare for integration into the mainstream curriculum. Their efforts exemplify the resilience and determination that are central to our school's values, and we are proud of their progress.

Beyond academics, Term 1 has been filled with a multitude of activities both inside and outside the classroom. From extracurricular clubs and sporting events to excursions and special events, our students have embraced every opportunity for learning and enrichment. These experiences not only foster a sense of belonging and camaraderie but also contribute to the holistic development of our students.

As we prepare to embark on the term break, let us take a moment to celebrate the achievements of the past term and look forward to the opportunities that lie ahead. I am immensely proud of the progress we have made together, and I have every confidence that Term 2 will bring even greater success and growth for our school community.

I wish you all a restful and rejuvenating break.



**Mr. Alexandru
Acting Principal**

Term in Review and Looking Ahead

Dear MGS Community,

As we approach the conclusion of Term 1, it is with great pleasure that I reflect on the remarkable journey we have undertaken together at Macquarie Grammar. This term has been marked by significant growth and achievement, both academically and in our school community.

Messages from Mrs Sun

Embracing Diversity and Unity

Welcome to 2024. As we begin the new school year, I am excited to extend a warm welcome to all students, teachers, and staff as we embark on a journey filled with opportunities for growth and learning.

This year, our school community has grown, both in numbers and in the rich experiences brought by our short-term study students. These additions have truly made our school a unique and lively place, offering chances for cultural exchange and learning unlike any other.

Throughout this term, I encouraged both teachers and students to seize these opportunities for discussion, exploration, and sharing of ideas. By embracing our diverse cultures, perspectives, and experiences, we not only enrich our own understanding but also build a sense of togetherness and mutual respect within our school community.

One highlight of this term was our Lunar New Year celebration, marking the first time since the pandemic that we could come together to celebrate this special occasion with food. I extend my heartfelt thanks to all the teachers and students who contributed to the success of the day, from organising activities to preparing delicious dishes.

Special thanks are due to Mr Connal, Mrs Sun, and our SRC members for their efforts in preparing the tasty rice paper rolls and spring rolls that delighted everyone's taste buds. Additionally, Charlotte deserves recognition for her unique design of this year's signature dragon image, adding a special touch to the festivities.

Collaborative activities, such as calligraphy, where students wrote greeting words in Chinese on red paper, further enhanced the festive atmosphere and provided meaningful cultural experiences for all involved. It is through these collective efforts that we were able to create an enjoyable and memorable Lunar New Year celebration for our entire school community.

As we continue our journey together this term, let us remain committed to embracing diversity, fostering unity, and creating memorable experiences that enrich our school community. I look forward to all the exciting opportunities and achievements that lie ahead.



Celebrating Success in Chinese and Literature: Year 11 Triumph

We are excited to share the remarkable achievements of our Year 11 Chinese and Literature students! Not only have they excelled academically, but they have also created an atmosphere of enthusiasm and curiosity in our classroom.

This year, our Chinese and Literature courses have undergone exciting changes. We have introduced a new topic focusing on the impact of technology, in line with the additional topic mandated by NESA. Through this, our students will delve into how technology has evolved and shaped our lives, with future discussions set to explore its global economic impact and implications for the future world.

Our students have eagerly embraced these new topics, showcasing their keen interest and exceptional linguistic abilities. As a teacher, I am thrilled to have such motivated and talented students in my class, and I have no doubt that they will continue to excel as they progress into Year 12.

For our Year 11 students, especially those with a Chinese background, choosing Chinese and Literature offers a unique opportunity to deepen their understanding of both their cultural heritage and contemporary global issues. By engaging with the course material, students not only enhance their language skills but also develop a broader perspective on the world around them.

I am confident that with their passion for learning and dedication to their studies, our Year 11 students will achieve great success in Year 12 and beyond. Congratulations to all our Chinese and Literature students on their outstanding accomplishments, and best wishes for the journey ahead.



