

Newsletter

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Principal's Report



Congratulations to the Blackburn High School Community for continuing to work together and navigate through all the challenges of the latest remote and flexible learning period.

The students, teachers and education support staff continue to demonstrate their incredible resilience, adaptability and optimism throughout this current lockdown. Support from parents and carers has been very important and we thank you for your wonderful messages of encouragement.

The health and wellbeing of our students has been critical throughout this time and the Mentor Program has continued to play an important role in ensuring that positive and strong connections are maintained within our school community. I would like to thank and acknowledge our Mentor Teachers and House Teams, who have underpinned this critical work.

I am very pleased to inform the school community of the new and expanded Health and Wellbeing Team that will also play a significant role in supporting our students as well as providing opportunities for them to continue to build resilience, hope and positivity. We welcome Mindi Robins, who is the new Mental Health Practitioner and Kate Newton, the new Wellbeing Coordinator. Mindi and Kate will join Jaye Varcoe, the Chaplain, Fiona Weaver, the Paediatric Nurse and the two psychologists, Laretta Iuliano and L'Shae Dib.

We are planning to establish a wellbeing centre on the school grounds, where the team will meet and work with the students in lovely and supportive environment.

The excitement around the development of the new Blackburn High School STEM Centre is gaining momentum with the final stage of the process, determining the successful building tender, well underway. If all things go to plan, construction will commence in Term 4 of this year and conclude at the end of Term 4 in 2022. Furthermore, the new Freeman House locker bays are almost finished and work has started on the proposed onsite staff carpark.

*Joanna Alexander
Principal*



Dunlop House



HOUSE LEADER INTRODUCTION

Another lockdown or two. Thanks so much to the students, staff and parents for managing to cope with these difficult circumstances. Everyone is doing the best they can and we appreciate the efforts of everyone. Here's hoping that there is an end in sight for these lockdowns.

It was great to see the students competing in their Fun Friday challenges last week. There are still two rounds to go of the competition and students are competing in cup stacking, tug of war, basketball throwing and much more.

We continue to be buoyed by the positiveness of our student leaders. Despite the hard circumstances they continue to provide fun and innovative ideas to support students. They are also stepping up during remote Mentor Group to encourage their teachers and fellow students. Their work with Lauren Antoniou is greatly valued and appreciated.

Last but not least, we managed to raise \$3000 on the last day of Term 2 for the Weary Dunlop Foundation and medical research. Thank you again to all the student leaders and teachers that made this happen. Despite heavy rain more than 700 hundred sausages were sold. Yet another great testament to our school community.

Mark Pasquali, Dunlop House Leader

DUNLOP FUNDRAISER DAY



Dunlop House



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MEET OUR 2021 YEAR 12s

Our Year 12s are such an important part of our House so we have decided to feature Year 12 student profiles throughout the year.

Name: Ella Mason

Been at BHS since: Year 7

Favourite Subject: Philosophy

Plans for next year: I would like to go to university

Favourite food: Anything with garlic I will love

What is something you are proud of? Getting my learners permit and having more freedom and responsibility to be on roads with others

If you could live anywhere, where would it be? New Zealand, mainly for it's Prime Minister.



Name: Grayson Zaidel

Been at BHS since: 2016

Favourite Subject: Lunchtime

Plans for next year: Studying architecture/design at Uni

Favourite food: Chocolate Mousse

If you won a million dollars what would you do?

I would pay Morgan Freeman to narrate my life. "Grayson woke up at noon today. He's thinking about making a sandwich"



Name: Sharlette Thoeun

Been at BHS since: 2016

Favourite Subjects: Health and Human Development, Art

Plans for next year: Go to university, follow my passions and become an independent member of society, develop my sense of self.

