



Blackburn High School

18th December 2020

ISSUE SIX

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Principal's Report

It has been a privilege to lead Blackburn High School in 2020 and, in this final week of the school year, I would like to reflect on the amazing resilience and innovation of our students, staff and parents.

The COVID-19 pandemic compelled us to use online platforms to communicate and collaborate and it was a steep learning curve for all of us. However, we were up for the challenge and did not miss a beat, ensuring that all the important school events were conducted remotely, such as the Student Progress Conferences, Year 10 Pathways Interviews, VCE Parent Information Sessions, Student Leadership Interviews, 2021 Year 7 Transition Information Presentations, House Assemblies, Webinars, Presentation Day Awards, Virtual School Tours, Staff Meetings and School Council Meetings.

High quality learning and teaching was maintained throughout the remote period as attested by the student and parent feedback. I was impressed by the innovation and creativity demonstrated by the students and staff and it was heartening to hear about the positive remote learning experiences within practical subjects such as Food Studies, Science, Music and PE.

The parent community have always been important partners in ensuring that our students are supported and in 2020, this relationship was enhanced due to the COVID interrupted year. I would like to thank and

acknowledge the work of the School Council and the subcommittees, ably led by School Council President Mr Geoff Hugo. Well done too, to the elected student School Council representatives, Ryan Stevens and Kuafia Sindhu for their positive contribution throughout 2020.

This year, we received fantastic news from the Andrews' State Government, confirming that we had funding for a 10 million-dollar Blackburn High School STEM Centre of Excellence. I would like to acknowledge the local State Member for Box Hill, Mr Paul Hamer for his work behind the scenes to get this building project approved. The STEM Centre will provide state of the art Science and Technology rooms that will excite and motivate our students and transform their learning experiences. The architects, Tectura, will complete the schematic design at the end of this year and the building phase will commence in 2021.

Thank you to the dedicated teachers, education support staff and the leadership team who have worked tirelessly to provide a supportive and encouraging school environment throughout the year. I hope that our students, families and staff have a safe Christmas break and return re-energised for the start of the new year in 2021.

*Mrs Joanna Alexander
Principal*





Presentation Day

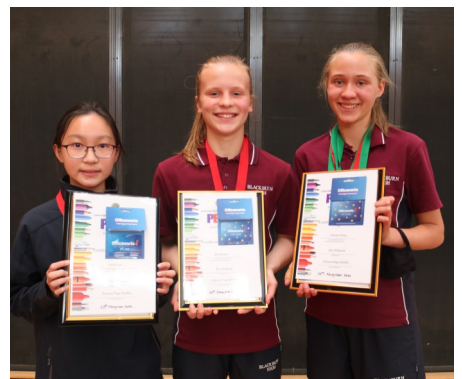


Year 7 Award winners

Presentation Day was held on Wednesday, 9th December in the Gym and streamed live to students and teachers across the school. Thank you to Ms Sam Clifton for her work organising the event and awards, the Integration team and Mr Bruce Wolstenholme for setting up the venue, Mr Mullarvey and the Tech team for filming and streaming the event, Ms Brock and Mr Baxter for presenting awards. Congratulations to all the award recipients.



Year 8 Award winners



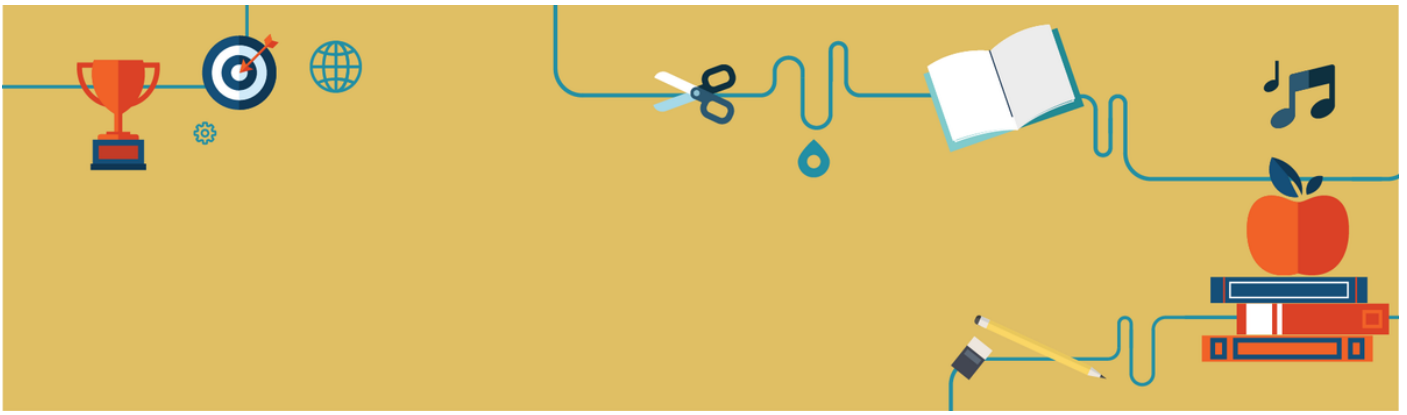
Peace Prize Award winners; Yeleb Lim, Isla Moore, Charity Onley