Caring for Our Community During Seasonal Changes

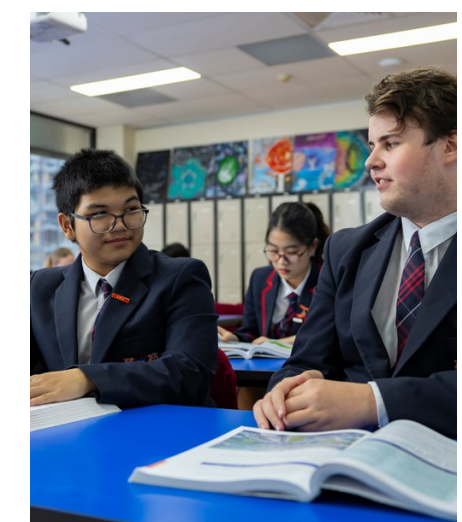
As we transition into colder weather, it is essential to prioritise our well-being and support one another through these changes. With the fluctuating temperatures and weather variations, it is crucial to remain vigilant about our health.

One simple yet effective precaution is to dress appropriately for the weather. Layering clothing can help us stay warm during chilly mornings and evenings, while still allowing us to adjust to warmer temperatures during the day.

For those of us who rely on public transportation, wearing a mask can provide an additional layer of protection, particularly during peak travel times when crowding is more common.

If you find yourself feeling under the weather, please do not hesitate to take some time off to rest and recuperate. Your health is our priority, and we encourage you to seek medical advice if you are experiencing any concerning symptoms. It is always better to err on the side of caution and ensure you receive the proper care and treatment.

Let us continue to support each other and foster a caring environment within our school community. If you have any questions or concerns about your health, please do not hesitate to reach out.





Senior Student of the term
Xingyao (Charlotte) Liu Year 11 with Mrs. Sun



Junior Student of the term
Minh Triet (Tree) Phan Year 9 with Mrs. Sun

Term 1 Award Assembly: Celebrating Student Achievements and Leadership Excellence

The Term 1 Award Assembly marks a very special occasion, and I extend my congratulations to all the students who have dedicated themselves to hard work throughout the term and have been recognised with various awards. It was an honour to announce Charlotte, Xingyao Liu as the recipient of the Term 1 Leadership Award. Xingyao has not only excelled in each subject but also wholeheartedly committed to every school activity. Particularly noteworthy is her dedication to designing the significant dragon pattern for the Lunar New Year Celebrations, as well as her consistent contributions to school development through her valuable opinions and suggestions. Her holistic growth, including spiritual development, fills me with pride.

I am also proud to announce Tree, Minh Triet Phan as the Junior Student of the Term. Tree has shown remarkable growth as a mature student who loves the school and socialises well with classmates and almost everyone in the school community.

I am proud of all the students' maturity and spiritual development at our school. Congratulations to everyone on their achievements.

Home visitation 2024

Please be advised that in April 2024, our teachers will be contacting the homestay hosts of our international students to arrange a visit. The purpose of this visit is to meet with the hosts and review the homestay environment of our students.

As you may know, MGS is required by NESAs to ensure that the homestays of our international students meet the standards and expectations set by NESAs. We fulfill this requirement by conducting bi-annual homestay visits, usually set around the end of Term 1 and beginning of Term 4.

We kindly request that all homestay hosts support our teachers who are hosting the MGS students during this forthcoming exercise. Thank you for your cooperation.

Warm regards,

Mrs Sun

Director of Welfare and Operations

Acting Deputy Principal



With each passing term at MGS, I continue to feel more in my element and more at home by being an integral part of what is a well-oiled Teaching Staff machine!

Ironically, this very lengthy first 11-week term has flown by and it felt just like yesterday that we celebrated Australia day and returned to School shortly thereafter. Now, as Autumn approaches and the nights and mornings become cooler, I realise that time does truly fly when you are having fun.

Our Year 10 group has grown exponentially, and we have had some truly incredibly capable students in Mathematics that have challenged the old guard Rank 1's from 2023. I was delighted to be reunited with my Year 9 Mathematics group (last year's Year 8s whom I taught in term 1 of 2023).