Favourite food: Sushi, dumplings, chocolate chip cookies and watermelon

What is something you are proud of? My ability to work well with others and connect with people



Name: Jack Yang

Been at BHS since: Year 7

Favourite Subject: EAL

Plans for next year: Adelaide Uni

Favourite animal: Dog/Cat

What are you most looking forward to this year? Get high marks for my subjects

What is at the top of your bucket list? Get into the Uni



Freeman House



House Leader Introduction

We are already heading in to the second half of Term 3 which has seen us move back and forth from onsite to remote learning. I would like to acknowledge the adaptability of the students, staff and parents during these changes and hope that we are back onsite soon.

While we were back at school, we managed to squeeze in a week of our Fun Friday activities driven by our Student Leaders, introduced the School Values award process, engaged in Pledge Week and supported the Melba fundraiser with raffle ticket purchases during Mentor Group. The Gymnasium was converted into a Pathways expo which assisted our students in choosing their subjects for 2022.

Mentor Group has seen our theme days continue with some fantastic activities to support our students. Wellbeing Wednesday has continued with a strong focus on self-care during lockdown and some engaging literacy and numeracy activities provided in our Teachable Tuesday sessions. Staff have been continuing to check in with students during remote learning and it is always great to see the buzz of activity on our Freeman Student Teams each morning. Students are encouraged to continue to communicate with their Mentor Teacher regularly to keep the strong connection of the Mentor program.

We have been really impressed with the commitment of our students during remote learning and know that this could not be done without the support our Freeman parents and families. I hope you all are taking care of yourselves and finding joy in this time. I look forward to seeing all students back onsite soon.

Liam Tobin, Freeman House Leader

House Achievement/Recognitions

Each semester we nominate and recognise students who consistently demonstrate our school values of Respect, Pursuit of Excellence and Citizenship through the House Value Awards. We will formally acknowledge the following recipients at a House Assembly when we return to onsite learning:

Sophie Harry, Victoria Lazaris, Gabriel Wardlaw, Elise McWilliams, Robbie Slenders, Talia Langton, Aman Lamba, Kyla Irvine.

Events

Our Freeman Student Leadership team have been working hard developing our Freeman Fun Friday activities that run through Mentor Group each Friday. These activities have been designed to cater for all students in the House and the first week of activities received great feedback. Hopefully we will be returning onsite soon to complete the remaining activities. Thank you to the Freeman student team led by Jasmine Kellock who has worked hard leading the group to develop the activities.

House Student Leadership

Hello everyone, my name is Jasmine Kellock and I am the Freeman House Captain for 2021. It has been an action-packed year for Freeman so far, with our performance of 'Into the Woods' at the House Performing Arts festival, as well as our involvement in the Swimming and Athletics Carnivals. We also held our Freeman Fundraiser in Term 1 and thanks to the hard work of the Freeman Student Leadership Team and many of our teachers, we were able to raise just over \$2500 for the Cathy Freeman Foundation.

This year, I sought to establish connections between mentors as well as expand upon these relationships outside of the classroom. We have worked hard this term to plan and operate our Fun Friday Mentor Stations, consisting of activities such as Arts and Crafts, Dodgeball and Health and Wellbeing, in order to allow students to develop team-building skills and to interact with others in the house.

Well done to everyone in Freeman who has participated in the many events throughout the year, and I hope to see the same (and more!) in the future.



Freeman House



F

Year 12 Profiles

Ash Jones

What's your favourite subject?

French or Physics

What are your plans for after Year 12?

Probably to go to Uni for teaching or social work

What's an imaginary subject that you wish you could take?

Creative writing on it's own where you can write whatever you want

What's your dream job?

A full time streamer or youtuber

If you could choose any two famous people to have dinner with, who would it be?

Ranboo and Tubbo, they match my awkwardness

If you were a wrestler what would your entrance theme song be?

Riot by Hollywood Undead

If you were a vegetable, what do you think you would be?

A cutecumber Imao



Connor Noble

What's your favourite subject?

Lunch Time

What are your plans for after Year 12?

Idk. Gap year and figure out what I want to do.

What's an imaginary subject that you wish you could take?

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What's your dream job?

An airline pilot

If you could choose any two famous people to have dinner with, who would it be?