Junior Instrumental Award winners: Luisa Hickey, Sehyun An, Charlotte Arblaster, Yuinn Mun Lai, Harrison Martin (not pictured—Benjamin Holt)



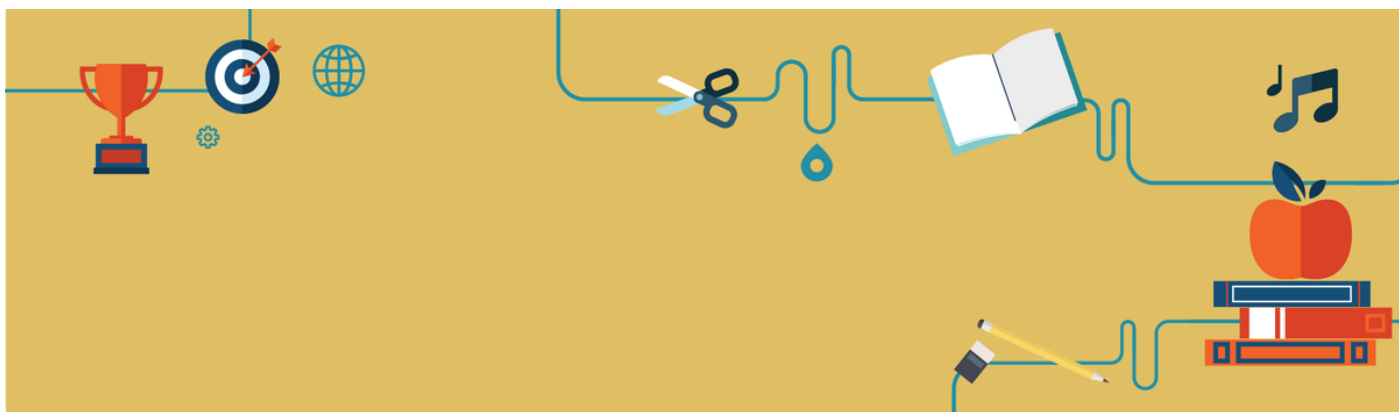
BHS Junior Citizenship Award: Charity Onley, Pia Tripathi



Year 9 Award winners



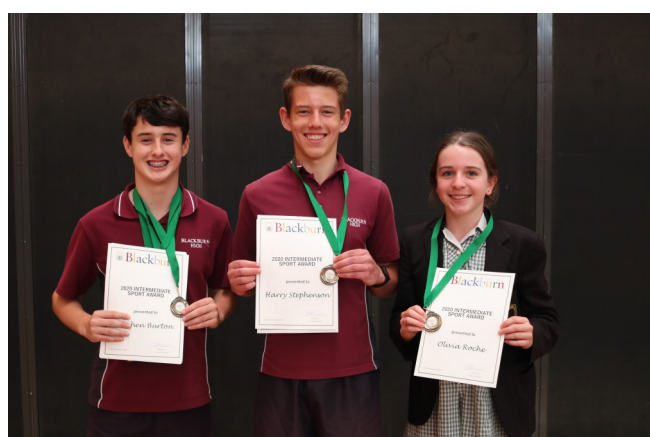
Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award winners