Additionally, we have implemented the new Mathematics curriculum at Junior level and I am continuing to hone in on the skills of our budding Mathematicians and differentiate them meticulously as they leave stage 5 and choose their preferred Pathway (either Mathematics Advanced or Standard for Stage 6).

I was thrilled to have obtained a band 6 result for Biology in the 2023 HSC in my first year in a NSW School. I am proud of the learner that obtained that outstanding result and am delighted that she achieved this under my mentorship and guidance in conjunction with her tireless effort.

On the Mathematics Standard 2 HSC, one of our learners tripled her Trial mark and obtained a respectable Band 2 result in the HSC examination. Sometimes, we need to remember that it is not only about acknowledging the band 6 learner, but also acknowledging those who have turned it around academically under adverse circumstances.

After a short stint as Year 12 homeroom teacher, I took over the Students Representative Council and we have some exciting initiatives coming up for term 2 of 2024 which include Australia's biggest Morning Tea, Anzac Day as well as the planning of a Fun day for our students at the end of Term 2. We also had additional members from junior grades in Years 9 and 10 join the SRC which we believe will bring a fresh perspective to our team, as seniors head into the latter part of the year and turn their focus to Preparation for Trial HSC examinations.

Our Thursday Volleyball continues to thrive and with a large group of 18 pupils, we have harnessed the talent of some of the quietest learners in class and made them, confident, assertive and vocal players on the court with ever-improving abilities in serving and setting ... we even hope to see these players "spiking" the ball over the net soon.

I wish all our students a restful break over this April Holiday period, and although Easter may have come and gone, may the time with your loved ones be restful and blessed always.

Mr George Stavropoulos
Junior Mathematics and Science, Senior Biology and Mathematics Standard Educator

PHYSICAL ACTIVITIES



This year has started with an array of events including the school Swimming Carnival. The students had a fantastic time despite the weather being slightly cooler than usual and it was raining - they were going to get wet regardless! The races on offer included freestyle, relay freestyle, kickboard and the infamous noodle race. The results were very different to 2023 with the House that finished last winning the competition. Congratulations to Fraser House. As always, the competition rewards participation as well as placement in each of the races. I would like to commend all students for their enthusiasm during this whole school event. I would also like to thank all the staff and school leaders who assisted in running the event. It would not have been a success without them.

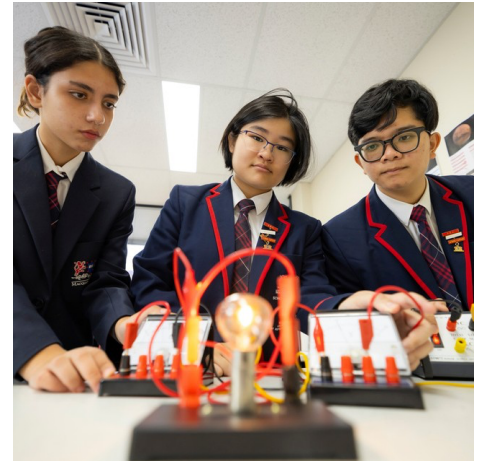
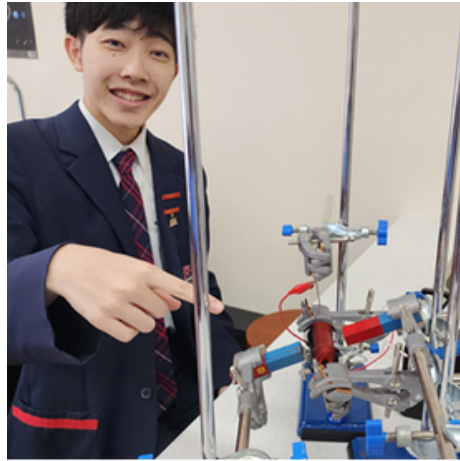
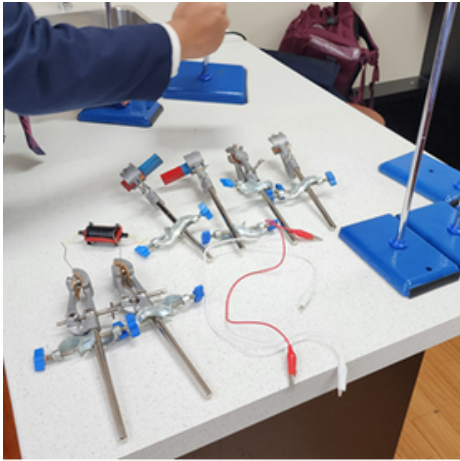
Our Thursday Sport program continued to operate constructively with Badminton, Volleyball, Basketball and Football being the primary options. Next Term, I will be looking to introduce Yoga and boxing into the mix of options available, so hopefully there is enough interest from our students.