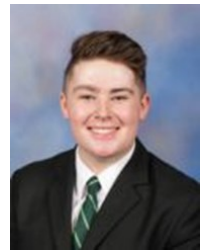
Billie Eilish and George Ezra

If you were a wrestler what would your entrance theme song be?

Levitating (feat. DaBaby)

If you were a vegetable, what do you think you would be?

A cucumber



Madeline Aujard

What's your favourite subject?

Legal Studies

What are your plans for after Year 12?

University and travel (hopefully)

What's an imaginary subject that you wish you could take?

Forensic Ballistics

What's your dream job?

Prosecutor or Crime Scene Analyst

If you could choose any two famous people to have dinner with, who would it be?

Emma Watson and Meryl Streep

If you were a wrestler what would your entrance theme song be?

Hell You Raised - Mae Estes

If you were a vegetable, what do you think you would be?

Butternut Pumpkin



Georgia Linnett

What's your favourite subject?

Health and Human Development

What are your plans for after Year 12?

Nursing

What's an imaginary subject that you wish you could take?

A class for sleeping

What's your dream job?

Emergency Nurse

If you could choose any two famous people to have dinner with, who would it be?

Mark Harmon and Carrie Fisher

If you were a wrestler what would your entrance theme song be?

The Imperial March

If you were a vegetable, what do you think you would be?

Sweet Potato



Hollows House



HOUSE LEADER INTRODUCTION

As a result of Mr Scott Conte's move to Acting Assistant Principal this semester, I would like to formally introduce myself as Hollows House Leader.



I have previously been a Mentor Teacher and Assistant House Leader in Hollows and share a great passion for the success of the House and its students.

I have been enjoying working alongside the Hollows Assistant House Leaders, Ms Rajpal Kaur and Ms Kelly McGrath, and the Hollows Mentor Teachers to support our students at Blackburn High School.

I would like to welcome back Ms Louisa Pennell who is returning from maternity leave and also welcome our new Hollows staff, Mr Jihan Heenkenda and Ms Diane Patron.

Sadly, we are farewelling Ms Jacqui Bennett who has been a great Mentor to H6 for the last semester. Mr Heenkenda will be taking on the role of Mentor Teacher for H6.

As a community we are continuing to navigate the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. Entering another difficult period of lockdown 6.0 - we are all extremely proud of how our Hollows students are taking these interruptions and challenges in their stride!

Laura Brock, Hollows House Leader

HOUSE VALUES AWARDS

Respect, Pursuit of Excellence and Citizenship are the values that we believe encapsulate our school community. This year many Hollows students have gone above and beyond this year to demonstrate these values. We would like to congratulate the following students on receiving a House Citizenship award:

Daisy Johnstone, Rina Yamamoto, Ashley Ryan, Indyah Chaffer, Jake McCall, Billi Malekovic, Tabitha Orlando, Cassie Rowell, Max Natrass, Lachlan Blunden, Will Johnson, Boyce Ma, Amelia Vicente, Jamie Ryan, Alanis Yim.

Congratulations and keep up the fantastic work!

HOUSE CAPTAIN

What a rollercoaster Term 3 has been. With school alternating between remote and on campus learning, the true resilient spirit of the Blackburn community has arisen. Not only have students remained dedicated and focused on their learning but the amazing faculty and staff at Blackburn have remained committed and driven to assist every student in their learning during these challenging times.



Hollows has never been more united as a House tackling Covid head on with stride. Not only have we stayed connected as a House through Teams and Mentor Group, but while on campus the start of our House competition the Hol-lympics saw the 16 Mentor Groups compete against each other in a series of challenges and games to win points for their Mentor Group. With the return to campus we will see to the completion of the Hol-lympics and the rest of the school year.