Year 10 Award winners



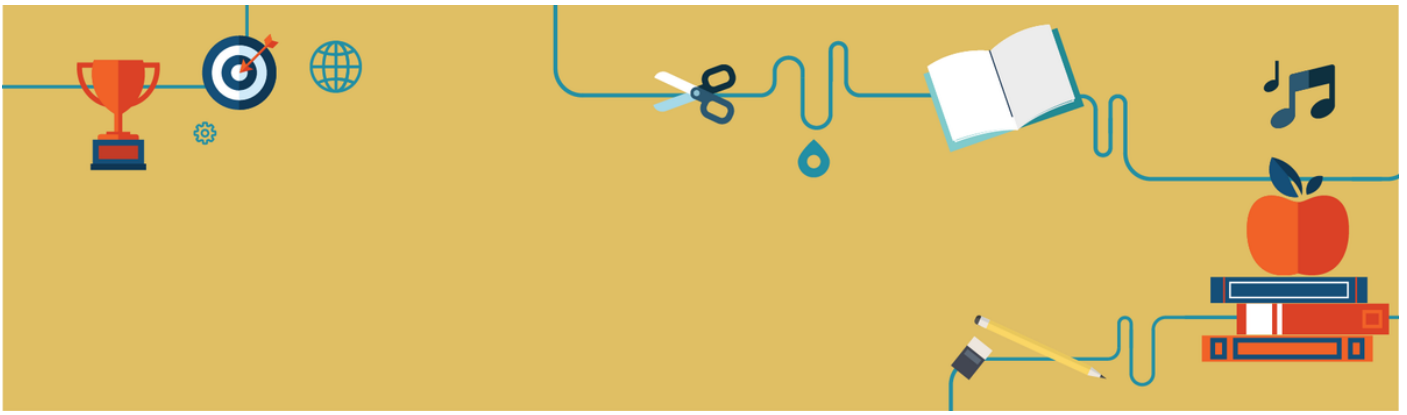
Year 11 Award winners



Intermediate Sports Awards: Stephen Burton, Harry Stephenson, Olivia Roche



Senior Sports Awards: Joel Carter, Mikayla Freeman, Millie Castor (BHS Sports Star of the Year), Elise McWilliams, Leo Dykes



Chisholm Shield: Rachael Curwen (Academia), Georgia Myers (Community Service), Tess Hickey (Music Leadership— not pictured)



Charman Partners Accounting Scholarships: Flynn Johnson (U3/4), Harry Glenn (U1/2)



Senior Instrumental Music awards: Dae Kim Ong, Nicole Xie. Not pictured— Nathan Wong, Joshua Elrom, Mona Zhang, Nyah Humphries-Crouch.



Year 12 Award winners



2021 School Leaders



D

Dunlop House

I would like to wish everyone in Dunlop House a happy and safe festive season. It has been a very difficult year but I am immensely proud of the Dunlop and Blackburn High School communities for how we have managed under the circumstances thrown at us. We will hopefully look back one day and remember things we have learnt from this experience that may help us in our lives.

I would like to wish our departing staff farewell. Ms Samia Masters will be moving closer to home and we thank Samia for her work in Dunlop House and her Food Studies classes. Ms Laura Brock will move to the role of *Leading Teacher – Transition* and will move to Freeman House. A huge thank you to Laura for her

work as Assistant House Leader. We will welcome Mr Kris Burrige to the Assistant House Leader role next year. Finally, Mr Joseph Sexton (Integration Aide) will be departing Blackburn High School this year. We wish Joseph well in the continuation of his studies.

Also a huge thank you to Ms Loula Tarenides – our hardworking and friendly Dunlop House Administration Assistant. Loula is always there to help students, parents and staff with their organisation.