Furthermore, in representative sport there are ISD Football and ISD Cross Country competitions coming up. We also have the school Athletics Carnival on Friday, Week 2 of Term 2. So, yet another busy and exciting term ahead.

Mr. Diakis – Sportmaster



Other Activities



HSC Physics

MGS Students during Physics class

These parts might not look like much but the HSC Physics students at MGS are able to use them to build a working electric motor.

This motor was built as part of the HSC practical assessment tasks. Knowing how an electric motor works and where to place the essential components is all part of the experience here at MGS. (All students achieved A grades for this assignment as can be seen by their big smiles.)

Mr. Warren - Science Teacher





Lisa Liang Year 11
Graphite Drawing



Harmony Thorpe Year 11
Watercolour Study

Term 1 was jammed packed and full of creativity. The most notable artworks so far have been from Year 11 with their Still Life artworks.

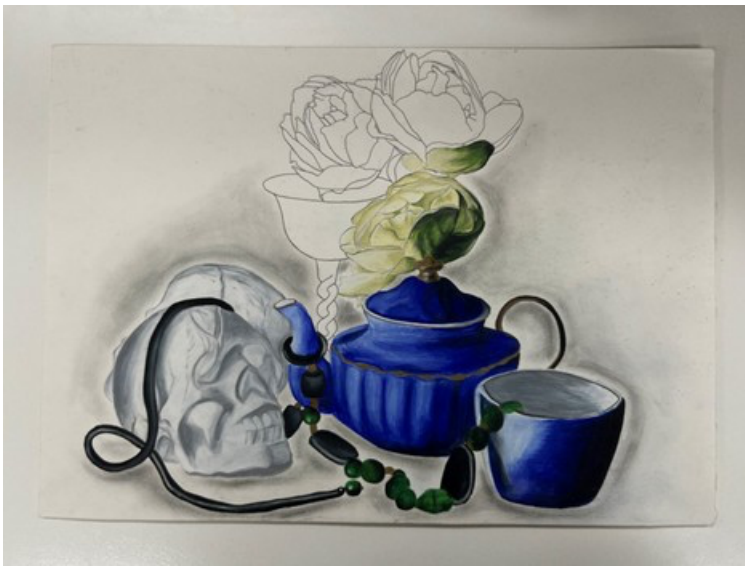
During Term 1, Year 11 students learnt about symbolism in art and the age-old tradition of Vanitas Still Life. The Vanitas Still Life genre started in Europe during the 17th Century and is still being created by contemporary artists today. The symbols within a Vanitas composition remind the viewer of life cycle and the futility of material possessions. Students during the Term built upon their drawing and watercolour skills. For their major work, students took their own photographs and made large-scale artworks from these photographic still life set ups.

The level of artistic talent in Year 11 is outstanding, and this cohort have set a high standard for future art students at Macquarie Grammar School.

Ms Green
Visual Arts Teacher



Charlotte Liu Year 11
Graphite Drawing



Khue Nguyen Year 11
Drawing and photographic still life



Liam Nguyen Year 11



Lola Wang Year 11
Graphite Drawing



Kristina Doan Year 11

Photographic Still Life Set ups