Jake Mc Call

Hollows House



H

YEAR 12 PROFILES

Name: Taya Crupi

What's your favourite animal? Dog

Hidden talent? Double jointed thumbs

Been at Blackburn since: 2016

What's your favourite subject? Food Studies

Favourite part of Remote Learning? Sleeping In

If you won a million dollars, what would you do? Go shopping

What is at the top of your bucket list? Travel

Favourite quote? "No one can look this good in the morning but me" - EETS

Who is your hero? My mum

Plans for next year? Start my real estate course



Name: Elena Clochiatti

What's your favourite animal? Giraffe

Hidden talent? Drawing cartoons – sketching

Been at Blackburn since: Year 7

What's your favourite subject? Psychology

Favourite part of Remote Learning? Listening to music on my speaker

If you won a million dollars, what would you do? Donate as much as I can, then save.

What is at the top of your bucket list? Drive in an old school car blasting music with a friend.

Silliest thing you've been tricked into believing? Looking up at the roof when someone said it says 'gullible'

Favourite quote? 'The world is merciless and it's also very beautiful.'

Who is your hero? Diana Prince (Wonder Woman)

Plans for next year? Hopefully go to Uni, hang out with friends and go to Japan



Name: Keeley Ronalds-Greatbatch

What's your favourite animal? Grizzly Bear

Hidden talent? I can drink two Up & Go's in 60 seconds

Been at Blackburn since: 2016 (year 7)

What's your favourite subject? History

Favourite part of Remote Learning? Sleeping in

If you won a million dollars, what would you do? Open a term deposit and invest in stocks

What is at the top of your bucket list? Going to Dubai

Silliest thing you've been tricked into believing? That high school is scary

Favourite quote? "We hurt ourselves because we obsess about the end of our journeys. Focus on staying in the moment, on being grateful for where you are today" – S.McNutt

Who is your hero? Ozzy Osbourne

Plans for next year? Going to college in America to play baseball and study criminology



Melba House



HOUSE LEADER INTRODUCTION

Whilst there was much hope for a settled start to Term 3, the ongoing Covid-19 situation has once more presented our students, families and staff with a number of challenges.

Despite this, I am again so proud of everyone for the resilience they continue to show in transitioning between onsite and remote learning. Whilst acknowledging that this has caused some disruptions, our students have demonstrated a strong commitment to doing their personal best for which they are to be congratulated.

In the time that students have been onsite, there have been many exciting things happening within Melba House. Our student leadership team has done a wonderful job in rebranding the annual Melba House Fundraiser which had been postponed due to the current lockdown period. Unable to conduct the BBQ, the Melba student leadership team sold over 500 raffle tickets with all proceeds going directly to supporting the

important work conducted by the Eastern Emergency Relief Network. In addition to this, there have been challenges taking place between Mentor Groups as part of the Mentor program.

I would like to welcome David Morris and Marina Taylor as new additions to the Melba House staff team. David has taken on the role of Mentor Teacher for M3 and Marina the M11 Mentor Teacher. Claire Greve and Emma Dickson have moved on from Blackburn High School and are working in other educational settings. Both Clare and Emma were fantastic contributors to Melba House and they will be missed.

Finally, I encourage all parents and students to continue to communicate regularly with their Mentor Teacher. We have many options available to support students when there are concerns during either remote or onsite learning.

Adrian Ferres, Melba House Leader

ACHIEVEMENTS AND RECOGNITION

The following students have been nominated as recipients of the House Value Awards for Semester 1. These students have demonstrated outstanding Respect, Pursuit Of Excellence & Citizenship. We congratulate them and will officially acknowledge their achievements at a future house assembly.

Beatrix Hiep	Oscar Valle
Dev Kulkarni	Sebastian Valle
Anthony Saramandif	Ashleigh Perkin
Vrishan Kanakuntla	Zayde Potter
Lingesh Ravivarman	Joey Traficante
Jack Sutherland	Mitch Hooper



Melba House



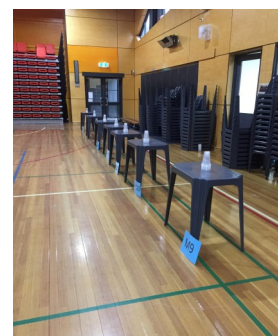
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MENTOR GROUPS—FUN FRIDAY

As part of Fun Friday all Mentor Groups competed in a cup stacking challenge and, with M9 & M15 tied, a play-off final was held.