*Mr Mark Pasquali,
Proud Dunlop House Leader.*





D

Dunlop House



Name: Jayden Weller
Been at BHS since: 2015
Favourite Subject: Physics
Favourite Food: Meat Pie
What is something you are proud of?
Writing my name on the graph page of the calculator.
Who is your hero?
Shawn Long
If you could live anywhere, where would it be? Sydney



Name: Willow Woodman
Been at BHS since: 2015
Favourite Subject: Music Styles and Composition
Favourite Food: Sushi
What is at the top of your bucket list?
Travelling around Europe
Who is your hero?
Eric Klay
If you could live anywhere, where would it be?
Norway, Sweden, Canada or Australia



Name: Sophia Lai
Been at BHS since: 2015
Favourite Subject: French
Favourite Food: Pizza
What are you most looking forward to this year?
Graduating with a good ATAR.
What is something you are proud of?
I can speak 4 languages; Mandarin, English, Cantonese & French (though I am not very fluent at French)



Name: Yesha Parikh
Been at BHS since: Year 9
Favourite Subject: Chemistry
Plans for next year: Health Science of Medicine
Favourite Food: Pasta
What is something you are proud of?
I am proud that I am helpful to everyone
Who is your hero?
My Dad



Name: Shakira Dumonic-Robson
Been at BHS since: Year 7
Favourite Subject: Health
Plans for next year:
Go to Monash and do OT
Favourite Food: Bruschetta
If you won a million dollars, what would you do?
Buy a house, Gucci bag and go on a shopping spree, travel and buy a Mini Cooper.
Who is your hero? My Mum



Name: Amber Lim
Been at BHS since: Year 7
Favourite Subject: Studio Arts
What are you most looking forward to this year?
Spending my final year with people I love.
What is something you are proud of?
Becoming a better and happier person compared to last year, and being closer to friends.
Who is your hero?
Myself, for being able to get through everyday no matter how tough.



Name: Krystal Wu
Been at BHS since: 2017
Favourite Subject: Accounting
Favourite Animal: Cat
What are you most looking forward to this year?
Get a high score in VCE.
What is at the top of your bucket list?
Music Concert
If you could live anywhere, where would it be? China

MEET OUR YEAR 12S

Finishing our series of Year 12 profiles



D

Dunlop House



Name: Caitlin Olthof
Been at BHS since: 2015 (Year 7)
Favourite Subject: Philosophy
Plans for next year:
Go to Monash and do a Bachelor of Arts along with a Diploma of Languages
Favourite Food: Cheese
What is at the top of your bucket list?
Travel around the world.
If you could live anywhere, where would it be? France



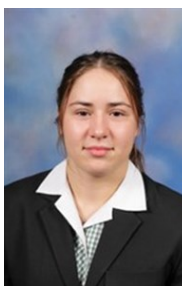
Name: Rebecca Botha
Been at BHS since: 2015 (Year 7)
Favourite Subject: Visual Communication/Philosophy
Plans for next year:
Go to Uni to do Architecture Design
Favourite Food: Mango
What is something you are proud of?
I survived cancer twice and went through Scoliosis operation.



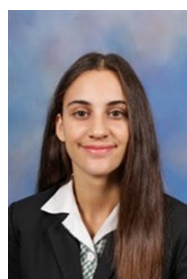
Name: Harrison Burke
Been at BHS since: 2013
Favourite Subject: Duke of Ed
Plans for next year: Uni, multiple part time jobs including a placement in a financial firm.
Favourite Animal: Lion
If you won a million dollars what would you do?
Buy a rally car, put a mortgage down on a nice house next to the beach and a Versace robe.



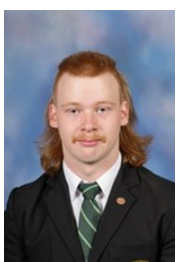
Name: Stan Filippis
Been at BHS since: Year 7
Favourite Subject: Psychology
Favourite Colour: Red
Plans for next year:
Study paramedics in Vic Uni and to create a business.
Favourite Food: Chicken Parma
What is something you are proud of?
Becoming a black belt in Karate after training for 13 years.



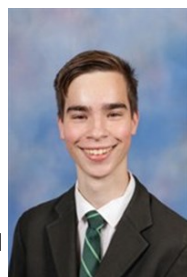
Name: Tamara Savic
Been at BHS since: 2015
Favourite Food: Spaghetti
Favourite Animal: Monkey
What is something you are proud of?
Piano achievements
What is at the top of your bucket list?
Skydiving
Who is your hero? Spiderman



Name: Daphne Papamichael
Been at BHS since: Year 7 (2015)
Favourite Subject: Legal Studies
Plans for next year:
Go to University (Sports Science or Law)
Favourite Food: Tacos
What is at the top of your bucket list?
Go to an NBA game.
If you could live anywhere, where would it be? America/ Aus or Greece