Over a 10 minute period the students from M9 & M15 went head to head with the challenge streamed live into all other Mentor Groups. When the timer went, both groups had completed 36 stacks and the score was tied again.

Both Mentor Groups will receive a pizza lunch when we return onsite. Well done to Mr Mullarvey, Ms Dare and their students!



We would like to take this opportunity to share with you some information about our fantastic year 12 cohort.

Name: Umesh Ravivarman

Been at BHS since: Year 7 (2016)

Favourite Subjects: Chemistry and P.E

Plans for next year: Study at Melbourne or Monash University

Favourite food: Lamb Kottu

Favourite colour: Maroon

Favourite animal: Panther

If you won a million dollars, what would you do? Travel and invest

What are you most looking forward to this year? Tokyo Olympics and Graduation

What is at the top of your bucket list? Touring the Pyramids of Giza

If you could live anywhere, where would it be? San Diego, California



Melba House



M

Year 12 Reflection:

Georgia Ord-Steel, Melba House Captain

I don't think I can take full credit for where I am right now as a Year 12 student or as a House Captain. I think everything I have done has gone through at least 10 people before it sees the light of day. Every idea I have had this year hasn't been brain to mouth, it's been text messages, emails and snaps saying "Hey if you get a chance can you read over this and tell me what you think" and that's the best way I can describe Year 12 up until now.

A lot of this year has been very unclear, formal? No formal? Fundraiser? No fundraiser? GAT, no GAT. Throughout this year though, the teachers continue to boost our motivation and mood through a computer screen and try to keep us as positive as they can because they didn't expect this kind of year either.

It's been a blur, and to think we are closer to the end of this year than when we started is scary and exciting. I remember being asked back in April— at the end of this year how successful do I think I will be, and I put myself to succeed 100%. I don't know whether my ATAR will be the highest, or all my goals will be achieved. It doesn't matter because I'll have been proud of myself regardless - I will have been proud of sticking to my priorities, caring for my friends and myself. I sit hoping that all the stressing and pushing gets us all somewhere

we want to be, ATAR or not.

When trying to sum it up, I think about the tiny unaccountable things. I

think about my Mentor Group and how much I hope they will be okay next year, and I hope they stay as tight as every year previously. I think about the fact I won't be joking with my friends about not being able to be tanned after summer. I think about having to buy a thesaurus because I can't yell "I need another word for this". I think about the people that make me laugh and smile every day and especially my teachers that have pushed me even when I've hit a wall.

This whole year has been a countdown from Day 1: a countdown until we get our jumpers, formal, 18ths, SACs, exams, the end. It's a huge clock ticking down every moment and it's full on, its hurry up and wait. But it's also the most amount of fun I've ever had.

This year has taught me to be adaptable, it's taught me to speak up, it's taught me asking for help is okay and it's taught me to tell people how much I care about them. I don't really have long left as a Year 12, three months to be exact. But that's 12 weeks, 84 days, 2016 hours and even if it's all one big ranking scale at the end, I don't think any of it means anything compared to what I have really learned and how much of it was because of the people around me.



CERAMICS



Year 8 Ceramics



Year 10 Ceramics



Year 9 Ceramics



Year 9 Ceramics



Year 9 Ceramics



Year 9 Ceramics

Year 8 Art



MUSIC



Lunchtime fun—Music Lollapalooza

Thursday, 5th August, a little before Lockdown 6:0 was announced



GREEN TEAM



PLEDGE WEEK

Pledge Week started at Blackburn High School in 2018 as a way to get us to think about our daily choices and how they can affect the environment. We asked all teachers and students to pledge something achievable that they could do – either just for the week, or even a longer-term change – that will have a positive effect on the world around us. If every person makes one small change that benefits the world around us, this can have a much larger collective impact!