Name: Jordan Rennie
Been at BHS since: 2013
Favourite Subject: Duke of Ed
Plans for next year:
Carpentry Apprenticeship
Favourite Food: Chinese Food
What are you most looking forward to this year?
Getting my P's, finishing school, camping and getting an apprenticeship
If you could live anywhere, where would it be? Bonnie Doon



Name: Luke Ferrier
Been at BHS since: Year 9
Favourite Subject: Specialist Math/ Methods
Favourite Food: Carbonara
What is at the top of your bucket list?
Work at Google, Spotify, Amazon or Facebook
Who is your hero?
My parents
If you could live anywhere, where would it be? New York



F

Freeman House

Congratulations on getting through a turbulent and challenging school year. It has been nice to return to some sort of normality and refreshing to have the school lively with students and staff. Thank you to all parents, students and staff who supported each other in getting through this 2020 year. It would have been nearly impossible to deliver a remote curriculum without the assistance of so many people.

On 8th December we welcomed our 2021 Year 7's for an Orientation Day to familiarise themselves with Blackburn High School. It was a fun day where our new students were able to meet others like themselves through a variety of activities.

I would like to acknowledge the work of Ms Shona McEnaney who has overseen Freeman Mentor Group 2 for a number of years. She is moving on to take up the position of Assistant Principal at another school, and the Freeman family wish her luck in the next chapter of her teaching career. We also say farewell to Ms Rebecca Reber who will be moving across to Hollows to take up the reins as Mentor teacher of H16. A special mention to Ms Bronwyn Roach who will not be continuing as Assistant House Leader next year. Ms Roach has been Assistant House Leader since the inception of the House system and has been fantastic in her role throughout the years. She has been pivotal in developing the culture in Freeman and we are fortunate to have her remain in the House.

Attendance Raffle

On Friday, 11th December, we conducted the Freeman attendance raffle where we drew three names out who have outstanding levels of attendance. Congratulations to the following students and we will give them their prizes when we return to school in 2021:

Emily McCrohan
Dravin Kahal
Alex Qu



On behalf of the Freeman staff I would like to wish everyone a safe and restful break. We look forward to working with you all next year in what will hopefully be a normal school year.

*Mr Liam Tobin
Freeman House Leader*



H

Hollows House

HELLO

2021 UPDATES

Congratulations to everyone on navigating a very challenging 2020 school year.

We will have many changes within Hollows House moving into 2021. I would like to extend an enormous thank you and good luck to the following staff:

Ms Dianne Cullinan, our House Administration Assistant who will be leaving Blackburn High School at the end of the year. Welcome to Ms Hayley Jones, who joins us from her position at the General office.

Mr Brendan Greenwell, classroom teacher and Mentor teacher of H4, who has accepted a Learning Specialist position elsewhere.

Ms Sharon Gardner-Drummond, classroom teacher and Mentor teacher of H15, who has accepted a position

elsewhere.

Mr Rod Bate, who now moves to our rival Freeman House to continue his role as an Assistant House Leader.

And also Mr Kris Burridge, classroom teacher and Mentor teacher of H6, who is transferring to Dunlop House to try his hand at the Assistant House Leader position.

Congratulations to Ms Kelly Mcgrath who will be taking on the Hollows Assistant House Leader role, together with Ms Rajpal Kaur.

I would also like to welcome new Mentor teachers: Ms Jacqui Bennett (H6), Mr Mike Hall (H4) and Ms Rebecca Reber (H16) to the Hollows family.



ATTENDANCE RAFFLE

On Friday, 11th December Hollows House took part in its quarterly attendance raffle. Similar to our last raffle we dusted off the electronic spinning wheel and streamed it live through Microsoft Teams. Well done to Astrid Botha (H6), Grace Mullenger (H15) and Drew Aiono (H1) who were the lucky and deserving recipients of the prize. All three were among a group of 106 Hollows students who maintained an attendance rate of well over 90% during the second semester.





H

Hollows House

Luke smith

What's your favourite animal?

Ants

Been at Blackburn since:

Year 7

What's your favourite subject?

Visual Communications

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

Invest

What is something you are proud of?

Being a real person

If you could live anywhere, where would it be?