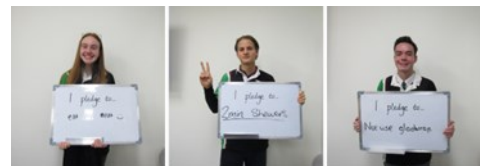
Even though our week was sadly interrupted by lockdown, we still had so many staff and students make pledges this year. We also had some activities during Mentor Group to learn about the environmental impact of certain choices. Some other classes got involved too, including translating pledges into French or German during the week.

Thank you to everyone who supported Pledge Week this year and contributed your positive changes.

The little things that we do can make an impact, and can encourage those around you to make choices that will help the environment as well. By working together, we can make the world around us a healthier place to live!

Ms Kelly McGrath

Chewing gum is 25% plastic!

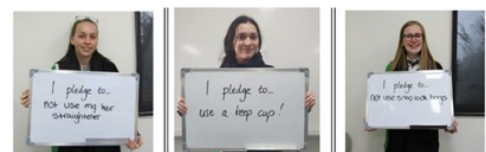


Student Leaders' Pledges!



Leadership Legends!

Eating healthier meals with more fresh vegetables can reduce your carbon footprint!



Your Pledge can make a difference!

SPORT



WHITEHORSE DIVISION & EASTERN METROPOLITAN REGION SPORTS

Intermediate Girls AFL had a great day out! We played 3 games, with everyone playing a range of positions, and some fantastic goal scorers throughout the day! Well done to everyone, all our games were close up until the last minute! Unfortunately, we came away with no wins but lots of smiles and fun was had!

The Year 7 and Year 8 Girls competed at the Eastern Metropolitan Region Netball finals on Wednesday, 4th August. Both teams participated in a round robin competition representing the Whitehorse Division and played 3 games each. The girls came up against some tough competition from some of the sporting schools in our region, but put up a great fight against them. They demonstrated fantastic sportsmanship and had a lot of fun along the way. Thank you to our student coaches - Mia Barrett, Jamie Ryan, Olivia Roche and Gabby Cotroneo - who displayed great leadership and maturity during the day

Ms Ashleigh Hosier

Intermediate Girls AFL



Year 7 Girls Netball



Year 8 Girls Netball

LANGUAGES



FRENCH MODEL UN

On 19 July 2021, Rina Yamamoto, Anthony Saramandif, Anna Smiichuk and Aarshi Chaatwal participated in the French Model UN Online with numerous other schools around the State. The topic to be discussed was Combating Climate Change – Committing to Global Action.