Melbourne



Dom Russo

What's your favourite animal?

Dog

Been at Blackburn since:

Year 7

What's your favourite subject?

Media

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

Buy a house

What is something you are proud of?

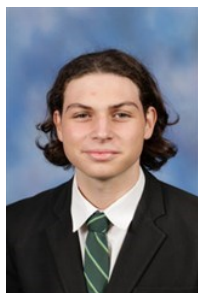
Being on top of things in my life

Who is your hero?

Grandparents

If you could live anywhere, where would it be?

Italy



MEET OUR YEAR 12S

Finishing our series of Year 12 profiles

Jericha Edillion

What's your favourite animal?

Koala

Been at Blackburn since:

Year 7

What's your favourite subject?

Physical Education

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

Invest the majority and give some away to those who need it if I have extra.

What are you most looking forward to this year?

Graduating

What is something you are proud of?

Surviving this far

What is at the top of your bucket list?

Winning the claw machine

Who is your hero?

SpongeBob SquarePants

If you could live anywhere, where would it be?

Anywhere my family and friends are

Plans for next year?

Going into uni to do a midwifery course



HAPPY HOLIDAYS

On behalf of the Hollows staff I would like to wish everyone a safe and enjoyable break. We look forward to seeing all students return rejuvenated and ready to learn in 2021.

Happy Holidays!

*Mr Scott Conte
Hollows House Leaders*



M

Melba House



END OF 2020

What a year 2020 has been for students, staff and families of Melba House.

The academic year started just like any other with a mix of excitement and nerves for 44 Year 7 students starting their secondary education. Much excitement also surrounded the Year 12 Melba cohort who were embarking on their final year at Blackburn High School. As it played out, the next 11 months were completely unpredictable and constantly changing as we all adapted to the combination of remote and onsite learning.

The effort, resilience and flexibility demonstrated by the Melba students, families and staff during these unprecedented times is something that I am incredibly proud of and really do want to thank everyone for their support during 2020. This has been an exceptionally challenging year for all of us at different stages, but is hopefully one where we can reflect upon and know that by working together we are able to overcome whatever challenges come our way.

A big thank you to all of the Melba Mentor teachers who have played a pivotal role in supporting their students across the year. I would like to acknowledge the work of Mr John Richards, Ms Eryn Mitchell, Ms Marianne Rigby and Ms Johanna Healy who are either going on leave or moving on from Melba House in 2021.

Best of luck to our Year 12 students with their future endeavours and I wish everyone a safe holiday break. We look forward to working with all of our Melba students in 2021.

*Mr Adrian Ferres,
Melba House Leader.*

YEAR 7 ORIENTATION DAY

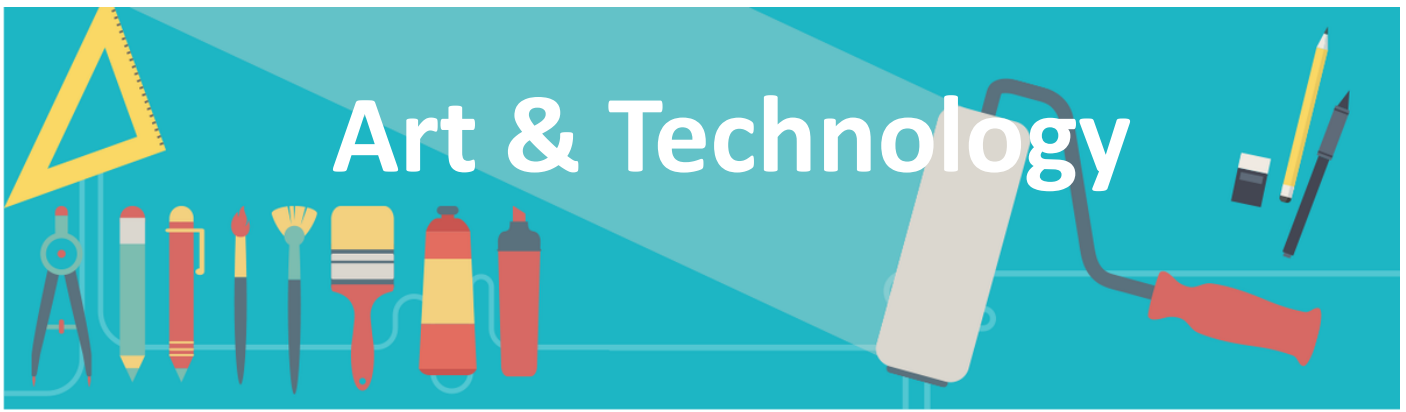
Tuesday, 8th December was the Statewide Orientation Day for 2021 Year 7 students. This day involves a lot of work from a lot of people - a big thank you to all staff who helped out with the two Melba classes on the day. It is a high energy day and it was fantastic to see so many beaming faces and the enthusiasm with which the staff ran activities. I would also like to acknowledge Georgia Ord-Steel, Isabelle Jones and Naima Gerald who presented at the Melba 2021 Year 7 Parent Information Night.

ATTENDANCE RAFFLE

Throughout the year we conduct attendance raffles to acknowledge students who have outstanding rates of attendance. Congratulations to the following students who have received a prize during the most recent raffle:

- Ella Hunter
- Jordyn Kourmadias
- Markus To





Art & Technology

LIONS INTERNATIONAL PEACE POSTER COMPETITION 2020

This year, four Year 7 Art classes took part in the Lions International Peace Poster Competition.

The Peace Poster competition is one of many Lions Club youth programs that aims to provide opportunities for self-development, education, contribution and achievement for young people.

This year the theme was 'Peace through Service'.
The three finalists chosen by the Arts staff were:

- 1st - Isla Moore
- 2nd - Yeleb Lim
- 3rd - Charity Onley

The three posters then joined other local schools for the Regional Judging Night on the 23rd November. Isla Moore's poster came first and Charity Onley's came fourth on the night.

Isla Moore's poster then moved onto the District Judging where she came first again. She will now move onto the National Competition.

This is a massive achievement and we wish her the best of luck!

Ms Brittany Milner
Art & Technology Teacher



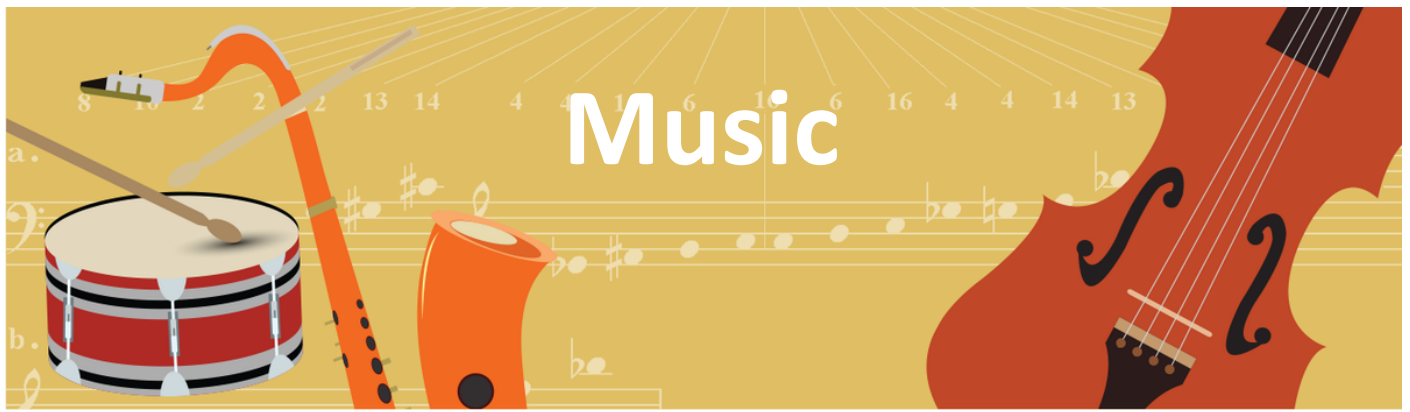
Isla Moore H4



Yeleb Lim H8



Charity Onley H7



Blackburn High School Music Concert Series

The students and ensembles of Blackburn High School cannot perform live to audiences at the moment, so we have taken it online with the release of the first two of our online concert series. Featuring soloists and ensembles from across the program the concerts provide a taste of the great work that our musical community has been undertaking. You can view them at <https://youtu.be/4BWWUJ8Rm4w> and <https://youtu.be/m1u5rZiWWW4>

Soirées

As they prepare for the end of the year, our VCE students have been presenting their final performances in a range of soirées. Normally these outstanding performances would be presented as public performances. In 2020 they have been shown to small groups and as live streams to family and friends. This has not diminished the standard of work however. A great job to all.