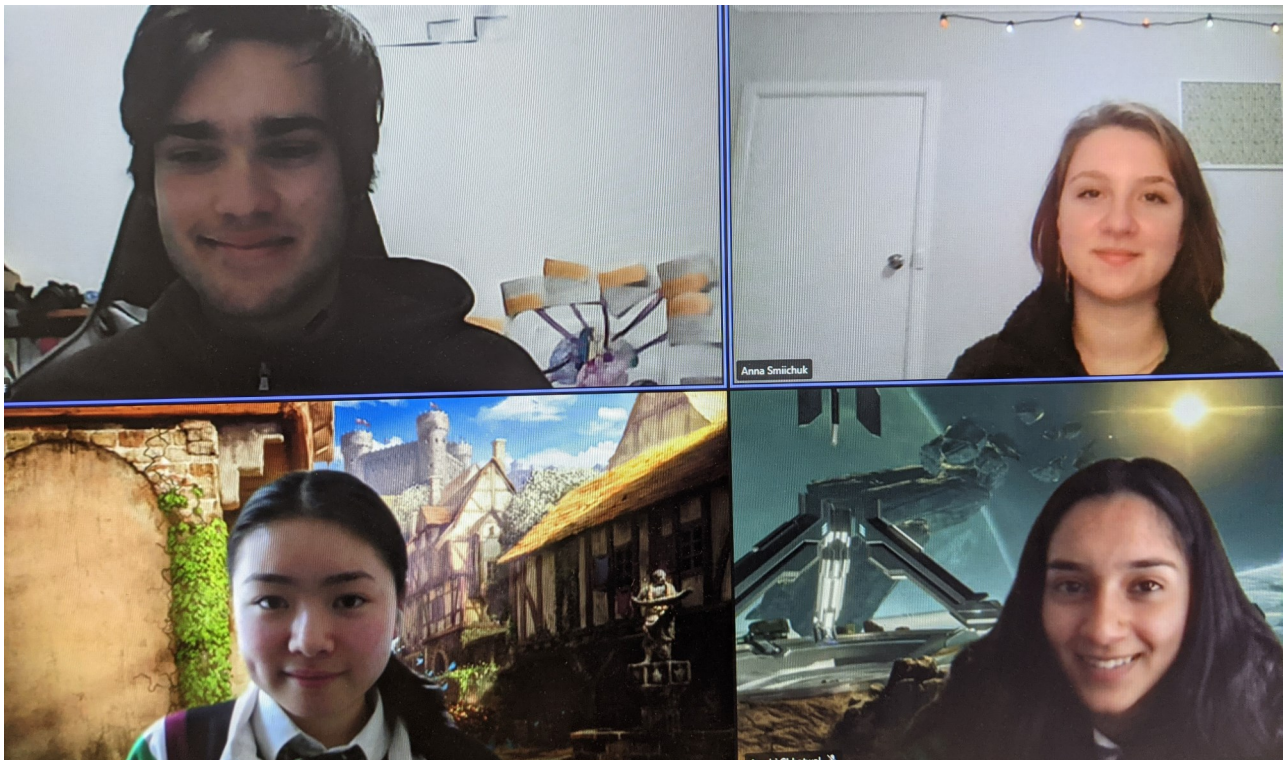
Prior to event, the BHS Team had to create a position statement for their assigned country, Iran, then view the position statements from other French teams (UN Delegate countries) from around Victoria to determine potential allies.

Together on the day, they proposed Amendments to the Draft Resolution in the “General Assembly Hall” and worked together (and sometimes in opposition) with other schools to eventually create a UN Resolution that was passed.

Feedback from the Secretary-General, Model UN organisers and language assistants was that they were very impressed with the students and their level of participation – especially with the added remote learning factor thrown in at the last minute! These students demonstrated exceptional organisational and collaboration skills.

A big congratulations to these students for all their efforts and participation in the event!

Madame Pochinco



WELLBEING



WELLBEING—OUR TEAM

We'd like to take this opportunity to introduce the members of our Wellbeing Team. We are here to support our students every day, whether at school or working remotely from home.

Wellbeing is for **all** students. We as a team are about helping students build resilience and providing them with the skills they need to be at their best. Whether they are preparing for an exam, a sporting final or a music examination, we can offer tips to help.

Our role at the school is to provide students with the knowledge that we have to help them to understand what to do in different situations they will be faced with throughout their time at school and beyond. Students are at the heart of everything we do and we will be looking to help parents with tips and tricks for how to help students during lockdown, helping them remain engaged and working toward their goals at school.

For those that are having a little more difficulty with engagement or anything else, we have a **referral program** at the school and you just need to enquire with your student's Mentor Teacher who will be able to start the process for you. We can then help to see what your child may need and assist you with that.

Tips during lockdown

Try to create a **routine**, 'control the controllables.'

Vitamin D – if your child isn't a fan of exercise that is ok however, maybe ask them to have their lunch outside each day 'weather permitting' and just let them soak in that goodness.

Just Dance - kids pick up a lot from their parents/guardians and their environment and it isn't always easy to remain calm when we have a lot going on ourselves. My challenge for you is that, for 10 minutes of an evening, each person in your family picks an uplifting song they like and plays it really loud to get everyone dancing. It will quickly make you forget your worries when you see the laughter this results in. Trust me, I have made this a staple in my family evenings.

Something to reflect on