Let Freedom Swing

Some of our Year 7s recently participated in a program called 'Let Freedom Swing' run by Lincoln Centre in New York. Due to COVID the program was held online this year with students from around the world learning about the blues and submitting ideas and questions that were then turned into an Election Day concert streamed from New York. One of our students, Akeira Somphananpanya had part of her text read out towards the end of the concert. The concert can be viewed at <https://youtu.be/TZZr5-VANqA>

Time to play some music

Haven't joined the music program yet, but would like to? We are currently offering a small number of places to students who may not have joined at the beginning of Year 7, but would now like to. More information about the program can be found at :

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=YDrWxqeZ90SXskg8nwcksrc7iFqm63VMuyZWwAFsR8JUME9QQUZIQUe3SjBUNK9ERzJMVOQzTk5TTyQIQCN0PWcu>

Re-enrolments

The instrumental music re enrolment process for 2021 is well underway and information should have been sent to all students and families. If you have any questions about this, please contact the music secretary Maureen Saliba.

Mr Jason Ziino
Director of Music





Farewell

We would like to acknowledge the Year 12 students who have been part of the Music program throughout their school years here and the contribution that they have made to the

program. Although 2020 was not what they, or anyone, would have anticipated, this group of students will be leaving with many great experiences and memories. We wish them all the best for the future and remind them that they will always be part of the Blackburn music family.

ASBOF Festival

Our lovely **Concert Strings** (Intermediate String Orchestra) made a performance video for the Australian School Bands and Orchestra Festival (ASBOF) on Tuesday 8th December and they did a stellar job—braving 30 degree heat and playing in their concert blacks! They played *Bach Concerto in D*, *Borodin Polovtsian Dances* (you'll recognize the *Strangers in Night* theme) and Melbourne composer Karen Kyriakou's *Cockroach: The Story of a Chase*.

A huge thank you to Ms Adrienne Gammune and Mr Christopher Mullarvey for organizing the Tech Crew to do the lighting, sound and video.



Trio Pianissimo

The newly formed *Trio Pianissimo* is Sharon Wang violin, Suriya Sivakumar viola and Ruhui Fu on cello. They have learned Schubert's *String Trio No 1 in Bb* in the few weeks we have been back at school, and recorded a video for the **Musica Viva's Lockdown Legends** - the online part of the **Strike-A-Chord Chamber Music Competition** for school students.

Congratulations on all the trio's hard work to learn such breathtakingly beautiful music so quickly, and thanks to Tech Crew's Joey Armstrong who did the video and lighting with Mr Christopher Mullarvey.

Ms Katriona Tsyrlin, Strings Teacher



Health and PE

We so are excited to be back on campus and participating in Physical Education and Sport Education classes together again. We congratulate all our students for their efforts towards looking after their physical health and wellbeing during remote learning.

As educators who are passionate about leading healthy, active lifestyles and sharing our knowledge with our school community, we were excited to receive positive feedback from many students during remote learning about the new physical activities, and re-engagement in past recreational activities such as bike riding, that students have been participating in, and how our online lessons have supported students' motivation to be active.

Since our return to onsite learning it has been wonderful for both staff and students to reconnect (in-person) and work together in teams in a COVID-safe way, participating in a range of practical team-based sports and physical activities. Our Year 7s are busy with minor target games and dance classes. Our Year 8s have been collaborating both online and face-to-face in their teams to organise, coach and participate in class handball and basketball tournaments, and our Year 9s have been loving the opportunity to apply their team work and tactic theory knowledge to real-life game situations. The Year 10 elective groups have focussed on implementing their fitness training programs, team sports and coaching skills.

To finish, we congratulate our senior students, in particular our VCE Health and Human Development and Physical Education students, on their learning grit and tremendous efforts throughout this challenging year and wish them every success for their examinations and future educational and vocation pathways.

Here are a few photos we would like to share!



Ms Claire Greve
Health and Physical Education Learning Specialist